

**Please Note:**

**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**

**Bennett: Qatargate is 'most serious act of treason' in Israeli history, PM must resign**  
*Opposition leaders echo former premier's words, after news report sheds light on Netanyahu aides' alleged work for Qatar while in Israeli premier's employ*

By [Sam Sokol](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 4:11 pm



Former Israeli prime minister Naftali Bennett speaks at the annual Cyber Week at Tel Aviv University on December 9, 2025. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)

**Former prime minister Naftali Bennett called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to resign on Monday, accusing him of engaging in the cover-up of the Qatargate affair, which Bennett called "the most serious act of treason in Israeli history."**

**The statement from Bennett, who is running against Netanyahu in next year's election, follows new revelations about the scandal. The affair involves**

**allegations that top aides to the prime minister were acting as paid lobbyists for Qatar, where Hamas's leadership is based,** while simultaneously working for Netanyahu.

On Sunday, i24 News reported that communication between the suspects showed they had fabricated information, and worked with a reporter for a pro-Netanyahu outlet to change the text of one of his pieces to accord with their messages.

"Netanyahu's office betrayed the State of Israel and IDF soldiers during wartime and acted on behalf of Qatar for financial gain, and Netanyahu himself is covering it up," Bennett declared in a statement following the report. "Whether Netanyahu knew or did not know that his office was working for the enemy in a time of war, both possibilities require his immediate resignation."

Bennett pledged to establish a state commission of inquiry "that will also investigate aid to an enemy state in a time of war" if he is elected to lead the next government.

The former prime minister, like other Netanyahu critics, has demanded a state commission of inquiry into the failures surrounding the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, attack. Netanyahu has rejected those calls, which polls show are backed by most Israelis, and is instead proceeding with an unorthodox effort to establish a government-led inquiry into the attack.



(L) Jonatan Urich, adviser to Benjamin Netanyahu, in Tel Aviv on October 3, 2022 (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90/ File) and (R) Eli Feldstein arrive for a court hearing at the Tel Aviv District Court on March 11, 2025. (Yehoshua Yosef/Flash90)

Bennett's criticism was echoed by other opponents of Netanyahu, who has testified in the Qatargate probe and decried it as a "witch hunt."

Avigdor Liberman, chair of the hawkish Yisrael Beytenu party, called for a state commission of inquiry to examine the October 7 attack, and said that the scope of the investigation should also include Qatargate.

Opposition Leader Yair Lapid called the scandal "the most serious treason affair in the history of the country," while the chairman of The Democrats, Yair Golan, wrote on X that "Netanyahu's office betrayed the country's security in the Qatar affair, and Netanyahu must be fully investigated over it."

The suspects, close Netanyahu aide Jonatan Urich and former spokesman Eli Feldstein, are alleged to have worked for a pro-Qatar lobbying firm, to have had contact with a foreign agent, and to have committed a series of

corruption offenses involving lobbyists and businessmen, while in the premier's employ.

WhatsApp messages obtained by the Ynet news site in August revealed that former Netanyahu campaign adviser Yisrael Einhorn had crafted pro-Qatar messages and sent them via WhatsApp to Feldstein. Feldstein then forwarded the messages to Urich, who disseminated the messaging to journalists, in an effort to improve Doha's image in Israel. **More-**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-qatargate-is-most-serious-act-of-treason-in-israeli-history-pm-must-resign/>

### 3 arrested in protest at PM's office as backers of state Oct. 7 probe vow 'week of rage'

*Demonstrations to ramp up as ministerial committee advances government's plan for politically appointed investigation of October 7 attack, rather than state commission of inquiry*

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 2:21 pm



Activists calling for the establishment of a state commission of inquiry into Hamas's October 7, 2023, massacre protest outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, December 22, 2025. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

**Three people were detained on Monday after a small group of activists tried to block the entrance to the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem while calling for the creation of a state commission of inquiry into the failures surrounding the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, attack on Israel.**

The activists were the first of a series of groups that plan to protest government meetings and individual politicians this week

in opposition to the government's contentious plan to create a politically appointed committee to investigate the worst massacre in Israel's history.

The protest plans were coalescing as the Ministerial Committee for Legislation advanced a bill submitted by Likud MK Ariel Kallner that would set up the government's investigatory committee. Ministers are also meeting on Monday to determine the mandate of the government's inquiry into the attack.

Under the law, a state commission of inquiry, headed by the judiciary, is the country's highest investigatory body. Polls have shown that most Israelis want a state commission to investigate the October 7 attack. Critics have slammed the government's plan to set up its own investigatory commission because the current coalition was in power when the attack occurred, meaning that the government would be creating an investigation to probe its own actions.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is leading the group that will set the investigation's guidelines, has claimed that the public would not trust a state commission because its members would be chosen by the judiciary, which his government has sought to weaken through a series of controversial laws. As recently as 2022, Netanyahu had backed a state commission of inquiry into the conduct of the previous government.

