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Katz vows Israel will build settlements in northern Gaza, later walks back comments
Defense minister's original remarks came in defiance of positions taken by Netanyahu and Trump; Smotrich calls on PM to push West Bank annexation at meeting with US president

By [Sam Sokol](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 4:51 pm



Defense Minister Israel Katz attends a ceremony at Jerusalem City Hall, December 15, 2025. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

Defense Minister Israel Katz on Tuesday pledged that Israel would never leave the Gaza Strip and would resettle the northern part of the enclave, in defiance of commitments made by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Donald Trump. He later hastily walked back his remarks.

Speaking at a meeting marking the establishment of 1,200 new Jewish homes in the West Bank settlement of Beit El, Katz had pledged that Israel would resettle northern Gaza.

That made him the most senior Israeli official to publicly support reconstructing the settlements Israel evacuated in 2005. He also said Israel would “never leave” the enclave.

“With God’s help, when the time comes, also in northern Gaza, we will establish Nahal pioneer groups in place of the settlements that were evacuated,” he said. “We’ll do it in the right way, at the appropriate time.”

Katz was referring to the Nahal military unit that, in part, lets youths combine pioneering activities with military service. In the past, many of the outposts established by the unit went on to evolve into full-fledged settlements

Katz’s statement contradicted Netanyahu, who has repeatedly vowed that Israel won’t resettle Gaza.

His assertions also contradicted US President Donald Trump’s [20-point plan for Gaza](#). The document says Israel will withdraw from the territory and explicitly states, “Israel will not occupy or annex Gaza.” [More-https://www.timesofisrael.com/katz-vows-israel-will-build-settlements-in-northern-gaza-later-walks-back-comments/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/katz-vows-israel-will-build-settlements-in-northern-gaza-later-walks-back-comments/)

Smotrich urges Netanyahu to return from US ‘with de-facto sovereignty’ for West Bank
He cited settlement construction and administrative work as part of recent advances, adding that without a cabinet decision to apply sovereignty, Israel risks missing a “historic opportunity.”

By [SHIR PERETS](#) DECEMBER 23, 2025 18:47



Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and Mateh Binyamin Regional Council Head Israel Ganz at ceremony marking official transfer of Civil Administration service units to permanent civilian complex, December 23, 2025. (photo credit: SHAHAR COHEN)

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to return from his visit to the United States with sovereignty for the West Bank.

Speaking at a ceremony in the Binyamin region marking the official transfer of Civil Administration service units from an IDF base to a permanent civilian complex, Smotrich said the move

separates civilian services from the military and is part of a broader effort to normalize governance for Israeli residents of the West Bank.

Addressing Netanyahu’s trip to Washington for meetings with US President Donald Trump, Smotrich said Israel must convert “de facto sovereignty” into a formal decision to apply Israeli law in the West Bank.

He cited settlement construction, authorization processes, and administrative work as part of recent advances, adding that without a cabinet decision to apply sovereignty, Israel risks missing a “historic opportunity.”



Finance Minister Betzalel Smotrich and Mateh Binyamin Regional Council Head Israel Ganz at ceremony marking official transfer of Civil Administration service units to permanent civilian complex, December 23, 2025. (credit: SHAHAR COHEN)

Smotrich said the government is preparing for expanded civilian service delivery and instructed the Government Housing Administration to locate a southern facility, adding that “the day is not far off” when the new building would also serve future Israeli communities in [Gaza](#).

He framed the relocation as an administrative step that “takes the army out of civilian life.”

‘We are building sovereignty, floor by floor’

Binyamin Regional Council head and Yesha Council chairman Israel Ganz called the day “historic,” describing the move as a first step in separating counterterrorism from civilian governance. “We are not only talking about sovereignty, we are building it, floor by floor,” Ganz said, adding that the Sha’ar Binyamin complex would serve as a “gateway to the future” for construction, settlement, and civilian responsibility.

Smotrich has repeatedly pressed Netanyahu to advance sovereignty measures, including administrative changes affecting Israeli communities in the [West Bank](#).

The ceremony was attended by Smotrich, Israel Ganz, Civil Administration head Brig.-Gen. Hisham Ibrahim, and Settlement Directorate head Yehuda Eliyahu.

“We are making history,” Smotrich said, reiterating that residents seeking services should “arrive at a government office, not a military base.” <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-881153>

Palestinians breach West Bank security barrier near Jerusalem in broad daylight, caught on camera

As the state comptroller warns of severe flaws in the Jerusalem-area barrier, a ynet team documents Palestinians crossing into Israel in full view, despite police presence and mounting security concerns
Liran Tamari|10:57

On one side stands the West Bank security barrier. On the other, high-rise apartment buildings. In between runs a narrow road used daily by schoolchildren returning home. This is a dense and volatile area in Jerusalem, a daily friction point where civilians, security forces and illegal Palestinian entrants intersect.

A glance at the remnants of stun grenades and tear gas canisters scattered along the roadside is enough to understand that this is a miniature combat zone inside Israel’s capital.

Palestinians crossing into Israel without obstruction

(Video: Liran Tamari) [Go to web site for video](#) **rb**

Even today, Tuesday, the day State Comptroller Matanyahu Englman published his report on failures in preventing Palestinians from entering Israel from Palestinian Authority areas, dozens of illegal entrants were documented crossing the security barrier along Route 60.

The site lies just minutes from the Qalandiya checkpoint and the Atarot industrial zone in Jerusalem. Although this is a main traffic artery used by security vehicles and buses, dozens of Palestinians were seen climbing the security barrier and then sprinting toward a nearby mosque and alleyways opposite the breach, in broad daylight and without interference.

