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Due to family circumstances and time constraints the news will be less detailed with fewer highlighted areas and comments and more referrals to the Article resource sites for your further perusal. RDB

Hamas source to Tol: We'll hold talks on disarming, but we can't be forced to give up guns

In rare engagement with Israeli media, source in terror group argues weapons are used to 'liberate' Palestinians from Israeli rule, and therefore can't be ceded until statehood secured

By [Jacob Magid](#)

9 December 2025, 5:48 pm



Hamas operatives search for the bodies of Israeli hostages in the Shejaiya neighborhood of Gaza City, November 5, 2025. (AP Photo/Jehad Alshrafi)

DOHA, Qatar — A Hamas source told The Times of Israel on Sunday that the group will only agree to give up its weapons through negotiations that result in the establishment of a Palestinian state.

“This cannot be done by force or ultimatums. Israel used all of its military might for two years [to try and disarm Hamas], and it didn't

work,” the Hamas source said in a rare engagement with an Israeli media outlet.

The ability of US President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan to advance past its first phase largely hinges on Hamas agreeing to disarm, with Israel pledging to resume the war if the Palestinian terror group doesn't agree to give up its weapons willingly.

Hamas's readiness to discuss the issue may be a break from its long-standing insistence that disarmament demands are a nonstarter, but the steep conditions that the Hamas source set for progress are sure to further complicate Washington's efforts to sustain the ceasefire in Gaza.

Hamas has managed to reassert its dominance in the near-half of the Strip from which the IDF has withdrawn since the Trump plan's phase one truce and hostage release deal was inked on October 9. [More-https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-source-to-toi-well-hold-talks-on-disarming-but-we-cant-be-forced-to-give-up-guns/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-source-to-toi-well-hold-talks-on-disarming-but-we-cant-be-forced-to-give-up-guns/)

In swipe at Netanyahu, ex-Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar calls for state probe into Oct. 7

Speaking at TAU's Cyber Week, Bar, who has accepted his role in Oct. 7 failures, says 'in leadership, it is better to take responsibility for failures than credit for achievements'

By [Tol Staff](#) 9 December 2025, 10:31 pm



Former Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar speaks at Tel Aviv University's Cyber Week 2025 conference, on December 9, 2025. (Dror Sithakol)

Former Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar on Tuesday called for the government to establish a state commission of inquiry into the failures surrounding Hamas's October 7 attack, lobbying implicit criticism at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his first public address since leaving his post in June.

Speaking at Tel Aviv University's Cyber Week 2025 conference, Bar focused his speech on the theme of responsibility and the importance of

owning up to mistakes.

Netanyahu, who has vociferously opposed establishing a state commission, shot back in his own speech at the conference Tuesday evening, claiming that the contentious government-led investigation he is backing will sufficiently probe the issue. **More-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-swipe-at-netanyahu-ex-shin-bet-chief-ronen-bar-calls-for-state-probe-into-oct-7/>

Netanyahu backs 'historic' Haredi draft bill in fiery Knesset debate on wartime conduct

PM denies Israel's global standing has collapsed, blames criticism on antisemitism, touts ties with Trump and Putin, defends pardon request; Lapid urges him to admit he's guilty and go home

By [Nava Freiberg](#) and [Ariela Karmel](#)

Today, 12:14 am



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at a 40-signatures debate, at the plenum hall of the Knesset, December 8, 2025. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke in favor of a controversial bill regulating Haredi exemptions from military service on Monday, defending it for the first time during a heated Knesset debate and claiming it would lead to thousands of reservists being freed from service.

Speaking during a so-called 40-signature debate, a parliamentary mechanism that allows the opposition to compel the premier to appear once a month, Netanyahu defended not only the draft bill but also his handling of the war in Gaza, Israel's foreign relations, and his own legal wranglings as he responded to lawmakers accusing his government of causing severe diplomatic and domestic damage through his wartime policies. **More-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-backs-historic-haredi-draft-bill-in-fiery-knesset-debate-on-wartime-conduct/>

Scouring massive labyrinth under Rafah, IDF just missed finding Hadar Goldin's body

Elite officers describe months of searches through sprawling tunnel network, including perilous work removing supports to reveal hidden passages, though effort came up short

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

9 December 2025, 4:58 pm



IDF soldiers stand near the entrance to a tunnel in the Rafah area of the southern Gaza Strip, where the body of Lt. Hadar Goldin was held, December 8, 2025. (Emanuel Fabian/Times of Israel)

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — With limited intelligence information, the soldiers tasked with scanning Hamas's "most complex" tunnel network in the Gaza Strip for the remains of Lt. Hadar Goldin, who was killed and abducted by the terror group in 2014, knew that the task was near impossible.