He and his allies argue that Kallner's plan aims for consensus because it calls for appointees from the coalition and opposition. But the opposition has vowed to boycott the process, saying it will only support a state commission of inquiry, which is politically independent. **More-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/3-arrested-in-protest-at-pms-office-as-backers-of-state-oct-7-probe-vow-week-of-rage/>

### Netanyahu: Politically appointed Oct 7 inquiry must probe Oslo deal, Gaza disengagement

*Ministers lend government backing to a commission of inquiry whose members could be chosen by the coalition, not the Supreme Court president, as under existing law*



By [Jeremy Sharon](#), [Lazar Berman](#) and [Sam Sokol](#)

Today, 8:27 pm Updated at 9:41 pm

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the plenum hall of the Knesset, December 8, 2025. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that a politically appointed commission of inquiry into the failings surrounding the October 7, 2023, invasion must include an**

## **examination of the 1993 Oslo Accords, the 2005 Disengagement from Gaza, and the 2023 protest movement against the current government's judicial overhaul agenda.**

Netanyahu made his comments after a key ministerial committee gave coalition backing to a contentious bill that would create a new type of commission of inquiry, whose members would be picked by the Knesset, instead of the Supreme Court president, as mandated under the current law for state commissions of inquiry.

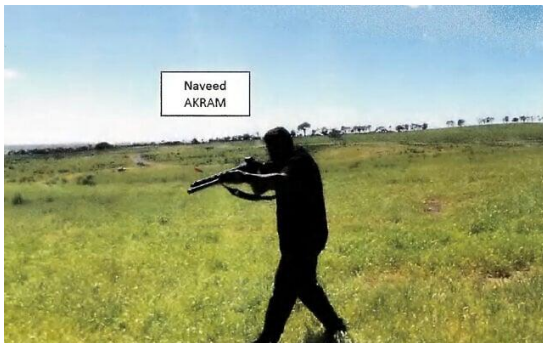
The legislation, a private members bill introduced by Likud MK Ariel Kallner, will now come to the Knesset plenum for a preliminary reading this Wednesday.

According to a government source, Netanyahu told the committee in its first meeting on Monday afternoon that the investigation into the events of October 7 must reach back decades, "from Oslo, through to the [Gaza] Disengagement, and up to [reserve duty] refusal."

He was referring in the latter part of his comments to the declaration of some opponents of the government's judicial overhaul agenda in 2023 that they were discontinuing their service in the IDF reserves in protest. **More-**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-government-sponsored-oct-7-inquiry-must-probe-oslo-deal-disengagement/>

## **Bondi gunmen threw bombs that didn't go off, condemned 'Zionists' before attack – police** **A statement from police, released after defendant Naveed Akram appeared in court, details how he and his father trained for the terror attack and their 'justification' for shooting**

By [Tol Staff](#) and [Agencies](#) Today, 10:08 am



*This handout photo from a court exhibit released by the NSW Courts as part of the police facts sheet on December 22, 2025, shows a screen grab taken from a video recorded in late October 2025 of Naveed Akram allegedly firing a shotgun in a countryside location, suspected to be in New South Wales. (Handout / NSW Courts / AFP)*

The father and son accused of killing 15 people in a terror attack targeting a Hanukkah celebration at Sydney's Bondi Beach last week trained with firearms leading up to the massacre, threw unexploded bombs at the scene and recorded a video beforehand condemning "Zionists."

Those details emerged in a "statement of facts" released by a court in the Australian state of New South Wales on Monday. The statement lays out the timeline of the terrorists' preparations leading up to the attack.

The court released the documents days after the gunman who survived the attack, Naveed Akram, 24, was transferred from a hospital to detention in a correctional facility. He also appeared in court via video from a Sydney hospital.

His father, Sajid, 50, was killed by police during the attack. Naveed Akram was charged with 15 counts of murder, in addition to terrorism and firearms charges, and faces life in prison if convicted.

The statement of facts contains screenshots from videos the pair recorded, including showing them firing long weapons in what appears to be a large grassy field, and describing their motivation for the December 14 massacre, the worst antisemitic attack against Diaspora Jews in decades.

According to local reports, the statement of facts says that the pair conducted "firearms training" in an area thought to be in New South Wales, outside of Sydney. Police said the suspects "meticulously planned" the attack for months. **More-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bondi-gunmen-threw-bombs-that-didnt-go-off-condemned-zionists-before-attack-police/>



## **Iranian military chief claims Israel plotted Bondi massacre to build sympathy as 'victims'**

**Mousavi alleged the "Zionist regime" has carried out attacks on Jewish communities abroad, making the claims during a military ceremony on Sunday.** By [JAMES](#)

[GENN](#) DECEMBER 22, 2025 22:16

*Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Abdolrahim Mousavi, speaks during a mourning ceremony for late Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Commander-in-Chief Major General Hossein Salami, who was*



**"I don't know that [Iran] ever took [US President Donald Trump] seriously until the night that the B-2 bombers went to [the] Fordo [nuclear facility]," Huckabee said in an interview at an Institute for National Security Studies conference.**

Answering a question about Tehran's reported efforts to rebuild Fordo, Huckabee told the interviewer: "I hope they got the message, but apparently they didn't get the full message because, as you mentioned, they appear to be trying to reconstitute and find a new way to dig the hole deeper and secure it more."