No soldiers in ‘the Dahiya’

Near the Qalandiya checkpoint, a five-minute drive from the Neve Yaakov neighborhood in northern Jerusalem, lies a short alleyway. On the Israeli side stand high-rise buildings. Across from them is the security barrier. This section is known within the security establishment as “the Dahiya,” a reference to Hezbollah’s stronghold in Beirut, due to the extreme density on both sides.

The separation barrier in this area stretches about 1.3 kilometers. Not far from the alley stands a concrete military guard tower overlooking the security barrier, the road and nearby crossings. Despite its strategic location at one of Jerusalem’s most vulnerable points, the tower has been unmanned for years.



Unmanned for years: the abandoned guard tower (Pill Box) in north Jerusalem (Photo: Liran Tamari)

This critical section of the security barrier has become a major weak point. The barrier consists of a high concrete wall topped with a metal fence added over the years. Illegal entrants damage the structure and, using ladders and ropes, manage to cross into the city. Equipped with cutting tools, they slice through the metal bars and rappel into Israel.

When the war began, a temporary order was enacted allowing live fire at illegal entrants crossing into Israeli territory. In recent months, Border Police fighters have carried out dozens of ambushes, firing at the lower body of Palestinians climbing the security barrier. Police officials warn that if the order expires, “there will be a flood of illegal entrants and dozens of terror attacks in central Israel. The effect of the gunfire is significant. It deters many from even approaching the security barrier.”

Smugglers search entrants.’ Two Palestinians cross into Israel (Photo: Liran Tamari)

Late yesterday morning, one day before the comptroller’s report was published, a Ynet team documented in real time two illegal entrants climbing the security barrier with a rope and entering Jerusalem without interference.

Since Israel restricted Palestinian entry, a smuggling industry has flourished. “Brokers” operate constantly to bring Palestinians into Israel. On the Palestinian side, graffiti advertising “price lists” for entry into Israel has appeared on walls. A broker who assists with crossing and transportation typically charges between 300 and 600 shekels.

“Before the war, there were about 3,000 crossings a week into Jerusalem,” a security source told Ynet. “Today the number stands at 6,000.”



An illegal entrant peers through the fence moments before entering Jerusalem (Photo: Liran Tamari)

According to the source, a significant portion of terror attacks in Israel have been carried out by illegal entrants. “We see an interesting pattern. The organizers themselves are afraid. They believe bringing someone in for work does not endanger them, but if that person carries out an attack, it becomes a different story. That is why they search them beforehand.”

The infiltration mechanism

So how does this well-oiled machine operate? On the Israeli side, lookouts employed by the brokers monitor the area. Once they identify that the sector is clear of forces, the signal is given. A rope is thrown through a breach in the security barrier, and the illegal entrants squeeze through the metal bars.

In the Dahiya area, they run to a nearby parking lot, where vehicles are waiting to collect them. At times, according to a security official, they hide in a nearby mosque. "They think that because the mosque is adjacent to the breach it offers protection. We go in there too," he said. For the Border Police, this is one of the main arenas occupying units around Jerusalem. A senior official stated that most attention is focused on preventing breaches of the security barrier. "Most of the forces are conducting searches. From my perspective, the Dahiya is the hottest point. Fighters remain in the field for long hours."

Despite fears of a large-scale terror incident originating from Judea and Samaria, two illegal entrants managed to cross yesterday into Israel in full view of Ynet cameras and despite a police presence. Minutes after the crossing, a team of fighters fired tear gas grenades toward the security barrier to deter additional crossings, but those who had already entered remained inside Israel.

'The failures should keep leaders awake at night'

Following Hamas' October 7 terror attack, concerns grew over infiltration from the West Bank. The state comptroller's review found that the Jerusalem-area barrier does not provide adequate protection against illegal entry or terrorist infiltration.

In the report published today, Englman wrote that these failures heighten the need for ongoing discussion, review and oversight by the political and security leadership, particularly given the changing security reality and escalating threats since the war.



*IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, Police Commissioner Daniel Levy and Shin Bet chief David Zini
(Photo: Olivier Fitoussi)*

"The failures detailed in the report are troubling and should deprive decision-makers, political and security alike, of sleep," Englman said ahead of publication. He added that responsibility for correcting the deficiencies lies with the prime minister, the defense minister, the national security minister, the IDF chief of staff, the police commissioner, the head of Central Command, the Jerusalem district police commander

and the Border Police commander, each at their respective level. A Knesset subcommittee decided not to place the full report on the Knesset table, releasing only portions of it for security reasons.

The total length of the seam line around Jerusalem spans several dozen kilometers. The comptroller found that only 61% is protected by a barrier. Gaps include 11 kilometers in one section, six kilometers in another, about 250 meters in a third and several dozen kilometers across two additional routes.

The report paints a troubling picture in which Palestinians can enter Israel without inspection or oversight, posing a security risk. Englman warned that barrier gaps, diversion of forces to crossings and harm to routine security missions create a danger of terror attacks, as attackers can exploit these openings.

Police response

The Israel Police said the report raises significant issues affecting the security of all Israeli citizens and receives continuous organizational attention. The police stressed cooperation with all relevant bodies around Jerusalem, using trained commanders and Border Police fighters to carry out assigned missions.

Police emphasized that responsibility is clearly divided, with the IDF charged with defending Israel's borders against hostile infiltration. Regarding illegal entrants, police said security preparations must be conducted on both sides of the security barrier, with primary responsibility resting on the IDF and other agencies to prevent departures from Palestinian Authority territory into Israel.

