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## **Hamas official says the terror group ready to discuss 'freezing or storing' its weapons**

*Hamas official Bassem Naim says the terrorist group is 'open to a comprehensive approach to avoid further escalations' as Israel and Hamas prepare for a far more complex second phase of the US-brokered ceasefire*  
Associated Press|12:24

**Hamas is ready to discuss "freezing or storing" its arsenal of weapons as part of its ceasefire with Israel, a senior official said Sunday, offering a possible formula to resolve one of the thorniest issues in the U.S.-brokered agreement.**

**Bassem Naim, a member of Hamas' decision-making political bureau, spoke as the sides prepare to move into the second and more complicated phase of the agreement.**



*Bassem Naim (Photo: Francisco Seco/ AP)*

**"We are open to have a comprehensive approach in order to avoid further escalations or in order to avoid any further clashes or explosions,"** Naim told The Associated Press in Qatar's capital, Doha, where much of the terror group's leadership is located.

### **More difficult phase**

Since the truce took effect in October, Hamas and Israel have carried out a series of exchanges of Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners. With only the remains of one hostage still held in Gaza - Sergeant First Class Ran Gvili, an Israeli policeman killed in the [October 7](#) terror attack - the sides are preparing to enter the second phase.

The new phase aims to lay out a future for war-battered Gaza and promises to be even more difficult - addressing such issues as the deployment of an international security force, formation of a technocratic Palestinian committee in Gaza, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the territory and the disarmament of Hamas. An international board, led by President Donald Trump, is to oversee the implementation of the deal and the reconstruction of Gaza.



*Hamas terrorist (Photo: Dawoud Abu Alkas/ Reuters)*

**The Israeli demand for Hamas to lay down its weapons promises to be especially tricky - with Israeli officials saying this is a key demand that could hold up progress in other areas.** Hamas'

ideology is deeply rooted in what it calls armed resistance against Israel, and its leaders have rejected calls to surrender despite over two years of war that left large parts of Gaza destroyed and killed tens of thousands of Palestinians.

Naim said Hamas retains its "right to resist," but said the terror group is ready to lay down its arms as part of a process aimed at leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state. He gave few details on how this might work but suggested a long-term truce of five or 10 years for discussions to take place.

"This time has to be used seriously and in a comprehensive way," he said, adding that Hamas is "very open minded" about what to do with its weapons.

"We can talk about freezing or storing or laying down, with the Palestinian guarantees, not to use it at all during this ceasefire time or truce," he said.

It is not clear whether the offer would meet Israel's demands for full disarmament.

## Many questions remain

The ceasefire is based on a 20-point plan presented by Trump, with international “guarantor” nations, in October.

The plan, adopted by the U.N. Security Council, offered a general way forward. But it was vague on details or timelines and will require painstaking negotiations involving the U.S. and the guarantors, which include Qatar, Egypt and Turkey.

“The plan is in need of a lot of clarifications,” Naim said.

One of the most immediate concerns is deployment of the international stabilization force.



(Photo: Eyad Baba / AFP)

Several countries, including Indonesia, have expressed a willingness to contribute troops to the force, but its exact makeup, command structure and responsibilities have not been defined. U.S. officials say they expect “boots on the ground” early next year.

One key question is whether the force will take on the issue of disarmament.

Naim said this would be unacceptable to Hamas, and the terror group expects the force to monitor the

agreement.

“We are welcoming a U.N. force to be near the borders, supervising the ceasefire agreement, reporting about violations, preventing any kind of escalations,” he said. “But we don’t accept that these forces have any kind of mandates authorizing them to do or to be implemented inside the Palestinian territories.”

In one sign of progress, Naim said Hamas and the rival Palestinian Authority have made progress on the formation of the new technocratic committee set to run Gaza’s daily affairs. He said they have agreed upon a Palestinian Cabinet minister who lives in the West Bank, but is originally from Gaza, to head the committee. He did not give the name, but Hamas officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the negotiations, have identified him as Health Minister Majed Abu Ramadan. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/ryr4mbxgwx>

## IDF Chief of Staff Zamir says 'Yellow Line is Israel's new border' during Gaza tour

*Although according to the Trump plan Israel is supposed to withdraw from the line that separates Hamas-controlled areas from Israeli-controlled zones, Eyal Zamir said that it will serve as a 'forward defensive line for our communities and a line of operational activity'*

[Yoav Zitun](#)|11:08

**IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir said on Sunday that the 'Yellow Line' that divides the Gaza Strip into territory controlled by Hamas and territory controlled by Israel "is a new border line — serving as a forward defensive line for our communities and a line of operational activity." According to the Trump plan , Israel is supposed to withdraw from the yellow line as part of Phase II of the ceasefire, and the area will then be occupied by an international force.**

Zamir made the remarks during a tour and assessment of the situation in the Gaza Strip, during which he entered Beit Hanoun and Jabaliya. “We will not allow Hamas to reestablish itself,” Zamir declared. “We are operating to thwart and remove threats in all arenas. We will not tolerate threats against our troops, and we will respond to any attempt. We have freedom of operation - both here in the Southern Command and across all arenas.”