The body of the late Givati Brigade team commander was almost literally under the noses of the Israel Defense Forces. Ultimately, though, Goldin's remains were retrieved from deep within the tunnel

system spanning across Rafah's Shaboura and Yabna neighborhoods by Hamas members operating with the military's permission after a ceasefire between Israel and the terror group came into effect.

Commanders involved in the search, who revealed details of the mission for the first time this week, compared the approximately 18-month operation to looking for a needle in a haystack. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/scouring-massive-labyrinth-under-rafah-idf-just-missed-finding-hadar-goldins-body/>

Sharaa vows 'peaceful coexistence' as Syria marks anniversary of Assad's fall

Past year 'seems like a miracle,' says reveler, as Syrians gather en masse to watch their rebel-turned-president; Alawite, Kurdish areas boycott celebration amid sectarian strife

By [Maher Al Mounes](#) Today, 12:52 am



Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa delivers a speech, as Syrians celebrate the first anniversary of the fall of the Assad regime, in Damascus on December 8, 2025. (OMAR HAJ KADOUR / AFP)

DAMASCUS, Syria (AFP) — Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa vowed to usher in an era of justice and coexistence a year after the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad, with tens of thousands taking to the streets Monday to mark the anniversary.

Sharaa's Islamist-led alliance launched a lightning offensive in late November last year and took Damascus on December 8, bringing a sudden end to more than five decades of Assad family rule and over a decade of civil war.

Jubilant crowds thronged the streets of the capital and other major cities, many people waving Syrian flags, AFP correspondents said, after mosques in the Old City began the day broadcasting celebratory prayers at dawn.

"Today, with the dawn of freedom, we declare a historic break with that legacy, a complete dismantling of the illusion of falsehood, and a permanent departure from the era of despotism and tyranny, ushering in a bright new dawn — a dawn founded on justice, benevolence... and peaceful coexistence," Sharaa said in a speech to mark the occasion.

His speech was followed by continued celebrations across Syria with fireworks exploding above the massive crowds who chanted along to revolutionary songs played over loudspeakers.

More- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/sharaa-vows-peaceful-coexistence-as-syria-marks-year-since-assads-fall/>

A year after Assad's fall, families of missing detainees languish without answers

National commission probing fate of Syrians who vanished insists work must be careful, systematic; rights groups accuse it of slowing process by monopolizing information, resources

By [Khalil Ashawi](#) and [Maya Gebeily](#) 8 December 2025, 10:06 am



Members of Syria's White Helmets civil defense service load boxes containing the remains of people found in the basement of a building in the city of al-Sbaynah, southwest of Damascus, on January 29, 2025. (Rami al SAYED / AFP)

DAMASCUS (Reuters) — A year after dictator Bashar al-Assad's ouster in Syria, little has changed in Amina Beqai's desperate quest. She types her missing husband's name yet again into an internet search box, hoping for answers to a 13-year-old question. In vain.

Beqai has nowhere else to turn.

A National Commission for Missing Persons established in May has been gathering evidence

of enforced disappearances under Assad, but has yet to offer families any clues on the estimated 150,000 people who vanished in his notorious prisons.

They include Beqai's husband Mahmoud, arrested by Syria's security forces at their home near Damascus on April 17, 2012, and her brother, Ahmed, detained in August that year.

Assad's overthrow initially stirred hope that prison records could tell families if, when, and how their loved ones died. Mass graves dug by Assad's forces across Syria could be exhumed. Victims could be properly buried.

None of that has transpired.

"It's been a year. They didn't do anything ... Is it thinkable that they didn't even get the documents for these men? Showing us the truth is what we want," Beqai told Reuters.

Fading hopes

As rebels swept through Syrian towns last year on the way to capturing Damascus, they rushed first to the jails, flinging doors open to free thousands of bewildered prisoners. **More-**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/a-year-after-assads-fall-families-of-missing-detainees-languish-without-answers/>

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis declares Muslim Brotherhood, CAIR terrorist organizations

The directive against the Council on American-Islamic Relations and Muslim Brotherhood comes in an executive order; neither group is designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the US government.

AP|20:40

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Monday designated one of the largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy groups in the U.S. a "foreign terrorist organization," following a similar step by Texas last month.

The directive against the Council on American-Islamic Relations comes in an executive order DeSantis posted on the social media site X. It also gives the same label to the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Neither CAIR nor the Muslim Brotherhood is designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. government.](#)



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (Photo: Alex Wroblewski ,AFP)

The order instructs Florida agencies to prevent the two groups and those who have provided them material support from receiving contracts, employment and funds from a state executive or cabinet agency.