On the fence itself, police noted that the barrier and crossings were built years ago and that maintenance falls under IDF responsibility. Police said they do everything possible to improve service at crossings, adding that for security reasons they would not provide further details and urged caution in media coverage during a sensitive period. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hkh7p4dmzg#autoplay>

Ex-Lebanese officer connected to Ron Arad reported missing, believed 'kidnapped' by Israel - report
Shukr was reported as missing a week ago following an alleged "intelligence-based entrapment operation," according to Asharq Al-Awsat.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF, YONAH JEREMY BOB](#) DECEMBER 23, 2025 18:32 Updated: DECEMBER 23, 2025 19:19



Friends of Israeli pilot Ron Arad who has been missing since October 1986 march in his memory in Tel Aviv, on October 18, 2024. (photo credit: TOMER NEUBERG/FLASH90)

Retired Lebanese General Security Captain Ahmad Shukr, who is suspected of being involved in the disappearance of IDF pilot Ron Arad in 1986, is believed by Lebanon to have been kidnapped by Israel, Saudi-owned Asharq Al-Awsat reported on Tuesday, citing a prominent Lebanese judicial source.

Shukr was reported as missing a week ago following an alleged "intelligence-based entrapment operation," according to Asharq Al-

Awsat.

The Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) declined to respond when *The Jerusalem Post* reached out for comment, referring the issue to the IDF. The Mossad declined to respond as well, but notably did not deny. This is a developing story. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-881151>

While US sees Iran as 'destabilizing factor,' Trump using sanctions, not military force - official

"Iran's destabilizing behavior threatens the national interests of the United States, and therefore President Trump has reinstated a policy of 'maximum pressure,'" the official said.

By [DAN KWELLER](#) DECEMBER 23, 2025 09:28 Updated: DECEMBER 23, 2025 18:59



A model of a B-2 bomber is visible on the Resolute desk as President Donald Trump speaks before signing executive orders in the Oval Office at the White House on September 19, 2025 in Washington, DC. (photo credit: Andrew Harnik/Getty Images)

Iran's conduct in the Middle East and around the world continues to be viewed by Washington as a destabilizing factor, but the tools currently being employed by US President Donald Trump are diplomatic and economic, not military, a senior US State Department official told Walla.

"Iran's destabilizing behavior threatens the national interests of the United States, and therefore President Trump has reinstated a policy of 'maximum pressure,' aimed at ending Iran's nuclear threat, curbing its ballistic missile program, and blocking its support for terrorist organizations," the official said.

In other words, the US administration is seeking to tighten the noose around Iran through sanctions, international isolation, and diplomatic pressure, rather than by opening a new military front that could drag the region into broader escalation.

These remarks also align with the cautious tone struck by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who addressed Iran during the trilateral meeting in Jerusalem with Greece and Cyprus on Monday. Netanyahu referenced Israel's achievements in Operation Rising Lion and the [12-day war against Iran](#), but made clear that the focus of discussions with Washington is not necessarily an immediate confrontation with Tehran.

According to Netanyahu, Israel's demands of Iran have not changed. These include limits on enrichment, curbing its regional activity, and the removal of the threat posed by its proxies.

He said that the American position also remains the same. However, [Netanyahu](#) noted that when he meets with Trump next Monday, the focus is expected to be on Gaza and other regional arenas.

US President Donald Trump speaks with the media on the day of the signing of an executive order to rename the Department of Defense the "Department of War", in the Oval Office, at the White House in Washington, DC, US, September 5, 2025. (credit: REUTERS/BRIAN SNYDER)

Trump-Netanyahu meeting set to focus on Gaza

"Clearly, this will be a topic in our talks, but I must say that I think the focus will be on Gaza, on the next stage, and on other issues that concern us and other actors. We have Hamas, but we also have Hezbollah, and our desire to see Lebanon stable and sovereign. And, of course, the



Houthis, who are blocking international shipping, something that affects Greece, Cyprus, and us as well,” Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu did, however, deliver a direct message to Iran, saying, “We know that Iran has been conducting exercises recently. We are monitoring this and making the necessary preparations. I want to make this clear to Iran here: any action against Israel will be met with a very harsh response.”

Among foreign observers and figures in the international community, a similar assessment is being heard: Trump, who returned to the White House determined to avoid new wars, will prefer to continue gradual pressure on Iran rather than allow an independent Israeli move that could ignite a wide regional conflict, especially at a time when the US administration is focused on efforts to stabilize the arenas in Gaza, Lebanon, and the Red Sea.

Against this backdrop, the American message to Jerusalem is clear. Diplomatic freedom of action is supported, but a green light for military action against Iran’s ballistic missiles is not guaranteed, at least for now. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-881067>

Iran pushes for cultural, economic diplomacy with nations across central Asia - report
Iranian official Ali Asghar Tahmasebi reportedly emphasized the importance of developing Central Asia via "economic diplomacy." By [SETH J. FRANTZMAN](#) DECEMBER 23, 2025 16:00

New reports in Iranian media indicate that Tehran continues to push its outreach policy toward Central Asia countries. Articles indicate outreach toward Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

A new report at the pro-government Tehran Times notes that “the governor-general of [Iran’s] Golestan province, in northeast Iran, expressed hope that holding exhibitions will pave the way for a great leap in the level of economic cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan.” This report goes on to note that the official, Ali Asghar Tahmasebi emphasized the importance of developing the region. “Economic diplomacy” is one method.

A new exhibition “aims to expand the export of Iranian technical and engineering services and offers a structured platform for companies seeking to enter or deepen their presence in [Turkmenistan’s growing market](#),” the report added.