He stressed that “the vast majority of our hostages have returned, but [our mission will not be complete until the last hostage, Staff Sergeant First Class Ran Gvili, is returned.](#)” He added: “We must not be complacent.



We must be prepared in all arenas and maintain readiness and alertness, while maintaining operational norms. The IDF is preparing for surprise attack scenarios — this is one of the cornerstones of the upcoming multi-year plan.”

*IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir on the ground in Gaza (Photo: IDF Spokesperson's Unit)*

Addressing troops on the ground, Zamir said: “The security and existence of the State of Israel depend on the IDF, with reserve troops being a central

component. You achieved unprecedented successes throughout the war, and your level of readiness and capability is extremely high. We are advancing several laws intended to strengthen the IDF and its readiness, and in doing so also ease the burden on the reserve troops. We must reinforce and expand the reserve array — this is a central mission in the IDF's force build up process."

He also reflected on the [post-October 7 investigation](#). "In recent weeks, we concluded the inquiries into October 7. The inquiries are a crucial component in learning the lessons needed to prevent another October 7. We are leading the IDF toward learning, developing, and strengthening in order to prepare for future challenges. You are partners in advancing the IDF forward," he said. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/r1ro6mqzzl#autoplay>

## **Qatari PM says he won't write a check to rebuild what Israel destroyed in Gaza**

**In onstage interview with Tucker Carlson, Al Thani claims some people are putting in 'a lot of effort to sabotage the relationship between Qatar and the United States'**

By [Jacob Magid](#) and [Agencies](#) Today, 5:18 pm



*Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Abdulrahman Al Thani attends a session on the opening day of the Doha Forum, an annual diplomatic conference, in Doha, December 6, 2025. (Mahmud Hams/AFP)*

DOHA — Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed Abdulrahman Al Thani suggested Sunday that his country will not foot the bill for rebuilding Gaza, despite speculation that it would be the main backer of reconstruction.

"We are not the ones who are going to write the check to rebuild what others destroyed," Al Thani said during an onstage interview at the

Doha Forum, an annual diplomatic conference. "When you are talking about Gaza," he went on, "Israel flattened this land."

He indicated that Qatar will limit its funding to humanitarian aid, declaring that it will continue supporting the Palestinian people and do what it can to alleviate their suffering.

"Our payments will only go to help the Palestinian people if we see that the help coming to them is insufficient," Al Thani said, without elaborating.

He also listed a succession of Israeli prime ministers and security agencies that, he said, endorsed Qatar's sending funds into Gaza in the years before the Hamas invasion on October 7, 2023. "[Prime Ministers] Netanyahu, Bennett, we have dealt with all the agencies, Lapid was the prime minister at a certain point of time, Mossad, Shin Bet, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs... and the Defense [Ministry], all of them were involved."

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If Qatar decides not to back reconstruction projects in Gaza, it is even more unclear who would be willing to do so, as Doha had been seen to place fewer conditions on its support than other wealthy Gulf countries such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia, which have insisted they won't offer funds absent a clear pathway to the establishment of a Palestinian state, which Israel rejects.

The UN suggested last month that it would cost approximately \$70 billion to rebuild Gaza, where entire neighborhoods have been flattened, estimating that around 75 percent of buildings in the Strip have been damaged or destroyed.



*Palestinians walk through the destruction left by the Israeli air and ground offensive in Gaza City, December 5, 2025. (AP/Abdel Kareem Hana)*

In April, the EU pledged \$1.6 billion euros (\$1.87 billion) toward rebuilding Gaza, and last week Chinese President Xi Jinping promised \$100 million in aid, but it still remains unclear who will foot most of the bill.

At the end of Al Thani's onstage interview with Tucker Carlson, the American conservative commentator and conspiracy theorist announced that he will be purchasing a home in Qatar.

"I have been criticized as being a tool of Qatar... I've never taken anything from your country and don't plan to. I am, however, tomorrow, buying a place in Qatar," Carlson said on



stage.

“I’m doing that because I like the city, I think it’s beautiful, but also to make the statement that I’m an American and a free man and I’ll be wherever I want to be,” the former Fox News presenter said.

Qatar is classified by Washington as a major non-NATO ally, and has assiduously courted US President Donald Trump, gifting him a luxury plane in May to serve as a new Air Force One amid delays in the delivery of new presidential aircraft.



*US political commentator Tucker Carlson speaks during the public memorial service for right-wing activist Charlie Kirk at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, on September 21, 2025. (Patrick T. Fallon / AFP)*

Al Thani said Sunday that unnamed people were putting in “a lot of effort to sabotage the relationship between Qatar and the United States and to try to demonize anyone who will come to this country.”