The comments came amid reports that Israel is worried about Iran's rebuilding efforts and could launch another attack to thwart them. Iran insisted Monday that its missile program is for defensive purposes only, while its state media issued conflicting reports about missile drills.

Asked whether the US would greenlight another Israeli offensive against Iran if Israel determined that such a move was necessary, Huckabee responded: "All I can do is point to you what [Trump] has said repeatedly, and he consistently has said Iran is never going to enrich uranium, and they're not going to have a nuclear weapon."

He added that Iran renewing its ballistic missile and nuclear capabilities threatens not just Israel and the US, but also "presents a real threat to all of Europe."



*Men stand next to a model missile and a nuclear enrichment centrifuge during a rally outside the former US embassy in Tehran as Iranians mark the 46th anniversary of the start of the Iran hostage crisis, on November 4, 2025. (ATTA KENARE / AFP)*

"And if the Europeans don't understand this, then they're even dumber than I sometimes think they are," he added, while noting that Europe has put snapback sanctions back into force against Iran and encouraging "more of those kinds of things."

**Iran: Missile program is for defense, not up for debate**

Iran, meanwhile, insisted that its missile program is defensive, and said the existence of its arsenal is not up for debate.

"Iran's missile program was developed to defend Iran's territory, not for negotiation," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said at a weekly press conference on Monday.

"Therefore, Iran's defense capabilities, designed to deter aggressors from any thought of attacking Iran, are not a matter that could be talked about," he said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/huckabee-iran-didnt-get-the-full-message-when-us-bombed-its-nuclear-sites/>

## Iranian missile exercises may be preparation for surprise attack, Israel warns US - Axios

The report notes that the likelihood of an attack is below 50%, but an Israeli source said that "nobody is willing to take the risk and just say it is only an exercise."

By [TOBIAS HOLCMAN](#) DECEMBER 22, 2025 02:11 Updated: DECEMBER 22, 2025 14:22



*Iranian missiles are displayed at the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force Museum in Tehran, Iran, November 12, 2025 (photo credit: MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WANA (WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY) VIA REUTERS)*

**Israel warned the United States that a missile exercise by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) could be used as a screen to prepare a possible missile strike against the country, Axios reported on Sunday.**

**"The chances for an Iranian attack are less than 50%, but nobody is willing to take the risk and just say it is only an exercise," an Israeli source said, according to the report.**

Axios cited three Israeli and US sources with knowledge on the issue, assuring that the Israeli government has "lowered the tolerance bar after the October 7 attacks and will not allow any type of threats."





The American source told *Axios* that US intelligence has not received any indication that Iran is preparing for an attack against Israel.

The sources also warned that the biggest risk is a war breaking out due to a miscalculation, with both sides believing they will be attacked first and launching a preventive strike as a countermeasure.

*Members of the IRGC step on US and Israeli flags during the 46th anniversary of the U.S. expulsion from Iran, in Tehran, November 4, 2025. (credit: MAJID ASGARIPPOUR/WANA (WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY) VIA REUTERS)*

### **Zamir tells Cooper about Iranian exercises**

IDF Chief of Staff, Lt.-Gen. Eyal Zamir reportedly told US Central Command, Adm. Brad Cooper, about the IRGC missile exercises, urging CENTCOM to prepare for a possible rapid response against a surprise attack.

*Axios* said that both the IDF and CENTCOM refused to comment on the matter.

According to these same sources, Iran's missile capabilities are still below the 3,000 missiles and 400 launchers that it had before the 12-day war in June, but it has started rebuilding its force in recent months.

This growing threat was confirmed by [US Sen. Lindsey Graham](#) (R - South Carolina) in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* on Sunday, who assured that the Iranian missile capabilities now pose as grave a threat as its nuclear program. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-880954>

## **Flanked by Greek and Cypriot leaders, Netanyahu sends defiant message to Iran and Turkey**

*At a Jerusalem summit, PM pledges expanded military and security cooperation with Greece and Cyprus, warns Iran that any aggression would draw a harsh response, and signals resolve against regional ambitions threatening stability in eastern Mediterranean*

[Itamar Eichner](#) | 13:48

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a joint news conference Monday evening with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides following bilateral and trilateral meetings at a high-profile summit in Jerusalem.**

**Asked about rising tensions with Iran amid recent military drills, reports of increased ballistic missile production and regional threats, Netanyahu said Israel is closely monitoring developments and preparing accordingly. "We know Iran has been conducting exercises recently," he said. "We are tracking it, making the necessary preparations. And I want to make clear to Iran — any action will be met with a very sharp response."**

המסר של נתניהו לארדואן ולאיראן

(Video: GPO) [Go to site for video.](#)

**Netanyahu also issued a pointed message to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan without naming him directly. "Those who fantasize they can reestablish their empire and their dominion over our land, I say: forget it. It's not going to happen. Don't even think about it. We are committed and able to defend ourselves, and our cooperation further enhances that capability. Together, we three genuine democracies in the Eastern Mediterranean shall advance security, prosperity and liberty."**

Netanyahu said the leaders agreed to broaden military and security cooperation, noting that "the threats we face are real." He said the partnership aims to bring a better future to their countries and the wider region, "stability through strength, prosperity through strength and peace through strength."