Tehran Times went on to say that “by bringing together major Iranian exporting firms and project developers, the event is expected to facilitate contract negotiations, technical partnerships and regional cooperation in large-scale infrastructure and industrial projects. It also creates a direct channel for Iranian companies to gain access to oil and gas opportunities, petrochemical developments and broader international tenders in Turkmenistan.”

Furthermore, in late May, Iran and Turkmenistan signed a commercial roadmap aimed at boosting bilateral trade to \$3 billion.

Iran and Tajikistan agree on social welfare cooperation

In another sign of the trend, Iran and Tajikistan have agreed to draft a joint roadmap in the fields of social welfare and social empowerment, head of Iran’s State Welfare Organization said on Tuesday, Iran’s government media IRNA reported. “Javad Hosseini, the head of State Welfare Organization, made the announcement during a visit to Dushanbe, where he met with Mohiuddin Khairullahzadeh, Tajikistan’s deputy minister of health.”

Alireza Haghighian, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Tajikistan, also “welcomed the specialized approach and extensive capacities of [Iran’s State Welfare Organization](#). Haghighian announced the full readiness of the Iranian embassy to provide any necessary cooperation, facilitate communications, and help expand interactions between Iran’s State Welfare Organization and relevant institutions and agencies of the Republic of Tajikistan,” the report noted.

Lastly, Kazakhstan’s Ambassador to Iran Ontalap Onalbayev has said expansion of ties with Iran is a top foreign policy priority of his country. IRNA reported that he was speaking at an event called the “Iran–Kazakhstan Night,” held on Monday at Tehran’s Niavaran Palace. Onalbayev said “that signing cultural memoranda of understanding strengthens cooperation between the two countries. He added that Kazakhstan pays special attention to expanding cooperation in the cultural, economic, and humanitarian fields. The deep and strong connections between Iran and Kazakhstan, as two ancient civilizations in trade, science, and literature, reflect the historical role of the two countries as a bridge between East and West,” IRNA noted. Reza Salehi Amiri, Iran’s Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, also attended the event. “The event featured a book and photo exhibition, as well as a nomadic yurt, symbolizing the rich culture and traditions of Central Asian peoples,” IRNA said.

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Flash floods slam Israel’s central coast as 40mm cloudburst hits Netanya

Over 40 millimeters of rain fell in about an hour, flooding Highway 2 and city streets in Netanya; forecasters warn of additional flooding before temperatures rise

Raanan Ben-Zur, [Sivan Hilaie](#) | 07:08

Heavy rain fell Tuesday afternoon along Israel’s central coast, triggering flash floods in Netanya and parts of the Sharon region after an intense cloudburst dumped around 40 millimeters of rain within about an hour.

Several lanes of Highway 2, the main coastal road, were flooded and closed for more than an hour near the Poleg Interchange. In Netanya, entire streets were inundated, with eyewitnesses describing scenes resembling “rivers” flowing through the city.

Netanya submerged after sudden downpour (Video: from social media) [Go to website for video rdb](#)

Netanya submerged after sudden downpour (Video: from social media) [Go to website for video rdb](#)

Under the Hari Bridge in Netanya, one vehicle was trapped in floodwaters. Videos from the scene showed water rising nearly to the hoods of cars attempting to pass through submerged roads.

A Sharon region resident who was caught in the flooding told Ynet he feared his car would stall while driving his children home from school.



Netanya submerged after sudden downpour (Photo: Michal Rochberger)



(Photo: from social media)



(Photo: Eylon El-Hai)



(Photo: Eylon El-Hai)



(Photo: Eylon El-Hai)

“I couldn’t believe what we went through,” he said. “The water reached the level of the car windows. It was frightening for me and the kids, but luckily we managed to get through without being harmed.”

The Netanya Municipality said that “due to a large amount of rainfall in a short period of time, several flooding hotspots formed across the city,” adding that all affected areas were being handled by emergency teams.

The Israel Meteorological Service said the rainfall in Netanya was estimated at about 40 millimeters within roughly an hour, and warned that rain was continuing and spreading to additional areas along the northern and central coastline. Flooding was expected in the Sharon region, including Ra’anana and Herzliya, in the coming hours.

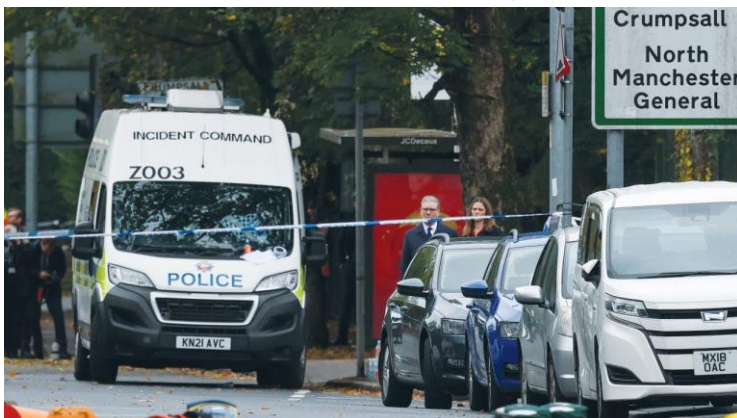
By early afternoon, Zikhron Ya'akov had recorded about 2 millimeters of rain, while the Hadera area saw around 1 millimeter.