He acknowledged outreach by the Gulf country to the United States “to make sure that this relationship is safeguarded and the relationship for us is mutually beneficial.”

“We pay all these amounts for lobbying only to protect and to safeguard this relationship,” he added.

Qatar was a key mediator of the ongoing US-backed truce in Gaza, and has come under fire in the past from US and Israeli political figures for hosting the political bureau of the Hamas terror group, which it has done with Washington’s blessing since 2012.

Doha has nonetheless fiercely denied support for the group.

In September, Israel carried out a strike in Doha, targeting Hamas negotiators in an unprecedented regional escalation during the Gaza war.

Trump pushed Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu to apologize](#) to Doha in a phone call with Al Thani in which he “expressed his deep regret that Israel’s missile strike against Hamas targets in Qatar unintentionally killed a Qatari serviceman,” as well as the fact that “in targeting Hamas leadership during hostage negotiations, Israel violated Qatari sovereignty.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/qatari-pm-says-he-wont-write-a-check-to-rebuild-what-israel-destroyed-in-gaza/>

## Netanyahu says phase one of Gaza truce ‘almost’ complete, alongside Germany’s Merz

In joint presser with visiting chancellor, PM says he’ll discuss ‘more difficult’ second phase with Trump this month, rejects PA statehood, says he won’t quit politics for a pardon

By [Nava Freiberg](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 5:18 pm



*German Chancellor Friedrich Merz (L) and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hold a press conference in Jerusalem, December 7, 2025. (AP Photo/Ariel Schalit, Pool)*

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that the first phase of the ceasefire in Gaza is “almost” complete, and that he expects to move on to its second phase soon, at a joint Jerusalem press conference with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz.**

**Netanyahu said he intends to discuss the second phase of US President Donald Trump’s plan for the territory in his expected meeting with the president later this month in the United States, while acknowledging that the final deceased hostage in Gaza, Master Sgt. Ran Gvili, must be returned to complete the initial phase.**

The premier emphasized the difficulties ahead in both demilitarizing and deradicalizing Gaza, while highlighting Israel’s military achievements, noting the rise of antisemitism and anti-Israel bias, and asserting that he would not end his political career in exchange for a pardon in his corruption trial.

Netanyahu described the second phase of Trump’s plan — which aims to demilitarize Gaza and operationalize governance and security mechanisms that will be responsible for administering the territory in place of Hamas — as “more difficult” than phase one, while stressing that Israel is close to moving forward.

“We finished the first part, as you know, phase one,” he stated, before quickly qualifying, “We’re almost there,” as Gvili’s body has not yet been returned.

Under the October 9 agreement signed by Israel and Hamas, the terror group was given 72 hours to complete the return of all remaining living and deceased hostages. The process has been drawn out amid difficulties locating the bodies on Hamas’s part and mutual accusations of violations of the ceasefire.



**A photo of slain hostage Ran Gvili, whose remains are being held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, is displayed during a rally calling for the return of the deceased hostages held in Gaza, in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Nov. 29, 2025. (AP Photo/Mahmoud Illean, File)**

The premier said that “peace opportunities are at hand” after Israeli military operations battered Iran’s Axis of Resistance over the past few years in wars in Gaza, Lebanon, and against the Islamic Republic itself.

“I’m going to discuss them with President Trump when I meet him later on this month,” he said, and added that he will also discuss the second phase of Trump’s plan and “how to bring an end to the Hamas rule in Gaza, because that’s an essential part of

ensuring a different future for Gaza and a different future for us facing Gaza.”

He also said steps would be taken to “deradicalize Gaza,” which he added, turning to Merz, “was done in Germany” following World War II.

“I speak to many world leaders, but when I speak to Merz, it’s an honest and open conversation, even when we have disagreements,” Netanyahu said of his counterpart.

Acknowledging some of those disagreements, Netanyahu dismissed the idea of establishing a Palestinian state, which Merz, along with most of Europe, advocates.



**Children walk their dog amid the rubble of destroyed buildings in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip on December 2, 2025. (Eyad Baba / AFP)**

“We have a different point of view, obviously, because the purpose of a Palestinian state is to destroy the one and only Jewish state,” Netanyahu said. “They [the Palestinians] already had a state in Gaza, a de facto state, and it was used to try to destroy a one and only Jewish state.”

#### **ICC blocking Berlin visit**

Asked if Netanyahu seeks an invitation to Germany, the premier said he would be “delighted” to visit the country, but that he is prevented from doing so due to an International Criminal Court arrest warrant issued against him.

The ICC [issued arrest warrants](#) in November for Netanyahu and former defense minister Yoav Gallant for allegedly targeting civilians and using starvation as a weapon of war in Gaza. Israel has rejected the accusations, with some calling the arrest warrants antisemitic.