In an emailed statement, CAIR and its Florida chapter said the organization plans to sue DeSantis in response to what it called an "unconstitutional" and "defamatory" proclamation. [More-](#)

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

Hamas terrorists eulogized as ‘Gazan reporters’ at Washington gala

Those eulogized included a Hamas sniper, the head of a Hamas unit responsible for rocket attacks against Israel, and a member of Hamas's Nukhba forces.

By [TOBIAS HOLCMAN](#) DECEMBER 9, 2025 01:04 Updated: DECEMBER 9, 2025 02:29



A protestor holds a sign in memory of Al Jazeera correspondent Anas al-Sharif, who was killed along with his colleagues during an Israeli airstrike in Gaza, in New York City, US, August 15, 2025. (photo credit: REUTERS/RYAN MURPHY)

The Association and Club of Foreign Press Correspondents USA bestowed posthumous honors on individuals exposed as terrorists who were posing as journalists for the Qatari news network Al Jazeera, Honest Reporting shared on Monday. According to the report, 10 Al Jazeera reporters were eulogized during the association's annual gala in Washington with a moment of silence and their

photos displayed at a "memorial table."

Fox News chief foreign correspondent Trey Yingst, who was given an award during the ceremony, used his speech to "criticize Israel for restricting independent journalistic access to Gaza."

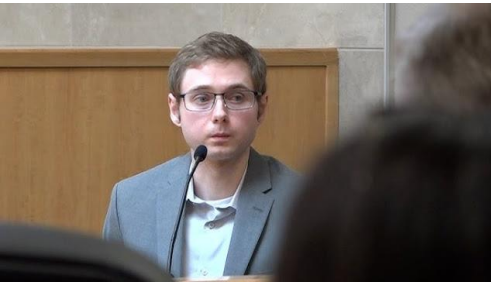
"These fearless and tenacious Palestinian [journalists in Gaza](#) who don't have the luxury to leave when reporting becomes too dangerous," said Yingst, and added, "May we not forget their sacrifice and contributions to our industry."

The report also mentioned how the organizers didn't name the "reporters," while only pictures of the terrorists were displayed in the table. [More-](#)

<https://www.jpost.com/international/islamic-terrorism/article-879672>

OP ED

He Went to Jail for Defending Himself. Now Ian Cranston May Get a Second Chance.



The most extraordinary thing about the confrontation that wrongly sent Ian Cranston, an unassuming young man in glasses, to prison for a decade, is that there was very little argument over the facts because they're amply documented and were caught on video.

The prosecution admitted that Cranston was assaulted by Barry Washington Jr: a violent criminal who had been harassing his fiancée. The assault by Washington was severe enough that Cranston looks battered in his booking photo, suffered a brain

injury, and had to be taken to the hospital for evaluation.

Before Ian Cranston shot Washington in self-defense, the drunken violent criminal had not only attacked him, but also his fiancée, and had punched another of Cranston's friends in the nose.

The only reason a case that normally should never have even come to trial not only did, but led to an innocent man being locked up for ten years was due to the deadliest three letter acronym.

BLM.

The shooting happened in Oregon in 2021. And BLM rioters quickly emerged. Washington's family claimed that he was an innocent victim of white racism.

"Does anyone think that Cranston would have even noticed my son if he was not black?" Washington's mother bafflingly demanded. Most people notice the people punching them in the face regardless of race.

An activist claimed that Washington was "targeted for being a free black man" who "didn't conform to the racial norms of the 90% white Bend, Oregon." The norms were embodied by a social media post by Washington stating "if your bf white you single to me. F___ timmy gon do?"

Violating those "norms" led Washington to harass Cranston's fiancée inside and outside the bar, get into a fight with Cranston, his fiancée and his friends, until finally 'Timmy' did something.

Media outlets however described this as Cranston murdering Washington for "complimenting his fiancée". But Washington wasn't just hitting on the victim's fiancée, but he literally hit her, slapping the phone she was using to record his harassment out of her hand.

While prosecutors emphasized that Washington Jr, a California resident, had turned out not to be armed at the time, a year earlier he had been chased by California Highway Patrol officers while driving over 100 miles an hour and throwing bullets out of his car.

When Cranston finally fired one shot at his attacker, Washington had assaulted three people, including him and his fiancée, and despite the victim showing him he was armed, was preparing to attack him again. Afterward, Cranston checked how badly he was shot and tried to put pressure on the wound to save Washington's life. Not Radical activist prosecutor John Hummel however compared the attacker to Emmett Till.