Meteorologists said the short-lived weather system is expected to clear by Wednesday, followed by a renewed rise in temperatures. Thursday is forecast to be partly cloudy to clear with no significant change in temperatures. A slight cooling is expected Friday, with a chance of light local rain in northern and central Israel, and additional rain possible over the weekend.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/environment/article/byjoff007bg#autoplay>

Two UK men found guilty over terrorism plot against Jewish community

Walid Saadaoui, 38, and Amar Hussein, 52, were found guilty of a single charge of preparing terrorist acts after a trial at Preston Crown Court. By REUTERS/DECEMBER 23, 2025 16:23



UK PRIME MINISTER Keir Starmer and his wife, Victoria, visit the scene of the deadly attack on Yom Kippur at a Manchester synagogue. Antisemitism is a light sleeper, and Starmer’s spineless appeasement has only stirred it awake, the writer charges. (photo credit: REUTERS/HANNAH MCKAY)

Two men were convicted on Tuesday of plotting an attack on the Jewish community in northwest England inspired by the Islamic State with the aim of killing hundreds of innocent people with automatic firearms.

Walid Saadaoui, 38, and Amar Hussein, 52, were found guilty of a single charge of preparing [terrorist acts](#) after a trial at Preston Crown Court, which began

a week after an unconnected deadly attack on a synagogue in nearby Manchester.

The verdicts also come little more than a week after two men fired on a Jewish Hanukkah celebration on Sydney's [Bondi Beach](#), killing 15 people in another apparent IS-inspired attack that raised fears of rising antisemitism.

Both Saadaoui and Hussein had pleaded not guilty and Saadaoui said that he had played along with the plot out of fear for his life, telling jurors: "I had no intention to carry out a terrorist attack or hurt anybody."

Hussein did not give evidence and barely attended his trial after he angrily shouted from the dock as prosecutors outlined the facts of the case on the first day, saying "how many babies?" in an apparent reference to Israel's war in [Gaza](#).



The two plotted to 'kill as many Jews as possible'

The two were accused of preparing [terrorist acts](#) and plotting to "kill as many Jews as possible." According to the prosecution, Saadaoui and Hussein planned to attack a mass gathering of Jewish people with a third party named "Farouk," who was an undercover operative.

The two were found guilty of the intention to commit acts of terrorism, arranging the purchase and delivery of firearms, conducting reconnaissance, and making plans of attack. The prosecution had

already told the court that Saadoui had access to weapons such as assault rifles used in the terror attacks in Paris in 2015 when 130 people were killed, and that they were awaiting the delivery of more weaponry to aid a deadly attack. <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-881132>

Nazi swastika graffiti, rocks target Michigan State Chabad in two attacks

The Chabad said that the center's reinforced glass windows remained largely intact after the incident, and no one was inside at the time.

*By***MICHAEL STARR****DECEMBER 23, 2025 10:38***Updated: DECEMBER 23, 2025 10:43*



The suspect in the antisemitic MSU incidents. (photo credit: East Lansing Police Department)

The Michigan State University Chabad was vandalized in two attacks last week, with windows smashed with rocks and Nazi swastikas graffitied on its door, according to the Chabad center and the East Lansing Police Department (ELPD).

A vandal repeatedly pelted the MSU Chabad center with rocks at midnight last Tuesday, according to the East Lansing municipality. The Chabad said that the center's

reinforced glass windows remained largely intact after the incident, and no one was inside at the time.

The Chabad center was again targeted on Thursday, according to the ELPD, with a suspect spray painting [Nazi](#) symbols on the front door of the Jewish facility. The suspect then proceeded to throw more rocks, which the Chabad center said in an Instagram statement resulted in the breaking of another window.

incidents as possible linked hate crimes. The East Lansing municipality appealed to the public for tips and video recordings of the incident.

Attacks 'deeply unsettling' MSU Jewish center says

The MSU Jewish center said after the second incident that the attacks were "deeply upsetting" but that they would not allow the matter to deter them. The suspect in the antisemitic MSU incidents. (credit: East Lansing Police Department) "We are guided by the message of Chanukah: when darkness increases, so must light. Retreat has never been the Jewish response," Rabbi Bentzy &



Simi Shemtov said in a statement.

MSU president Kevin Guskiewicz said in a Thursday statement that he was troubled by the incidents near the campus in the wake of last Sunday's Bondi Beach Massacre in Australia.

"Acts such as these reverberate far beyond physical damage, especially for members of the Jewish community who continue to live with the heightened reality of [antisemitism](#)," said Guskiewicz. "Michigan State University is a community for all. We unequivocally condemn antisemitism in all its forms, as well as hatred, harassment and violence directed at any individual or group."

Anti-Defamation League Michigan said on X that it was appalled by the attack and was working closely with the Chabad, the university, and law enforcement on the issue. The ADL also noted the event occurred just after the Bondi attack, "underscoring the urgent need for vigilance." <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-881075>

NATO nation's troops lack winter gear despite supplying Ukraine – media

Supporting Kiev is more important than stocking up the army, Norway's defense chief has said

23 Dec, 2025 10:46



Norway's soldiers lack basic winter gear as the NATO nation's military leaders have prioritized sending aid to Ukraine, according to Forsvarets forum, a media outlet published by the Norwegian Armed Forces' main trade union.

The national army is facing shortages of items essential for operating in a cold climate, including shell jackets, woolen underlayers, balaclavas and insulated field boots, the outlet reported on Monday.

The shortages were detailed in documents from the chief safety representative (HVO) in the Norwegian army and navy and the chief shop steward in the air force. Equipment such as helmets and combat vests are also in short supply. Some training activities have had to be canceled because of the shortage, the outlet added.

"We are contributing significantly to Ukraine, but it challenges our own ability to maintain readiness," Forsvarets forum quoted Robert Hansen, the Navy's HVO, as saying.