Merz stated before taking office that he would make sure Netanyahu could visit Germany despite the warrant. Earlier this year, Netanyahu made a diplomatic visit to Hungary — which later withdrew from the ICC — despite the warrant against him.

#### **Pardon?**



Concluding the press conference, Netanyahu responded to a question on whether he would retire from politics in exchange for a pardon in his corruption trial with an unequivocal “No.”

**A protester dressed as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu mocks his request for a pardon from President Isaac Herzog, at an anti-government protest in Habima Square, Tel Aviv, on December 6, 2025. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)**

“They’re very concerned with my future. They want to make sure that — how shall I say this? — They’re concerned with my future,” Netanyahu joked alongside Merz, referring to the Israeli media outlets present at the press conference.

“Well, so are the voters, and they’ll decide, obviously, but we have big tasks to do, including with Germany, in historic cooperation that actually will, in many ways, tower over our



previous cooperation, which was quite amazing. But that's not surprising, because, as you can see, Chancellor Merz is a towering figure," Netanyahu said, referring to the German leader's height.

### **Merz asserts Berlin's support at Yad Vashem**

The press conference took place after Netanyahu and Merz held a one-on-one meeting, followed by an expanded meeting with Defense Minister Israel Katz, Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar, security officials, and the countries' respective ambassadors.

Earlier on Sunday, Merz reaffirmed Berlin's support for Israel during a visit to the Yad Vashem national Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, stating that "Germany must stand up for the existence and security of Israel," after acknowledging his country's "enduring historical responsibility" for the mass extermination of Jews during World War II.



*Yad Vashem chairman Dani Dayan (R) stands with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz at the museum's Hall of Names in Jerusalem on December 7, 2025. (JOHN WESSELS / POOL / AFP)*

"I consider it a great honor and a truly great distinction to be here and to reaffirm that standing by this country is and will remain the unchanging core principle of the Federal Republic of Germany's policy," Merz said.

The chancellor has also met with President [Isaac Herzog](#) and Opposition Leader [Yair Lapid](#) during his two-day visit — his first to the country since being elected chancellor in May.

[https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-says-stage-one-of-](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-says-stage-one-of-gaza-truce-almost-complete-alongside-germanys-merz/)

[gaza-truce-almost-complete-alongside-germanys-merz/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-says-stage-one-of-gaza-truce-almost-complete-alongside-germanys-merz/)

### **IDF kills one, arrests another after stone-throwing attack near West Bank highway**

The actions of the suspects "endangered the civilians who were driving along the route," the IDF said.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) DECEMBER 7, 2025 22:25



*IDF troops operate in the northern West Bank. (photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON UNIT)*

**The IDF opened fire on three terrorists who threw stones towards a highway in the West Bank, killing one, incapacitating another, and arresting the third, the military confirmed on Monday.**

The actions of the suspects "endangered the civilians who were driving along the route," the IDF said.

The soldiers involved in the incident were from the 890th Paratroopers Brigade, who were operating near Azun, close to Nablus.

No soldiers were injured in the incident. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-879552>

### **Christmas festivities return to Bethlehem after 2 years of war in Gaza**



*Tourism-reliant city sees crowds travel from Israel, West Bank and beyond, seeks to 'reignite hope' after celebrations were muted amid war, and before that during COVID*

By [Agencies](#) and [ToI Staff](#) Today, 6:58 am

*A man dressed as Santa Claus sells balloons near Nativity Square during a Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Bethlehem, in the West Bank, on December 6, 2025. (Photo by JOHN WESSELS / AFP)*

Christmas cheer returned to the traditional birthplace of Jesus Christ on Saturday as Bethlehem in the West Bank lit up a tree for the first time since the war in Gaza began over two years ago.

Covered in red and gold baubles, the Christmas tree

standing meters away from the Church of the Nativity on Manger Square has become a symbol of hope.

At the end of a two-hour ceremony, the tree was illuminated to cheers, its yellow lights twinkling and a bright red star on top shining against the clouded night sky irradiated by a luminescent, almost full moon.

It is the first time the city has held the usual celebrations since the outbreak of the war in Gaza following Hamas's onslaught in Israel on October 7, 2023.

"It's a message for the world that it's calm," Mike Shahen, 43, said at his ceramic store on the square, after a handful of visitors came in for purchases.



Thousands of people attended, including Christians and Muslims, and many who traveled from throughout the West Bank and Israel — some from even further afield — to enjoy the festive spirit return.

*An aerial photograph shows people gathering in Nativity Square during a Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Bethlehem, in the West Bank, on December 6, 2025. (Photo by HAZEM BADER / AFP)*

Nuns could be seen watching from one roof, while many families, including small children, filled balconies and roofs to catch a glimpse of the tree lit up.