"Our country has a disgraceful history of denigrating, prosecuting and lynching black men for talking to white women. Over the last week, literally hundreds of people called and emailed me to remind me of this history," Hummel ranted in a press conference after the shooting "There's a reckoning with race that needs to happen in Central Oregon, and it needs to happen now."

Emmett Till had been a 14-year-old boy. Washington Jr was a 22-year-old criminal.

After Cranston asked Washington to stop harassing his fiancée, the attacker reportedly replied,

"F___ you, White boy." Despite the misinformation from the media and local officials, the only racism in the confrontation was coming from Washington, not from Cranston, who was the victim of Washington's racism.

But it was time for Central Oregon to have a 'reckoning' and that also meant a lynching.

Even though the evidence of what happened was crystal clear, the ideological madness of BLM infected the prosecutor, the judge and the jury, turning what should have been a simple case into a 'reckoning' and a 'crucial moment' in the twisted civil rights movement of BLM.

That momentary confrontation suddenly represented the entire history of racism in America.

Local officials issued a statement claiming that the self-defense shooting required that "we must dig deep and examine ourselves and the systems and culture". A memorial was set up, protests were held and media outlets discussed the shooting as a sign Oregon was mired in racism.

Hummel claimed that despite the violent assault, "it was not going to get out of hand" and that the victim had committed "homicide with no justification". Except for the assault on him, his fiancée and his friend. The prosecution insisted that the only reason Cranston had shot Washington wasn't to defend himself, his fiancée and

his friends, but out of “pride”.

The pro-crime DA had become notorious for viciously attacking law enforcement, announcing after the drug overdose death of George Floyd, a career criminal, that he would no longer accept donations from police officers, declared that he had “a full appreciation of the privileges that were bestowed on me at birth, as a white, male, American, born into a family of means” and that it was his mission, not to enforce the law without fear or favor, but “to be an ally to people of color”. That meant choosing to be an ally to the perpetrator, not the victim because of his race.

“The question I have to decide is whether Cranston’s decision to shoot was motivated in part by [Washington’s] race,” Hummel claimed, even though there was no evidence of any such thing.

The same DA who had rushed to stop prosecuting cases involving hard drugs, did everything he could to throw the book at a victim of racial violence, while accusing the victim of racism.

Hummel’s radical leftist allies, the ‘Central Oregon Peacekeepers’, a group some have linked to Antifa, had targeted Cranston. Hummel had sided with the hate group during its radical confrontations with law enforcement and relied on it in Cranston’s lynching.

“I’m going to tell you this: Some people in this community criticize a group in town called the Central Oregon Peacekeepers,” the pro-crime DA reportedly said. “I think highly of them. They gave me evidence that I shared with the Bend Police Department about this case that we didn’t know when we gave it to them. I give them kudos, I thank you.”

The group Hummel was relying on, which some describe as Antifa, had been accused of [threatening](#) news organizations and warning them not to broadcast evidence of Washington’s violent racist assault on the young couple. The video was crucial because it completely disproved the false narrative that Cranston had violently lashed out over an innocent compliment.

The prosecution argued that the 26-second delay between when Cranston displayed his weapon to warn Washington off and the shot he fired proved that he wasn’t in any danger. They tried to suppress evidence of Washington’s violent history including the California incident.

But Washington was continuing to lunge at the smaller man despite his weapon and a normal person with no combat experience might freeze up, hesitate and delay before finally firing.

Jurors, under pressure to show they weren’t racist, convicted Cranston of First Degree Manslaughter, a charge that was clearly not warranted because the victim had only fired once in self-defense, and a police officer on the scene testified that he then tried to save his attacker’s life.

And so the victim of a violent racist assault was sentenced to ten years in prison.

Four years later, the tainted trial has now been reversed by the Oregon Court of Appeals. It doesn’t end Cranston’s ordeal but it will lead to a new trial. Current DA Steve Gunnels has warned that he intends to continue trying Cranston for defending himself against Washington.

Still Cranston may have another day in court in a country where Floyd fever has died down.

Meanwhile, Bend has unveiled a plaque ‘memorializing’ Cranston’s attacker. The placement of the permanent plaque near where Washington was shot while attacking Cranston and his fiancée was attended by local officials who doubled down on efforts to turn the attacker into Emmett Till and George Floyd. The plaque falsely claims that Washington “was well liked by everyone he met”. If Washington were liked, he wouldn’t have assaulted Cranston and would still be alive.

Washington lost his life while attacking a stranger, Cranston lost his freedom for defending himself. Washington’s crime was individual, but the crime committed against Cranston was not the act of any one man, but of a corrupt system that put racial grievance ahead of the law.

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 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