The concerns were downplayed by military leadership. "It is more important to support Ukraine now than to have absolutely everything in stock in Norway," Norwegian Chief of Defense Eirik Kristoffersen said, according to the outlet.

Norway, a founding member of NATO, has backed Ukraine in its conflict with Russia since 2022. This year alone it has allocated nearly \$8.5 billion to Ukraine for military aid and reconstruction. Last year, Oslo allowed Kiev to carry out long-range strikes against Russia using NATO-provided weapons.

Earlier this month, Ukraine and Norway agreed to jointly produce military drones.

The disclosure comes in the wake of a major corruption scandal in Ukraine involving Timur Mindich, a former business partner and long-time associate of Vladimir Zelensky.

Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) has alleged that Mindich, reportedly known as "Zelensky's wallet," was the ringleader of a scheme that extracted at least \$100 million in kickbacks from contractors linked to state nuclear operator Energoatom.

Norway has also provided nearly \$545 million in energy support to Kiev in 2025. Commenting on the scandal last month, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry said the allegations were "serious" and stressed that "Norway has zero tolerance for defaults on Norwegian development aid." <https://www.rt.com/news/629911-norway-troops-lack-winter-clothes/>

Russia strikes military and energy sites in Ukraine – MOD

The large-scale retaliation comes in response to Kiev's "terrorist attacks on civilian sites in Russia," the Defense Ministry has said

23 Dec, 2025 15:03



FILE PHOTO. A Russian MiG-31K fighter jet with Kinzhal hypersonic missile.
© Global Look Press / Sergey Bulkin

The Russian military has conducted concentrated strikes on Ukraine's military and energy infrastructure overnight, the Defense Ministry in Moscow has said.

The strikes involved long-range kamikaze drones, as well as air- and ground-launched high-precision weaponry, including Kinzhal hypersonic missiles, the ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

The strikes affected Ukrainian defense-industry sites and power plants feeding them, and came in response to Kiev's "terrorist attacks on civilian sites in Russia," the ministry added.

The Russian military did not provide an exact list of targets or the number of munitions used in the overnight strikes, stating only that all the designated targets were hit successfully. According to the Ukrainian authorities, the strikes involved around 600 kamikaze drones and dozens of missiles of various types.

Major power outages have been reported in several Ukrainian regions, primarily in the west of the country. According to the Ukrainian Energy Ministry, the regions of Rovno, Ternopol, and Kmelnitsky have suffered "almost" blanket blackouts, with major outages also occurring in Vinnitsa, Zhitomir, Chernigov, Dnepropetrovsk, and Kharkov regions.

Ukraine's interim energy minister, Artyom Nekrasov, claimed that the overnight strikes affected several substations linked to the country's nuclear power plants, with the facilities forced to lower their output.

The country's largest private energy operator, DTEK, said several of its thermal power plants were damaged during the strikes. The company did not explicitly name the locations affected by the attack.

Port and energy infrastructure sustained damage in Ukraine's Odessa Region, local authorities said, specifying that a "civilian dry cargo vessel" and "empty warehouse" were affected by the strikes.

In recent weeks, Moscow and Kiev have been actively exchanging long-range strikes, primarily using assorted kamikaze drones. The Russian military maintains a campaign against military and dual-use sites as retaliation for Ukrainian attacks inside Russia that often hit critical infrastructure and residential areas.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/629925-ukraine-military-energy-strikes/>

You're fired! Trans instructor booted for flunking college student's Bible-based essay on gender

By [Joe Kovacs](#)

[December 23, 2025](#)



Samantha Fulnecky

A transgender instructor at the University of Oklahoma has been fired after failing a conservative Christian student's essay about gender roles.

Samantha Fulnecky, a 20-year-old junior, made national headlines after her transgender teaching assistant, Mel Curth, a man pretending to be a woman who uses pronouns of "she/they," gave her a zero grade after the student argued she doesn't believe there are more than two genders because "that is how God made us."

"Society pushing the lie that there are multiple genders and everyone should be whatever they want to be is demonic and severely harms American youth," Fulnecky wrote.

The university has now released a statement indicating: "Based on an examination of the graduate teaching assistant's own statements related to this matter, it was determined that the graduate teaching assistant was arbitrary in the grading of this specific paper. The graduate teaching assistant will no longer have instructional duties at the university."

"We are committed to teaching students how to think, not what to think," the school added.

BREAKING: The University of Oklahoma announced that it has ruled in FAVOR of the student who was discriminated against for quoting the Bible in an assignment to justify traditional gender roles. The transgender instructor will also "no longer have instructional duties at the..."

<https://t.co/Vy7G7WskjG> pic.twitter.com/0AmI53qCgi

— Libs of TikTok (@libsoftiktok) [December 22, 2025](#)

As WorldNetDaily previously [reported](#), the college had agreed to discard Fulnecky's failing grade, in what was called a "stunning U-turn" by the [Daily Mail](#).

She said, in an interview with the Oklahoman, the assignment will have no effect on her class average, a result that followed her appeal to the school about the situation.

She alleged she was targeted by religious discrimination.

School officials then confirmed there is "no academic harm to the student."

The controversy was over the teaching assistant's insistence that students parrot leftist ideologies about transgenderism.

Fulnecky had been ordered to respond with her opinions about another article on society's "gender expectations."

She emphasized the biblical teaching that there are two genders, calling the idea that there are more "demonic."

"Fulnecky noted the Bible supported her belief that eliminating gender would prove to be 'detrimental' because it would put humans 'farther from God's original plan,'" the report said.