Speaking for the three governments, Netanyahu added: "I can speak for Israel and our two partners here: no one wants a confrontation. On the contrary. We seek stability, prosperity and peace. Of course we are committed to defending each of our countries, including maritime borders. I call this a coalition in favor of these norms and for stability. We hope it will not be tested."

Looking specifically at Iran, Netanyahu referenced Israel's successes in recent operations, saying, "The basic expectation of Iran has not changed, the level of enrichment and other activities, stop the proxy war against us. That has not changed. And I know it has not changed in the American position."

2 View gallery



**Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis (Photo: ABIR SULTAN / POOL / AFP)**

Netanyahu was also asked about his former adviser Eli Feldstein amid a new report on his actions on behalf of Qatar. Netanyahu declined to comment in detail, saying previous court rulings in related cases showed the allegations were unfounded smears.

Pressed on the issue of a state commission of inquiry into the events of Oct. 7, Netanyahu reiterated his call for a national investigation modeled after the U.S. probe into the Sept. 11 attacks. "We all need to provide answers," he said.

"The way to deal with the question of what happened on Oct. 7 is to establish a national inquiry commission, with half its members appointed by the coalition and half by the opposition. There is no better way to do this."

Netanyahu also said the next summit of the three leaders would be held again in Jerusalem — unless what he called the "absurdity" of the International Criminal Court in The Hague regarding arrest warrants against him changes.

President Christodoulides said the talks reaffirmed the strategic nature of their alliance, based on shared values, interests and goals aimed at regional prosperity, stability and security. "The trilateral meeting deepened cooperation between us in a variety of fields," he said.



**Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Photo: Adem ALTAN / AFP)**

Prime Minister Mitsotakis described the gathering as the tenth trilateral summit, underscoring the partnership's strategic importance and resilience. "We are entering a different geopolitical phase — creating serious risks, but also a window of opportunity to shape regional security that could bring peace and prosperity," he said.

Netanyahu's comments came after a Greek news report last week said Israel, Greece and Cyprus were [considering forming a joint military force](#) in the Eastern Mediterranean, with naval, air and land components. Jerusalem, Athens and Nicosia are said

to want to strengthen strategic ties and discuss the force at senior military levels, a report denied by Israeli officials.

The proposed force was described in the report as giving Israel additional "strategic depth" against Turkey's regional positioning, including Ankara's ties with Syria's government. Greece and Cyprus would similarly seek deterrence against what was described as a Turkish challenge.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h1xl6zw7zg#autoplay>



## Egypt, Qatar, Turkey called on US to prevent Israeli strikes on Gaza, source tells 'Post'

By [AMICHAEL STEIN](#) DECEMBER 22, 2025 20:05 Updated: DECEMBER 22, 2025 22:46

(From L-R) Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, US President Donald Trump, and Qatari PM and FM Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, at Gaza ceasefire summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, October 13, 2025; illustrative. (photo credit: Evan Vucci - Pool/Getty Images)

Senior officials from Egypt, Qatar, and [Turkey](#) approached high-level US officials, asking them to prevent Israel from [striking in the Gaza Strip](#), according to a source familiar with the details who spoke with *The Jerusalem Post* on Monday.

Their appeal included a request to block Israeli strikes both inside the Yellow Line and in other unspecified locations.

This request also followed a similar one that was made over the weekend during a meeting between Trump's Special Envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, [Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty](#), Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, and Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

In these weekend talks, senior officials from the three mediating countries proposed reaching an understanding with Hamas under which the terrorist group would dismantle its "heavy weapons" – defined as "offensive weaponry" – while retaining only light arms.

"The message from those officials was: You do not want the war to resume. You also do not believe that a multinational force will disarm the terrorist organization. Therefore, this is the proposal that can work at the moment," a source familiar with the discussions said.



**A Hamas terrorist sits inside a vehicle in Gaza City, November 20, 2025; illustrative. (credit: REUTERS/DAWOUD ABU ALKAS)**

This proposal has been raised repeatedly in recent months, including in talks between the mediators and senior Hamas officials, and is now being formally presented to the Trump administration.

In turn, Israeli officials have made clear in recent weeks that Israel will agree to rehabilitate the Gaza Strip only after the return of the final deceased hostage, [St.-Sgt.-Maj. Ran Gvili](#), and the complete disarmament of Hamas.

The mediating countries, however, believe the two processes should take place simultaneously.

"If you want to get Hamas to agree to give up even a portion of its weapons stockpile, then you have to offer it something in return. That could come in the form of rebuilding Gaza," a regional diplomat told the *Post*.

### **US working with Qatar, Turkey, Egypt to establish Gaza Board of Peace soon**

Meanwhile, discussions continue regarding the establishment of various bodies to govern the enclave. Trump announced that a "[board of peace](#)" encompassing regional and European leaders would be unveiled early next year.

