**03/05/2021 NEWS AM -Don’t Miss Shorashim Insights Link:**

[**https://madmimi.com/p/abb9021?pact=985681-162267884-6940209099-24a87d319da7058646e8d08b9f6eb8e9b596ac54**](https://madmimi.com/p/abb9021?pact=985681-162267884-6940209099-24a87d319da7058646e8d08b9f6eb8e9b596ac54)

**"A Song of Ascents" - The Pilgrimage Road (Episode 15)**

**- City of David: Bringing the Bible to Life**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OxYuYyydJ4**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OxYuYyydJ4)

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| **"Historically, much of the motivation for public schooling has been to stifle variety and institute social control." -- Jack HughCato Institute** |

**Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!**

**That is the only hope for this nation!**

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for TR – abnormal Mammogram having double biopsy – Positive for cancer**  **Pray for ZH - having trouble with PTSD**  **Pray for LAC – recurrent cancer getting treatment**  **Pray for Ella – emotionally disturbed abused child and brother with ? heart problem**  **Pray for JN – Neuro disease**  **Pray for MS – Job issues and change**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for Felicia – post op problems – continuing**  **Pray for SH and family – lady’s husband passed away and she is in Nursing home. Not doing well.**  **Pray for MP – Very complex problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 20:8And Abimelech riseth early in the morning, and calleth for all his servants, and speaketh all these words in their ears; and the men fear exceedingly; 9and Abimelech calleth for Abraham, and saith to him, `What hast thou done to us? and what have I sinned against thee, that thou hast brought upon me, and upon my kingdom, a great sin? works which are not done thou hast done with me.' 10Abimelech also saith unto Abraham, `What hast thou seen that thou hast done this thing?'**

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| **ETBPF has a new venue called Discord. It is a private web site where we are posting news and the daily news posting and you can respond with posts if you want. This ‘app’ can be used almost like facebook and twitter but without the intervention. We are just starting it and a bit slow to learn how to use it but it helps keep us off the Big Guys. It is a freebee and private. We have set levels of access to make sure only real responsible people are able to access. You can look at and join by going to:** [**https://discord.gg/4576x47ezN**](https://discord.gg/4576x47ezN) |

**Western envoys warn ICC its future is at risk over probe of Israel, Palestinians**

***Unnamed diplomats speak of growing concern over court’s alleged politicization; US secretary of state says investigation could undermine efforts for a two-state solution***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 2:00 pm*

**Unnamed Western diplomats reportedly warned Thursday that the International Criminal Court’s decision to open an investigation into alleged war crimes committed by Israel and the Palestinians could endanger the future of the Hague-based legal bod**y.

**The anonymous officials told Israel’s Kan public broadcaster that there have been growing concerns within the diplomatic community of the alleged increasing politicization of the court and its investigations, and that officia**ls in The Hague have been told of the worries.

**The probe will deal with the armed conflict of the summer of 2014, but notably excludes any investigation of the murder of three Israeli teenagers by Palestinian terrorists that started the escala**tion.

**Furthermore, the diplomats said that the United States had been willing to reconsider its opposition to the court and the sanctions put in place in 2019 by then-US president Donald Trump, but that Wednesday’s announcement could influence such a decision being made by the current administration of Joe Bi**den.

**A US State Department spokesman** [**said**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-opposes-icc-probe-into-israel-palestinians-weighs-maintaining-sanctions/) **Wednesday that the administration “firmly” opposes the court’s deci**sion, but is still weighing whether to maintain sanctions against the body imposed by the Trump administration.

**Like Israel, the US is not a member of the ICC and has found itself at odds with The Hague**-based international court due to its ongoing probe into alleged war crimes in Afghanistan by Afghan forces, the Taliban and the American military.

**In 2019, Trump imposed economic sanctions an**d visa travel restrictions against chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda as well as one of her aides.

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said Wednesday that Washington “firmly opposes and is deeply disappointed” by the decision of the court. **However, Blinken highlighted Bensouda’s clarification that her office would need to assess priorities and resources before determining when and how to proce**ed, indicating it was still possible the legal basis was lacking.

**“[Bensouda] has previously recognized that ‘it would be contrary to judicial economy to carry out an investigation in the judicially untested jurisdictional context of this situation only to find out subsequently that relevant legal bases were lacking.’** As she acknowledges, that very possibility remains as likely today as ever,” Blinken said.

The top US diplomat added that the investigation could undermine efforts for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, and noted that Washington remained committed to Israel’s security. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/western-envoys-warn-icc-its-future-is-at-risk-over-probe-of-israel-palestinians/>

**Environment minister adamant oil spill is Iran terror; defense figures skeptical**

***Gila Gamliel insists there’s a ‘direct link’ between Iran and tanker blamed for pollution; before ship was identified, she had said she believed the incident wasn’t deliberate***

*By* [*Stuart Winer*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/stuart-winer/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:01 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/F210303YS86.jpg)

***Environmental Protection Minister Gila Gamliel at a press conference regarding an oil spill on Israel's beaches, at the Ministry of Environmental Protection offices in Jerusalem on March 3, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)***

**Environmental Protection Minister Gila Gamliel insisted Thursday that a huge oil spill that polluted most of the country’s beaches was an Iranian terror attack on Israel, despite having said in an interview a day earlier that she didn’t believe the spill was deliber**ate.

**Gamliel contended that the spill, which forced the closure of beaches along Israel’s Mediterranean coast, was directly caused by Iran, even as defense officials have said it was not deliberate** but rather a malfunction.

Speaking to Army Radio on Thursday morning, **Gamliel pushed back** at suggestions that the spill was an accident, saying, “**To say that this isn’t terror is simply inappropriate**.”

**She went on to say there had been a “failure” by defense services in monitoring Iranian crude oil smugg**led to beat international sanctions imposed on Syria due to its human rights record.

“I call on the defense establishment to do a check right now,” she said. She described the crude oil on tankers as an “ecological weapon” that threatens the country.

**Asked directly if the spill was deliberate or an accident she said, “If they had fired a missile at an Israeli ship would anyone ask if it was a mistake or deliberate?** In my view, it was a deliberate act of terror.”

**A Libyan-owned ship, the Emerald, was smuggling crude oil from Iran to Syria at the time of the spi**ll, the Environmental Protection Ministry said in a statement, citing satellite images by the TankerTrackers monitoring group. The ship has since returned to Iran and is currently anchored there.

**“Crude oil in the sea is a weapon that acts against the environment and public health,** and against wildlife and against our coasts,” Gamliel said in a statement of her own.

“There is a direct link here to Iran,” Gamliel continued, urging the government to hold an emergency discussion about the matter with defense officials “to gain a broader understanding of the threats in Israel’s economic waters, which are not merely environmental.”



***Pieces of tar that washed up onto the beach at the Gador Nature Reserve in northern Israel on March 1, 2021. (Yossi Aharoni)***

**On Wednesday Gamliel announced that Israel had identified the ship responsible for the spill and at a press conference later that evening she vowed to file a lawsuit over the** leak.

**The minister’s allegation of Iran’s involvement was immediately disputed by senior security officials, however, with Channel 13 news reporting that Israel’s defense establishment “does not share this assessme**nt.” The network said it was “striking” that neither the Mossad intelligence agency nor other defense bodies were involved in formulating Gamliel’s conclusion.

**Channel 12 News on Thursday cited sources in the defense establishment as saying that Gamliel’s remarks were “very strange” and that there was no indicati**on of a deliberate act of terror.

**Ori Disatnik, the former commander of Israel’s submarine force, also cast doubt on Gamliel’s asses**sment.



***Screen capture from video of Ori Distanik. (YouTube)***

“When you start to analyze things this doesn’t look like terror at all,” he told the Walla news website.

**Disatnik said that if the spill were deliberate, the ship would have moved on as soon as it unloaded the pollutant instead of remaining in the area for nearly two w**eeks, as it reportedly did. He also said that the relatively small size of the spill, less than one percent of the 112,000 tons the ship can carry, indicates it was not a deliberate attack.

**“If they wanted to do an attack, they would have dumped the whole cargo into the wate**r,” Disatnik said. He noted the great oceanographic knowledge and skill it would take to start a spill in one part of the Mediterranean Sea and be sure it would reach Israel.

Disatnik assessed that it was more likely a malfunction on the ship or the release of fuel for some operational reason.

Gamliel, in a Wednesday morning interview, had herself assessed that the spill was not an attack.

**“It was done in territorial waters that are not Israeli territory, and the weather was very storm**y,” Gamliel told Channel 12, explaining that would have made it impossible to know which way the spill would go.

“It seems to me to be more damage by environmental criminals,” she said. “Even if it was a malfunction on a ship — someone did not report it, despite his duty to do so. But it does not seem at all that this is a malfunction, but rather malicious.” **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/environment-minister-adamant-oil-spill-is-iran-terror-defense-figures-skeptical/>

**IDF completes underground wall as Israel readies for Hamas war**

***Southern Command uses mock Palestinian city to exercise various scenarios ahead of a possible future confrontation***

*By* [*UDI SHAHAM*](https://www.jpost.com/author/udi-shaham) *MARCH 4, 2021 17:15*

**The IDF has completed the construction of the underground concrete wall between Israel and the Gaza Strip, as part of the effort to prevent terrorists from crossing into Israel via cross-border offensiv**e tunnels.

**The concrete wall is just one component in the 60 km.-long barrier, which also includes a fence above the ground, advanced sensors both above and undergroun**d, and uses cutting-edge technologies that are meant to tackle the tunnel threat and stop terrorist infiltrations.

**Senior IDF sources told The Jerusalem Post that almost 95% of the barrier has been completed an**d that it will be operational in the near future.

**Hamas is believed to have a** [**complex underground tunnel system**](https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/terror-tunnel-found-along-gaza-border-belonged-to-hamas-idf-646500) **throughout the Gaza Strip that will be used to attack Israeli soldiers in a future ground battle inside the Strip**. As a result, the IDF is preparing its soldiers for a combination of above-ground and below-ground warfare.

**The Engineering Corps’s elite Yahalom Unit and others are said to have learned from IDF experiences and are believed to master all the necessary skills to control the undergro**und sphere.

  
***Photos: IDF soldiers complete urban warfare training at the Israel National Urban Training Center in Tze’elim (IDF Spokesperson's Unit)***

**This development comes as the IDF’s Southern Command and 162nd Division recently completed preparations and a series of exercises ahead of a possible confrontation with** [**Hamas**](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/palestinian-authority-hamas-welcome-icc-decision-to-investigate-israel-660837) **and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Gaz**a Strip.

**In the past few years, both the Southern Command and the 162nd Division have worked to understand and analyze the characteristics of a future Gaza confrontation** based on the experience of its units in Operation Cast Lead in 2009, Operation Protective Edge in 2014, and intelligence that is constantly being collected in Gaza. **[You will not that it doesn’t say “possible” it says “future” because they know that the Hamas Charter still has the destruction of Israel as an integral statement of objective. – rdb]**

**All of those were assembled into one book — that was dubbed the “Purple Book”, which is the color of the IDF’s Givati Brigade — one of the leading units in the Southern Command that played a significant role in the past operations in the Gaza Strip. The book is an instruction manual for commanders that serves as a basis of how to operate in a war,** and what tools should be used to overcome the expected challenges.

**The main premise of the Southern Command is that most of the combat in the Gaza Strip will take place in urban areas, which are densely populated.** Hamas and PIJ have embedded their weapons and rocket launchers deep inside civilian areas, including in private homes. It is also believed that marketplaces and other venues for social activities are located above tunnels with strategic significance. This way, Hamas hopes to deter the IDF from attacking the tunnel entrances.

**On Thursday, the IDF completed the week-long “Stretched String” exercise**, which aimed to prepare all Southern Command officers for future combat.

The exercise took place in a mock Palestinian city in the Israel National Urban Training Center in Tze’elim.

 The urban warfare facility was converted to look like a typical Gazan town, which includes tunnel shafts scattered in random places and hidden rocket launchers. Buildings in the facility were decorated like typical Gazan homes — with IEDs planted inside them.

**“We did that so the commanders would see — with their own eyes — how these things look like,” said Givati Brigade commander** Col. Itzik Cohen.

**“The battalion commanders and their deputies probably know how Gaza looks from the inside. But the company and platoon commanders, who joined the army in the past 6-7 years, never saw Gaza**. I want them to know what an exit hole of a rocket launcher looks like these days,” he said, referring to a special foam Hamas uses to hide its missiles and to keep them safe in all types of weather.

During the drill, the units exercised various scenarios and different phases of an operation; from getting to Gaza, which requires handling IEDs, anti-tanks missiles, and operatives hiding in tunnels, to clearing areas from operatives and setting up positions inside urban areas.

Recently, Givati completed a major transition — the entire battalion is qualified to operate with the advanced Namer armored personnel carrier (APC).

**A major component of the future battle is that no armored vehicle — whether it's a tank or an APC — will operate by itself. They will move in pairs,** in which each armored vehicle will use its advantages to protects the other.

“When we arrive, we want to attack in punches,” Cohen said. “Like a cobra attacking with its teeth, we want to have quick, sharp, and strong parallel efforts to attack the enemy.”

 One of the IDF’s main goals in a future war will be to destroy terrorist infrastructure, and especially facilities that are used by Hamas to increase its firepower. This task will be mainly given to the Air Force.

**Due to reorganization efforts, the Southern Command and the 162nd Division created a mechanism in which battalion commanders can request IAF assistance to attack enemy targets** and receive the air support in a short period of time.

**During the drill, the units practiced neutralizing threats in multi-story buildi**ngs. In order to do so, the ground forces — which are starting from the bottom and working their way up, practiced using a common language and directing choppers to hit sniper squads located in the higher stories of the building.

**Preparations for a new conflict comes as organizations in Gaza face an intensifying economic crisis**. The $360 million in Qatari aid to Gaza is expected to help Hamas keep its head just above the water, but not more than that.

**Senior army officials believe that due to this crisis, and because Hamas understands the price it will pay in a future confrontation with the IDF that will lead to the devastation of its infrastructu**re, it is currently avoiding escalating the situation.

It also took an operative decision to prevent the PIJ — which is considered a recalcitrant organization that acts on its own — from taking decisions and dragging the entire region into another round of violence.

On the other hand, there are incidents when Hamas tries to undermine Israeli sovereignty near the border. In January, Hamas snipers shot at an IDF force operating in the perimeter.

 This illustrates how delicate the situation is, and how one small incident can potentially develop into a larger operation. <https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/idf-completes-underground-wall-as-israel-readies-for-hamas-war-660951>

**Israel, Austria, Denmark announce launch of joint vaccine initiative**

***Kurz: The world is looking at Israel with admiration because Israel is the first country vaccinating its population.***

*By* [*LAHAV HARKOV*](https://www.jpost.com/author/lahav-harkov) *MARCH 4, 2021 18:32*

***Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meeting with Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. (photo credit: AMOS BEN GERSHOM, GPO)***

**Israel, Austria and Denmark plan to work together on developing and producing vaccines for future pandemics and variants of** [**COVID-19**](https://www.jpost.com/coronavirus)**, the countries’ leaders announced together in Jerusalem on Thursda**y.

**“Efforts for production of future vaccines is something we have to do, because we probably will need protection for the future,**” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. “We had SARS, Ebola and other diseases, and now we have COVID. We have to make sure we can protect our people and also help other countries and humanity at large.” **[Note the last phrase “will need protection for the future”. The expectation is that this will be a recurring virus problem just like the flu is a recurring problem so the Big Pharm will be trying to get you with TWO “flu shots” each year or six months or whatever their fictional tale is. Please remember that this is not a vaccine it is an experimental treatment that can have bad side effects in the long term, IF it goes along with the history or previous mRNA attempted vaccines.- rdb]**

Joint investment in production facilities for [vaccines](https://www.jpost.com/tags/vaccine) “reflects the respect we have for each other and the confidence we have in working together to protect the health of our people,” Netanyahu added.

**Netanyahu expressed pride in Israel’s “really excellent” health services**, pointing out that Sheba Hospital was ranked in the top 10 in the world. He recounted a drug being developed in Sourasky Medical Center (Ichilov) in Tel Aviv, taken with an inhaler, that has proven effective in treating COVID-19 in early trials. **[I am not so sure from everything I have been reading that they are still as excellent as they may have been in the past. This entire episode smells of political rot and a caving in to the globalist movement. – rdb]**

“We want to have vaccines and therapeutic drugs for those cases when the vaccines don’t work,” he said.

The local vaccine production initiative has “galvanized the imagination of the world,” Netanyahu said. “We agreed that if other nations want to join us, we’ll discuss it among ourselves and welcome others to come.” **[Is it the imagination it has galvanized or has it created a potential nightmare? – rdb]**

Danish Prime Minster Mette Frederiksen said the three countries involved have a good starting-off point for the project, because they have highly-developed life science industries.

“We can bring our knowledge together in a kind of a collective effort to secure better, more reliable access to vaccines,” she said. “We would like also to explore [together] possible cooperation in clinical trials.”

Frederiksen said the meeting “provided [her] with a lot of inspiration for how we can work closer together when it comes to research and production capacities.”

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz praised Netanyahu’s efforts in negotiating an early and quick vaccine rollout for Israel.

“At the moment, the world is looking at Israel with admiration because under your leadership, Israel is the first country in the world vaccinating its population,” he said to Netanyahu. “Israel is the first country in the world that shows it's possible to defeat the virus.” [**did anyone read the attachment that was on yesterday’s news????? You need to go back and look at it if you didn’t. – rdb]**

Kurz recounted speaking on the phone with Netanyahu in early 2020: “He told me this virus will be a huge threat to the world…That’s maybe the main reason why we reacted quite early in Austria when the first wave hit us hard in the EU.”

Kurz and Netanyahu have had a close relationship since the former became chancellor at age 27 in 2013, and they speak often.

The Austrian chancellor established a forum called “First Movers” last year, which includes Netanyahu and Frederiksen, as well as the leaders of Australia, Norway, Greece, Czech Republic, Singapore and New Zealand, to discuss best practices in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This pandemic can only be overcome through global cooperation,” Kurz said. “Vaccines will allow us to return to normality in the summer, but we have to prepare already now for the next stages of the pandemic after the summer.”

Earlier Thursday, Netanyahu took Kurz and Frederiksen to a gym in Modi'in to show them how the "green passport" program works, allowing Israelis who have been vaccinated against or recovered from COVID-19 to return to engaging in certain indoor activities.

Kurz and Frederiksen have broken with the EU in planning to work with Israel on vaccine development and production, as well as regulation.

**Israel does not currently have its own, independent regulatory body, and rolled out the Pfizer vaccine to its citizens after the US Center for Disease Control approved it. The EU regulatory process has slowed down the distribution of vaccines in Europe**. The countries seek to work together on a streamlined regulatory process of their own. **[Maybe the EU regulatory body doesn’t have as much money invested in the project as the US body does nor will they make as much profit. – rdb]**

Netanyahu said last week that he has been in talks with Pfizer and Moderna, two major COVID-19 vaccine producers, to begin local production, and has spoken with six other countries to built joint facilities.

The EU allows the use of vaccines made by Pfizer with German partner BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca, which are produced in Germany, Britain, Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands.

There has been rising frustration in Europe over the slow rollout of vaccines, which has trailed far behind Israel’s effort.

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said it was right that the EU procures vaccines for its member states but the European Medicines Agency (EMA) had been too slow to approve them and lambasted pharmaceutical companies’ supply bottlenecks.

“We must therefore prepare for further mutations and should no longer be dependent only on the EU for the production of second-generation vaccines,” the conservative chancellor said in a statement on Tuesday.

The European Commission said member states were free to strike separate deals should they wish to. “It’s not that the strategy unraveled or it goes against the strategy, not at all,” spokesman Stefan de Keersmaecker said.

A growing number of EU countries have placed side orders for vaccines from Russia and China, even though the EMA has yet to rule on whether they are both safe and effective. <https://www.jpost.com/health-science/israel-austria-denmark-announce-launch-of-joint-vaccine-initiative-660976>

**Quarantine hotels to close as ministers advance electronic bracelet bill**

***Timing of legislation leaves gap with no supervision on returnees; hotels to only be used for those who refuse bracelets or can’t isolate at home***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:19 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/F210301TN01.jpg)

***Passengers arriving on a flight from Frankfurt take part in the pilot program of wearing electronic bracelets upon arrival in Israel, on March 01, 2021. (Tomer Neuberg/Flash90)***

**Ministers are expected to vote next week on advancing legislation requiring those returning to Israel to self-isolate at home with an electronic bracelet**, as the law forcing returnees to stay in government-run quarantine hotels expires Sunday.

**Due to the uncoordinated schedules, there may be a period of time where returnees will be sent to home isolation, without any additional supervision**, Channel 12 reported Thursday.

**According to a draft of the bill, those who refuse to wear a bracelet, or are unable to self-isolate at home, will be required to stay at one of the government-run quarantine hot**els as an alternative.

 Additionally, ministers will vote on lowering the age for those who will be required to be under electronic supervision, from 18 down to 14.

**Around 100 people participated in an electronic bracelet pilot program last week**. The bracelets monitored their location to ensure they adhered to Health Ministry guidelines through their two-week quarantine period.

***Passengers arriving on a flight from Frankfurt take part in the pilot program of wearing electronic bracelets upon arrival in Israel, on March 01, 2021. (Tomer Neuberg/Flash90)***

**If the program is approved for wider use, all arrivals will be tested for coronavirus at Ben Gurion Airport, and if the tests come back negative, they will be able to receive the bracelet. The bracelet can be worn on either the wrist or ankl**e.

**Currently, the key issue with the program is the limited number of bracelets**, and the Health Ministry is looking into other alternatives, such as an app that will require self-isolators to report their location at random times, Channel 12 reported.

The ministry said in a statement when launching the pilot that the idea was “to provide more efficient alternatives to arrivals in the country, and out of a desire to limit harm to personal freedoms.”