For a psychology course at the University Oklahoma, Samantha Fulnecky was asked to write a 650-word essay reacting to an article about how people are perceived based on societal expectations of gender.

In her essay, Fulnecky argued that traditional gender roles should not be...

pic.twitter.com/R3J4FaGEtw

— TPUSA_OU (@TurningPointOU) [November 27, 2025](#)

The teaching assistant claimed to be offended by Fulnecky's opinions, and charged that in an opinion piece, Fulnecky "should have cited 'empirical evidence.'"

Curth punished Fulnecky with a score of zero out of 25 points.

Fulnecky said, "To be what I think is clearly discriminated against for my beliefs and using freedom of speech, and especially for my religious beliefs, I think that's just absurd."

The governor called for an investigation, because the result was "deeply concerning."

Fulnecky was awarded a Citation of Recognition from the Oklahoma House of Representatives' 98th District for "speaking from a foundation of truth," Rep. Gabe Woolley announced.

[WorldNetDaily reported](#) when Woolley confirmed he was getting vicious and lethal threats after defending Fulnecky.

Woolley shared the audio of one menacing message, stating: "Hi, this is a message for Rep. Gabe Woolley. Could you please pass this message on to him? Tell him to put a gun in his mouth and pull the trigger for all of our sakes. Thank you. Bye."

Once again, the reflexive response from the far-left to disagreement is hostility and attempts to silence opposing voices.

This is exactly why restoring a culture of open debate and civil disagreement is essential.

This wasn't the first threat — but I felt I had to expose this... pic.twitter.com/XDuk3NnlBd

— Gabe Woolley (@GabeWoolley) [December 2, 2025](#)

Follow Joe on X [@JoeKovacsNews](#)

<https://www.wnd.com/2025/12/youre-fired-trans-instructor-booted-flunking-college-students/>

'Officials need to be SACKED': Brown University custodian saw shooter more than a dozen times, reported it, and school did nothing

By [Joe Kovacs](#)

[December 22, 2025](#)

Brown University custodian Derek Lisi



In the aftermath of the horrific mass shooting at Brown University, a custodian at the college says he saw the depraved gunman more than a dozen times before the bloodshed, and no action was taken by the school despite reporting his suspicions to security.

Derek Lisi, who has worked at the Ivy League school for 15 years, told the Boston Globe he "knew something was off with" the

perpetrator before Claudio Neves Valente opened fire Dec. 13, killing two students and wounding nine others.

Lisi remembers seeing the gunman at about 6:20 p.m. the day before Thanksgiving and then just after 8 p.m. Dec. 1, WPRI-TV [reported](#).

"Something kept telling me, 'Don't ignore it. Don't ignore it,'" he said.

"We interact with the students all the time," Lisi said. "This hits close to home because it's our workplace. We spend more time there than we do at home because of the shift that we work."

BREAKING: A custodian at Brown University spotted the shooter peering into windows and classrooms over a DOZEN TIMES

He informed the university, and they did NOTHING. Brown Officials need to be SACKED

DEI is literally getting innocent people KILLED. pic.twitter.com/D73bzuLV7Q

— Nick Sortor (@nicksortor) [December 22, 2025](#)

The TV station reported:

Lisi said he reported the individual as suspicious to a third-party security vendor for Brown called Event Staff Services LLC, or ESS, on three separate occasions.

When he warned them Dec. 1, a staff member of that security company told him they were only present to cover an event. Lisi said the university's Department of Public Safety might have been notified, and he doesn't know if any other action happened.

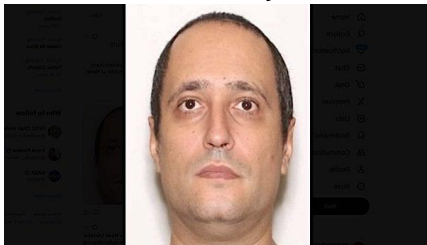
ESS did not respond to multiple requests for comment. David Madonna, the company president, told the Boston Globe that investigating reports of suspicious people is not its job.

"We have nothing to do with watching buildings," Madonna told the Globe. "Whenever there's an event at Brown, they hire us to do ID check and capacity counts in their rooms."

Once photos were released of the person of interest, Lisi immediately called the tip line, and he was interviewed by police on Monday, Dec. 15.

"I told detectives, it was like I could see him and nobody else could – it is an eerie feeling," Lisi explained. "It was the way he was browsing in the classrooms. He was like rolling his eyes one way, rolling his eyes another way.

And it wasn't just that classroom, it was all the classrooms."



Claudio Manuel Neves-Valente

Lisi says many "what ifs" are still swirling in his head.

"Yes, the shooter is responsible," he said. "But security should have been better, without a doubt."

A Brown University custodian says he saw the alleged mass shooter nearly a dozen times several weeks before the attack and shared suspicions about the man with an on-campus security guard.

<https://t.co/khAut5jQli>

— The Boston Globe (@BostonGlobe) [December 22, 2025](#)

He noted the doors of the building where the shooting took place are usually locked on weekends, but they were unlocked on the fateful Saturday.

"That the building should have been open access," he said. "That's what is still weird to me. It doesn't make sense to me why on a Saturday it was an open access."

Lisi speculated if more security cameras had been present in the building, police may have been able to identify Neves Valente sooner, and perhaps stopping the [subsequent murder](#) of MIT professor Nuno Loureiro, who was slain in Brookline, Massachusetts two days after the horror in Providence, Rhode Island.

"Two students aren't here today – that kills me every day," Lisi said. "I can't get his face out of my head." There is harsh reaction online to Lisi's revelations.

Journalist Nick Sortor said: "He informed the university, and they did NOTHING. Brown Officials need to be SACKED. DEI is literally getting innocent people KILLED."