Regarding the proposed technocratic government intended to administer the Gaza Strip, a list of names has been submitted to Israel and is currently under review by Israeli intelligence agencies.

Israeli officials have clarified that they will not agree to any involvement by figures affiliated with either the Palestinian Authority or Hamas in that government.

"The next key milestone regarding Gaza is the meeting between Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu next week," a source familiar with the matter told the *Post*.

"There is hope that this will accelerate the approval of the list regarding the technocratic government. Everything is already in the hands of the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) and the Mossad. Now we are just waiting for final approval," the source added. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-881040>

## **Haredim block traffic on Route 4 in protest of arrests of draft-dodgers**

**Police say protesters called them 'Nazis'; female motorist confronts Haredi crowd, prompting cries of 'Shiksa!'**

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 10:57 pm





**Security forces disperse ultra-Orthodox Jewish men blocking a road during a protest against conscription to the Israel Defense Forces, in Bnei Brak on December 22, 2025. (Ilia YEFIMOVICH / AFP)**

Hundreds of ultra-Orthodox protesters blocked traffic on a major highway for hours Monday, and one was arrested, in the latest in a series of raucous demonstrations against efforts to end Haredi men's de facto mass exemption from mandatory military service.

The demonstration, which was organized by the extremist Jerusalem Faction, was called after several [Haredi draft dodgers](#) were arrested in recent days. There were 19 such men still in jail as of Sunday, according to the

Ynet news site.

The fringe group has also denounced Shas and United Torah Judaism, the two ultra-Orthodox parties represented in the Knesset, for agreeing to discuss a [bill proposed by MK Boaz Bismuth](#) to regulate the issue. The proposal would codify broad exemptions for full-time yeshiva students, while also setting out conscription targets for the Haredi population overall in coming year

Amid the slogans chanted at the protest were "We'll die rather than draft," "The army is worse than death," and "War!" Ynet reported. Demonstrators hoisted signs reading "Better to die Haredi than live as a secular person" and sang, "We have no faith in the rule of the nonbelievers."

Participants referred to detained draft-dodgers as "hostages," and held posters in the style of those advocating the return of people kidnapped by Hamas. In place of the slogan "Bring him home now!" the signs said: "Bring him back to yeshiva now!"

As a result of the demonstration, traffic was blocked in both directions on central Israel's Route 4 highway from Aluf Sade Interchange to Em Hamoshavot Interchange, a stretch of some 6.7 kilometers (4.1 miles). The Red Line light rail was also disrupted, stopping service in Petah Tikva. [More- https://www.timesofisrael.com/haredim-block-traffic-on-route-4-in-protest-of-arrests-of-draft-dodgers/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/haredim-block-traffic-on-route-4-in-protest-of-arrests-of-draft-dodgers/)

## **IDF says it targeted 2 Hezbollah operatives in southern Lebanon strikes**

**Beirut says one person killed and another wounded in attacks, as Israel continues to hit terror group over what it says are breaches of ceasefire**



By [Emanuel Fabian](#) and [AFP](#) Today, 2:22 am Updated at 11:01 am

**Illustrative: Smoke rises from the site of a series of Israeli airstrikes that targeted the outskirts of the southern Lebanese village of al-Katrani on December 18, 2025. (Rabih DAHER / AFP)**

The Israeli military said that it targeted two Hezbollah operatives in strikes in southern Lebanon on Sunday, with one being killed.

The Lebanese health ministry also reported one person killed and another wounded in the strikes in the southern Lebanon town of Yater.

One of the strikes killed a Hezbollah operative involved in restoring the terror group's infrastructure in the area, the army said on Monday, adding that his activities "constituted a violation of the understandings between Israel and Lebanon."

The army published footage of the strike.

Israel has kept up regular strikes on Lebanon, usually saying it is targeting Hezbollah infrastructure or operatives violating the November 2024 ceasefire.

It has also kept troops in five south Lebanon locations that it deems strategic.

The health ministry in Beirut said on Sunday that "two Israeli enemy strikes today, on a vehicle and a motorbike in the town of Yater," killed one person and wounded another. Yater is around five kilometers (three miles) from the border with Israel.

In two separate, but identical statements, issued within 15 minutes, the IDF said it “struck a Hezbollah terrorist in the area of Yater.”

Also on Sunday, Lebanon’s army said in a statement that troops had discovered and dismantled “an Israeli spy device” in Yaroun, elsewhere in south Lebanon near the border.

Under heavy US pressure and amid fears of expanded Israeli strikes, Lebanon has committed to disarming Hezbollah and plans to do so south of the Litani River, about 30 kilometers from the border with Israel, by year end.

Israel has questioned the Lebanese military’s effectiveness and has accused Hezbollah of rearming, while the group itself has rejected calls to surrender its weapons.