The bracelet monitors the wearers’ location via Bluetooth and GPS and connects to a provided cellphone.

**Health Ministry officials are examining the possibility of having a daily charge of NIS 15 ($4.5 USD) for the bracelet, on top of a deposit when receiving the tracking kit,** the Walla news site reported.

“Ensuring those who enter Israel abide by the isolation requirements will help reduce the entry and spread of the infection brought from abroad,” it said in the draft of the law.

 “Establishing an obligation of technological tracking during home isolation, and an alternative of staying in a [government-run quarantine] hotel, is an essential step toward reducing the spread of infection in Israel and returning to normalcy,” it added.

***Passengers are tested for the coronavirus upon arrival in Israel, on March 01, 2021. (Tomer Neuberg/Flash90)***

**Travelers carrying documentation showing they have completed a two-shot virus vaccination or those who have recovered from the virus will be able to skip quarantine, provided they have a v**irus test just before, and on arrival in the country, with both tests being negative.

Israel’s land and air gateways have been largely closed since January 25, with Ben Gurion Airport shuttered for all but a few special flights by Israeli airlines to bring back citizens stranded abroad.

Health officials are concerned that more contagious strains of the coronavirus could arrive in the country from abroad, as is the case with the so-called British mutation which now accounts for almost all new coronavirus infections in the country. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/quarantine-hotels-to-close-as-ministers-advance-electronic-bracelet-bill/> **[Obviously there will now be a “NEW NORMAL” for all travel? This is simply ludicrous. It is more terror-porn to put people into a state of absolute panic. – rdb]**

**In blow to Abbas, senior Fatah official to form separate bloc to run in election**

***Nasser al-Qidwa, a member of Fatah’s powerful central committee and Yasser Arafat’s nephew, has long been an Abbas critic; says he hopes the imprisoned Barghouti will head his bloc***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 3:56 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2019/01/000_1CJ51Qqidwa-e1548362972310.jpg)

***Nasser al-Kidwa, a member of Fatah's Central Committee and the nephew of late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, addresses a news conference in the West Bank city of Ramallah on January 23, 2019, against a backdrop showing Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock mosque, to comment on a decision by an Israeli court to issue a temporary lien for a plot of land belonging to Arafat in East Jerusalem. (ABBAS MOMANI / AFP)***

**Fatah Central Committee member Nasser al-Qidwa on Wednesday declared his support for a separate bloc to run in the scheduled Palestinian elections, in the latest blow to the unity of the West Bank’s ruling faction**.

**“I am in favor of forming an electoral slate within the framework of a broad democratic forum that includes various segments of society, not the Fatah movement alo**ne,” al-Qidwa wrote on Twitter. **[Someone NOT FOLLOWING the party line? The last person doing that got banished for years. This person as a relative of Arafat the rat by get by with it. – rdb]**

**Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decree in mid-January ordering the Palestinians to head to elections. If held, they would be the first Palestinian national elections in 15 years**. The first voting round, the legislative elections, is set to be held on May 22.

**Many observers were skeptical that the Palestinians would actually head to elections,** given years of failed electoral promises by the Palestinian leadership. But the suspicion is slowly growing in diplomatic circles that this time, it may actually happen.

**Al-Qidwa and other activists call their new slate the National Democratic Forum**. In a tweet, Al-Qidwa said he hoped that convicted Palestinian terrorist Marwan Barghouti “will stand at the head of it.”

**Barghouti, who has yet to formally declare his candidacy, is currently serving five life sentences in an Israeli prison for masterminding terror attacks dur**ing the Second Intifada.

**Al-Qidwa had previously called on Barghouti not to “hide from his responsibility”** to get involved in the Palestinian legislative elections.

**Al-Qidwa also called for former Gaza security chief Mohammad Dahlan’s faction, the Democratic Reform Current, to play a renewed role in Palestinian politics,** including within Fatah itself. Dahlan, who was exiled from the West Bank in 2011, has long been at odds with the Ramallah-based Palestinian leadership. **[That is a direct affront to Abbas who banned Dahlan. – rdb]**

**“I want to say to the main Fatah faction: [Dahlan’s faction] has a place, and they are welcome as part of the reconciliations within Fatah and outside Fata**h,” al-Qidwa reportedly said.

Palestinian leaders have repeatedly promised to hold elections since the last vote was held in 2006. Hamas swept the Palestinian parliament in a landslide victory over its Fatah rivals, who were riven by factional squabbles and widely seen as corrupt.

**The terror group’s victory led to a fragile unity government between Fatah and Hamas.** Following an international boycott, the unity government collapsed; the two rival Palestinian movements then conducted a bloody struggle for supremacy in Gaza.

Hamas again emerged triumphant, leading to the long-running rift in Palestinian politics. Fear and mistrust between the two factions — combined with a desire to avoid losing power — have torpedoed every feint toward elections over the past 15 years.

**Much as in 2006, Abbas’s Fatah movement is deeply divided,** and he faces rivals at every turn, including Barghouti and Dahlan. Barghouti enjoys broad popularity among the Palestinian public, while Dahlan has a loyal faction in Gaza and a powerful patron.

**Al-Qidwa has also long been a critic of Abbas. He has worked at several foreign posts**, including as the PA’s envoy to the United Nations, where he developed a reputation as an effective and capable diplomat.

In recent weeks, however, al-Qidwa’s criticism of the PA has become more strident. At a virtual conference streamed by Birzeit University in late February, al-Qidwa said the Palestinian political system needed to be changed, not only reformed.

**“We need radical change in our political system, even as we struggle against Israeli actions,”** al-Qidwa said.

**Al-Qidwa called for Palestinians to find what he called “a third path” between the dichotomy of “armed struggle or negotiations with unending concessions” in which he claimed Palestinian politics found itself.** Pressed for more details, he dodged.

**In a phone call with The Times of Israel last week, Fatah Central Committee member Azzam al-Ahmad scoffed at al-Qidwa’s remarks that the Palestinian political regime needed fundamental ch**ange.

“Nasser is a part of the political system, and we have a strong relationship as members of the Central Committee,” al-Ahmad said in a phone call.

**Should the vote take place, Fatah’s factional differences may have less impact than they did in 200**6. In a concession by Hamas, the terror group assented to Fatah’s demand that a national popular vote would determine the division of seats in the Palestinian parliament.

In 2006, numerous Fatah candidates ran against one another in different districts, splitting the ticket. The internally disciplined Hamas ran only one candidate per district. The result was an electoral landslide by Hamas despite only a slight victory over Fatah in the popular vote.

Senior Palestinian Authority official Ahmad al-Majdalani told The Times of Israel that the new elections procedure would prevent a landslide by Hamas or any other faction.

“The new elections law prevents any side from achieving a majority in the legislative elections. Every faction will need to make alliances — either within the framework of the elections or afterward,” Majdalani said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-blow-to-abbas-senior-fatah-official-to-form-separate-bloc-to-run-in-election/>  **[This election may be as interesting as the Israeli election. – rdb]**

**PLO says $15 million per month being paid in terror stipends**

***Official estimates as much as $181 million paid in 2020; PA policy of paying salaries to prisoners has won Ramallah international criticism***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 9:38 pm*

**Ramallah may have paid as much as NIS 600 million ($181 million) in 2020 in salaries to Palestinians imprisoned by Israel for security offenses — including terrorism — and their families, a** Palestine Liberation Organization official said on Thursday. **“We pay around NIS 50 million ($15 million) per month in salarie**s,” PLO Commissioner for Prisoners’ Affairs Qadri Abu Bakr said in a phone call with The Times of Israel. **Ramallah has a longstanding policy of compensating Palestinians jailed by Israel for security offenses, as well as those wounded or killed by Israeli forces** — including those killed while committing violent terror attacks.

Israel has long sought to clamp down on the practice, which it says encourages terror. As required by a 2018 law, Israel deducts the estimated cost of the stipends from tax revenues it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority every month.

Abu Bakr did not immediately provide a precise figure for 2020 as a whole but agreed when The Times of Israel suggested an estimate of NIS 600 million ($181 million) for the past year, based on the monthly number he’d provided. “Yes, that’s right,” he said.   
 An Israeli military order imposes sanctions on any banks that allow Palestinians to collect the payments. After several delays, the order came into effect early in 2021. In order to avoid the sanctions, the PLO paid the salaries of prisoners three months in advance in late December.   
 **While the PLO has previously floated the idea of creating its own financial institution so as to avoid Israeli sanctions, the idea was eventually ruled out as unfeasible. Nor** have any of the other reforms pitched to end the stipends — which, while popular domestically, have long won Ramallah international condemnation — yet come to fruition.   
 “We’re still studying the matter, but we have not yet come to any conclusions about it,” Abu Bakr said.   
 **According to Abu Bakr, around 7,500 released Palestinian prisoners currently receive aid from the Palestine Liberation Organization. Another 4,500 prisoners who are still in detention also receive the salaries**.   
 Palestinian Media Watch, a right-wing nonprofit that tracks incitement in Palestinian media, has previously estimated that the PLO paid out at least NIS 512 million ($159 million) in prisoner stipends in 2020.   
 While the PLO does not publish its budgets publicly, the nonprofit reached its conclusion by tracking financial documents put out by the PA. According to PA Finance Ministry filings, the amount the PA transferred to the PLO increased from NIS 161 million ($50 million) to NIS 673 million ($209 million) in 2020.  
 The Palestinian Authority Finance Ministry did not respond to repeated phone calls and a written request for comment.  
 Israeli politicians have described the stipends as a “pay-for-slay” program that rewards attackers. Because the PA hands out more money for longer sentences in Israeli prisons, those incarcerated for the most brutal terror attacks receive more funding from Ramallah.  
 Palestinians have argued that the stipends are recompense for what they deem an unfair Israeli military justice system. In addition to those who unabashedly support armed terror against Israelis, many do not believe the Israeli version of the events that led to their relatives’ imprisonment or death and take no issue with payouts to them or their families.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/plo-says-15-million-per-month-being-paid-in-terror-stipends/> **[Keep in mind that The Donald has stopped payments to the “PA” because of this but “Bi-dumb” and friends plan on reinstituting the funding of the “PA” so they can keep on with their pay to slay program. Way to go demon-rats. – rdb]**

**Man wielding knife arrested outside Jewish school, kosher store in France**

***School in Marseille locked down as security guards overpower armed man trying to enter shop, hand him over to police; authorities boost security for city’s Jewish sites***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 12:12 pm*

**A man armed with a knife attempted to enter a kosher grocery store near a Jewish school in the city of Marseille Friday morning, before being overpowered by security personnel and arrested by police**. **The man was first spotted by security guards at the Yavne Jewish high school in the city emerging from a vehicle with a knife. Media reports said he had a piece of cloth, possibly a towel, wrapped around his** head.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/asdsadsafasf.jpg)

***Police arrest a man armed with a knife outside a Jewish school and kosher market in Marseille, France, March 5, 2021 (video screenshot)***

**It was initially reported that the man, said to be in his 60s, attempted to enter the school. Police later said that he made no attempt to enter the school, but was noticed by security personnel behaving suspicious**ly. They then followed him as he attempted to go into the kosher shop and wrestled him to the ground.

“The attention of school security personnel was drawn to the suspicious behavior of the individual in the street,” a police statement said.

**The children were sequestered inside the school while police searched for any explosives or accompl**ices, a police spokeswoman said. No one was hurt in the incident and the man’s motives remain unclear, she said.

“The man was immobilized until the arrival of [police],” she said.

Local police have reinforced security around Jewish sites in the city in the wake of the incident.

Jewish Agency chief Isaac Herzog said the incident was “a warning bell for the anti-Semitism bubbling under the surface.



***File: Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac Herzog speaks during the main ceremony of the March of the Living, at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp at Oswiecim, Poland, May 2, 2019. (March of the Living feed screen capture)***

**“Anti-Semitism and the danger to Jewish lives did not end with the coronavirus pandemic,” he said. Hatred was “just waiting to erupt when the crisis en**ds.”

The year 2020 saw several jihadist attacks against Jews in France, including an October stabbing attack in Nice that left three dead; the October decapitation of history teacher, Samuel Paty, in the Paris suburbs after he showed students cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in a class on freedom of expression; and the stabbing of two people outside the former headquarters of the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris.

Jews have been targeted in multiple attacks, including the murders of Sarah Halimi and Mireille Knoll in 2017 and 2018. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/man-with-knife-arrested-trying-to-enter-jewish-school-kosher-store-in-france/>

**Radicalization of Turkey's schoolbooks shows Erdoğan's grip on power increasing**

**"The real meaning of jihad is loving our country, homeland and to act accordingly in order to achieve national unity and togetherness."**

*By* [*SARAH BEN-NUN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/sarah-ben-nun) *MARCH 5, 2021 11:56*

**Turkish school textbooks have been steadily inching away from UNESCO standards, dating back to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's rise to power in 2003, IMPACT-se, a policy institute that** [**tracks**](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/unrwa-continued-teaching-hate-after-claiming-it-dropped-content-659345) **the upholding of UNESCO standards of educational materials, has shown in a new report**.

Why is this so alarming?

**“Education is a prime pillar in Erdoğan’s efforts to throw a membrane of sharia over the country," explained Dr. Soner Cagaptay, Director of the Turkish Research Progra**m at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

**The** [**report**](https://www.impact-se.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Erdogan-Revolution-in-the-Turkish-CurriculumTextbooks.pdf) **has found that the Turkish school curricula has radicalized within the time Erdoğan has been in power, close to two de**cades.

Examples include teaching jihad as a normalized, essential value and pushing the glorification of martyrdom in battle.

"The task of the Ministry of National Education is to teach every element in the right way," said Turkish Education Minister Ismet Yilmaz.

"The real meaning of jihad is loving our country, homeland and to act accordingly in order to achieve national unity and togetherness.

**"Our ministry made a very good decision," AKP party member Ahmet Hamdi Camli said in support of the government's decision to place the emphasis on jihad.** "If prayers are religion's tent pole, then jihad is the tent itself."

The AKP, short for AK Parti, or the Justice and Development Party, is headed by Erdoğan.

The last IMPACT-se report was in 2016, and educational materials have radicalized since then, the organization's CEO, Marcus Sheff, noted. "President Erdoğan fired 21,000 teachers and arrested hundreds more after the failed coup of the same year."

**IMPACT-se has continuously reported on the presence and encouragement of hate, anti-Israel sentiments, and calls for violence in the textbooks supplied by United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine** Refugees (UNRWA).

**Additionally, the curricula presents a bizarre paradox of showing respect for the Hebrew language and the idea of a Jewish civilization, while describing Jews as "infidels" and demonizing I**srael.

Textbooks describe the Gaza Strip as the "biggest open air prison" in the world, the report shows, emphasizing the victimhood of Palestinians and forging an emotional connection to their cause without providing the full picture.

This exists alongside repeated pushes for coexistence between the two national bodies.

Another cause for concern is the designation of the Kurdish separatist group, the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) [as terrorists](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/turkey-botches-raid-blames-terrorists-attacks-domestic-critics-659008). The Kurds in Turkey are an ethnic minority that has been facing religious persecution for years.

"School books have been weaponized in Erdoğan’s attempts to Islamize Turkish society and to hark back to a nostalgic age of Turkish domination," added Sheff. "We note increased demonization of Israel and antisemitic aspersions that must make Turkish-Jewish school students feel unsafe." <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/radicalization-of-turkeys-schoolbooks-shows-erdoans-grip-on-power-increasing-661068> **[Turkey is the seat of the muslim brotherhood and Erdogan sits in the seat. The US and EU should isolate them and not allow trade or other interactions as should be the case with Iran. – rdb]**

**China Charges Ahead With a National Digital Currency**

***The electronic Chinese yuan is now being tested in cities such as Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing. No other major power is as far along with a homegrown digital currency.***

By [Nathaniel Popper](https://www.nytimes.com/by/nathaniel-popper) and [Cao Li](https://www.nytimes.com/by/cao-li) March 1, 2021

[阅读简体中文版](https://cn.nytimes.com/business/20210302/china-national-digital-currency/)[閱讀繁體中文版](https://cn.nytimes.com/business/20210302/china-national-digital-currency/zh-hant/)



***A sign for China’s new digital currency, eCNY.Credit...Gilles Sabrié for The New York Times***

**After joining the lottery through the** [**social media app WeChat**](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/04/technology/wechat-china-united-states.html)**, Ms. Huang, 28, a business strategist in Shenzhen, received a digital envelope with 200 electronic Chinese yuan, or eCNY, worth around $30. To spend it, she went to a convenience store near her office and picked out some nuts and yo**gurt. Then she pulled up a QR code for the digital currency from inside her bank app, which the store scanned for payment.

**“The journey of how you pay, it’s very similar” to that of other Chinese payments apps, Ms. Huang said of the eCNY experience, though she added that it wasn’t quite as sm**ooth.

China has charged ahead with a bold effort to remake the way that government-backed money works, rolling out its own digital currency with different qualities than cash or digital deposits. The country’s central bank, which began testing eCNY last year in four cities, recently expanded those trials to bigger cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, according to government presentations.

The effort is one of several by central banks around the world to try new forms of digital money that can move faster and give even the most disadvantaged people access to online financial tools. Many countries have taken action as [cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/01/technology/what-is-bitcoin-price.html), which has [recently soared in value](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/08/technology/dogecoin-bitcoin-elon-musk-snoop-dogg.html), have become more popular. **MORE -**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/01/technology/china-national-digital-currency.html> **[The march to prophecy continues day by day to accelerate. – rdb]**

**New Zealand hit by 7.3 magnitude earthquake, tsunami warning issued**

*4 Mar, 2021 14:14 / Updated 2 hours ago*



**A “severe” 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck 85km (53 miles) east of New Zealand’s North Island at about 2:27am local time, according to the country’s seismological agency. A tsunami warning has been issued.**

**New Zealand’s National Emergency Management Agency has ordered people near the coast to move to higher ground if they feel a “long or strong earthquake,” adding that the emergency advice supersedes** any Covid-19 orders.

Evacuation advice overrides the current COVID-19 Alert Level requirements. Listen to local Civil Defence authorities and follow any instructions. If you are told to evacuate do not stay at home.

— National Emergency Management Agency (@NZcivildefence) [March 4, 2021](https://twitter.com/NZcivildefence/status/1367484986388021252?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center also urged caution, declaring in a statement that *“Hazardous tsunami waves from this earthquake are possible within 300km of the epicenter along the coast of New Zealand.”*

Information about casualties and other damage has not yet been made public, though reports from New Zealanders on social media were dire, with one user calling it *“the largest earthquake I’ve felt in Auckland, in the 22 years I’ve lived her[e].”*

By far the largest earthquake I've felt in Auckland, in the 22 years I've lived her 😬Everyone OK? [#eqnz](https://twitter.com/hashtag/eqnz?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

— AndiBrotherston (@AndiBeeeee) [March 4, 2021](https://twitter.com/AndiBeeeee/status/1367467826345222148?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The quake which struck at a depth of about 94km hit less than a day after an earlier earthquake struck 414km east of Auckland, centering at a point 10km beneath the surface at 6:57pm local time.  <https://www.rt.com/news/517206-new-zealand-earthquake-tsunami-warning/>

**Alabama Senate approves plan to criminalize trans surgeries on kids**

***Also would prohibit doctors from handing out puberty blockers***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published March 4, 2021 at 12:16pm* ***By Mary Margaret Olohan****Daily Caller News Foundation*

**The Alabama state Senate voted Tuesday to criminalize performing gender transition surgeries or hormone therapy on minors who identify as transgende**r.

**Under the** [**Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act**](https://legiscan.com/AL/text/HB303/id/2143816/Alabama-2020-HB303-Introduced.pdf)**, doctors would be prohibited from treating Alabama minors with hormone therapy, surgery, or puberty blockers “intended to alter the minor child’s gen**der or delay puberty.”

**The bill would also require schools to let parents know if their child has the “perception that his or her gender is inconsistent with his or her sex” and establish criminal penalties for violatio**ns.

SB10 has passed the Alabama State Senate. The companion bill, HB1, has not yet passed the House.

We need everyone to speak out before Alabama criminalizes gender-affirming care for trans kids. If you live in Alabama, please call your legislators and tell them to vote no on HB1. <https://t.co/q5q5ACOgQ2>

— Human Rights Campaign (@HRC) [March 2, 2021](https://twitter.com/HRC/status/1366885268591161347)

**The Alabama state Senate passed the legislation Tuesday 23-4,** [**CBS News reported**](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/alabama-senate-bans-hormone-therapy-surgery-felony-transgender-youth/)**, sending the bill to the Alabama state House of Representatives**. The Alabama house has already approved a companion bill, the publication reported, and the two combined bills would make it a felony for doctors to perform trans surgeries or hormone treatment on minors.Bottom of Form

**Medical professionals who violate the legislation, if passed and signed into law, could face up to 10 years in prison or pay a $15,000 fine, CBS reported.**

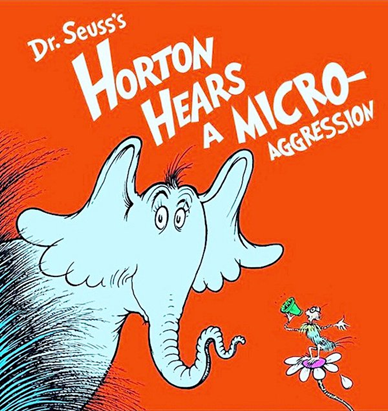
“Children aren’t mature enough to make these decisions on surgeries and drugs,” Republican Alabama state Sen. Shay Shelnutt, who sponsored the bill, [told The Associated Press](https://apnews.com/article/alabama-bills-c7645e8aaff7a769fa13b9b5aeb26cc1). “The whole point is to protect kids.”

Progressive groups, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, protested against the bill.