Sounds of laughter filled the air as many could not help but smile despite moments of rain.

"This event didn't happen for the last two years because of the war and it's quite emotional after two years of nothing but war and death," said 50-year-old Liyu Lu, who had traveled from northern Israel, close to the border with Lebanon.

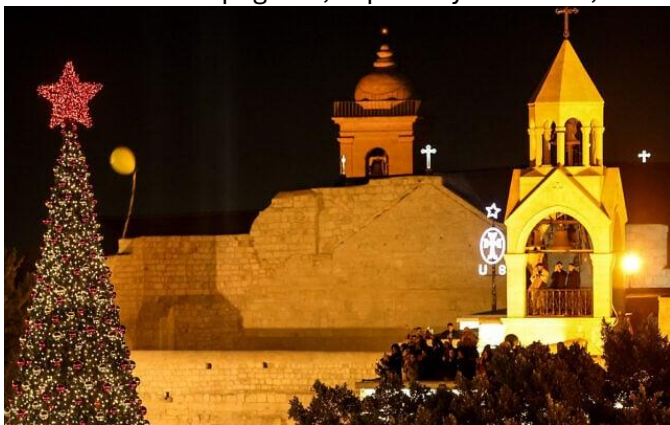
Originally from China but now living in Israel for decades, she was with a group including Gary Lau, a traveling businessman and Christian staying in Jerusalem for the past couple of months.

"Being here, with the festivities, is something very nice and special," Lau, 51, said, adding he was "taking in the atmosphere."

For the past two years, Bethlehem has celebrated Christmas in a more sombre manner, with no major public festivities.

### **Tentative return**

Christian pilgrims, especially from Asia, South America and eastern Europe, have, however, slowly returned in the past few months.



Fabien Safar, guide and director of Terra Dei, which organizes pilgrimages to the Holy Land, said a few small groups would come for Christmas this year and he already saw some bookings for 2026.

Safar expected a real recovery in 2027, but "this obviously depends on how the situation evolves" in Gaza and Lebanon.

*People take pictures from a bell tower during a Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Bethlehem, in the West Bank, on December 6, 2025. (Photo by HAZEM BADER / AFP)*

While a November 2024 ceasefire was signed between Israel and the Iran-backed terror group Hezbollah after more than a year of fighting, Israel has kept up strikes on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon that it says violate the truce.

Pilgrims "remain afraid because there's no official end to the war" in Gaza, Safar said, adding they were also worried about the situation in Lebanon.

### **'Worse than Covid'**

It has all taken a toll on Bethlehem, which had only just cheered the return of tourists in 2022 after the COVID-19 pandemic, before the war in Gaza broke out.

"COVID was bad but nothing like the last two years," said Shahen from the ceramic store.

Tourism and religious pilgrims have long been a prime





economic engine for Bethlehem. Around 80 percent of the Muslim-majority city's residents live off it, according to the local government.

Those earnings ripple out to communities across the West Bank, a territory long marked by economic precarity.

"When we have 10,000 visitors and pilgrims sleeping in Bethlehem, that means the butcher is working, the supermarket is working and everybody is working," said Bethlehem Mayor Maher Nicola Canawati. "There's a ripple effect."

That economic lifeline vanished when war broke out in Gaza. Bethlehem's authorities canceled major Christmas celebrations during Israel's subsequent devastating offensive in Gaza.

At the same time, Israel's military scaled up operations in the West Bank, including communities near Bethlehem.

The unemployment rate in the city jumped from 14% to 65%, the mayor said. Poverty soared, and about 4,000 people left in search of work.

Children hold balloons in Nativity Square during a Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Bethlehem, in the West Bank, on December 6, 2025. (Photo by JOHN WESSELS / AFP)  
Now Bethlehem residents seek a comeback.

"The decision we took was to reignite the spirit of Christmas and to reignite hope," the mayor said. "I think this sends a great message to the whole world that we Palestinians love life and we are eagerly looking forward to a peaceful solution."

### **Some tourists return**

In November, tourist visits to the city reached the highest since the war began, Canawati said, and reservations suggest that hotels will be at around 70% occupancy during Christmas.

Still, few of the hundreds of people gathered in Bethlehem's square were foreign tourists, and residents said celebrations were nowhere near the size they used to be.

Many visitors spent hours on the road to reach Bethlehem, including musician Lu.

She woke up at 6 a.m. to catch a bus at 7 a.m. with a large group. They arrived at 12:30 p.m., she said, without any trouble.

West Bank resident Issa Montas, 29, said tensions in the territory have cast a pall over the holiday celebration.

While Bethlehem has long been a religious haven of relative calm, violence and military raids have been occurring regularly nearby. Israel's military has said it is cracking down on terrorists in the West Bank and responding to aggression.