During a visit to Israel on Sunday, US Senator Lindsey Graham also accused Hezbollah of rearming.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-says-it-targeted-hezbollah-operatives-in-southern-lebanon-strikes/>

## Three said killed in IDF airstrike targeting Hezbollah operatives in south Lebanon

*A Lebanese army soldier inspects the wreckage of a car that was targeted in an Israeli airstrike near Sidon, in southern Lebanon, on December 22, 2025. (Mahmoud ZAYYAT / AFP)*



**Three people were reportedly killed in an airstrike on a vehicle near the coastal Lebanese city of Sidon, which Israel said targeted Hezbollah operatives on Monday.**

**The Lebanese state-run National News Agency said the strike was carried out by an Israeli drone around 10 kilometers (six miles) from the southern coastal city of Sidon and “killed three people who were inside.” The Lebanese Health Ministry reported the same toll.**

The IDF said that it had targeted several Hezbollah operatives in the area.

Israel has kept up regular strikes on Lebanon, usually saying it is targeting Hezbollah infrastructure or operatives violating the November 2024 ceasefire.

It has also kept troops in five south Lebanon locations that it deems strategic.

Under heavy US pressure and in light of fears of expanded Israeli strikes, Lebanon has committed to disarming Hezbollah and plans to do so south of the Litani River, about 30 kilometers (about 18.5 miles) from the border with Israel, by year’s end.



*Lebanese army soldiers look at the Israeli military post of Hanita, left, and the Labbouneh post, one of five hills held by Israeli forces since last year, right, from a Lebanese military position in the village of Alma al-Shaab in south Lebanon, November 28, 2025. (AP/Bilal Hussein)*

Israel has questioned the Lebanese military’s effectiveness and has accused Hezbollah of rearming, while the group itself has rejected calls to surrender its weapons.

The latest strikes came after Lebanese and Israeli civilian representatives on Friday took part in a meeting of the ceasefire monitoring committee for a second time, having held their first direct talks in decades earlier this month, also under the committee’s auspices.

The committee comprises representatives from Lebanon, Israel, the United States, France, and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Israel said Friday’s meeting was part of broader efforts to ensure Hezbollah’s disarmament and strengthen security in border areas. **More-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/three-said-killed-in-idf-airstrike-targeting-hezbollah-operatives-in-south-lebanon/>

## ‘Dance, pig’: Man harasses young Jewish boys in France, orders them to ‘free Palestine’

*“Are you gonna free Palestine, bro?” the man asked, adding, “If you don’t free them, I’ll snatch your hat, bro.” the man said to the children.*

By [SAM HALPERN](#) DECEMBER 22, 2025 22:14 Updated: DECEMBER 22, 2025 23:02





Youtube screenshot of the video.(photo credit: SECTION 27A COPYRIGHT ACT, YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT)

**Two young Jewish children at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport were harassed by a man who called them 'pig,' ordered them to dance, and threatened to snatch their kippas if they did not 'free Palestine,' according to footage circulating on social media this week.**

**The man who accosted the children filmed the video himself and addressed them in both French and English. "Are you gonna free Palestine, bro?" the man asked,**

**adding, "If you don't free them, I'll snatch your hat, bro."**

**He then takes a video game controller that one of the boys was using from his hands, saying, "Give me that. It's my turn, bro."**

Switching to French, the man then repeatedly orders one of the boys, "Dance. Pig."

**StandWithUs calls incident 'horrific antisemitism'**

The video quickly drew condemnation. Jewish pro-Israel advocacy group labeled it "[horrific antisemitism](#)," and tied it to a growing tide of antisemitism that has escalated since Hamas's massacres in southern Israel on

[October 7, 2023](#).

"Antisemitism must be unequivocally condemned and urgently addressed, everywhere it occurs," StandWithUs stated.

Israeli rights activist [Hen Mazzig](#) also responded to the video in a post to X/Twitter.

"The children clearly didn't speak English, but they tried to interact with him kindly. I can only hope that spared their innocent eyes from understanding the hatred being directed at them," Mazzig wrote.

"Bullying Jewish children will not 'Free Palestine.'"

*Illustrative images of Paris Roissy Charles de Gaulle airport in Roissy France on July 29 2025. Here the baggage claim area on the conveyor belts. (credit: Photo by STEPHANE MOUCHMOUCHE/Hans Lucas/AFP*



*via Getty Images)*

**French believe Jews justified in feeling unsafe, polling shows**

According to recent polling, a strong majority of French people see antisemitism as a widespread problem in their country and feel that French Jews are justified in feeling unsafe there.

The incident in France comes as part of a global escalation of anti-Jewish incidents.