“This legislation will endanger young trans lives in Alabama,” said Sam Brinton, vice president of advocacy and government affairs at the LGBTQ organization The Trevor Project, in a [statement](https://www.thetrevorproject.org/trvr_press/alabama-senate-passes-bill-to-criminalize-gender-affirming-medical-care-for-trans-youth-threatening-doctors-with-imprisonment/) Wednesday. “It contradicts the consensus of major medical associations and the overwhelming evidence that demonstrates how affirming transgender and nonbinary youth in their identities reduces suicide risk and improves health.”

Alabama would become the first state to pass such legislation, according to CBS. The state [also is considering H.B. 391](https://legiscan.com/AL/text/HB391/2021), which would prevent biological males from participating in female sports.

Republican Alabama Governor Kay Ivey’s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment from the Daily Caller News Foundation. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/alabama-senate-approves-plan-criminalize-trans-surgeries-kids/> **[Every state needs a bill passed like this and then send 50 copies to the nitwit thing from PA that refused to answer Cruz’s question about mutilation of children. It is a he no matter how much it wants to think it is a she. – rdb]**

****eBay cancels Dr. Seuss books as 'offensive material'**

***But internet auction giant still offers Hitler's 'Mein Kampf'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published March 4, 2021 at 3:12pm*

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***A Dr. Seuss meme posted on Gab.com***

**The result of canceling six books by the iconic Dr. Seuss because they were deemed racist or insensitive was predictable, with copies selling for as much as $630 on eBa**y.

**Until Thursda**y.

**That's when eBay banned the books, citing the company's "offensive materials" policy**.

Earlier this week, Dr. Seuss Enterprises announced it would stop publishing "If I Ran the Zoo," "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street," "McElligot's Pool," "On Beyond Zebra!," "Scrambled Eggs Super!" and "The Cat's Quizzer."

**In addition, Biden removed any reference to Dr. Seuss from his proclamation Tuesday on "Read Across America Day," which** was created on the birthday of the late Dr. Seuss, whose real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel.

A copy of "If I Ran the Zoo" was attracting bids of up to $510 on eBay, and "The Cat's Quizzer" was at $630.

DailyMail.com reported outraged Americans bashing eBay for "censorship" and "big tech book burning" want to know why the six Dr. Seuss books are being canceled while copies of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" and titles by the anti-Semitic Louis Farrakhan are still available.

**One bookseller said eBay told him: "Your listing was removed: Offensive material policy**

**"We had to remove your listing because it didn't follow our Offensive material policy. Listings that promote or glorify hatred, violence, or discrimination aren't allowed," eBay sa**id.

You can’t make this stuff up. [@eBay](https://twitter.com/eBay) is blocking my listing of [@DrSeuss](https://twitter.com/DrSeuss)’s “The Cat’s Quizzer” & citing it as offensive material. Yet anti-Semite Louis Farrakhan’s books are okay? [#cancelcancelculture](https://twitter.com/hashtag/cancelcancelculture?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/9Au62lagcW](https://t.co/9Au62lagcW)

— Clare Ath (@clare\_ath) [March 4, 2021](https://twitter.com/clare_ath/status/1367479176421400584)

Young America's Foundation said on Twitter that for the left, "book burning is good if the 'right' books are being burned."

**DailyMail.com noted that former presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump recognized Dr. Seuss' contributions several times in their proclamations** on the annual "Read Across America Day."

One of the "offensive" images, DailyMail.com said, was an Asian person "portrayed wearing a conical hat, holding chopsticks, and eating from a bowl." Another shows "two bare-footed African men wearing what appear to be grass skirts with their hair tied above their heads." **[As I recall there were and probably are many oriental folks who still dress and eat like that so what is offensive? It is way past time for people to put on their big-boy pants and start to grow up. The world want’ made just for them. – rdb]**

**A stepdaughter of Dr. Seuss, Lark Grey Dimond-Cates, said the famed children's author didn't have a "racist bone" in his bod**y.

"He was so acutely aware of the world around him and cared so much," she said.

The Washington Examiner reported a statement from eBay.

"At eBay, we have a strict policy against hate and discrimination to ensure our platform remains a safe, trusted and inclusive environment for our global community of buyers and sellers. We're currently sweeping our marketplace to remove these items. It can take some time to review all existing listings and provide education to impacted users. We're also monitoring the newly published list to be reviewed." **[OK EVERYONE BOYCOT EBAY. – rdb]**

**The statement didn't address "Mein Ka**mpf."

In 2015, then-President Barack Obama told White House interns that "pretty much all the stuff you need to know is in Dr. Seuss."

"It's like the Star-Belly Sneetches, you know? We're all the same, so why would we treat somebody differently just because they don't have a star on their belly? If I think about responsibility, I think about Horton sitting on the egg up in the tree, while Lazy Mayzie's flying off, doing whatever she wants. You know what I mean?" President Obama asked, alluding to Seuss classics "Horton Hears a Who!" and "The Sneetches."

"All I'm saying is that as you get older, what you will find is that the homespun basic virtues that your mom, your dad, or folks you care about or admire, taught you – about hard work, being responsible, being kind, giving something back, being useful, working as a team ... turns out that's all true," he continued.

Kamala Harris, before she became Biden's vice president, celebrated the author as well, tweeting in 2017: "Happy birthday, #DrSeuss! 'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.'" <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/ebay-cancels-dr-seuss-books-offensive-material/>  **[Terminal stupidity is the mantra of the Cancel Culture crowd and it is time to cancel that group and send them to the edge of nowhere so that they may contemplate their navel together. – rdb]**

**37 Things to Know About H.R. 1, ‘For the People Act’**

[Joel B. Pollak](https://www.breitbart.com/author/joel-b-pollak/) 4 Mar 2021

**House Democrats passed H.R. 1, the so-called “For the People Act,” on Wednesday. The bill would radically change American democracy, nationalizing elections and making permanent changes to voting rules that would virtually ensure Democrats never lose another elec**tion.

**The** [**bill**](https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1/BILLS-117hr1ih.pdf)**is 791 pages long — a massive piece of legislation, adopted with little examination or debate. Some provisions** — like expanding access for voters with disabilities, improving election security, and ensuring that all voting machines use in U.S. elections are also manufactured in the U.S. — are uncontroversial. Others are potentially explosive.

Here are 37 key points:

1. **Federal control over congressional elections:** The bill begins by declaring that “Congress finds that it has broad authority to regulate the time, place, and manner of congressional elections under the Elections Clause of the  
   Constitution.” The Constitution actually [gives](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript) primary authority to the States, but allows Congress to “make or alter such Regulations.” The House Democrats interpret this provision as dramatically as possible to override the states.
2. **Declaring that “States and localities have eroded aceess to the right to vote”:** The bill declares that photo ID, “burdensome” voter registration procedures, purges of ineligible voters, restrictions on vote-by-mail, rules against felons voting, and other measures that states and municipalities have taken to guarantee the integrity of elections are, in fact, “restrictions on the right to vote.” It also suggests these are forms of “racial discrimination” and “systemic racism.”
3. **Restricting challenges to H.R. 1 to the federal court system in D.C.:** The bill declares that the *only* courts with jurisdiction to hear challenges to its constitutionality, or to the validity of regulations promulgated under the law, are courts within Washington, D.C. — a notoriously Democrat-friendly jurisdiction. That minimizes the chances that any challenges could be brought to more conservatives courts, or to judges appointed by past Republican presidents.
4. **Automatic and online voter registration:** The bill requires every state to make sure “all eligible citizens are registered to vote in elections for Federal office” unless individuals opt out. It also requires states to make voter registration available online. It allows voters who have no other signatures on file with the state to supply their signatures when requesting a ballot. The state may not request more than the last four digits of the applicant’s Social Security number.
5. **Protection for illegal aliens who are registered to vote:**The bill protects non-citizens from prosecution if they are registered to vote automatically and never made an affirmative declaration that they were U.S. citizens. Agencies that register voters are not required to keep records of who declined to affirm their citizenship.
6. **Changing personal information at polling places:**Voters are allowed to change their address and other information at polling places, other than on Election Day itself, and are allowed to cast regular, not provisional, ballots on that basis.
7. **Same-day voter registration:**“Each State shall permit any eligible individual on the day of a Federal election and on any day when voting, including early voting, is permitted for a Federal election—to register to vote in such election at the polling place … [and] to cast a vote in such election.” The provision includes a clause that requires same-day voter registration to be implemented in time for the upcoming elections in 2022 — when Democrats fear losing the House.
8. **Preventing states from purging ineligible voters from rolls:**One section of the bill is called the “Stop Automatically Voiding Eligible Voters Off Their Enlisted Rolls in States Act,” whose acronym is the “SAVE VOTERS Act.” It restricts the criteria that states may use to strike voters from the roll, and requires that voters and the public be notified first. The bill also makes it more difficult for states to remove voters from the rolls through “cross-check” with other states unless they have extensive information corroborating the voter’s identity. It also restricts “third parties” from challenging voters’ eligibility unless they have “personal knowledge” of ineligibility — and punishes challenges with up to one year in prison for each violation. The U.S. Postal Service is also required to remind people who fill out a “hard copy change of address form” to update their voter registration.
9. **Registration for minors (under 18):** States must register citizens to vote, voluntarily or automatically, as long as they are over 16 (even though they cannot vote yet). Automatic registration will apply to students who register for courses at college. The bill provides funds for “States to carry out a plan to increase the involvement of individuals under 18 years of age in public election activities in the State.” High schools are also required to provide voter registration information to students before graduation.
10. **Prohibiting the publication of misleading information:**The bill makes it a federal crime to “communicate or cause to be communicated information” that is knowingly false about an election, and designed to discourage voting, within 60 days of and election. The sentence: up to five years. The bill also makes it a crime to claim a false political endorsement.
11. **Reducing prison funds to states unless they register ex-convicts to vote:**Under what it calls the “Democracy Restoration Act,” the bill says that all felons can vote unless they are “serving a felony sentence in a correctional institution or facility at the time of the election.” Ex-convicts have to be notified of their eligibility to vote up to six months before their release. All federal funds for building or improving prisons can be withheld if states do not comply.
12. **Mandatory early voting:**“Each State shall allow individuals to vote in an election for Federal office during an early voting period which occurs prior to the date of the election, in the same manner as voting is allowed on such date.” Early voting must begin no later than 15 days before Election Day, including weekends, and must allow for 10 hours of voting each day, including some hours before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m.
13. **Nationwide vote-by-mail, without photo ID:** States are required to provide for absentee vote by mail in elections for Federal office — and “may not require an individual to provide any form of identification as a condition of obtaining an absentee ballot.” A signature can be required — but not a witness signature. And once an individual applies for vote-by-mail once, he or she must be considered to have applied for vote-by-mail forever.
14. **Unlimited “ballot harvesting”:** States “shall permit a voter to designate any person to return a voted and sealed absentee ballot to the post office, a ballot drop-off location, tribally designated building, or election office so long as the person designated to return the ballot does not receive any form of compensation based on the number of ballots” and ” may not put any limit on how many voted and sealed absentee ballots any designated person can return.”
15. **Allowing 10 days for ballots to be accepted after Election Day:**The bill requires States to accept any mailed ballots postmarked before, or on, Election Day, if they arrive within ten days of the election. It allows states to expand that deadline.
16. **Paying for postage for mailed ballots:** The bill provides that “the State or the unit of local government responsible for the administration of the election involved shall prepay the [return] postage on any envelope provided” for an application to register to vote, an application for an absentee ballot, or the return of the ballot itself. All election materials are to be treated as first-class mail, regardless of the postage paid.
17. **Prohibiting state election officials from campaigning in federal elections:** The bill prevents “a chief State election administration official to take an active part in political management or in a political campaign with respect to any election for Federal office over which such official has supervisory authority.” This provision appears aimed squarely at states like Georgia, where the involvement of secretaries of state in elections has been controversial in recent years.
18. **Creating “Campus Vote Coordinators” at colleges and universities:**The bill requires colleges and universities to hire an official whose responsibility would be to inform students about elections and encourage voter registration. Those institutions that “have demonstrated excellence in registering students to vote in elections for public office” will be eligible to receive additional grants from the Department of Education as an incentive to boost registration efforts.
19. **Gutting photo ID requirements:** The Bill requires states to substitute photo ID requirements by allowing would-be voters, in person or by mail, to submit a “sworn written statement, signed by the individual under penalty of perjury, attesting to the individual’s identity and attesting that the individual is eligible to vote in the election.” Such voters are to be allowed to cast regular ballots, just like voters who present photo ID — not required to case provisional ballots.
20. **Making absentee voter boxes available for 45 days:** “In each county in the State, each State shall provide in-person, secured, and clearly labeled drop boxes at which individuals may, at any time during the period described in subsection (b), drop off voted absentee ballots in an election for Federal office.” Subsection (b) is 45 days before an election. The boxes must be “available to all voters on a non-discriminatory basis” and “during all hours of the day.”
21. **Mandatory curbside voting:** States may not “prohibit any jurisdiction administering an election for Federal office in the State from utilizing curbside voting as a method by which individuals may cast ballots in the election.”
22. **Restoring federal supervision of states under Voting Rights Act:**The bill declares: “The 2018 midterm and 2020 general elections provide further evidence that systemic voter discrimination and intimidation continues to occur in communities of color across the county. (The “evidence” is not provided.) It goes on to say Congress should restore those provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that were [struck down](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2013/06/25/voting-rights-act-loss-for-obama-administration-win-for-obama-campaign/) in 2014 by the Supreme Court.
23. **Encouraging statehood for DC, and representation for territories:**The bill complains that D.C. is not yet a state, adding: “The United States is the only democratic country that denies both voting representation in the national legislature and local self-government to the residents of its Nation’s capital.” The bill also appoints a commission to study the “disenfranchisement” of the U.S. territories, pushing for congressional representation and presidential votes.
24. **Federal control of congressional district maps through “independent” commissions:** Notwithstanding [evidence](https://www.propublica.org/article/how-democrats-fooled-californias-redistricting-commission) that “independent” redistricting commissions are actually run by Democrats for their own partisan advantage, the bill makes it mandatory for states to redraw their congressional districts through such commissions, not through state legislatures. Commissions are required to show “racial, ethnic, economic, and gender” diversity, as well as geographic diversity.
25. **“National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions”:** The bill creates a commission to study elections and produce a report after 18 months with recommendations for improving elections. The commission will consist of ten members, only four of whom would be selected by the minority party, allowing Democrats to dominate.
26. **New reporting requirements for companies:**The bill identifies limited liability companies (LLCs) as a potential conduit for foreign donations to domestic super PACs, and suggests Congress require LLCs to identify their owners.
27. **Candidates required to report “foreign contacts”:**“Not later than 1 week after a reportable foreign contact, each political committee shall notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the [Federal Elections] Commission of the reportable foreign contact and provide a summary of the circumstances with respect to such reportable foreign contact.” The FBI would then notify the House and Senate intelligence of these “foreign contacts.” The provision does not apply to foreigners who are part of an effort to observe U.S. elections as a part of international monitoring.
28. **New disclosure for corporations:**The bill codifies the DISCLOSE Act, long a pet project of Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who [aimed](https://www.breitbart.com/the-media/2012/07/17/NPR-Turns-Report-on-DISCLOSE-Act-into-Taxpayer-Subsidized-Obama-Commercial/) to restrict corporate participation in elections. The section requires corporations to certify that their political activities are free from foreign interference, including showing that those involved in political contributions are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. (Notably, these restrictions on corporations are far more strict than the rules pertaining to citizenship in voter registration.) Corporations spending more than $10,000 in an election cycle must file detailed disclosures, including for independent expenditures that are not coordinated with campaigns.
29. **Oversight of online political advertising:**Citing the supposed influence to Russian trolls on the 2016 election, the bill expands disclaimers for online political advertising, under a provision called the “Stand By Every Ad Act.” Online platforms are also required to maintain detailed records of attempts to purchase political advertising space on the platform. Foreigners are prohibited from political ads. The bill requires the Federal Elections Commission to conduct “an independent study and report on media literacy with respect to online political content consumption” to determine whether Americans can be fooled by political advertising. The bill also prohibits the use of “deepfakes” — digital impersonations — in campaigns, without disclosures to the public that the relevant media have been manipulated.
30. **Deportation for “aliens” who violate election laws:**Using the term “alien,” which Demcorats have tried to [outlaw](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/02/16/joe-bidens-dhs-blocks-use-of-terms-illegal-alien-assimilation/) in other contexts, the bill defines foreigners who have tried to interfere in American elections as “deportable.”
31. **Removing restrictions on IRS targeting:** The bill [appears](https://twitter.com/Oilfield_Rando/status/1367498090882740227?s=20) to reverse provisions that restrained the Internal Revenue Service from targeting tax-exempt organizations and their donors, which were applied after the IRS scandal of 2013.
32. **Attacking *Citizens United* and free speech for corporations:**The bill declares the Supreme Court’s decision in *Citizens United*to be “erroneous,” adding: “The Supreme Court’s misinterpretation of the Constitution to empower monied interests at the expense of the American people in elections has seriously eroded over 100 years of congressional action to promote fairness and protect elections from the toxic influence of money.” It recommends “the Constitution should be amended so that Congress and the States may regulate and set limits on the raising and spending of money.”
33. **Gift cards and reimbursements for political donations:**Under a pilot program called “My Voice,” the bill creates a federally-funded voucher program that gives individuals $25 to donate to the candidates of their choice. It also provides for federal matching funds of 600% of the amount candidates for federal office receive in small-dollar donations.
34. **Allowing politicians to use campaign funds for personal use:** Under a provision called the “Help America Run Act,” the bill legalizes what had previously been considered a violation of federal law, and allows candidates for federal office to use campaign donations for personal expenses such as child care — as long as they do not already hold federal office.
35. **Changing the composition of the FEC to become partisan:**The bill reduces the membership of the Federal Elections Commission (FEC) from six to five members. Only two members can be associated with a particular political party, meaning that the fifth member is theoretically independent — though nominated by a president associated with a party. Several former FEC members have [written](https://www.ifs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-02-09_Former-FEC-Commissioners-Letter_Concerns-With-HR-1-And-S-1.pdf) to Congress warning about this change and other related provisions.
36. **Changing conflict of interest rules to bar Donald Trump from running:** Though “Trump” is not mentioned, the bill tightens rules around conflicts of interest for the president and vice president that would make it hard for Trump to run again. It requires the president or vice president to divest all financial interests that could pose a conflict of interest for them, their families, or anyone with whom they are negotiating or who is seeking employment in their administration.
37. **Changing FEC rules to require Trump (or other presidential candidates) to provide their tax returns:** “Not later than the date that is 15 days after the date on which an individual becomes a covered candidate, the individual shall submit to the Federal Election Commission a copy of the individual’s income tax returns for the 10 most recent taxable years for which a return has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service.”

(Note: this list was organized with reference to the thread by Twitter user “Oilfield\_Rando,” who [posted](https://twitter.com/Oilfield_Rando/status/1367339878321684480) about the bill.)

*Joel B. Pollak is Senior Editor-at-Large at Breitbart News and the host of* Breitbart News Sunday

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/03/04/37-things-to-know-about-h-r-1-for-the-people-act/> **[To call this a disaster is the understatement of the year. – rdb]**

**Now troops may stay in D.C. 'as long as they are needed'**

***Pelosi says decision coming on 'security' at razor-wire-circled Capitol***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published March 4, 2021 at 4:08pm*

**Some commentators have likened the U.S. Capitol, now encircled by high fencing topped by barbed wire and patrolled by National Guard troops, with the Green Zone in Baghd**ad.

**And it looks like it will stay that way** for some time.

When House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was asked Thursday about a Capitol Police request that troops remain for another two months, she said they should stay "as long as they are needed."

"We have to have what we need when we need it, and in the numbers that we need," the Democrat said, [the Washington Examiner reported.](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/congress/pelosi-national-guard-remain-capitol-long-needed)

About 5,200 National Guard troops are currently in Washington in a deployment that began after the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol.

**Despite prior warnings of possible violence on Jan. 6 -- the day Congress ratified the Electoral College vote -- security officials were largely unprepared, and hundreds of protesters entered the building**.

**Most did nothing but enter, while about 275 have been charged with offenses** such as vandalism. Despite the Democrats' repeated descriptions of the incident as an "armed insurrection," authorities said no guns were involved.

[The Examiner reported](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense-national-security/pentagon-confirms-request-extension-national-guard-capitol) U.S. Capitol Police have requested an extension of the National Guard mission.Bottom of Form

**A statement from the Defense Department said, "We have indeed received a request and DOD is currently considering [the] request."**

The troops could stay another two months beyond the original ending date of March 12.