Military checkpoints have turned commutes into sometimes day-long endeavors. Montas, who paints homes in Jerusalem for a living, said he traveled six hours from his home in Ramallah, less than 20 miles (32 kilometers) away, just to reach Bethlehem.

Still, he expressed cautious hope on Saturday as children ran through packs of street vendors and a mix of Christmas and Arabic music floated over the crowds.

"This [celebration] is not just for us. It's for everyone. Christian, Jewish, Muslims," Montas said. "This Christmas is for everyone." <https://www.timesofisrael.com/christmas-festivities-return-to-bethlehem-after-2-years-of-war-in-gaza/>

## **Deport antisemitic foreign students from UK, Tory MPs urge education secretary**



*In a letter written to Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson, politicians raised concerns about rising antisemitism on university campuses.*

*Tory MPs meet with Jewish organizations in Parliament to discuss combating rising antisemitism. (photo credit: SECTION 27A COPYRIGHT ACT, X/Twitter)*

**Antisemitic foreign students in the UK must be deported, British Conservative politicians wrote to Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson.**

**The politicians' letter was first viewed by The Telegraph on Saturday.**

**The politicians raised concerns about the "deeply**



**troubling” rise in antisemitism on university campuses, and called on the Labour government to use existing powers under the Immigration Act 1971 to revoke the visas of any foreign citizens who harassed or intimidated members of the Jewish community, expressed antisemitic views, or voiced support for antisemitism.**

**'Too many institutions have decided to turn a blind eye'**

“Too many institutions that have spent years suppressing legitimate free speech and debate in the name of ‘diversity and inclusion’ have decided to turn a blind eye to genuine harassment and intimidation when it is directed against Jewish people,” said the letter.

“Failure to act sends a dangerous message to Jewish students and academics that their safety is not valued, and to perpetrators that they can harass Jewish students and staff with impunity... We can, and must, do better. Enough is enough.”

[Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp](#) wrote on X/Twitter: “We must stand with this country’s Jewish community and fight with all our resolve and energy the ancient evil of antisemitism wherever it is found.”

He added that more must be done than simply calling out extremism, and therefore called for “anyone expressing extremist views or racial or religious hatred of any kind, including antisemitism, who is not a British citizen to be removed from this country.”

On Thursday, Philp and other Tory politicians, including Shadow Education Secretary Laura Trott and Shadow Communities Secretary James Cleverly, met with representatives of British Jews to discuss campus antisemitism. The roundtable was facilitated by the Jewish Leadership Council and contained the testimonies of Jewish students.

“We thanked the Conservative front-benchers for their allyship and asked that the party adopt and advocate for the community’s comprehensive plan for action on antisemitism,” commented president of the Board of Deputies Phil Rosenberg, who was present. “The harrowing antisemitic experiences recounted by Jewish students demand a response. We face a must-win fight for the soul of our nation against a growing extremist threat from Islamists, far Right & far Left.”

The JLC added, “There needs to be a cross-government effort to deliver meaningful change so that Jewish students and staff can be on campus without having to face abuse and discrimination.”

On October 5, a few days after the [terror attack on the Manchester synagogue](#), Philp promised that antisemitic immigrants would be deported from the UK if the Conservative Party was re-elected.

Both Philp and party leader [Kemi Badenoch](#) spoke strongly of their support for the British Jewish community and their zero-tolerance policy for antisemitism, racism, and extremism.

“If a foreign citizen expresses racial hatred, including antisemitism, or supports extremism or terrorism, I’ll tell you this as shadow home secretary, I’ll deport them,” said Philp at the time.

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-879543>

## Russian gold reserves reach all time high

***With its bullion valued at \$310 billion as of early December, Moscow is the fifth largest investor in the metal globally, the World Gold Council has estimated***

7 Dec, 2025 20:55



**FILE PHOTO.** © Global Look Press / IMAGO/Zoonar.com/Maksym Yemelyan/Global Look Press

**Russia’s gold reserves have reached an all-time high, valued at \$310 billion, the country’s central bank has estimated.**

**The precious metal, traditionally viewed as a hedge against inflation and currency fluctuations, broke the historic \$4,000 mark in October. In 2023, gold traded below \$2,000 an ounce.**

According to statistics released by the Bank of Russia, the country’s gold reserves stood at \$310.7 billion as of December 1. Its estimates show that Moscow’s investment in bullion rose by a record \$92 billion over the past twelve months.

Last month, the World Gold Council (WGC) ranked Russia as the fifth biggest investor in gold globally,



surpassed only by the US, Germany, Italy and France.

Meanwhile, at the Russia Calling! Investment Forum on Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that while the country “*definitely feels the external pressure*” in the form of Western sanctions, “*our nation and our economy successfully meet those challenges.*”

He stated that the Russian economy is expected to post a 0.5% to 1% growth this year.