The Combat Antisemitism Movement's Antisemitism Research Center documented 13,339 such incidents between October 7, 2023, and October 1, 2025. <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-881046>

## **Assad's prisons emptied by Syria fill up again as abuse spreads - report**

**Prisons and lockups that jailed tens of thousands of people during Assad's rule are now crowded with Syrians detained by President Ahmed al-Sharaa's security forces and held without formal charges.**

ByREUTERSDECEMBER 22, 2025 13:05Updated: DECEMBER 22, 2025 14:49



*Kafr Sousa security complex after it was emptied following the fall of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus, Syria December 15, 2024.(photo credit: Amr Alfiky/Reuters)*

**The first wave of detentions in the new Syria came almost immediately – just after victorious rebels flung open the doors of Bashar al-Assad's notorious prisons.**

**As ordinary Syrians stormed detention complexes last December to search for loved ones who had vanished under Assad's rule, thousands of the deposed dictator's soldiers who had abandoned their posts –**

**officers and conscripts alike – were taken prisoner by the rebels.**



Then came the second wave in late winter: Hundreds of people from Assad's Alawite sect, mostly men, were seized by the new authorities throughout Syria. Their detentions spiked after a brief uprising along the coast in March killed dozens of security forces, sparking reprisals that left nearly 1,500 Alawites dead. Those arrests continue to this day.

Beginning in the summer, there was another round of mass detentions, this time in the south among the minority [Druze community](#). It came after hundreds died in an outbreak of sectarian violence, with government forces accused of summary executions and other abuses.

Throughout, there were other detentions from all denominations in the name of security: large numbers of people, many from Syria's Sunni majority, accused of vague links to Assad; human-rights activists; Christians who say they have been shaken down for information or money; Shi'ites picked up at checkpoints and accused of ties with Iran or Hezbollah.

***A member of the Syrian security forces walks near beds at one of the empty cells of Homs prison, following the fall of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Homs, Syria, December 21, 2024. (credit: Amr Alfiky/Reuters)***

Prisons and lockups that jailed tens of thousands of people during Assad's rule are now crowded with Syrians detained by [President Ahmed al-Sharaa's](#) security forces and held without formal charges, a *Reuters* investigation has found.

*Reuters* compiled the names of at least 829 people who have been detained on security grounds since Assad's demise a year ago, according to interviews with family members of the detainees and people who themselves were in detention. In reaching this number, *Reuters* also reviewed lists of detainees compiled by



individuals who organized family visits to seven facilities.

Interviews, lists of detainees, and multiple accounts of overcrowding in the prisons and lockups suggest that the number of security detainees is considerably higher than the tally that *Reuters* was able to establish.

Some of the abuses that Syrians hoped would end with Assad have been revived by men working for the government that replaced him: detentions without charge or a paper trail, some of the same methods of abuse and torture, and deaths in custody that go unrecorded, according to dozens of interviews. Some detainees have fallen prey to extortion, according to interviews with 14 families. Five of the families reported receiving communications from alleged jailers or intermediaries demanding money in exchange for a relative's release.

In December 2024, Sharaa pledged to "close the notorious prisons" of the fallen dictator. But *Reuters* found that at least 28 prisons and lockups from the Assad era have been operational again over the past year.

Asked for comment on the findings of this report, Syria's Information Ministry said that the need to bring those involved in Assad's abuses to justice explained many of the detentions and the reopening of some facilities.

"The number of people involved in crimes and violations in Syria under the former regime is very large, given the scale of the abuses committed," the ministry said. "There are past crimes, involvement in new violations, and threats to security and stability by those associated with the regime, in addition to other crimes."

The government said far more Syrians had been freed over the past year than are currently detained, but provided no numbers.

The detention facilities identified by *Reuters* include major prisons, large lockups located in vast complexes once run by Assad's intelligence apparatus, and smaller lockups at checkpoints and police stations. Prisoners held at these facilities have little legal recourse, and at least 80 families said they lost track of their loved ones for months on end. Access to lawyers and family members varies across facilities, and public charges are rarely filed against security detainees, unlike those accused of common crimes.

*Reuters* also found that security detainees are sent to prisons previously run by rebel forces, including those forces once led by President Sharaa in his power base in the northern province of Idlib. The se detainees joined inmates already held there for years on security grounds during the civil war, according to a dozen former prisoners.

Across Syria, detainees and families described inhumane conditions they or their relatives endured when locked up – overcrowding, scarce food, outbreaks of skin disease from a lack of soap. Both security detainees and

people accused of common crimes said abuse and neglect were rife in the detention facilities where they were held. Forty people who were either former detainees or family members of detainees also described abuse and sometimes torture, particularly in the lockups.

Reuters documented at least 11 deaths of people in custody, including three cases in which the families said they only learned their loved ones had died after their bodies were already buried.

In total, over 140 Syrians were interviewed for this report, including former detainees, relatives, lawyers, and human rights activists. Reuters also reviewed communications between jailers and detainees' families, as well as photos of injuries from alleged torture.

Reuters was unable to independently verify certain details in the accounts of detainees and their families. But those interviewed were consistent in what they described, including the abuse in detention.

In its statement, the government said Syria's legal, judicial, and security institutions needed to be rebuilt after Assad's fall. Because of "this difficult reality, there are vacuums that lead to negative consequences that violate policies in some cases," it said.

The government said 84 members of the security forces had been disciplined for incidents of extortion involving detainees and 75 for violence.

Since January, Syria's Interior Ministry has announced more than 100 arrests for alleged abuses during the Assad era. The *Reuters* count doesn't include these people, who are named and face specific accusations.