The **deployment is estimated to have cost hundreds of millions of dollars and has not been without controversy. In January, soldiers were assigned to empty parking garages to sleep, and this week it was reported that a whistleblower claimed troops were being fed undercooked meat and meals with metal shavings, making them** sick <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/troops-stay-d-c-long-needed/>

**[This is disgusting. Let Pelosi pay them with her ice cream. – rdb]**

**Commentary:**

**Victor Davis Hanson: Trumpism without Trump?**

[*Victor Davis Hanson*](https://townhall.com/columnists/victordavishanson/) *Posted: Mar 04, 2021 12:01 AM* Six weeks ago, Americans were assured that Donald Trump had left the presidency disgraced and forever ruined politically.  
 Trump was the first president to be impeached twice, and first to be tried as a private citizen when out of office. He was the first to be impeached without the chief justice of the United States presiding over his trial.  
 His nonstop complaining about a stolen "landslide" election was blamed by many as a distraction that lost two Republican Senate seats from Georgia. The current Democratic-majority Congress was the result.  
 Americans were assured by Trump's impeachment prosecutors and the media that the Jan. 6 Capitol assault was his fault alone. So Trump was condemned as a veritable murderer, responsible for five deaths at the Capitol. Many of his own advisers and Cabinet members had loudly resigned in disgust.  
 Yet six weeks after leaving office, a Phoenix-like Trump brought a crowd at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference to its feet. His 90-minute blistering broadside against Joe Biden's radical first 40 days of executive orders and hard-left appointments enthused thousands.  
 Polls show that while he has lost some support in his party, Trump still wins 75 percent approval in the GOP.  
 So why is a supposedly once-toxic Trump apparently back at center stage?  
 The infamous Capitol riot is still under investigation. Elements of the media narrative of an "armed insurrection" that led to the alleged murder of officer Brian Sicknick are being debunked and quietly retracted.  
 Many Americans disapproved of an outgoing president holding a massive rally about alleged voter fraud in a highly polarized climate. But evidence has not yet suggested -- as the media once insisted -- that Sicknick was assaulted and murdered by a rioter.  
 One of the four protesters lost in or near that melee died through violence. She was an unarmed female military veteran shot while unlawfully breaking into the Capitol by a still unnamed police officer.  
 So far, no one arrested inside the Capitol has been charged with either carrying or using a firearm. The "armed insurrection" turns out to have been more of a leaderless, thuggish mob riot "incited" by no one in particular.  
 For all the national outrage at Trump, 95 percent of Republican House members voted against his impeachment. Eighty-six percent of Republican senators voted to acquit him of impeachment charges.  
 Biden so far has not turned out to be the "good old Joe from Scranton" moderate healer of media and Never Trump fantasies. Instead, his executive orders and appointments are the most radical and polarizing of any recent president.  
 Getting kicked off social media by Silicon Valley moguls ironically turned out to be a plus for Trump. His once-controversial tweets and posts no longer distract from Biden's frequent displays of ineptitude. And in the lull, attention has turned to Trump's fiercest critics -- especially Govs. Andrew Cuomo of New York and Gavin Newsom of California. Both are now mired in scandal, and Newsom is likely facing a recall election.  
 Ever so slowly, the image of the now-muted ex-president is transforming from former bad-boy bully to current bullied private citizen.  
 In addition, the 74-year-old ex-president acted like he was just 60 at the CPAC event. The 78-year-old Biden increasingly appears bewildered -- and more like he is in his 80s.  
 The current detention of undocumented minors at the border and presidential orders to bomb in Syria reminds voters that Biden is doing exactly what the now-silent media used to blast Trump for doing. A Biden-created border crisis, climbing gas prices and renewed aggression from China suggest that the "Make American Great Again" agenda may be missed after a little more than a month of reset.  
 The United States leads the world in COVID-19 vaccinations, in part because Trump wisely hedged bets by enlisting and often subsidizing several different companies.  
 Right after the Capitol riot, there was talk in Republican Party circles about building upon the successful MAGA agenda -- but by engineering a Trump transition to a senior statesman role.  
 Insiders think impressive possible 2024 presidential candidates such as Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and others might better advance the popular MAGA cause -- with the endorsement of Trump himself.  The new standard-bearer then supposedly would lack Trump's off-putting manner that alienated swing voters.  
 That may happen. But for now, no one knows whether Trump's ability to cut through left-wing platitudes revs up more to vote than it does to turn off others.  
 Events have radically turned political realities upside down in just six weeks. We should expect far more volatility in the next four years.  
 Party insiders may dream of Trumpism without Trump, fearing that he could never win a majority of voters. They may be right. But then again, who has been right about Donald Trump's final demise in the last five years? <https://townhall.com/columnists/victordavishanson/2021/03/04/victor-davis-hanson-trumpism-without-trump-n2585675>

**And..**   
**Freedom from COVID Oppression**[*Dinesh D'Souza*](https://townhall.com/columnists/dineshdsouza/) *Posted: Mar 04, 2021 12:01 AM* We are in a whole new ballgame of the coronavirus debate with Texas, with great fanfare, announcing that it is dropping all its requirements. No mask requirements by the state. No 50% or even 75% capacity limits for restaurants, bars, or businesses. The state is open for business.  
 All of this is going into effect in a few days; it's a done deal. Now, Texas here is following in the pathway of Florida. Florida led the way. Ron DeSantis, you have to say, took the risk, and I say a risk because it was a big risk. If Ron DeSantis went out front, opened up the state, and there was a massive spike of infections and deaths, he would be in a politically, very difficult situation. But he took the risk, and it paid off. Florida's doing quite well.  
 I was in Naples last weekend to give a talk. I walk into the Ritz Hotel there, and it's almost like I'm in a different country. A lounge singer is performing, people are jostling and laughing. I walk in heavily masked up. I felt like a zombie. I felt like a robot, like what am I doing here? And I don't think they looked at me funny, but I did sense that we've been living, all of us, many of us, in a kind of alternative universe, and we've been doing it not for a week or a month, but you know for a year. This has sort of altered our lives.  
 But now we suddenly have a shift in the momentum because this huge state, Texas, Governor Abbott, has decided, "Let's go the DeSantis way." And before this, Texas had a mask requirement; it had limits. But Abbott has basically said everybody who wants to work should have the opportunity. Every business that wants to be open should be open. And, that's it. Now, right after Abbott announced that I see that Tate Reeves, the governor of Mississippi, steps in, saying, "Starting tomorrow, Mississippi is lifting all of its mask mandates, and businesses will be able to operate at full capacity, without any state-imposed rules."  
 Now, admittedly in both Texas and Mississippi, the infection rates have plummeted, hospitalizations have plummeted. And so the governors have had the confidence to do this. But suddenly we now have two competing Americas and, quite honestly, it is really red America against blue America. Why? Because blue America is still largely in full lockdown.  
 Look at New York; look at California. I think it was the economist Friedrich Hayek, many years ago, who used the phrase "a framework of competing utopias." And what he meant is one of the advantages of having a federal system with a lot of different states trying a lot of different things is we can kind of look around and see what works. Dr. Fauci seems a little grumpy about this decision in Texas, "We're not listening to the science!" Apparently, he's the only one listening to the science.  
 But, of course, the science itself is only science about the virus. Science doesn't speak about whether businesses should close, whether schools should close. Science doesn't really decide the matter of how an economy should function; that's a political question. And it does require including scientific information, but it also includes simple things like what's the unemployment rate? What's the rate at which the state is growing? What's the rate at which teen suicide is occurring? What's the rate at which students are learning or not learning? What's the rate at which people are catching the disease or dying from it? It's time to sort of zoom in and take a look at that. I have the data, and it's very eye-opening.  
 Now, we're talking about death rates here, and it doesn't make sense to talk about the death rate in Florida versus New York because they have different population levels. You have to look at deaths per million and then compare it across the state — deaths per million in Florida, 1,437. In New York, 2,459. In Texas, 1,520. The bottom line of it is that New York is actually doing the worst. Florida is actually doing the best of the three. And you might say, "Well, that's because you know Florida has, you know a lot of, it's very warm over there." Well, it's also warm in California, and California has been having problems. And California is basically in full lockdown.  
 Let's also remember that Florida has an awful lot of old people. Florida has a lot of people who are 70 plus, 80 plus, even a surprising number of people who are 90 plus. So presumably, these people are more vulnerable to getting COVID-19, and yet, Florida is able to demonstrate that it's doing well on the mortality front.   
 Now, let's turn to the unemployment rate. Also very revealing. Florida, 6.1%, Texas. 7.2%, not as good as Florida, but still pretty good, comparatively, in the situation. New York, 8.2%, California. 9%.  
 So, what we have here is that Texas has realized, let's follow the Florida model. We can do even better. And if we can open up our economy, you know what, let's let the jobs all come to red America. We’ll show you how it is done. There are also the political ramifications.  
 Now, of course, Governor Cuomo in New York is having all kinds of problems on all kinds of fronts. I mean all this abusive conduct toward women. Three accusers. But he also dispatches all these coronavirus patients to nursing-homes forcing them to go amidst vulnerable populations, gets all these people killed, then hides the bodies, hides the data about how many people died. I mean, this guy deserves to go; he's in big political trouble.   
 So is Gavin Newsom in California. He's facing a serious recall. Meanwhile, with regard to Governor DeSantis, people are talking about DeSantis 2024. In other words, DeSantis becomes a viable candidate for the Republican Party for the next time around, and this is particularly true if Trump decides to stay out of it.  
 So, interestingly, DeSantis took a risk, and I think he's gaining the political benefits of that. The blue state governors, Newsom and Cuomo, are in trouble. And I think Governor Abbott says, if I had to choose, I'd rather go the DeSantis way than the Cuomo and Newsom way. And I think he's right. <https://townhall.com/columnists/dineshdsouza/2021/03/04/freedom-from-covid-oppression-n2585674>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Gantz: IDF updating plans to strike Iranian nuclear sites**

***Defense Minister tells Fox News: If the world doesn't stop Iran, we must defend ourselves by ourselves.***

*Elad Benari , Mar 05 , 2021 1:58 AM*

**Defense Minister Benny Gantz told Fox News in an interview on Thursday that the IDF is updating plans to strike Iranian nuclear sites and is prepared to act independentl**y.

Israel has identified numerous targets inside Iran that would hurt its ability to develop a nuclear bomb, he said.

"If the world stops them before, it's very much good. But if not, we must stand independently and we must defend ourselves by ourselves," Gantz added in his first sit-down interview with an American outlet.

The Defense Minister also said that the Hezbollah terrorist organization has hundreds of thousands of rockets and shared a classified map of targets with *Fox News* which shows many of the rockets among civilian areas along the Israeli border.

**"This is a target map. Each one of them has been checked legally, operationally**, intelligence-wise and we are ready to fight," Gantz added.

Israel is expected to continue striking Iranian-backed groups in Syria that Gantz said help to facilitate weapons transfers to Lebanon.

While the Biden administration has signaled a willingness to return to the Iran nuclear deal, Israeli officials from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to Gantz believe the issue of Iranian proxies must be addressed in any future agreement.

"The American policy should be American policy, and Israeli policy should stay Israeli policy," he told *Fox News*. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297936> [**WOW!**

**Green Passports for the unvaccinated using rapid COVID tests**

***Health Ministry reportedly planning to launch program next week allowing the unvaccinated and children entry to all 'green tag' locations.***

*David Rosenberg , Mar 04 , 2021 9:10 PM*

**The Israeli Health Ministry is drawing up plans to allow unvaccinated adults and children access to all venues currently open only to Israelis carrying either vaccination certificates or certificates of recovery, according to a report by Cha***nnel 12*.

**According to the report Thursday night, the plan would revolve around the use of rapid COVID testing for those seeking entrance to ‘green tag’ venues which normally require Green Passpor**ts – certificates of either recovery or vaccination.

The plan would star with limited access for the unvaccinated to ‘green tag’ venues starting this coming Sunday.

In the first stage of the program, venues would be allowed to grant entry to the unvaccinated, on condition that they have a negative coronavirus test from less than 48 hours before entry. The venues would include performances, restaurants, and event halls.

No more than 5% all people allowed in to a given event during the first stage can be unvaccinated, according to the plan drawn up by the Health Ministry and the chairman of the Knesset’s Constitution Committee, Yaakov Asher (United Torah Judaism).

**In roughly two weeks, the program would be expanded through use of rapid COVID testing, with five companies tapped to provide on-the-spot coronavirus tests.** Businesses will be able to choose from the five companies, paying for the rapid tests, which would enable the unvaccinated access to the venue.

Currently, subsidies for the rapid tests are not on the table, but officials from the Health Ministry say that if it becomes apparent that businesses are unable to cope with the added financial burden, subsidies may be considered. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297923>

**Coronavirus restrictions to loosen as infection coefficient rises above 1**

***Two days before Israel reopens restaurants and wedding halls, coronavirus infection coefficient rises to 1.01.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 05 , 2021 12:32 PM*

**The coronavirus infection rate in Israel continues to rise, as the Israeli government plans to implement the** [**third stage of reopening**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297724) **on Sunday, March** 7.

According to Health Ministry data, the infection coefficient rose on Friday to 1.01, after it reached 1 last week, then dropped back down to 0.97 before [rising again to 1.](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297821) At the same time, there has been a slight rise in the number of weekly infections since February 21, when Israel started reopening.

**However, on Thursday just 4% of 92,177 test results came back positive, for a total of 3,628 new** cases. **[Lets say Positive PCR tests not cases. – rdb]**

A total of 690 coronavirus patients are in serious condition, with 268 in critical condition and 225 of them on ventilators. A full 5,832 Israelis have died of coronavirus since the beginning of the pandemic.

So far, 4,901,143 Israelis have received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine, and 3,654,797 of them have received the second as well.

According to the Health Ministry, of the 935 Israelis who died of coronavirus in February, 553 had not been vaccinated at all, and 144 (15%) died after receiving both doses of the vaccine. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297960>

**Egypt's national airline seeks to run regular flights to Israel**

***Israel has received an official request from Egyptair to operate regular direct flights to and from Israel.***

*Elad Benari , Mar 05 , 2021 6:11 AM*

**Egypt is interested in having its national airline, Egyptair, run regular direct flights to and from Israel, officials confirmed to i24NEWS on Th**ursday.

The **officials said Israel has received an official request from Egyptair to operate the flights instead of Air Sinai, which has run the route for the past decades, after former President Hosni Mubarak refused to let the national carrier land in Israel with an Egyptian** flag.

Air Sinai, whose aircraft are not adorned with the Egyptian flag, currently has seven flights a week using two designated aircraft only, according to *i24NEWS*.

Egypt reportedly would like to replace the smaller company with the national carrier and operate 21 flights a week.

**The development follows Israel’s normalization agreements with Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.** Egypt views the agreements as way to open new possibilities for travel and commerce in the region.

Egypt was the first Arab country to sign a peace treatment with Israel in 1979, though their ties have been formally cold at times, and Egypt's political elite [has remained hostile](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/201215) to any normalization of ties with Israel.

In 2018, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi [hailed the peace agreement](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/254258) between Egypt and Israel as “stable and permanent” and said that most Egyptians supported the peace treaty. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297945>

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**03/03/2021 NEWS AM**

**Bless The Lord, O My Soul (S. Rachmaninoff "All-Night Vigil" / Vespers, op. 37, 2.)**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfDreatXYeU**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfDreatXYeU)

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| **"Search for the truth is the noblest occupation of man; its publication is a duty." -- Anne Louise Germaine de Stael (1766-1817) French author** |

**Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!**

**That is the only hope for this nation!**

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for TR – abnormal Mammogram having double biopsy – Positive for cancer**  **Pray for ZH - having trouble with PTSD**  **Pray for LAC – recurrent cancer getting treatment**  **Pray for Ella – emotionally disturbed abused child and brother with ? heart problem**  **Pray for JN – Neuro disease**  **Pray for MS – Job issues and change**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for Felicia – post op problems – continuing**  **Pray for SH and family – lady’s husband passed away and she is in Nursing home. Not doing well.**  **Pray for MP – Very complex problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 20:1And Abraham journeyeth from thence toward the land of the south, and dwelleth between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourneth in Gerar; 2and Abraham saith concerning Sarah his wife, `She is my sister;' and Abimelech king of Gerar sendeth and taketh Sarah. 3And God cometh in unto Abimelech in a dream of the night, and saith to him, `Lo, thou *art* a dead man, because of the woman whom thou hast taken--and she married to a husband.'**

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| **ETBPF has a new venue called Discord. It is a private web site where we are posting news and the daily news posting and you can respond with posts if you want. This ‘app’ can be used almost like facebook and twitter but without the intervention. We are just starting it and a bit slow to learn how to use it but it helps keep us off the Big Guys. It is a freebee and private. We have set levels of access to make sure only real responsible people are able to access. You can look at and join by going to:** [**https://discord.gg/4576x47ezN**](https://discord.gg/4576x47ezN) |

**Trump’s $3 billion Abraham Fund may be tapped out before staking a dime**

***Future of opaque initiative meant to back Arab-Israel normalization unclear after political appointee heading it quits and Biden administration appears set to shut spigot***

*By* [*Tal Schneider*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/tal-schneider/) *Today, 3:35 am*

**When the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain agreed to formalize their diplomatic ties with Israel last year, the decision came with a gilded signing bonus — a $3 billion fund that would funnel money into private sector-led initiatives meant to foster economic growth and cooperation in the Middle E**ast.

**Later, when Sudan and Morocco signaled that they too would establish relations with Israel, the $3 billion of US taxpayer money was opened to them as we**ll.

A statement announcing the fund on October 20 called it “an integral part of the historic peace accord” between Israel and the UAE with the support of the United States.

**“It is a manifestation of the new spirit of friendship and cooperation between the three countri**es, as well their common will to advance the region,” the statement continued.

**But less than five months later, the future of the fund is unclear. Conversations with dozens of people reveal that while the fund got off to a quick, if shadowy, start, it has languished with the entrance of the Biden administrat**ion. **Aryeh Lightstone, a political appointee tapped by former president Donald Trump’s administration to manage the fund, has resigned and no replacement has been named**. At the same time, questions have been raised as to the transparency of the fund, headquartered in Israel, and whether it had been politicized.

When the fund was announced, it was arranged as an arm of the US International Development Finance Corp, or DFC, the US government’s development bank, which was set up in 2019 by combining the Overseas Private Investment Corporation with USAID’s Development Credit Authority. (The fund has no relation to the Abraham Fund Initiatives, a Jewish-Arab coexistence group based in Israel.)

More than 250 applications were submitted to the Abraham Fund from October to January, including from private firms and semi-public initiatives in the UAE, Jordan, Bahrain, Egypt and elsewhere in the region. Some were bilateral joint ventures. Fifteen projects were eventually chosen and sent to the DFC in Washington for approval, according to sources.

**An Israeli entrepreneur with close connections to former US embassy officials in Israel said the Trump administration had supported the fund while still hoping to win reelection. Once it became clear that Trump would not be holding on to the White House, the bottom fell out of any expectations** that the fund would continue to operate, the entrepreneur told The Times of Israel.

**Lightstone, who had been a righthand man of former US ambassador to Israel David Friedman, resigned on January 20, the day President Joe Biden took off**ice, as did Adam Boehler, also a political appointee (and former roommate of Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner), who had headed the DFC. As of March 1, replacements had yet to be named for either position, nor has the Biden administration named a nominee to replace ambassador David Friedman, who also resigned on January 20.

The lack of appointments likely reflects Washington’s pivot away from the Middle East and lack of enthusiasm for grabbing the Abraham Fund baton, according to sources with knowledge of the situation.

The Prime Minister’s Office declined to comment, but Israeli officials speaking on condition of anonymity said they had the sense that the US was cutting back investments in the region, though they lacked concrete information.

“They have no money for it,” one official said.

***Hushed fund***

**Press officers for the DFC, which has continued to work under acting CEO Dev Jagadesan, a career bureaucrat, did not respond to several requests regarding details** of the 15 Abraham Fund projects that had been submitted for approval to the agency.

However, The Times of Israel has learned that five of the projects were related to the energy sector, five were tied to food security and five were financing projects.

**Projects had been evaluated by Lightstone and his small staff on the basis of whether they would promote US foreign policy goals, could generate a return for US taxpayers and would help host countries turn from recipients into don**ors, as well as align with the DFC’s economic constraints.

**Unlike USAID, the DFC does not give grants but rather extends loans with the expectation of a return** on investment. As of September 2020, it had three active projects in Israel totaling $580 million in investments. In 2019, it also committed $480 million to two Egyptian projects regarding the transport of liquid natural gas from Israeli gas fields being developed by Noble Energy.

Dan Katrivas, head of the foreign trade department at the Israel Manufacturers Association, told The Times of Israel that he had tried to figure out how to submit projects to the Abraham Fund immediately after it was announced, but there was no transparency regarding the application process or criteria.

“I tried to contact the fund but it was not clear what their priorities were, what they were going to invest in,” he said. “They did not put out an official website or issue an official call for bids.”

He noted that US transparency rules mean the information will eventually need to come out. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/trumps-3-billion-abraham-fund-may-be-tapped-out-before-staking-a-dime/> **[One more incident of the “Bi-dumb” trying to unravel everything that was done to help the region and build bridges in the region. – rdb]**

**Amid resistance from Turkey, Kosovo embassy may not be in Jerusalem**

***Turkish ambassador holds talks with Pristina’s PM-designate Albin Kurti following establishment of diplomatic ties with Israel, announcement of mission in capital***

*By* [*ZENEL ZHINIPOTOKU*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/zenel-zhinipotoku/) *and* [*LLAZAR SEMINI*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/llazar-semini/) *Today, 8:42 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/AP_21046594816038.jpg)

***Albin Kurti leader of Vetevendosje (Self-Determination) speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in capital Pristina, Kosovo on February 14, 2021. (Visar Kryeziu/AP)***

**PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) — Kosovo’s prime minister-designate has found himself in a difficult diplomatic position ahead of taking the post following his country’s diplomatic ties with Is**rael.

**Albin Kurti of the Self-Determination Movement party, or Vetevendosje!, is expected to be Kosovo’s next prime minister after his party won the February 14 parliamentary ele**ction.

**On Monday, Kurti met with the Turkish ambassador in Pristina, and Kosovo’s** [**decision to open an embassy**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-kosovo-forge-official-ties-over-zoom-confirm-jerusalem-embassy-to-open/) **in Jerusalem was among the topics of discus**sion.

**“The place where the embassy will be located is to be considered following checking of the documentation of the outgoing government,” said a statement issued** after the talks. **[It would appear that the Self-Determination party in Kosovo is less self-determined than they thought they were if they are going to allow Turkey to bully them. It was reported that Turkey wanted to improve relations with Israel after their long ‘dry spell’ of ‘cold war’ but obviously that is not really the case. It is not unexpected that Turkey would speak from both sides of their mouth. – rdb]**

**On February 1, Kosovo established diplomatic ties with Israel and decided to open an embassy in Jerusalem — becoming the first European country and Muslim-majority one to make such plans**. It followed the US and Guatemala in doing so. Most countries’ embassies are in Tel Aviv.