Following the escalation of the Ukraine conflict in February 2022, numerous Western nations imposed sweeping economic restrictions on Russia.

In late October, it became known that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had returned around 64 tons of its gold reserves from overseas vaults between April and September, preceded by several other massive transfers. The move came amid concerns over the freezing of more than \$300 billion in Russian sovereign and private assets by the West.

Also in October, JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon predicted that gold “*could easily go to \$5,000 or even \$10,000 in environments like this.*” He cited multiple headwinds faced by the global economy, including US tariffs, widening deficits, inflation, a shift toward AI, and geopolitical tensions along with military build-ups.

Several other market experts have offered similar assessments on gold’s role as an “*excellent diversifier of the portfolio.*” <https://www.rt.com/russia/629148-russia-gold-reserves-reach-all-time-high/>

## EU planning for war with Russia by 2030 – Orban

***The Hungarian prime minister has claimed the bloc is shifting its economy to reach full combat readiness within five years***

7 Dec, 2025 13:32



FILE PHOTO © Getty Images / Beata Zawrzel / NurPhoto

**Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has claimed that the European Union is preparing for war with Russia and plans to be fully ready by 2030. Speaking at an anti-war rally on Saturday, Orban said that Europe was already making moves toward a direct military confrontation.**

**He described a four-step process that typically leads to war: breaking off diplomatic relations, imposing sanctions, ending economic cooperation, and finally**

**engaging in armed conflict. He said that most of these steps have already been taken.**

“There is the official European Union position that by 2030 it must be ready for war,” he stated.

He also said that European countries are moving toward a “war economy.” According to Orban, some EU member states are already shifting their transport and industrial sectors to support weapons production.

The prime minister emphasized Budapest’s opposition to war. “Hungary’s task at the same time is to keep Europe from going to war,” he said.

Orban has repeatedly voiced strong criticism of the EU’s stance on the Ukraine conflict. Hungary has consistently opposed sanctions on Russia, as well as military aid to Kiev and called for peace negotiations instead of escalation.

The warning echoed recent remarks by Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, who have both suggested that a Europe-Russia confrontation is increasingly plausible in the coming years.

Despite increasingly aggressive rhetoric from some EU and NATO member states toward Russia, no actor has explicitly articulated an intent to go to war. Last week, NATO Military Committee chair Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone told Financial Times that the bloc is studying options for a more aggressive posture toward Russia, including the notion that a pre-emptive strike could be viewed as a defensive measure.

The EU has increasingly used the alleged ‘Russian threat’ to justify massive military

***The agency has found the protective structure over the 1986 reactor critically damaged after a drone strike***



**FILE PHOTO © Getty Images / Patrick Ahlborn/DeFodi Images News**

The protective shelter over the reactor at Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant can no longer guarantee radiation containment, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said. The agency added that urgent major repairs are now required.

The warning follows an inspection prompted by a drone strike in February, which marked the first major attack on the shelter. Moscow said the strike was a provocation orchestrated by Kiev, while the Ukrainian government blamed Russia.

The strike had pierced the outer shell of the massive steel arch known as the New Safe Confinement (NSC) and triggered a fire. While the initial damage did not cause a radiation leak, the new assessment shows the structural breach has degraded the shelter's ability to contain nuclear material.

The IAEA confirmed on Friday that the NSC, a 36,000-tonne steel structure built over the destroyed Unit 4 reactor at Chernobyl, *"had lost its primary safety functions, including the confinement capability."*

Completed in 2019 at a cost of around €1.5 billion (about \$1.6 billion), the NSC was designed to contain radioactive material and seal the original concrete *"sarcophagus"* installed after the 1986 disaster.

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said that although the shelter's loadbearing framework and monitoring systems remain intact, *"limited temporary repairs have been carried out ... comprehensive restoration is urgently required."* IAEA inspectors have now dispatched additional nuclear safety experts to the site to assess the full extent of the damage.

Russia has accused Ukraine of repeatedly targeting the Zaporozhye (ZNPP) and Kursk nuclear power plants, describing the attacks as acts of *"nuclear terrorism."*

A Ukrainian drone struck an auxiliary building at the Kursk NPP in late September, during a visit to Moscow by IAEA chief Rafael Grossi.

Just days earlier, power lines supplying the ZNPP were reportedly damaged by Ukrainian artillery, forcing the plant to switch to backup generators. Russia took control of the ZNPP in March 2022, and the region later held a referendum to join the country. Kiev denies involvement in the Kursk incident and has accused Moscow of attacking the ZNPP.