**More-**<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-880992>

## OP ED

# Canada's Euthanasia Kills 96% White People

*Sun, 21 Dec 2025 8:26 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield*



**Millions of Americans want to move to Canada. While few have actually left the country after Trump's latest victory, they fantasize about living under a leftist government with free health care. And during the recent debates about ObamaCare's self-destructing subsidies, every self-respecting liberal vehemently denounced America's backward 'paid' health care.**

**Every civilized country has free health care, they insist. Just look at Canada.**

**Canada does have free health care in the sense that there are government insurance systems that cover "medically necessary services" funded by paying 70% more in taxes than Americans.**

This 'free health care' comes with a **3 month wait time for a referral to a specialist, and another 3 months to get treated, with 2 month wait times for a CT scan, 4 months for an MRI** and over a month for an ultrasound. Mostly it's just easier not to bother. [Half a million](#) Canadians left ERs without seeing a doctor. And, in one year, over **23,000 patients died waiting for surgery.**

But the best part of free health care is that **death is always free. And fast.**

While it may take months to see a specialist, **"the median wait time between first request and referral was 1 day" for Canada's free death health care system.** Beat that or die trying.

Ever since Canada embedded free death or 'euthanasia' in its free health care, business has been good and patients are being rapidly cleared off waiting lists and into morgues. What started out as killing people whose natural deaths appeared inevitable was expanded to service also those whose deaths are not "reasonably foreseeable" except under socialism.

In the last two years, 1 out of 20 deaths in Canada were due to euthanasia. Free health care deaths climbed from 4.7% to 5.1% of all deaths from 2023 to 2024. And there are high expectations for a new free health care death record as the end of 2025 draws nigh.

Mastectomy patients [going in for surgery](#) have been asked if instead of having part of their bodies removed,

they would consider saving the government some money and ending it all. Veterans [calling a helpline](#) are being offered euthanasia too. A depressed young woman going to a hospital, worried that she might try to commit suicide, was [offered government suicide](#).

There's no medical problem that free government health care can't solve by killing you. For free.

The bad news is that, for now, Canada's free health care system (financed by high taxes that make home ownership all but impossible for a new generation of native Canadians) won't kill you if you're depressed. Not because killing the mentally ill smacks of Nazi eugenics.

According to Health Minister Mark Holland, Canada's free health care system isn't quite ready to kill so many people. "At issue here is a question of readiness," he explained. "What I specifically heard from my health counterparts in provinces and territories is in order to get to that state they were going to need a significant amount of time."

Hannah Arendt, call your office.

Killing the mentally ill may have to wait until 2027. Or perhaps even later depending on the readiness of the various parts of the free health care system to be turned into death traps.

With over 75,000 free health care deaths since 2016, the free death system's performance is no more impressive than that of the rest of the Canadian health care system. And while the limited capacity of Canada's free health care system has traditionally taken lives, it's now saving them.

Canada's free health care could be killing far more people if only it could function better.

Unlike most other medical procedures, wait times remain artificially low. A 10-day waiting period was introduced, but is waived for between a quarter and a half of patients especially if the patient is at risk of dying before he or she can be officially killed by the government.

Still eventually the Canadian government's killing capacity is bound to catch up to the demand. Most governments are terrible at providing all the services that their people want or need, but few governments fail to figure out how to kill enough people. In Quebec, there's talk of euthanasing [babies](#) and dementia patients. Once you start giving people free health care, it's hard to stop them from making use of it unless you also use the same system to kill them.

But it is interesting to note one vital statistic. The Carney government and its progressive predecessors have thrown around terms like 'genocide', whether it involves fictitious burials in schools, equally fictitious bodies in Gaza or the triply fictitious 'systemic' inequities, but its MAID free death program kills a disproportionate number of people of one single race.

The latest 'MAID' report (the innocuous name for the free euthanasia program) states that out of the 15,927 people who were asked about their race before they were killed, "the vast majority (95.6%) identified as Caucasian (white)."

When a government program kills nearly 96% of one race, that does look a whole lot like the 'g' word. But you can't have genocide without the other 'g' word. Government. And governments figure out whom they want to kill and whom they want to see take over the country afterwards.

Canada's excitingly diverse new arrivals, whom the Carney government celebrates, are happy to line up for every welfare program in the nation, but aren't showing up for free death.

The Afghans, Pakistanis and Turks [showing up as](#) 'refugees' love free health care (especially since they don't pay into it) but don't seem nearly as enthused about getting some free death.

And paying for their 'free health care' will require getting rid of some of the old white people.

Mass migration to Canada sent the cost of migrant health care up from [\\$60 million to over \\$800 million](#). While white seniors are told to go and die, Muslim migrants receive "supplementary benefits that many Canadians either cannot access or must pay for out of pocket, including vision care, counselling, home care, physiotherapy and speech therapy. In fact, there was over \$456 million of taxpayer money spent on supplementary coverage in 2024/2025 alone."

Since 2016, the medical costs for migrants soared and so did the euthanasia of white seniors.

Some would call it colonization, replacement and genocide: Canada calls it health care.

[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.

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