**Kosovo’s decision was taken when outgoing Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti met with Serb President Aleksandar Vucic at the White House** in September with then-President Donald Trump.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned Kosovo that the move could damage future relations with his country.

**“I believe that it would be beneficial to avoid such a move that would cause great damage to Kosovo,” Erdogan** said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wrote that “I attach much importance to Kosovo’s decision to open its embassy in Jerusalem and I look forward to hosting you in Israel for its inauguration.”

The letters sent in February were published by Kurti’s spokesman, Perparim Kryeziu, on his Facebook page as part of congratulations from world leaders on his victory.

**Last week, Kosovo sent its ambassador to Israe**l.

Palestinians claim East Jerusalem, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed, as the capital of a future state. Most of the international community doesn’t recognize the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem and says the competing claims to the city should be resolved through negotiations.

**Kosovo’s Parliament declared independence from Serbia in 2008, nine years after a US-led 78-day NATO airstrike campaign against Serbia to stop a bloody crackdown against ethnic Albanians — most of whom are Muslim** — in Kosovo.

Most Western nations have recognized Kosovo’s independence, but Serbia and its allies Russia and China have not. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-resistance-from-turkey-kosovo-embassy-may-not-be-in-jerusalem/> **[This was another of those stupid wars the US and NATO got into which was in effect a push for more islamitization of the Eastern sector of Europe. – rdb]**

**Israel, U.S. reach behind-the-scenes agreement on Iran, FM says**

***Top diplomat notes good relations with Biden administration, says both nations would discuss return to nuclear deal that would prevent Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons***

*Itamar Eichner | Published: 03.02.21 , 18:52*

**Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi said on Tuesday that Israel and the United States have agreed that neither nation will make decisions pertaining to Iran and the Iran nuclear deal without informing the other firs**t.

**"If anyone thought the Americans would run to make an agreement with Iran - it did not happen up until now, and I hope it will not happen going forward," Ashkenazi said** in a Zoom call with Israeli representatives to East Asia and the Pacific, stressing that relations with the Biden administration were good and that he has been in close contact with his U.S. counterpart, Anthony Blinken.**[Ashkenazi is very foolish if he is going to believe anything that comes from this group of “Bi-dumb”’s toads. They are as unreliable as the islamics . – rdb]**

**"There is a decision by a small forum constituting of the prime minister, the defense minister, foreign minister and the heads of the defense establishment to enter a dialogue with them in a non-oppositional manner, discuss Israeli interests and how to forge a great agreement that will safeguard Israeli and** regional interests and prevent a nuclear Iran. Our policy is to exhaust this dialogue in person and to professionally converse with the Americans as allies." **[The proverbial stab in the back will be forthcoming. – rdb]**

**Israel's top diplomat also spoke about Iranian threats on Israeli foreign missions** after [a suspected Iranian attack](https://www.ynetnews.com/article/BykkraMeu) near the Israeli Embassy in New Delhi, India, and said that the state was doing its best to ensure the well-being of its representatives abroad.

**He also added that he expected Israel to establish relations with more Arab countrie**s in 2021 after normalizing ties with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco the previous year, saying "it's not a question of if, but under which condition."

**Ashkenazi also said that one of his ministry's goals was to improve relations with neighboring Jordan and Egypt, and to expand cooperation** with them at the business level as well.

Earlier on Tuesday, Ashkenazi met with his Jordanian counterpart, Ayman Safadi, at the Allenby Border Crossing between the West Bank and Jordan.

The two discussed promoting cooperation between the two nations and economic and civil issues involving the Palestinians, read a statement from Ashekanzi's office.

This was the third such meeting between the ministers at Allenby Crossing. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/SkIepRifO>

**Israel moving to protect hundreds of personnel against ICC probe**

***Gantz says Israel will protect all citizens who might be subjected to arrest due to the expected probe by the International Criminal Court, whose jurisdiction Israel rejects, into alleged war crimes***

*Reuters | Published: 03.02.21 , 19:12*

**Israel estimates that hundreds of its citizens might be subject to war crimes probes by the International Criminal Court, whose jurisdiction it rejects, and is working on how to protect them,** the Defense Minister said on Tuesday.

**Including himself among Israelis who could be threatened with arrest, Benny Gantz told Reuters: "I was never afraid to go across enemy lines, I will continue to stand wherever** I have to."

**The Hague-based tribunal ruled last month that it has jurisdiction over the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusa**lem. The ruling could lead to criminal investigations of Israel and of Palestinian militant groups including Hamas.

**Israel is not a member of the court and rejects its jurisdiction**, a position backed by its close ally the United States. Palestinians have welcomed the ruling as a chance for justice for victims of Israeli attacks.



***Defense Minister Benny Gantz (Photo: Alex Kolomoisky)***

**In an interview on Israel's fortified border with Gaza, Gantz, who also holds Israel's justice portfolio, called the ruling a "negative development" and added: "We have our own teams working in different (places) to try (and) influence (the ICC)**."

**Gantz was the military's chief of staff during a 2014 war between Israel** and militants in Hamas-controlled Gaza. The ICC has pointed to that conflict as a potential issue to be probed.

**Asked by Reuters how many Israelis, including himself, might expect to be subject to arrest should the probe lead to criminal investigations, Gantz said: "I guess several hundred, bu**t we will take care of everybody."

Gantz called that "an estimate", declining to say if Israel had drawn up a list of officials. Israel will provide legal assistance to any implicated Israelis and will give them legal warnings regarding travel if necessary, Gantz said.

Asked if he himself might change his travel plans in light of the ICC probe, Gantz said: "So far, no." <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/B1K11QCsfO>

**Attorney general slams Netanyahu’s vaccine diplomacy**

***After Israel reportedly sends thousands of vaccine doses to Honduras and the Czech Republic, Mandelblit says PM cannot single-handedly choose to share Israel’s stockpile and must consult ministers first***

*Associated Press | Published: 03.02.21 , 16:47*

**Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit has warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he cannot single-handedly share the country’s surplus vaccines with far-flung allies in Africa, Europe and Latin America, and that such an important decision cannot be made by the prime minister alon**e.

**In an official letter, Mandelblit argues that Netanyahu should have consulted the Cabinet for such a plan. The Justice Ministry released the letter, addressed to the National Security** Adviser Meir Ben-Shabbat, on Monday.

**Netanyahu’s announcement last week of his decision to share some of Israel’s vaccine stockpile had caused an uproar and was later frozen, due to legal questions in Israel**, but not before thousands of vaccine doses were shipped to Honduras and reportedly the Czech Republic as well.

**Netanyahu has not identified the countries he intended to receive Israeli vaccines**, but an Israeli TV station said they included a number of nations supportive of Israel’s claims to the contested city of Jerusalem as its capital.

**Israel has immunized over half of its population against coronavirus in the world’s most successful vaccination driv**e since late December. Netanyahu is casting the country’s vaccination success as a personal accomplishment as part of his campaigning ahead of the upcoming March 23 elections.

The prime minister secured deals with drug makers Pfizer and Moderna to ensure enough supplies for Israel’s 9.3 million people.

**But his controversial plan has raised questions at home about Netanyahu’s decision-making as well as his choice to help nations in Africa and Latin America at a time of global shortage**s, and when the neighboring Palestinian territories are struggling to secure their own vaccine supplies.

**Critics say Netanyahu’s plan illustrates how the prime minister treats the vaccine as an asset that can be used for diplomatic g**ain.

**On Sunday, Israel announced plans to vaccinate tens of thousands of Palestinians w**ho work inside Israel and its West Bank settlements. Earlier, Israel had shared 2,000 vaccines with the Palestinian Authority to protect front-line medical workers in the West Bank.

In his letter, Mandelblit recommends that for “proper and complete government procedure,” any decisions concerning the transfer of Israel’s vaccines to foreign countries must be made by the relevant authorities.

In light of the importance and diplomatic implications of such a decision, Mandelblit said it was “appropriate that the subject be brought for discussion in the government, Cabinet or in another forum that includes all the relevant ministers in the matter.” <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/B1BHDajfO>  **[Bibi continues his march of strange edicts which are alienating an enormous segment of Israel’s voting public. – rdb]**

**Coronavirus: Gov’t approves reopening of the skies**

***Beginning Sunday 3,000 citizens a day will now be allowed to enter the country.***

*By* [*ROSSELLA TERCATIN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/rossella-tercatin) *MARCH 2, 2021 20:36*

**The** [**coronavirus**](https://www.jpost.com/Tags/coronavirus) **cabinet approved an outline to partially reopen the skies on Tuesday, allowing Israelis to enter and leave the country - starting Sunday - without permission and allowing those who return to quarantine at home instead of in a ho**tel.

**Starting from Sunday, up to 3,000 citizens a day will be able to enter the country without requiring permission from the special governmental exemptions** committee. The number and destinations of flights allowed to operate from Ben-Gurion International Airport will be determined by the Transportation Ministry in cooperation with the Health Ministry.

**Those who return will need to undergo two corona tests, before boarding the flight and upon arrival, including those who are fully vaccinated or have recovered from the virus**.

**As far as leaving the country is concerned, Israelis who are fully vaccinated or have recovered from COVID-19 will be able to travel abroad within the framework of the flights authorized**, while those who are not fully vaccinated will still be required to apply for permission.

**The police will be in charge of enforcing the mandatory quarantine**. An additional 660 officers will be assigned to the task. At the same time, the government will advance the use of other technological means, such as the [electronic bracelet](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/coronavirus-electronic-bracelet-pilot-program-launches-660627), to ensure that people isolate at home.

**Hotels will remain for those who cannot quarantine at hom**e.

The Health, Transportation and Tourism ministries will continue to work on a framework to welcome vaccinated tourists to Israel. In the meantime, non-citizens who wish to enter Israel will still need to apply for a special permission.

**The plan was reportedly approved in spite of the opposition of Health Ministry officia**ls.

“We see many mutations out there, not just from New York,” Health Ministry Chief of Public Health Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis said during the meeting. “We must make sure that [the quarantine of] people who come in will not be just under police enforcement, otherwise we will find ourselves in a catastrophic situation in a month and we will ask ourselves how we allowed people in here carrying mutations. In such a situation the vaccination campaign may be proven useless. We must be careful.” **[The fear-demic of PCR tests is so ingrained in even those who supposedly have healthcare experience that it is simply unbelievable. – rdb]**

Earlier in the day, Health Ministry Director-General Chezy Levy said that the cabinet discussions were plagued with "election fever."

**"Everyone feels that these discussions are affected by election fever and impacted by it," Levy said** in an interview with Radio 103FM on Tuesday morning. "There is no question that the ministers come to advance their own interests and the interests of their ministries and that politics also play a role."

**The reopening of the skies came a day after the government decided that the third phase of the exit strategy from the lockdown - the opening of restaurants and event halls - will begin on Sunday** as planned.

**Also on Tuesday, the R rate – or reproduction rate – stood at 0.97, marking a decrease after several day**s on the rise.

Maintaining the R rate at 1 or below is one of the criteria that the Health Ministry has set to allow relaxing restrictions, together with the number of people fully vaccinated and the number of patients in serious conditions. During the cabinet meeting on Monday, Netanyahu emphasized that the latter criteria are becoming more central than the first one, in light of the success of the vaccination campaign in the country.

However, health ministry officials, including coronavirus commissioner Prof. Nachman Ash, expressed concern over the cabinet’s decision of moving forward with the plan to lift restrictions with the R rate increasing.

Some 4,802 new cases of the novel coronavirus were reported in Israel on Monday, with 5.4% of some 90,000 tests returning positive, according to the Health Ministry.

Of all those infected, 705 patients were in serious condition as of Tuesday night and 213 were on ventilators. The death toll rose overnight to 5,786.

At the same time, over 4.8 million Israelis have received at least the first dose of the vaccine, including 3.5 million who have received the second dose. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/coronavirus-govt-to-meet-to-discuss-gradual-opening-of-ben-gurion-airport-660659>

**Weeks before election, cabinet okays political rallies for vaccinees**

***Ministers permit 300 people indoors and 500 people outdoors, with space no more than 75% full***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:29 pm*

**Ministers on Monday approved political parties holding election events of up to 300 people indoors and 500 people outdoors for individuals who are vaccinated or have recovered from the coronavirus**.

The decision comes three weeks before Israelis head to the polls on March 23 for the country’s fourth national vote in two years.

Under the decision, the rally space cannot be more than 75 percent full, social distancing must be maintained and all attendees must be either vaccinated or have recovered from the coronavirus.

All participants in the events will need to be seated and masked and maintain social distancing regulations of two meters or at least a single empty seat between them, with the exception of family members.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to attend the Likud party’s first large-scale event under the regulations in the central city of Petah Tikva on Thursday.

Additionally, security staff will need to be provided at a ratio of one to every 50 participants and the sale of any food or drink other than mineral water will be prohibited, The Marker reported.

The plan was not welcomed by some coalition members, as well as Netanyahu’s rivals. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/weeks-before-election-cabinet-okays-political-rallies-for-vaccinees/>

**PA admits some 1st vaccines went to government officials, soccer players, Jordan**

***Announcement sparks outrage among Palestinians, who have yet to see a public vaccination campaign; West Bank saw 1,819 new infections on Tuesday, with no vaccine shipment in sight***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 7:13 pm*

**After public pressure and calls for greater transparency, the Palestinian Authority acknowledged Tuesday that some of the few COVID-19 vaccines in its possession did not go to healthcare workers, but rather to government officials, the Jordanian royal court and the Palestinian national soccer team**. **The news infuriated many Palestinians, as the Palestinian leadership has yet to begin a public vaccination camp**aign. The Palestinian Authority Health Ministry had previously said that the handful of doses available would be given first to healthcare workers and then to the elderly and other at-risk groups.

Among those given vaccines were security officials working in the offices of PA President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, 100 Palestinian students heading abroad to study, fieldworkers in the Central Elections Committee, PA government ministers, Palestine Liberation Organization executive committee members over the age of 65, and some foreign embassy staff in Ramallah.

Given that Abbas is a PLO Executive Committee member, it is likely that the PA President was vaccinated as well. A spokesperson for the PA Presidency did not respond to a request for comment.

The Palestinian national soccer team was also quietly immunized. The Health Ministry explained that the team had been asked to play a match abroad representing Palestine, and that a coronavirus immunization was a condition for their participation.

**As of Tuesday, only 12,000 vaccines have reached Ramallah, the Palestinian Authority Health Ministry sa**id. Approximately 2**,000 Moderna vaccines were sent by Israel to vaccinate medical staff**, and another 10,000 were Russian Sputnik V vaccines sent as a donation by Russian president Vladimir Putin. The Palestinian Authority sent around 2,000 Sputnik vaccines to Gaza.

The PA acknowledged that it also quietly transferred 200 doses to Jordan. A spokesperson for the PA government had publicly denied the report, first published in Hebrew media, at a press conference in Ramallah.

“200 doses were sent to the Jordanian royal court after they requested it and with the approval of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas,” the Health Ministry said in a statement.



***A medic administers a Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to a fellow medic during a campaign to vaccinate front-line medical workers, at the health ministry, in the West Bank city of Bethlehem on Feb. 3, 2021. (AP/Nasser Nasser)***

**Still, the Health Ministry claimed that 90% of the vaccines it had distributed in the West Bank — around 9,800 vaccines — had gone to frontline health care worker**s.

The announcement sparked outrage among Palestinians, who are currently seeing a major surge in coronavirus cases in the West Bank. Palestinian Authority areas saw 1,819 new coronavirus infections on Tuesday, with 28 patients on ventilators.

**“Israel, the occupation state, has far more respect for and fear of its own people than you,”** one furious commentator wrote on the Health Ministry’s Facebook page. “It even cares more for Arab workers… all you’ve done is inflict corruption and nepotism on us, while the rest of the people die from coronavirus or enter quarantine and die from hunger.” **[Great way to demonstrate to the “PA” group just how wonderful their terrorist leadership is and what is their priority which has never been the inhabitants of the west bank which they occupy. – rdb]**

**Popular Palestinian comedian and social media commentator Alaa Abu Diab wrote: “The few vaccines available are still being distributed brazenly to those close to the government, despite the deaths and the tremendous pressure on the medical sector,** which is already rotten because of their corruption.”

Rumors that some Palestinians were jumping ahead in line to receive vaccines had swirled on Palestinian social media for weeks. Some of those vaccinated — such as Bethlehem-based journalist Nasser al-Laham, who edits the popular Ma’an news site — even uploaded photographs to Facebook as they got the shot.

هو اي نعم ناصر اللحام بستاهل التطعيمبس في ناس اولى يوخذو اللقاح

Posted by [Motasem Ramadan](https://www.facebook.com/motasem.ramadan.7) on [Monday, February 8, 2021](https://graph.facebook.com/100006465739657/posts/3623624561196366/)

**On Saturday, a coalition of civil society organizations called for a clear accounting of who had been im**munized. **[this is almost funny. If they were wise they would demand a ‘clear accounting’ of the billions of dollars that have been flowing into their leadership over the past 50 years, most of which was pilfered by them when in fact it was supposed to go for public benefit and care. – rdb]**

**The distribution of the vaccine is taking place “outside the framework of a clear and published plan…and within th**e framework of patronage and connections that seek the private interest at the expense of the public interest,” the Aman coalition, a civil society group, said on Saturday.

The first major shipment of coronavirus vaccines had previously been expected to reach Palestinians during the first week of March. But that target date — like several others before it — appears to have fallen through.

“There is no deadline yet for the arrival of the vaccine,” Health Ministry spokesperson Kamal al-Shakhra said on Monday during an interview with Voice of Palestine Radio. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/pa-admits-some-1st-vaccines-went-to-government-officials-soccer-players-jordan/>

**Jordanian FM pushes for 2-state solution in meeting with Ashkenazi at border**

***Top envoys hold their 3rd meeting at Allenby crossing between West Bank and Jordan; Israeli FM says they discussed ‘promoting commercial, economic and civic cooperation’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:03 pm*

**Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi met with his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi on Tuesday at the Allenby Crossing between the West Bank and Jordan, where the two discussed the importance of reaching a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, according to Safadi’s offic**e.

**It was the third such reported meeting b**etween the ministers at the crossing.

**Safadi’s office said the top Jordanian envoy used the opportunity to express Amman’s concern over ongoing Israeli settlement building in the West Bank and the demolition of Palestinian homes by Isr**ael.

**The Jordanian foreign minister also said that the resumption of security and economic ties between Israel and the Palestinian Authority must be followed by a return to direct negotiation**s aimed at reaching a solution to the conflict based on the pre-1967 borders.

**“I emphasized that there is no alternative to the two-state solution** that embodies a sovereign Palestinian state with occupied Jerusalem as its capital along [1967] lines that can exist in peace and security alongside Israel in accordance with international law, as a way to achieve comprehensive peace,” Safadi tweeted.

Ashkenazi said the two leaders discussed a range of issues.

**“We discussed promoting commercial, economic and civic cooperation between our countri**es as well as with the Palestinians. Our talks focused on trade, import and export, water, tourism and consular issues,” Ashkenazi tweeted. “We also spoke about regional developments, the common challenge of the coronavirus as well as opportunities and challenges for the region.”

**The meeting between the two foreign ministers came days after it was reported that Defense Minister Benny Gantz** [**recently met**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-recently-held-secret-meeting-with-jordans-king-abdullah-report/) **with King Abdullah I**I in Jordanian territory.

Jordan, an important regional ally to both Israel and the United States, [has long called](https://www.timesofisrael.com/jordan-egypt-and-eu-urge-renewal-of-israel-palestinian-peace-talks/) for a two-state solution and the renewal of Israel-Palestinian peace talks, which have been frozen since 2014.

Abdullah [was the first Arab leader](https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-tells-jordans-king-he-is-eager-to-support-a-two-state-solution/) to speak to then-US President-elect Joe Biden following the election. Biden told the monarch that he hopes to cooperate on “supporting a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

The king publicly opposed Netanyahu’s push to annex parts of the West Bank last year, which the premier dropped as part of an agreement to normalize ties with the UAE.

**Jordan and Israel share strong security ties, but political relations have soured over Israel’s policies** on the Palestinians and [the Temple Mount in Jerusalem](https://www.timesofisrael.com/jordan-warns-against-changing-status-of-temple-mt-after-netanyahus-saudi-trip/), which is under Jordanian custody, even as Israel moved closer to other Sunni Arab states.

Abdullah said in 2019 that relations between Israel and Jordan were “[at an all-time low](https://www.timesofisrael.com/king-abdullah-israeli-jordanian-relations-are-at-an-all-time-low/)” after a series of incidents that prompted Amman to recall its ambassador to Israel.

That year, Jordan terminated special arrangements that allowed Israeli farmers to easily access [plots of land inside Jordan,](https://www.timesofisrael.com/jordans-king-says-rule-over-border-enclaves-restored-as-israels-lease-expires/) and the two countries did not hold a joint ceremony marking the quarter-century anniversary of their peace agreement.  Israel’s arrest of two Jordanian citizens for suspected terrorism also caused a minor diplomatic spat.

Jordan and Israel have been at peace since 1994 and have full diplomatic relations. Despite Jordan’s majority-Palestinian population — many of whom do not support the peace treaty — the two governments cooperate closely on security and economic issues.