Speaking in October, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Ukraine was *"playing a dangerous game"* by attacking nuclear sites. <https://www.rt.com/russia/629129-iaea-chernobyl-safety-warning/>

## OP ED

# The Marxist-Islamic World War Against Western Civilization

Sat, 6 Dec 2025 5:00 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



**Last month, Communist China launched its largest ever crackdown on Christians. The raids across Beijing, Shanghai and eight other cities mark the beginning of an escalation as the paranoid Xi regime sets out to suppress the growing number of Chinese Christians.**

**While the Communist regime claims that the official number of Christians in China is under 50 million people, the actual estimated number of Christians now tops 100 million. Most Chinese** Christians are staying away from the official government churches and going underground.

The raids and the arrests of pastors and worshipers at 'underground churches' that are not officially registered with and do not submit to the regime's Communist churches is the latest move by the Chinese Communist dictatorship to slow down and control the runaway growth in Christianity which has shot up from 1 million to over 100 million since the Cold War.

If this rate of growth continues, Chinese Christians could number 300 million by 2050.

The internet, no matter how censored by the 'Great Firewall', has only accelerated the rise of Christianity as a population robbed of meaning and purpose, all too aware of the corruption of their leaders and the hollowness of a Communist ideology that even Communists no longer believe in, are turning to faith. And the Communist regime is doing what it does best.

China's Communist regime has raided 'underground churches' and tried to stem the growth of religion online by warning that even online sermons may only be delivered by its officially licensed clergy. But the accelerated growth of Christianity after the end of the Cultural Revolution suggests that Communist repression will not stop China's Christians.

Even while the Communist regime was cracking down on Christians in China, Muslims were continuing the massacre of Christians in Nigeria that has reached genocidal proportions.

This summer, after Front Page Magazine's reporting, Charlie Kirk [tweeted out our message](#), "Did you know 125,000 Christians have been murdered and 19,000 churches destroyed by Muslims in Nigeria in the last 15 years? Weird how that never gets any attention. Wonder why."

President Trump has announced that he's taking action against the Nigerian regime unless the massacres of Christians end. It's a welcome change from the Obama administration which had initially enabled the genocide by replacing an elected Christian president [with a Muslim dictator](#).

But after Trump's warning, China and Nigeria united in support of Christian genocide.

China's foreign ministry issued a statement warning that "as Nigeria's comprehensive strategic partner, China firmly opposes any country using religion and human rights as an excuse to interfere in other countries' internal affairs, and threatening other countries with sanctions and force."

Foreign policy experts and the media deliberately failed to connect the dots between two countries where Christians are threatened standing together against American efforts to protect Christians, but that 'red-green alliance' is swiftly becoming a defining global paradigm.

It's the world war of our age.

The Marxist-Muslim alliance is a national and a global threat to the Christian world. Muslim and Marxist states and movements are doing everything possible to roll back the growth of Christianity, to persecute Christians under their rule, and to invade and colonize Christian countries. This vast global civilizational campaign is happening both next door in our nations and communities, but it's also a worldwide phenomenon that is taking place everywhere.

Even as debates continue about what an 'America First' foreign policy looks like continue, it's important that we understand the red-green alliance between Marxism and Islam is coming for America not just because we're large and wealthy, but because they want to destroy us at a basic ideological level no matter what foreign policy we adopt and how we appease them.

Standing up for Christians persecuted by Communism and Islam is not only the best of what we are, but is a matter of self-defense. After the fall of the USSR, many foreign policy experts argued that the world was no longer defined by a few power blocs, but by vast competing and overlapping national interests that could be unified and harmonized through multilateral globalist institutions. Some who opposed that argued for a complete American withdrawal from the world.

After 9/11 and the radical leftist protests that followed, globalists and isolationists both failed to realize that what happened was not just a Muslim terrorist attack and had nothing to do with our foreign policy, but was the crowning blow of a Marxist-Islamic alliance as leftists rallied for Muslim terrorists, whether in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza or anywhere else, and against us.

The Marxist-Muslim alliance, whether it's manifested in street riots or in BRICS, is defining a new world order aimed at the dismantling of Western civilization. And it sees Christianity as the vanguard and stabilizing force of that hated civilization. That's why the war on Christians in Africa or China, in Europe or the Middle East, is ultimately a war against all of us.

That war is not defined by abstractions like 'no enemies to the right'. In a world where Tucker Carlson [invites on a Marxist](#) representative for a Nigerian Islamist who killed Christians to deny Christian genocide in Nigeria, or invites on Jeffrey Sachs, a UN official who praised Communist China and was funded by George Soros, to denounce America, it's all too clear that not everyone on the right is willing to stand up to China and the Muslim murder of Christians.

Some who claim to be on the 'right' will even be all too willing to do their bidding.

In the war between Marxism, Islam and Christian civilization, anyone who is not willing to stand up to the persecutors and killers of Christians is a traitor to not just this country, but to this civilization.

The war against the 'red-green alliance' of Marxism and Islam is the defining conflict of our age. It is the struggle that will determine whether there will even be a Western civilization.



*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.

Or use the Zelle US to US bank transfer system (contact me at [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto: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