Former police officer Brandon Tatum [added](#): "A Brown University custodian repeatedly reported seeing the shooter peering into classrooms over a dozen times – and the school did nothing. Total institutional failure. Brown's leadership should be fired immediately. This kind of DEI-driven incompetence is costing innocent lives."

Follow Joe on X [@JoeKovacsNews](#)

<https://www.wnd.com/2025/12/officials-need-be-sacked-brown-university-custodian-saw/>

Polar Bears Beat Global Warming

Mon, 22 Dec 2025 7:20 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



When environmentalists first claimed that polar bears would be extinct by 2050, it seemed like a fairly safe bet. The claim made in 2007 was pegged to 43 years away. Practically an eternity. By 2050, we'd have flying cars, colonies on Mars and Martian environmentalists protesting them.

Media headlines blared "Most Polar Bears Extinct by 2050." Public school kids were barraged with crying polar bear propaganda and told to recycle or all the cute white bears would die.

But nearly twenty years later, global warming has a major problem. The bears are still here.

With another 25 years on the clock, you would think that there would be signs that a major species is disappearing. Instead the 22,000 polar bear population from 2007 is now estimated at 26,000. The numbers for polar bear extinction, like Gaza genocide, are going the wrong way.

Population numbers for those facing extinction or genocide are generally supposed to go down.

'Climate experts', a class of people whose accuracy rate is up there with fortune tellers, psychics and the mainstream media, have responded to the persistent refusal of the polar bears to die by either urging people to stop paying attention to the polar bears or to the Eskimos who claim that they're seeing a lot of polar bears because the polar bears really are disappearing.

"This creates a lot of confusion working with Inuit hunters in Canada who say they're seeing lots of bears. I say, 'Yes, because you live in an area where there are lots of bears but there are other places where they are not doing as well,'" a professor explained to them.

Since trying to convince people that 26,000 is actually less than 22,000 or that it doesn't matter how many polar bears they're seeing because the other polar bears, somewhere else where you can't see them, are going extinct, isn't working, here's the expert's Plan B (for bear.)

"Polar bears are rewiring their own genetics to survive a warming climate," the latest media headlines proclaim. That's pretty incredible for a species that can't even use microscopes. It's also pretty incredible from a report by a lead author (She/Her) who got her PhD in 2021 and claims to have "vast expertise". I'd believe the polar bears using microscopes first.

But according to 'experts' from the University of East Anglia in Britain, they found polar bears living in the 'warmer' parts of Greenland who are doing just fine. Because animals adapt. The entire existence of life on earth is one extended process of adapting to different environments.

However, according to the hysterical press release, polar bears 'have been forced to "rewrite their own DNA" as "a desperate survival mechanism against melting sea ice." Coming in 2026 from Netflix, the tale of desperate transgender polar bear geneticists working against time to rewire their DNA to enable them to survive in warmer climates so they can attend UN conferences.

Bears don't rewrite their DNA, but 'experts' do rewrite their narratives all the time.

Polar bears aren't going anywhere, but the narrative that they're doomed to die in 25 years is facing extinction. And at some point, climate experts will have to either kill the polar bears or admit they're not going extinct. Claiming that polar bears are desperately 'rewriting their DNA' in the face of global warming is a useful exit strategy to explain why the bears are still here.

Polar bears, like other animals, adapt, but there's also not much for them to adapt to.

The ice that was supposed to melt and doom them all is also stubbornly refusing to melt. And the only actual threat to the polar bear population is perversely the perception of their extinction. Polar bear populations rose after hunting restrictions came into place. Canadian Eskimos continue to hunt polar bears while regularly arguing with environmentalists about how many of them there are (polar bears, not environmentalists, we know there are far too many of those.)

Polar bears are still allowed to hunt people and they're among the few animals that still do.

The bears are adapting not to rising temperatures but to a different human environment. As polar bear

numbers continue to increase, with less fear of hunting, they are going to do what every peak predator with a growing population does and are expanding their hunting grounds.

The constant push and pull between environmentalists, Eskimos and other 'indigenous' peoples who were formerly indigenous to Siberia before they crossed the Bering Strait, governments and assorted bodies set up to mediate between them over the status of the polar bears, the seals and other animals that the polar bears eat has made their environment humanly complicated.

The polar ice has remained stable, what has not remained stable is the politicisation of the polar bears and everything around them. The polar bears are as unaware of the politics of their existence as they are of their DNA, but they still react to the human environmental factors, not rising temperatures or melting ice, but whether they're hunted and the availability of their prey.

There are more people currently employed in studying, litigating, and exploiting polar bears than there are polar bears. In a natural environment, equilibrium would be restored by having the polar bears eat them. Instead, toxic masculinity and whiteness has been put at the service of protecting experts who love polar bears from the polar bears who would love to eat them.

So the polar bears are growing and expanding to get away from them and find new prey.

The experts who insisted that polar bears were a doomed population, sitting mournfully on melting floes and watching the warm tide roll in before they drown (because climate experts, have never seen an actual polar bear and are convinced that they can't swim) have a problem.

Like a bad 70s disco song, the polar bears are persistently staying alive. They're not victims of global warming, another bad idea from the 70s, and they're not going to die out by 2050.

If environmentalists want polar bears to be extinct by 2025, they're going to have to kill them. And considering the amount of funding and grant money at stake, I wouldn't put it past them.

The polar bears aren't threatened by the climate, they are threatened by the climate experts.

<https://bkdvk-zgpyh.campaign-view.com/ua/viewinbrowser> =1



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