Last month, [Abdullah criticized Israel](https://www.timesofisrael.com/jordans-king-abdullah-urges-israel-to-vaccinate-palestinians/) for not vaccinating Palestinians.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/jordanian-fm-pushes-for-2-state-solution-in-meeting-with-ashkenazi-at-border/> **[Abdullah is a petty tyrant playboy who has been elevated way beyond his level of competency and should have been discontinued years ago. His extravagant lifestyle in the face of the national poverty would be an embarrassment if it weren’t the norm for those in the Islamic countries. Unfortunately we are now seeing a similar situation here if you really want to look at what goes on in our congressional group. – rdb]**

**US sanctions Russia over poisoning of opposition leader Navalny**

***Biden administration says the measures are the first of several steps to ‘respond to a number of destabilizing actions’; doesn’t identify the targeted Russians***

*By* [*Ellen Knickmeyer*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ellen-knickmeyer/) *Today, 5:43 pm*

**AP — The Biden administration announced sanctions of Russian officials and businesses Tuesday for a nearly fatal nerve-agent attack upon opposition leader Alexei Navalny and his subsequent jailing**. **Senior administration officials did not immediately identify the Russian officials targeted. The Biden administration also** announced sanctions under the US Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act for 13 businesses and another enterprise, most of which it said were involved in production of biological and chemical agents.

**The US intelligence community concluded with high confidence that Russia’s Federal Security Service used the Russian nerve agent Novichok on the dissident last August**, a senior administration official said.

**Tuesday’s sanctions would be the first of several steps by the Biden administration to “respond to a number of destabilizing actions,**” said one of the administration officials, who briefed reporters on the condition they not be identified further. **[Who was Russia destabilizing? What they did to one person is not as destabilizing as the political coup that the demon-rats carried out in Nov. – rdb]**

The sanctions are the first against Russia by the Biden administration, which has pledged to confront President Vladimir Putin for alleged attacks on Russian opposition figures and hacking abroad, including of US government agencies and US businesses. Former president Donald Trump had spoken admiringly of Putin and resisted criticism and many proposed penalties of Putin’s government.

**The Biden administration coordinated the sanctions with the European Union,** which already had imposed sanctions against a small number of Russian officials in Navalny’s case.

Some rights groups previously faulted the EU for not targeting the most important Russian officials allegedly involved. The European bloc announced new sanctions Tuesday targeting high-ranking Russian officials over the jailing of Navalny, Putin’s most high-profile political foe.

**The 27-nation bloc imposed bans on travel and froze the assets in Europe of Alexander Bastrykin, head of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federatio**n; Igor Krasnov, the prosecutor-general; Viktor Zolotov, head of the National Guard; and Alexander Kalashnikov, head of the Federal Prison Service.  **[Did the EU stop building their gas pipeline from Russia????????? – rdb]**

 The Biden administration had forecast for weeks actions against Russia. Besides the Navalny sanctions, officials have said the administration plans to respond soon to the massive Russian hack of federal government agencies and private corporations that laid bare vulnerabilities in the cyber supply chain and exposed potentially sensitive secrets to elite Kremlin spies.

***People attend a protest against the jailing of opposition leader Alexei Navalny in Moscow, Russia, on January 31, 2021. (Alexander Zemlianichenko/AP)***

**Navalny, 44, was sickened by the Russian nerve agent in an attack that the United States and others linked to Putin’s security services.** After months of recuperation in Germany, Navalny flew home to Moscow in January and was arrested upon arrival for an alleged parole violation.

**His detention sparked street protests across Russ**ia. Police arrested thousands of demonstrators. Authorities have transferred the opposition leader to a penal colony to begin serving a sentence, after what rights groups said was a show trial. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-sanctions-russia-over-poisoning-of-opposition-leader-navalny/>

**3 days after Pfizer vaccine, Japanese woman dies from brain hemorrhage**

***"It may be a coincidental case, but there is a need to gather more information and make an assessment in upcoming working groups."***

*By REUTERS   MARCH 2, 2021 19:20*

**A Japanese a woman in her 60s died from a brain hemorrhage three days after receiving a Pfizer** [**coronavirus**](https://www.jpost.com/coronavirus) **vaccination, the health ministry said on Tuesday, adding that there may not be a link between** the two.

**The woman was vaccinated on Friday and is suspected to have suffered a brain hemorrhage three days lat**er, on Monday, it said. It was Japan's first reported death following a vaccination.

"The brain hemorrhage that is suspected as a cause is relatively common among people from their 40s to their 60s, and at this time, based on examples overseas, th**ere does not seem to be a link between brain hemorrhages and the coronavirus vaccine," the ministry quoted Tomohiro Morio, a doctor advising the government, as sayi**ng.

**"It may be a coincidental case, but there is a need to gather more information** and make an assessment in upcoming working groups."

Pfizer officials in Japan were not immediately available for comment. [Pfizer](https://www.jpost.com/tags/pfizer) said in November the efficacy of its vaccine was consistent across age and ethnic groups, and that there were no major side effects, a sign that the immunization could be employed broadly around the world.

Global health authorities have praised the fast development of safe and effective COVID vaccines, but have warned people with serious underlying health conditions to take medical advice first.

Japan became the last member of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations to begin its vaccination drive, on Feb. 17.

It has so far received three shipments of vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech.

Japan officially approved Pfizer's vaccine last month, the first such approval in the country as it steps up efforts to tame infections in the run-up to the Summer Olympics. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/japan-says-woman-dies-after-taking-covid-19-vaccine-cause-of-death-unclear-660679> **[You may remember that a couple weeks ago I included an article from Israel National News by Mordechai Sones concerning the increase in death rate that occurred post vaccination with this experimental treatment or Jab. The Government has been trying to counter this but the original researcher has again reviewed the statistics and insists their validity and notes that the person from the government has financial ties to the manufacturer. Here is the link:** <http://www.nakim.org/israel-forums/viewtopic.php?t=270812>

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| --- |
| **As another little sidelight here is a link to a very short video of Dr. Tenpenny concerning some efforts that can be taken if you were either conned into taking the Jab or threatened or simply so fearful you swallowed the vile pr from the government and got it.**  [**https://brandnewtube.com/v/imuZWB**](https://brandnewtube.com/v/imuZWB) |

**Italy: Dozens of Teachers Sick After Receiving Coronavirus Vaccine**

[*Thomas D. Williams, Ph.D.*](https://www.breitbart.com/author/thomas-d-williams/)22 Feb 20212,045

**ROME — Dozens of Italian teachers called in sick Monday after getting inoculated with the AstraZeneca vaccine against the coronavirus over the weekend in Treviso, northern Italy, local media repor**t.

**Students in two area middle schools were** [**sent**](https://tribunatreviso.gelocal.it/treviso/cronaca/2021/02/22/news/treviso-decine-di-insegnanti-a-casa-in-malattia-dopo-il-vaccino-contro-il-covid-1.39939822) **home an hour earlier than usual due to insufficient teaching staff. At the Duca degli Abruzzi high school, 15 teachers out of 130 were abs**ent, complaining of fever, malaise, and pain in the bones.

**In a local primary school, San Domenico Savio, two out of three teachers** [**called**](https://nuovavenezia.gelocal.it/venezia/cronaca/2021/02/22/news/decine-di-insegnanti-a-casa-in-malattia-dopo-il-vaccino-contro-il-covid-nel-veneziano-1.39940360) **in sick w**ith similar complaints of aggravated side effects from the vaccine that had left them incapacitated.

**Now there is talk of some schools being forced to close for lack of tea**chers, the *Tribuna di Treviso* reports Monday, since “dozens and dozens” of local teachers find themselves unable to report for work.

The Italian daily *Oggi Treviso* [reported](https://www.oggitreviso.it/covid-ieri-vaccinati-primi-3mila-insegnanti-247837) on Sunday that 3,000 teachers had been inoculated on Saturday and another 2,500 were scheduled to receive the vaccine before the end of the weekend. All the teachers inoculated against the coronavirus were under 55 years of age and all [received](https://www.trevisotoday.it/attualita/treviso-vaccini-insegnanti-bollettino-covid-20-febbraio-2021.html) the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The vaccination campaign in Treviso is part of a nationwide program offering free coronavirus shots for Italy’s teachers between the ages of 18 and 55.

**Late last week, the Duchess Elisabeth Hospital in Braunschweig, Germany,** [**suspended**](https://nonsolomarescialli.it/vaccino-astrazeneca-alcuni-ospedali-della-germania-sospendono-linoculazione/) **its AstraZeneca vaccination program until further notice after 37 of its 88 vaccinated employees wound up confined to bed** and unable to work because of side effects similar to those complained of in Treviso.

**A Swedish region temporarily suspended vaccinations with the AstraZeneca vaccine in mid-February because more people than expected reported suffering from a fever after receiving the sho**t. Vaccinations with the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine were also halted at two locations in Lower Saxony after complaints from clinic employees about side effects.

A recent study [found](https://www.br.de/nachrichten/bayern/vorbehalte-gegen-astrazeneca-impfstoff-ministerium-reagiert,SPCtmTJ) that while the Moderna and Pfizer/Biontech vaccines have an effectiveness of 94 and 95 percent respectively, the effectiveness of AstraZeneca is 76 percent after the first vaccination and up to 82 percent after the second. Other studies have determined its effectiveness at around 70 percent. <https://www.breitbart.com/health/2021/02/22/italy-dozens-of-teachers-sick-after-receiving-coronavirus-vaccine/> **[Why get a shot when there are multiple treatments for the alleged disease of the flu? – rdb]**

**RED ALERT: Pfizer demands Argentina post its bank reserves, military bases and embassy properties as “collateral” to guarantee Pfizer’s indemnification for the poison jab**

[*Ann Barnhardt*](https://www.barnhardt.biz/author/annb/)*March 2, ARSH 2021*

Oh, you KNOW that the media in the post-Christian west will NEVER breathe a word of this.  This is why [**we have to get the reportage from India**](https://www.wionews.com/world/how-pfizer-tried-to-bully-argentina-and-brazil-in-exchange-for-vaccines-366037).  This news outlet is totally legit in Southern Asia.  Guys, **this is the textbook definition of FASCIST COLONIZATION. This is a “private” corporation in partnership with a fascist state (the former US) attempting to take literal ownership of a sovereign nation.**  Ask the Indians about this.  They know ALL about it. India was RULED for over 100 years by a **private British corporation** – the [**East India Company**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_India_Company).  Oh yes.  The Indians know EXACTLY what’s up here.

[***What happened in Argentina?***](https://www.wionews.com/world/how-pfizer-tried-to-bully-argentina-and-brazil-in-exchange-for-vaccines-366037)

*Talks between Argentina and Pfizer began in June 2020. In July, President Alberto Fernandez held a meeting with Pfizer’s Argentina CEO.  
 Then, Pfizer asked to be compensated for the cost of any future civil lawsuits. If someone files a civil lawsuit against Pfizer in Argentina and wins that case, the government of Argentina and not Pfizer would pay the compensation. So, Argentina’s parliament passed a new law in October 2020, but Pfizer was unhappy with its phrasing. The law said Pfizer needs to at least pay for negligence, for its own mistakes if it happens to make any in the future.  
 Pfizer rejected this, after which Argentina offered to amend the law to define negligence more clearly – to include only vaccine distribution and delivery under negligence.  
 Pfizer was still not happy and demanded the law be amended through a new decree, which Argentina refused. Pfizer then asked Argentina to buy an international insurance to pay for potential future cases against Pfizer, to which the country agreed.* ***In December 2020, Pfizer came back with more demands, and demanded sovereign assets as collateral. Pfizer wanted Argentina to put its bank reserves, military bases and embassy buildings at stake.*** *Vaccine manufacturers have always enjoyed a certain amount of liability waiver. Say you receive a vaccine from Pfizer and then you have adverse effects because of the jab.  
 You can always go ahead and file a lawsuit against Pfizer. If you win that lawsuit – instead of Pfizer, the government will compensate you. This is normal. In the United States for example, the PREP Act (Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness act) gives total immunity to companies like Pfizer and Moderna.  
 But only if something goes wrong unintentionally, and this does not apply to negligence. But Pfizer wanted more – Not just sovereign assets but a fraud insurance, something with which Argentina did not agree with.*

<https://www.barnhardt.biz/2021/03/02/red-alert-pfizer-demands-argentina-post-its-bank-reserves-military-bases-and-embassy-properties-as-collateral-to-guarantee-pfizers-indemnification-for-the-poison-jab/> **[Notice what a wonderful altruistic company Pfizer is? Never forget that the US government gave complete indemnity for all vaccine manufacturers and WE the American people pay for any cases out of public funds. They bear no liability for any problems. There have been to date reports of about 1000 deaths that may be related to the covid JAB and thousands of reported incidents. Each of these will end up being looked at and if the patient or family wants they then have to take it to court and YOU the American people have to pay to defend the drug company and if there is an award made we also pay it, NOT PFIZER. This is totally ridiculous and should not be happening. The vast majority of the vaccines administered are given for diseases with relatively low mortality rates and in fact most of the time people are better and have a better immunity if they have the disease as a child. Many measles cases today occur in adults who had the vaccine as a child and it provided an incomplete immunity. Measles in an adult is much worse than in a child with a much higher mortality. People need to wake up and stop this obscene process going on with the NIH and CDC. They actually have patents on virus strains as well as on segments of biologicals and get money from their use. The money doesn’t go to the US government it goes to the private groups in the agencies. Avoid the JAB and stay away from vaccines if you want to stay healthy. Eat well, exercise, Take Vitamins C and D and get items that increase your immune competence. The vast majority of physicians don’t have the time to fully research all the garbage in the precautions listed on the vaccine packaging, I know I didn’t, and they do what they think is right trusting the governmental agencies and companies to be honest. That is a big mistake. I have spent hours researching these topics now and have a whole different opinion of what is going on with them. Some vaccine are needed but they are really few and far between. The public is played like a violin by these groups. – rdb]**

**Iran responds to attack on Israeli ship: We monitor Israel's behavior in region**

***The MV 'Helios Ray,' a cargo vessel bound for Singapore, was hit with an explosion in the Gulf of Oman over the weekend.***

*By* [*SETH J. FRANTZMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/seth-j-frantzman) *MARCH 2, 2021 16:31*

**Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiee gave long and rambling responses to a series of questions on Tuesday. Among other topics, he addressed the** [**Iran**](https://www.jpost.com/tags/iran) **nuclear deal, the Israeli ship that was reportedly targeted by the Iranians and the Islamic Republic seeking a 25-year economic agreement with Ch**ina.

**Tehran “does not allow Israeli invasions and monitors their behavior in the region,**” he said.

**This would appear to mean that Iran is seeking to “secure the open seas,” as Rabiee said, suggesting a potential threat to Israeli ships. He did not admit Iran’s involvement in the attack on** the [MV Helios Ray](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/israeli-cargo-ship-damaged-after-mysterious-explosion-rattles-oman-gulf-660332), a cargo vessel bound for Singapore that was hit with an explosive device in the Gulf of Oman over the weekend.

Rabiee focused primarily on potential meetings with the US and European countries. Since the US left the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or Iran nuclear deal, it would only be a guest at such a meeting, he said.

Tehran has apparently torpedoed talks unless Washington gives up on sanctions.

Rabiee touted what he said were the Iranian regime’s successes.

**“In the last eight years, the government has been creating a calm atmosphere in domestic politics and expanding the facilitation for the social action of the peopl**e, as well as strengthening the economy... while trying to grow and develop,” he said. **[Is that why they are still having demonstrations on a regular basis and public executions of dissenters? - rdb**

**Foreign policy is linked to domestic policy because Iran is essentially Clausewitzian in how it operates. That means war is an extension of its policy mak**ing.

**“We have always believed that the fundamental goal of foreign policy should be to help achieve these goals,” Rabiee said**. “This belief in the government has been a reflection of our people’s choice to enjoy a safe, prosperous and healthy life based on what they deserve.”

The nuclear crisis was “fake,” he said, adding that Iran had sought the deal in 2015 to avoid foreign pressure.

“The Trump regime, by being deceived by those who saw the events from the first days of the Iran deal summit as a blow to their evil desires for the Iranian people, chose an evil path that ultimately resulted in the isolation of the United States,” Rabiee said.

He criticized former US president Donald Trump for having “unconventional, irrational and cruel behavior [that] imposed heavy costs on our people’s economy. [But] he did not have the slightest success in breaking the backbone of our national independence and endurance, which rises from the will to determine the fate of an ancient civilization.”

**Since “maximum pressure” failed, the Biden administration must return to the Iran deal, Rabiee sai**d. **[Had Trump been inaugurated as he should have been the maximum pressure would have brought these little rats to their knees and they would have become a non -problem for the world but the demon-rats have too much money and under the table issues invested in them. – rdb]**

“Like many other nations, we believe that there is no other way but diplomacy to resolve the current dispute,” he said. “But diplomacy cannot begin without goodwill and honesty.”

**The United States must make the first move, Rabiee said,** adding that the US government has so far refused to take the slightest step to indicate confidence-building efforts.

“Last week, in agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, we implemented the law passed by the parliament in such a way as to respect the law and assure the international community that our nuclear programs continue to be legitimate,” he said.

This translation of his remarks is from Iran’s semi-official Fars News Agency, and similar comments were reported by Iran’s Tasnim News Agency.

**Rabiee rambled on with numerous other statements about how Iran has defeated US ta**ctics.

The proposal of the three European countries to hold a meeting with the United States was an initiative, but this time was not appropriate due to the lack of sanctions and the hypocritical rhetoric of the US in lifting sanctions, he said.

After touching on the “Zionist” accusations about Iran attacking the ship, Rabiee mocked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Former Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani was not going to China at the present time to negotiate a multi-decade economic deal, he said.

**It was unclear why Larijani’s trip was not happening. This could be a setback for Iran. B**ut Tehran is pleased that it will be receiving large sums of unfrozen funds from South Korea. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/iran-responds-to-attack-on-israeli-ship-we-monitor-israels-behavior-in-region-660671>

**US announces $125 million defense aid package for Ukraine**

*March 1, 2021*

**WAHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon on Monday announced a $125 million military aid package for Ukraine, including two armed patrol boats to help the country defend its territorial waters**.

**The remaining $150 million in military aid approved by Congress for the 2021 budget year will not be provided until the departments of State and Defense are in position to certify to Congress that Ukraine has made “sufficient progress on key** defense reforms this year,” the Pentagon said.

“The Department encourages Ukraine to continue to **enact reforms that strengthen civilian control of** the military, promote increased transparency and accountability in defense industry and procurement, and modernize its defense sector in other key areas in line with NATO principles and standards,” the Pentagon said in a statement.

Ukraine has been locked in a costly struggle with Russia, which annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and cast its support behind pro-Moscow insurgents in eastern Ukraine. The conflict, now in its seventh year, has killed more than 14,000 people and devastated Ukraine’s industrial heartland. **MORE -** <https://apnews.com/article/ukraine-russia-b983b35504f61ec8e7edc24503e5c091> **[Hush money for Hunter “Bi-dumb”? – rdb]**

**Third Cuomo accuser steps forward, deepening governor’s scandal**

***A woman claims Cuomo made unwanted advances toward her at a wedding reception in 2019, calling her "aggressive" after she removed his hand from the small of her back and asking, "Can I kiss you?"***

*By* [*MADINA TOURÉ*](https://www.politico.com/states/staff/madina-toure) *and* [*MARIE J. FRENCH*](https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/staff/marie-j-french) *03/01/2021 01:19 PM EST Updated 03/01/2021 09:55 PM EST*

**NEW YORK — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo remained in hiding Monday as the state attorney general formally announced an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment — and some of the state’s top Democrats began to wonder just how long the three-term governor can hold o**n.

**The allegations of sexual misconduct by two former aides, which followed a mushrooming scandal around the deaths of nursing home residents, seemed to override every other political priority in the state and left Cuomo at his most vulnerable point since taking office 10 years** ago.

By evening, Cuomo was facing a new **claim: A woman whom he had not previously met said the governor made unwanted advances toward her at a wedding reception in 2019, calling her “aggressive” after she removed his hand from the small of her back and asking**, “Can I kiss you?”

“I was so confused and shocked and embarrassed,” Anna Ruch, 33, [told the New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/01/nyregion/cuomo-harassment-anna-ruch.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage) in describing the encounter, which the paper said was corroborated by a friend, text message and photographs. “I turned my head away and didn’t have words in that moment.”

**The new claim, which differed from two earlier accusations in that Ruch was not an employee of Cuomo, added to the governor’s growing troubles. Already, the accusations by his former aides in recent days had become the single greatest threat to his career and an inescapa**ble subject for New York’s political class.

On Monday night, following the news of a third accuser, U.S. Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY), called on her fellow Democrat to resign. ["The time has come," she tweeted](https://twitter.com/RepKathleenRice/status/1366558621232939015). "The Governor must resign." Rice, a former prosecutor, represents a moderate district on Long Island. **MORE -** <https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2021/03/01/third-cuomo-accuser-steps-forward-deepening-governors-scandal-1366273> **[Way to go Cuomo the lothario. Maybe they can run him and his dingy obnoxious brother out of town. Now if only they can dump DeBlasio it might make NY livable. – rdb]**

**Biden breaks with tradition and omits mention of Dr. Seuss from Read Across America Day**

*Michael Lee 4 hrs ago*

President Biden avoided any mentions of children’s author Dr. Seuss in his presidential proclamation of Read Across America Day.

Unlike Presidents Donald Trump and Barack Obama, [Biden omitted mention of the author,](https://nypost.com/2021/03/02/biden-removes-mention-of-dr-seuss-from-read-across-america-day/?utm_medium=SocialFlow&utm_source=NYPTwitter&utm_campaign=SocialFlow) whose books have faced accusations of containing “racial undertones,” instead only noting that “for many Americans, the path to literacy begins with story time in their school classroom.”

The omission comes after a Virginia school district [announced its refusal to celebrate](https://nypost.com/2021/02/28/school-district-refuses-to-tout-dr-seuss-birthday-on-read-across-america-day/) Theodor Seuss "Ted" Geisel on Read Across America Day, which falls on the author’s birthday, because of a study that showed the books are filled with “orientalism, anti-Blackness and White supremacy.”

“Given this research, and LCPS’ focus on equity and culturally responsive instruction, LCPS provided this guidance to schools during the past couple of years to not connect Read Across America Day exclusively with Dr. Seuss’ birthday,” the Loudoun County Public School district said in a statement. “We continue to encourage our young readers to read all types of books that are inclusive, diverse and reflective of our student community, not simply celebrate Dr. Seuss.” **MORE -** <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/biden-breaks-with-tradition-and-omits-mention-of-dr-seuss-from-read-across-america-day/ar-BB1ea7zy> **[Perhaps Dr. Seuss is above “Bi-dumb”’s grade level! The cancel culture has exceeded all bounds of terminal stupidity. I read “Green eggs and Ham” to my year old niece over 50 years ago. It is about as racist as a lemon pie. – rdb]**

**Biden’s DHS secy. claims ‘no crisis’ at U.S.-Mexico border despite migrant surge**

**OAN Newsroom UPDATED 6:39 AM PT – Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

**Joe Biden’s Department of Homeland Security (DHS) secretary appears to be bluffing about the latest migrant crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border as the administration continues to dismantle President Trump’s strong immigration policies.**

**While speaking during a White House press briefing on Monday, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas was asked by a reporter about the migrant crisis and seemed to ignore the question.**

When asked if he believed their was a crisis at the southern border**, Mayorkas responded with a “no” and shifted to note their was simply “a challenge at the border” that was being mana**ged.

**This comes as Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials are reporting thousands of migrants are trying to cross into the U.S. while the border is being overrun by new caravans from Central Ame**rica. **MORE -** <https://www.oann.com/bidens-dhs-secy-claims-no-crisis-at-u-s-mexico-border-despite-migrant-surge/> **[Lies, More lies and D\*\*\* lies. – rdb]**

**FBI director won't reveal cause of Capitol Police officer's death**

***'I have to be careful at this stage'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published March 2, 2021 at 3:16pm*

**Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick died only a few hours after the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.**

**For weeks, legacy media outlets proclaimed he was struck in the head with a fire extinguisher in the hands of supporters of President Trump. But evidence shows he wasn't.**

So how did he die?

**It still remains a secret, according to FBI chief Christopher Wra**y.

He told a congressional hearing this week: "There is an ongoing investigation into his death. I have to be careful at this stage, because it’s ongoing, not to get out in front of it."

The fire extinguisher attack story was prominent in multiple news outlets for several weeks, but then not long ago, law enforcement sources revealed that Sicknick may have died after coming into contact with bear spray.

Or something else.Bottom of Form

Wray also declined to say whether investigators were looking into a homicide.

"**So does that mean since the investigation is going on, you have not determined the exact cause of the death?" Iowa Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley asked** Wray.

"That means we can’t yet disclose cause of death at this stage," Wray said.

Grassley pressed on, asking if a cause of death had been determined.

"I didn’t say that," said Wray. "We’re not at a point where we could disclose or confirm the cause of death."

It was the New York Times that had proclaimed, of Sicknick, "He dreamed of being a police officer, then was killed by a pro-Trump mob." But the publication later, quietly, changed its reporting. **MORE -** <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/fbi-director-wont-reveal-cause-capitol-police-officers-death/> **[More deep state horse hockey! – rdb]**

**FBI chief claims no evidence of Antifa at Capitol riot**

***Contradicts testimony of eyewitnesses***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published March 2, 2021 at 3:29pm*

**In a statement that contradicts earlier testimony regarding the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, FBI Director Christopher Wray says his investigators haven't seen evidence that anarchist groups such as Antifa were in**volved.

**"While we're equal opportunity in looking for violent extremism of any ideology, we have not to date seen any evidence of anarchist violent extremists or people subscribing to Antifa** in connection with the sixth," he told a congressional hearing Tuesday.

"That doesn't mean we're not looking and we'll continue to look."

DURBIN: Do you have any evidence that the Capitol attack was organized by 'fake Trump protesters'?

WRAY: We have not seen evidence of that. [pic.twitter.com/CqXGRp8CcL](https://t.co/CqXGRp8CcL)

— Aaron Rupar (@atrupar) [March 2, 2021](https://twitter.com/atrupar/status/1366775594835447815)

**However,** [**the Gateway Pundit noted**](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/03/wray-says-no-evidence-antifa-left-wing-groups-played-role-january-6-capitol-riot-video/) **former Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund already has told the Senate Rules and Homeland Security committees that intelligence suggests leftists were present**.

**Also, Michael Waller, a senior analyst for strategy at the Center for Security Policy specializing in propaganda, political warfare, psychological warfare and subversion, reported witnessing "scattered groups of men exhorting the marchers to gather closely and tightly toward the center of the outside of the Capitol building and prevent them from leavin**g."

**And there were a "few young men wearing Trump or MAGA hats backwards and who did not fit in with the rest of the crowd in terms of their actions and demeanor, whom I presumed to be Antifa** or other leftist agitators."Bottom of Form

**Also, Antifa leader John Earl Sullivan was arrested in Utah after the U.S. Capitol riots over his involvement there.**

[WND previously reported](https://www.wnd.com/2021/01/congressman-riots-hallmarks-antifa-provocation/) Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., said the events had "all the hallmarks of Antifa provocation."

This has all the hallmarks of Antifa provocation. <https://t.co/HJLN3Ijn4K>

— Paul Gosar (@DrPaulGosar) [January 6, 2021](https://twitter.com/DrPaulGosar/status/1346940816514813953)

Look at the folks breaking the glass. All Antifa—your little buddies. <https://t.co/z3kJesSlfr>

— Paul Gosar (@DrPaulGosar) [January 7, 2021](https://twitter.com/DrPaulGosar/status/1346986357214896129)

He wrote on Twitter: "Look at the folks breaking the glass. All Antifa – your little buddies."

Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., said in a speech on the House floor overnight that there was evidence that some of the people rioting were "masquerading as Trump supporters."

A source told the Washington Times that Gaetz cited, however, denied his claim and demanded an apology, [the Washington Examiner reported](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/matt-gaetz-alleges-antifa-infiltrated-violent-capitol-hill-protest).

And Rep. Mo Brooks, R-Ala., wrote on Twitter:

1. **A Congressman warned me on MONDAY of a growing ANTIFA threat & advised that I sleep in my office rather than leaving Capitol complex & sleeping in my condo**. I heeded that advice & have slept on office floor for 4 straight nights.

2. **Congressman told me he was warned on TUESDAY by Capitol Police officer that intelligence suggest fascist ANTIFA was going to try to infiltrate the Trump rally by dressing** like Trump supporters.  
3. **Capitol Police advised TUESDAY that it best not to leave Capitol complex**."

4. **Evidence, much public, surfacing that many Capitol assaulters were fascist ANTIFAs, not Trump supporters**. Again, time will reveal truth. Don't rush to judgment. Don't be fooled by @FakeNewsMedia whose political judgment drives their reporting.

[A video posted on Twitter](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/01/not-making-headlines-trump-supporters-pulled-protesters-away-capitol-building-started-damaging-people/) showed Trump supporters trying to stop someone whom members of the crowd described as "Antifa" from breaking a window.

**Former New York police commissioner Bernard Kerik wrote on Twitter: "President @realDonaldTrump supporters pulling Antifa terrorists away from buildin**g. There's plenty of these videos. Why isn't the #mainstreammedia reporting?"

President [@realDonaldTrump](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump) supporters pulling Antifa terrorists away from building. There’s plenty of these videos. Why isn’t the [#mainstreammedia](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mainstreammedia?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) reporting? [pic.twitter.com/ItzN2YWETL](https://t.co/ItzN2YWETL)

— Bernard B. Kerik (@BernardKerik) [January 7, 2021](https://twitter.com/BernardKerik/status/1347046917512028162)

BREAKING: Former FBI agent on the ground at U.S. Capitol just texted me and confirmed that at least 1 "bus load" of Antifa thugs infiltrated peaceful Trump demonstrators as part of a false Trump flag ops

— Paul Sperry (@paulsperry\_) [January 6, 2021](https://twitter.com/paulsperry_/status/1346940301307310082)

Investigative reporter Paul Sperry reported via Twitter: "BREAKING: Former FBI agent on the ground at U.S. Capitol just texted me and confirmed that at least 1 'bus load' of Antifa thugs infiltrated peaceful Trump demonstrators as part of a false Trump flag ops." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/fbi-chief-claims-no-evidence-antifa-capitol-riot/> **Wray is a huge piece of sewage that should have been flushed and processed and sanitized with concentrated bleach or lye from top to bottom. – rdb]**

**Bokhari: Microsoft and Friends Want to Destroy Online Privacy**

[Allum Bokhari](https://www.breitbart.com/author/allum-bokhari/)25 Feb 2021

**Microsoft has teamed up with a number of tech and media companies to create a system of tracing content around the internet that could destroy online privacy and anonymity, radically transforming the nature of the web**.

**Against stiff competition, the alliance of tech and media giants has devised a plan that may constitute Big Tech’s most brazen power-grab yet**.

**According to Microsoft’s press release, it has partnered with several other organizations to form the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA**).

Put simply, the purpose of this organization is to devise a system whereby all content on the internet can be traced back to its author.

**The press release states that it will develop these specifications for “common asset types and formats,” meaning videos, documents, audio, and ima**ges.

**Whether it’s a meme, an audio remix, or a written article, the goal is to ensure that when content reaches the internet, it will come attached with a set of signals allowing its provenance — meaning authorship — can be detected**.

Consider the companies that have signed on to this **initiative. Leading the pack is Microsoft, which operates Word, Paint, Notepad, Edge, and the Office Suite. If you create a .doc or a .jpg, a Microsoft service is probably involved in some capacit**y.

Then there’s Adobe, the company behind Photoshop, Illustrator, Acrobat, and Premiere Pro, as well as several other market-leading applications for publishing photos, videos, and documents.

There’s also Truepic, a company that has developed technology to track the provenance of photos [from the very moment they are captured on a smartphone.](https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/truepic-breakthrough-charts-a-path-for-restoring-trust-in-photos-and-videos-at-internet-scale-301152998.html?tc=eml_cleartime)

**Finally, there’s Intel, which** [**dominates the market**](https://www.crn.com/news/components-peripherals/intel-regains-pc-market-share-against-amd-as-cpu-capacity-expands#:~:text=This%20allowed%20Intel's%20share%20in,bringing%20it%20to%2078.3%20percent.) **in laptop and desktop central processing units (CPUs). The CPU is responsible for processing virtually all information on compute***rs.*Whether you’re typing a sentence or taking a screenshot, it’s the CPU that is processing that data.

**Accessing the CPU is the ultimate form of digital surveillance. Even if you’re disconnected from the internet, the CPU still sees what your computer** is doing.

The combination of these forces creates the potential to track and de-anonymize information from the moment it is created on a computer. Signals could be attached to information to ensure it is censored and suppressed wherever it travels online. **Even if someone else is sharing the information, it could be suppressed simply because of its point of origin. And, of course, the signals could be used to identify the creators of dissident content**.

Nowhere in Microsoft’s press release is there any indication that these are not the ultimate goals.

And, in fact, the press release gives several indications that these are *precisely*the ultimate goals.

**According to Microsoft, the coalition was created for a single purpose: to stop the spread of “disinformation” — which, in modern establishment journo-speak, means information that challenges establishment narratives**. Disinformation, based on how the word is used today, might as well be called *dissident* information. **[Who decides it is DISinformation? They do. You thought that there might be a little while before BIG BROTHER ARRIVED? NO SIR! Big Brother is here in spades. This is Orwell’s 1984 on steroids. These needs to be stopped because it is the ultimate of cancel culture and brain control. – rdb]**

**According to Microsoft’s press release, the coalition has been established “to address the prevalence of disinformation, misinformation and online conte**nt fraud through developing technical standards for certifying the source and history or provenance of media content.” **[The idea of freedom of speech is now down the toilet with these people. You say what we want you to say OR ELSE. – rdb]**

**Naturally, the mainstream media, which is most threatened by dissident information, is heavily involved.** The precursor to this coalition, [Project Origin,](https://www.originproject.info/) included the *New York Times,*the BBC, CBC, and Radio Canada.

Project Origin’s mission statement declares:

**Misinformation is a growing threat to the integrity of the information eco-system. Having a provable source of origin for media, and knowing that it has not been tampered with en-route, will help to maintain confidence in news from trusted providers.**

The goal has been stated up front. The establishment media wants to trace the origin of all digital content so that “trusted providers” can be distinguished from non-trusted providers.

We all know what this means by now. The difference is that instead of doing it via the censorship of online social media platforms and search engines, they are now going to do it at the level of offline software and hardware, most likely down to the most fundamental unit of computer hardware – the CPU.

In other words, there will be nowhere to hide.

Even the brazen behavior of Facebook, Twitter, and Google over the past year — the election interference, the censorship of a President, the mass-censorship of grassroots political movements — pales in comparison to this.

**This is Big Tech’s most dangerous plan yet**.

Breitbart News has reached out to Microsoft for comment. <https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2021/02/25/bokhari-microsoft-and-friends-want-to-destroy-online-privacy/> **[This is the epitome of CANCEL culture. They can cancel anything YOU say or any opinion YOU have because they don’t agree with it. This is totally outrageous and should be stopped immediately before it gets off the ground, assuming they are already doing it. – rdb]**

**Commentary:**

**Rabid Marxists Dominate America’s Judiciary**

*By* [*Kelleigh Nelson*](https://newswithviews.com/author/kelleigh/)*|March 2nd, 2021  
 Without liberty, law loses its nature and its name, and becomes oppression. Without law, liberty also loses its nature and its name, and becomes licentiousness.  —*[*James Wilson*](https://billofrightsinstitute.org/educate/educator-resources/founders/james-wilson/)*, Of the Study of the Law in the United States, 1790*  
 *Rightful liberty is unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others. I do not add ‘within the limits of the law’ because law is often but the tyrant’s will, and always so when it violates the rights of the individual. —Thomas Jefferson*  
 *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.  —Proverbs 14:12*  
 Jewish law was based on the [Ten Commandments](http://www.therain.org/studies/ten.html) and other sacred writings, which we find in the Hebrew Bible.  Jewish law influenced Roman law, English law, and our own Declaration of Independence and Constitution. These laws are contained in the Torah (teaching) which became the first five books of the Bible.  It is why we are called a Judeo-Christian nation.  
 When a liberal higher-critic sort of attitude rules the day, the wisdom of man rules the day.  Man wants to be on the throne, but God is on the throne.  Thus, man elevates himself above God, and seeks to destroy the sacred writings of the Holy Scriptures, along with those who believe in Him. When leaders are willing to throw out the expressed truth claims of God, it’s a simple next step to throw out the moral claims of God.  This is today’s “cancel culture.”  
 When political leaders and pulpits dismiss the authority of the scriptures and dismiss the authority of the God of the scriptures, freedom is rejected, liberty is crushed, law becomes perverted and justice is denied.  
 Communists and socialists are evil proponents of big government who would willingly sacrifice human liberty and freedom to advance their concept of “social justice.” From the beginning of time, this evil has paved the way and devolved into what we’re seeing today.  The hatred of God and the elevation of man is the very core of communism.  
 Rep. Greg Steube (R-FL) expressed these sentiments perfectly when he accused Democrats of trying to define what it means to be male or female. “The gender confusion that exists in our culture today is a clear rejection of God’s good design. Whenever a nation’s laws no longer reflect the standards of God that nation is in rebellion against him and will inevitably bear the consequences,” the congressman said. “We are seeing the consequences of rejecting God here in our country today.”  
 That comment drew a fiery response from Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY).  “What any religious tradition describes as God’s will is no concern of this Congress,” added Jerry Nadler (D-NY).  
 There you have it; God’s will and the Holy Scriptures are no concern of America’s Congress.  For nearly a century, the country has been turned over to godless men and women who care nothing for the rule of law.  Yes, a century and longer.  
**FDR’s Supreme Court**  
 The elimination of true Constitutional originalists began and was solidified with Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) in 1933.  Prior to his election, three republicans preceded him, Warren Harding from 1921-1923.When Harding passed from a heart attack, Vice President Calvin Coolidge became the 30th President of the United States for six years.  President Herbert Hoover followed with one term from 1929 to 1933.  FDR was President from 1933 to 1945; he had three vice presidents, the last being Harry Truman who succeeded him as president until 1953.  
 In the late 1930s, FDR had a [plan to pack the court](https://www.history.com/news/franklin-roosevelt-tried-packing-supreme-court) so as to legislate into law everything he wanted in his [New Deal](https://www.history.com/topics/great-depression/new-deal).  Sound familiar?  Congress and the people viewed FDR’s ill-considered proposal as an undemocratic power grab.  Nevertheless, FDR succeeded in putting eight members on the court the old-fashioned way, through attrition.  His administration was [filled with communists](https://newswithviews.com/the-revolutionary-and-anti-constitutional-1941-lend-lease-act/), particularly Harry Hopkins who lived in the Lincoln bedroom and ran the [Lend Lease program](https://newswithviews.com/the-revolutionary-and-anti-constitutional-1941-lend-lease-act/).  
 FDR appointed eight new members of the Supreme Court: Associate Justices [Hugo Black](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugo_Black), [Stanley F. Reed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley_Forman_Reed), [Felix Frankfurter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_Frankfurter), [William O. Douglas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_O._Douglas), [Frank Murphy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Murphy), [James F. Byrnes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_F._Byrnes), [Robert H. Jackson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_H._Jackson), and [Wiley Blount Rutledge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiley_Blount_Rutledge). Additionally, he elevated sitting Justice [Harlan F. Stone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harlan_F._Stone) to Chief Justice.All were progressive democrats except Republican [Harlan F. Stone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harlan_F._Stone).  
 Felix Frankfurter helped to found the American Civil Liberties Union. In a [1917 letter by former President Teddy Roosevelt](https://newswithviews.com/communisms-promotion-and-collusion-in-americas-race-wars/) to [Frankfurter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_Frankfurter), he criticized Frankfurter for supporting “traitors,” “Bolsheviks” and “murderers.” This was exposed in Manning Johnson’s book, [Color, Communism and Common Sense](https://manningjohnson.org/).  
**SCOTUS Election Cases**  
 The Supreme Court has refused to hear any 2020 general election cases involving voter fraud.  On December 11, 2021,the [Supreme Court](http://www.foxnews.com/category/politics/judiciary/supreme-court) denied a [Texas effort](https://www.texastribune.org/2020/12/11/texas-lawsuit-supreme-court-election-results/) that would have essentially nullified the presidential elections in [Pennsylvania](https://www.foxnews.com/category/us/us-regions/northeast/pennsylvania), [Michigan](https://www.foxnews.com/category/us/us-regions/midwest/michigan), [Georgia](https://www.foxnews.com/category/us/us-regions/southeast/georgia) and [Wisconsin](https://www.foxnews.com/category/us/us-regions/midwest/wisconsin).  Seventeen other states joined in the suit brought by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.  Justices Thomas, Alito and Gorsuch dissented.  
 On February 22, the [Supreme Court rejected three GOP elections-related lawsuits regarding the state of Pennsylvania](https://www.oann.com/scotus-refuses-to-hear-pa-election-lawsuits/).  The same three justices dissented.  The fact that states [did not follow their own state legislatively set laws](https://www.theepochtimes.com/supreme-court-dismisses-slew-of-2020-presidential-election-lawsuits_3706263.html?utm_source=news&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=breaking-2021-02-22-2) is the issue millions of people still are not happy with.  The Roberts led Supreme Court has [declined to hear any of the cases brought challenging the procedures of how the election was conducted](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20-542_2c83.pdf).  
 Congressman Mike Kelly of the 16th District of Pennsylvania also had his case rejected by SCOTUS.  [Kelly v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](https://www.oann.com/scotus-throws-out-kelly-v-commonwealth-of-pennsylvania/) case was filed in Pennsylvania and disputed the state’s greater allowances for mail-in ballots amid the pandemic.  
 The high court had no intention to intervene in the cases because it did not act before Congress certified Biden’s victory on January 6th.  The dates were set by the court, purposely being stretched past the 6th.  Sidney Powell [reacted to the rulings on election integrity](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/02/attorney-sidney-powell-responds-latest-supreme-court-rulings-election-integrity-justice-thomass-dissent-included/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=the-gateway-pundit&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=daily).  
 Justice Clarence Thomas [issued a scathing dissent](https://www.westernjournal.com/clarence-thomas-savages-justices-feckless-john-roberts-refusing-pa-election-cases/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=newsletter-WJ&utm_campaign=dailyam&utm_content=western-journal) to the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to decline to hear the merits of lawsuits challenging the 2020 election in Pennsylvania and by so doing, detailed what he described as the “inexplicable” avoidance of cases with critical implications for future elections.  
 He stated, “These cases provide us with an ideal opportunity to address just what authority non-legislative officials have to set election rules, and to do so well before the next election cycle.  The refusal to do so is inexplicable.  We failed to settle this dispute before the election and thus provide clear rules.  Now we again fail to provide clear rules for future elections.  The decision to leave election law hidden beneath a shroud of doubt is baffling.  By doing nothing, we invite further confusion and erosion of voter confidence.  Our fellow citizens deserve better and expect more of us.”  
 Amazon Prime dropped [*Created Equal: Clarence Thomas in His Own Words*](https://www.justicethomasmovie.com/), an acclaimed and popular PBS documentary on Justice Clarence Thomas, making it unavailable to stream during Black History Month. Justice Thomas is our only black justice, yet Amazon, during Black History Month removed this great documentary.  Any conservative, regardless of skin color or position is censored by big tech… that’s the communist way!  
**Trump Tax Case**  
 Democrat Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr., has been seeking Trump’s tax records since 2019 as part of an investigation. On February 22, 2021, SCOTUS ruled for Vance.  There were no comments or dissents noted.  Vance immediately subpoenaed the records from the Mazars accounting firm that has long done work for Trump and his businesses. Trump had asked for a delay to rehear lower court decisions, but was denied by the court and Vance received the records in three days.  
 The Supreme Court waited months to act in this case. The last of the written briefs in the case was filed Oct. 19. But a court that includes three Trump appointees waited through the election, Trump’s challenge to his defeat and a month after Trump left office before issuing its order.  
 President Trump said the Democrat inspired case is politically motivated and he’s absolutely right.  
**Trump’s Justices**  
 In my [last article](https://newswithviews.com/satans-minions-the-financiers-of-michael-r-pence-part-3/), and in previous articles regarding the [Heritage Foundation](https://newswithviews.com/Nelson/kelleigh377.htm) and the [Federalist Society](https://newswithviews.com/Nelson/kelleigh389.htm), I documented their funding by Koch family organizations. These two organizations created the lists of potential Supreme Court candidates.  Federalist “picks” were not simply vetted by the Federalist Society; the nomineeswere Federalist Society loyalists.  
 The Koch brothers supported and subsidized Mike Pence and Kellyanne Conway, but detested Donald Trump.  Pence worked in the early 90s for the Indiana State Policy Network, a satellite of Heritage Foundation who he has [joined once again](https://www.heritage.org/press/vice-president-mike-pence-joins-heritage-foundation-distinguished-visiting-fellow). Kellyanne Conway and her Trump hating husband, George, are long time members of the Federalist Society.  George is a member of the [Lincoln Project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lincoln_Project), republicans dedicated to defeating Trump.  
 Since the confirmation of Trump’s three justices, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett, they’ve often chosen to side with Chief Justice Roberts and the politically liberal justices.  Election fraud is not new…it’s been here for decades.  
**Election Fraud 1948**  
 Frank Hamer was the legendary Texas Ranger who trapped and killed notorious outlaws, Bonnie and Clyde.  R. Cort Kirkwood wrote the entire story for the February 1st, 2021 [New American Magazine](https://thenewamerican.com/subscribe/).  Frank Hamer was shot 17 times and killed 53 men during his illustrious career.  He also saved 15 black men from death at the hands of lynch mobs in various towns and cities in east Texas, where he led an unpopular fight against the Ku Klux Klan.  
 It was July, 1948 when beloved [Texas Governor, Coke Stevenson ran for the Senate and won, but victory was stolen by election thief Lyndon Baines Johnson](https://thenewamerican.com/scotus-validated-lbjs-election-fraud-in-1948-what-happens-if-trump-uncovers-it/).  In the Democratic primary of 1948, Stevenson bested Johnson by more than 70,000 votes, but neither candidate received a majority of the more than one million cast.  Three men were in the running, but the most votes went to Stevenson with 477,077 and to Johnson with 405,617.  The two met again in a runoff on Saturday, August 28th.  
 Mr. Kirkwood writes, “Though polling [put Stevenson ahead](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_United_States_Senate_election_in_Texas#Runoff), 53-47 percent, Johnson turned that deficit around.As more precincts reported results, Stevenson’s lead dwindled to less than 1,000 votes, and while more uncounted votes magically appeared, by Tuesday, election officials had declared Stevenson the victor by a slim 349. Yet the counting still wasn’t finished. More and more counties in the Rio Grande Valley reported “new votes” for Johnson, which cut his deficit to 157. That still wasn’t enough to defeat Stevenson.  At 12:30 p.m. on Friday, September 3, Jim Wells County called in a 200-vote change that gave Johnson 494,191 to Stevenson’s 484,104.”  
 Cork Stevenson knew there was fraud, so with his friend Frank Hamer and two lawyers, they traveled to Corpus Christi to check the votes.  Hamer and Stevenson went to the bank where election records for Precinct 13 were kept. “Git,” Hamer told one band of five. “Fall back!” he ordered the second larger group blocking the bank’s door. He was ready to draw the gun holstered at his side.  The other men had removed their jackets and none were armed except Frank.  
 They proved the votes had been rigged and a “7” had obviously been changed to a “9.”  A Mexican American in the precinct told the two lawyers that “people live longer down here if they keep their mouths shut.”  
 Even though they had the proof of vote fraud, the Democrats did the same thing they always do and just did on January 6th, 2020, they declared Johnson the winner by one vote.  
 The evidence from Hamer and Stevenson didn’t matter.  Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black halted the trial just minutes before the vote boxes were to be opened in court.  Johnson’s attorney, future U.S. Supreme Court Justice [Abe Fortas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abe_Fortas), successfully argued to Associate Justice [Hugo Black](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugo_Black), then in charge of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, that primaries were “irrevocably and incontestably vested” in Texas law.  
 Black agreed, and the Supreme Court upheld his ruling. Fraud was discounted out of hand, just like it was in our 2020 general election and the runoff in Georgia in January.  
 Hugo Black was one of the liberal democrats nominated and confirmed to the Supreme Court by Franklin Delano Roosevelt.  
 In 1921, Hugo Black defended [E. R. Stephenson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E._R._Stephenson), a minister of the now defunct [Methodist Episcopal Church South](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methodist_Episcopal_Church,_South)in his trial for the murder of a Catholic priest, Father [James E. Coyle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Coyle). Stephenson’s daughter had converted to Catholicism and married a man of Puerto Rican descent, and Coyle had conducted the wedding.  
 Hugo Black got Stephenson acquitted in part by arguing to the jury that Puerto Ricans should be considered black under part of the South’s [one drop rule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One-drop_rule). Black, a Democrat, joined the Ku Klux Klan shortly afterwards, in order to gain votes from the anti-Catholic element in Alabama. He built his winning Senate campaign around multiple appearances at KKK meetings across Alabama.  
 Allegedly he left the Klan in 1925.  Black later said that joining the Klan was a mistake, but he went on to say, “I would have joined any group if it helped get me votes.”  
 Many Americans also know of the 1946 [Battle of Athens](https://www.americanheritage.com/battle-athens) in McMinn County, Tennessee regarding Democratic vote fraud by Paul Cantrell, the candidate for sheriff who tied his campaign closely to the popularity of the Roosevelt administration and rode FDR’s coattails to victory over his Republican opponent.  He ruled until 1946 when returning WWII veterans stopped the deceit.  
**Conclusion**  
 Vote fraud has existed in America for eons; and America’s judiciary is fraught with corruption…a corruption that has all but collapsed our rule of law.  The judges are the ones who have elevated themselves above God and who will willingly sacrifice our freedom and liberty. <https://newswithviews.com/rabid-marxists-dominate-americas-judiciary/>

**Questions to Determine Whether a Friend or Relative Is a Liberal or a Leftist**[*Dennis Prager*](https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/) *Posted: Mar 02, 2021 12:01 AM* The great tragedy of our time is that liberals vote left.  
 Virtually every value liberals have held for a century is now held by conservatives and scorned by leftists. Therefore, America, in serious jeopardy of being lost, will be saved when people convince the liberals in their life that the left, not the conservative, is their enemy.  
 This process begins by establishing whether a friend or relative is a liberal or a leftist. If it turns out that he or she is a liberal, it is worth engaging in respectful dialogue on the issues of the day. If the friend or relative is a leftist, you can probably only talk about innocuous subjects such as the weather (though not about global warming) or sports (though not about players taking a knee during the national anthem). If you talk about the great issues of the day with a left-wing friend or relative, that could be the last time you talk to each other. He or she is likely to unfriend you not only on social media but also in life. Leftists generally do not dialogue; they dismiss.  
 Here are questions you might want to pose to friends/relatives to determine -- as much for them as for you -- whether they are liberal or left.  
**Race**  
 1. Many universities now have all-black dormitories, and some have all-black graduation exercises. Do you support these developments?  
 2. The University of California has declared this statement racist: "There is only one race -- the human race." Do you agree with the University of California, or do you agree with the statement?  
 3. Is the goal of being "colorblind" -- doing one's best to ignore a person's color and concentrating only on the person's character and personality -- a noble goal or a racist one?  
 4. Do you believe the color of a person's skin tells you anything of importance about that person?  
 5. Do you agree that all white Americans are racist?  
 6. If your answer is yes, would you tell the millions of blacks in Africa and the Caribbean who wish to emigrate to America that they would be making a poor decision? If not, why not?  
 7. Is it possible for a black person to be a racist?  
 8. Is it racist to claim that Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart composed the greatest music ever composed?  
 9. Is the national anthem racist?  
 10. If your answer is yes, what would you like to put in its place?  
 11. The English Department at the University of Pennsylvania removed its painting of William Shakespeare because he was a white European male. Do you agree with that decision?  
**America**  
 12. Do you agree with The New York Times' "1619 Project" that America was not founded in 1776 but in 1619 with the first arrival of black slaves in North America, and that the Revolutionary War was fought in order to preserve slavery?  
 13. Should statues of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln be taken down?  
 14. Has the United States, overall, made the world a better place?  
 15. Would America be better, worse, or the same as now if all Americans dropped their religion and became secular?  
 16. Has capitalism been a net-plus for America and the world?  
 17. Everyone would like to improve America. Some would like to, in their words, "fundamentally transform" it. Would you?  
 18. Could a good person have voted for Donald Trump in 2020?  
 19. Do you believe that CNN, The Washington Post, The New York Times and the rest of the mainstream media are biased toward the left or try to present the news as accurately as possible?  
 20. Should America have full control over its borders to prevent illegal immigration?  
 21. There are between 11 and 30 million people in America who entered the country illegally. Should they all be put on a path to citizenship?  
 22. Should those who enter America illegally be called "undocumented immigrants" or "illegal immigrants"?  
 23. Do you believe police departments should be defunded, or at least have their budgets severely cut?  
 24. Should the government provide vouchers to enable parents to choose what school their child attends?  
 25. Which school do you believe is more likely to be attacked by a gunman: one that has a sign in front that reads, "Gun-Free Zone" or one that reads, "This School Has Armed Personnel"?  
**Men and Women**  
 26. Should it be legal for a teenage girl to have her breasts surgically removed because she identifies as a male -- or should there be a minimum age of 18 or 21?  
 27. School teachers have been told to stop calling students "boys and girls" because a student might not identify as either male or female. Do you agree with this policy?  
 28. Should biological males who identify as females be allowed to compete against biological females in sports?  
 29. Is the statement, "Men give birth" science-based?  
 30. Do you agree with the practice of inviting a drag queen into public libraries and elementary school classrooms to conduct a "Drag Queen Story Hour"?  
**Speech**  
 31. Do you believe that free speech allows for hate speech, or should hate speech be banned?  
 32. If you believe hate speech should be banned, who do you believe should determine what is hate speech?  
 You might want to send these questions to the people in your life whose views are to the left of your own. At best, you (and they) will realize that you have more in common than either of you previously thought. At the very least, their answers will bring you both clarity. And at worst, they will explain why there is a rift between you -- and why you might want to restrict communication to weather, sports, recipes and warm memories. <https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/2021/03/02/questions-to-determine-whether-a-friend-or-relative-is-a-liberal-or-a-leftist-n2585549>

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| **THE SHORASHIM BIBLICAL GIFT CATALOG 005**  [**http://mad.ly/7f9f64?pact=20013931524&fe=1**](http://mad.ly/7f9f64?pact=20013931524&fe=1)  **Support Shorashim!** |

**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Poll: Bennett gets 12 seats, Smotrich 5, Meretz out**

**New poll shows rise for Yesh Atid, New Hope, Yamina, and Religious Zionism parties.**

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 02 , 2021 9:10 PM*

**A poll by Mano Geva published tonight (Tuesday) on *Channel 12 News* shows that if the elections were held today, the Likud would remain the largest party with 28 seats while Yesh Atid would finish second with 19 seats.**

**The New Hope party led by Gideon Sa'ar would receive 14 seats, while the Yamina party led by Naftali Bennett would receive 12 seats.**

The Joint List would receive nine seats, while the Shas party would receive eight seats. Yisrael Beyteinu and Labour would receive seven seats each, while the United Torah Judaism would receive six seats. The Religious Zionism party and Blue and White would receive five seats each.

**The Meretz party and the Raam party would not clear the electoral threshold**.

According to a Channel 20 poll conducted by Professor Yitzhak Katz of the Maagar Mohot Institute, if the elections had been held today, the Likud would receive 29 seats. The Yesh Atid party led by Yair Lapid would receive 18 seats.

According to the poll, the New Hope party would receive 13 seats while Yamina and the Joint List would receive 10 seats each.

Shas would receive eight seats, while United Torah Judaism and Yisrael Beyteinu would receive seven seats each

Labor and Blue and White parties would receive five seats each, while the Religious Zionism Partyand Meretz would receives four seats each. [https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297789](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297789https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297789)

**Israel demands UN condemn Iranian attack on civilian ship**

***Israeli Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan writes Security Council President demanding UN take action after bombing of Israeli vessel.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 02 , 2021 10:22 PM*

**Israeli Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan wrote to Security Council President Linda Thomas-Greenfield demanding that the council take action following the** [**bombing of an Israeli ship**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297583) **in the Gulf of Oman last wee**k.

"I am writing to express the Government of Israel’s grave concern over the ongoing malign activities of the Iranian regime in the Gulf of Oman, which threaten to destabilize the Middle East and pose a great threat to international peace and security," Erdan wrote.

"On 25 February 2021, an Israeli owned cargo vessel HELIOS RAY, en route from Saudi Arabia to Singapore, was attacked by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp (IRGC) in international waters near the Gulf of Oman. The IRGC attached an explosive device to the vessel that caused severe damage forcing the ship to return to the port of Dubai to ensure the safety of the crew.

"This is not the first time Iran has threatened the safety of international shipping and conducting attacks on civilian vessels in recent times. In early January 2021, the IRGC seized a South Korean flagged tanker in the Gulf waters and detained its crew. In May 2019, four commercial vessels were attacked and severely damaged by the IRGC in the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates, east of the port of Fujairah.

"These and other repeated Iranian and Iranian-sponsored terrorist attacks at sea not only jeopardize the safety and security of international shipping in flagrant violation of international conventions and norms relating to maritime safety and navigation, but also constitute blatant and repeated violations of the United Nations Charter and of Security Council Resolutions.

"Israel has repeatedly warned of Iran’s unceasing malign activities and has highlighted these violations in numerous calls to the international community and letters to the United Nations Security Council, providing concrete, verified and documented evidence of the Iranian regime’s reckless and illicit behavior in the Middle East and beyond.

"This and previously reported attacks prove yet again that Iran will use any means to destabilize the region while continuing to fail to live up to its own obligations under international law. I urge the Security Council to condemn the Iranian violations of the United Nations Charter and hold the Iranian regime responsible for this attack and for destabilizing the region," Erdan concluded. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297793>

**Israel throws out 1.5 million flu vaccines due to lack of demand**

***Four million doses of vaccine, 1.5 million of them tossed - and not a single instance of flu identified in labs.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 03 , 2021 8:47 AM*

**The 2020-2021 winter has seen zero cases of flu, after Israel ordered four million doses of flu vaccine**.

**According to Israel Hayom, the health funds are now tossing 1.5 million doses of flu vac**cine, after no one requested them.

The **interest in flu vaccines dropped when the coronavirus vaccines arrived in Israel, and due to the** [**lack of cases.**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/294175) However, a relatively high percentage - 25.6% - of Israelis received this year's flu vaccine. Last year, 24.6% of Israelis received the flu vaccine, compared to 18% and 19% during the previous two years.

Israel's Health Ministry prepared for the winter, during which there were expected to be simultaneous outbreaks of both flu and coronavirus. However, data from the Israel Center for Disease Control showed that not a single lab test was positive for flu this year.

Throughout the winter, the number of people turning to clinics, emergency rooms, and children's wards due to flu-like winter illnesses was low. For example, the number of people turning to clinics because of flu-like illnesses was close to zero; in the past few years, it ranged from 15-20 per 10,000 people during the same period.

"The numbers of respiratory infections are low," the Health Ministry stated. "We have not yet identified flu activity among the Israeli populace." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297815> **[This should tell you something folks! The vast majority of their positive PCR tests were probably from the regular flu. The Sars virus is real but its prevalence and deadliness is nothing like it has been portrayed. Every year there are many that die from the Flu around the world because of respiratory illness. In the US there has been no reported flu either. – rdb]**

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**03/02/2021 NEWS AM**

**Israel's Gorgeous Mountains!**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oK2YdbJJrs4**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oK2YdbJJrs4)

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| **"The goal of the “liberals” -- as it emerges from the record of the past decades -- was to smuggle the country into welfare statism by means of single, concrete, specific measures, enlarging the power of the government a step at a time. Never permitting their direction to be summed up into principles, never permitting their direction to be identified or the basic issue to be named. Thus, statism was to come, not by vote or by violence, but by slow rot—by a long process of evasion and epistemological corruption, leading to a fait accompli. (The goal of the “conservative” was only to retard that process.)" -- Ayn Rand [Alisa Zinov'yevna Rosenbaum] (1905-1982) Russian-American novelist, philosopher, playwright, and screenwriter** |

**Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!**

**That is the only hope for this nation!**

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for TR – abnormal Mammogram having double biopsy – Positive for cancer**  **Pray for ZH - having trouble with PTSD**  **Pray for LAC – recurrent cancer getting treatment**  **Pray for Ella – emotionally disturbed abused child and brother with ? heart problem**  **Pray for JN – Neuro disease**  **Pray for MS – Job issues and change**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for Felicia – post op problems – continuing**  **Pray for SH and family – lady’s husband passed away and she is in Nursing home. Not doing well.**  **Pray for MP – Very complex problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 19:36And the two daughters of Lot conceive from their father, 37and the first-born beareth a son, and calleth his name Moab; he *is* father of Moab unto this day; 38as to the younger, she also hath born a son, and calleth his name Ben-Ammi: he *is* father of the Beni-Ammon unto this day.**

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| **ETBPF has a new venue called Discord. It is a private web site where we are posting news and the daily news posting and you can respond with posts if you want. This ‘app’ can be used almost like facebook and twitter but without the intervention. We are just starting it and a bit slow to learn how to use it but it helps keep us off the Big Guys. It is a freebee and private. We have set levels of access to make sure only real responsible people are able to access. You can look at and join by going to:** [**https://discord.gg/4576x47ezN**](https://discord.gg/4576x47ezN) |

**Israel in talks with Saudi, UAE, Bahrain for defense alliance against Iran**

***Following op-ed by Ronald Lauder in Saudi paper, PMO says its 'not confirming report, but we are always interested in upgrading ties with our Middle East partners.'***

*By* [*LAHAV HARKOV*](https://www.jpost.com/author/lahav-harkov) *MARCH 1, 2021 19:59*

**Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain discussed expanding cooperation in facing its common enemies, an Israeli official with knowledge of the matter said on Monday.The matter is being “informally discussed,” the source said, pointing** out that the countries are American allies. All four view a nuclear Iran as a major threat, and have been eyeing the Biden administration’s plan to rejoin the 2015 [nuclear deal](https://www.jpost.com/tags/iran-deal) with concern.

**“There is much to be gained by expanding cooperation,” the source** said.

The remarks **came following an article by World Jewish Congress President Ron Lauder in Arab News calling for a “NATO of the Middle East**.” [Saudi Arabia](https://www.jpost.com/tags/saudi-arabia) does not have a free press, and Arab News is owned by Prince Turki bin Salman Al Saud, a son of King Salman and brother of Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, and is seen as reflecting the Saudi government’s official views.

**Lauder wrote that his contacts in Arab states viewed Israel as the only reliable ally against Iran, and vice-versa. He said they are “contemplating, aghast, the West’s inability to halt these belligerent, dangerous developments**” of Iran resuming uranium enrichment and limiting International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors’ access to nuclear sites.

“Facing the accelerating threat of a malevolent Iran and the weakness of a coronavirus-hit world, the path toward self-reliance seems also to be the only path forward,” Lauder wrote. “Israelis and Arabs should seize the opportunity to work together to save the Middle East from the looming catastrophe of extremism and nuclearization.”

**Last week, i24 News reported that Israel is in talks with the three Gulf states about a defense al**liance.

The Prime Minister’s Office said it is “not confirming the report, but we are always interested in upgrading ties with our Middle East partners.”

**One early indicator of a possible defense alliance is that Israel did not object to the US selling F-35 fighter jets to the UAE, after the countries normalized ties as part of the Abraham Accords last y**ear. Under US law, Washington must make sure its weapons sales in the Middle East do not threaten Israel’s qualitative military edge in the region; following meetings between Defense Minister Benny Gantz and his US counterpart at the time, Jerusalem gave the green light to sell the planes to Abu Dhabi.

**Israel still does not have official ties with Saudi Arabia**. Israel grew closer with the three Gulf states with which it is discussing further security cooperation in the aftermath of the 2015 deal between world powers and Iran, which they felt does not prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon once the agreement expires.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and MBS, as the Saudi crown prince is known, secretly met in Neom, a planned futuristic-Saudi city on the Red Sea, in November of last year.

Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi spoke with Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi on Monday.

“Views were exchanged on a number of issues of common interest, as well as the importance of supporting all efforts aimed at achieving peace and stability in the region,” Ashkenazi said. “We agreed to maintain our direct channel of communication and to further enhance cooperation.”

The Omani Foreign Ministry readout said Albusaidi also spoke to Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Riad al-Malki, in addition to Ashkenazi. The statement said Albusaidi confirmed "the Omani position in support of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East through direct negotiations and a two-state solution with the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

Israel does not have official diplomatic relations with Oman, but Netanyahu led a delegation to the country in 2018. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/israel-saudi-arabia-uae-bahrain-talking-defense-alliance-660588> **[Remember when you are reading Ezekiel and the account of Gog Magog there is no mention of the nations in the immediate vicinity of Israel such as Saudi, Jordan, UAE etc. – rdb]**

**‘A shared mission’: Israel officially receives first-ever UAE ambassador**

***Mohammad Mahmoud Al Khajah visits Jerusalem, meets with President Rivlin and FM Ashkenazi; is set to sit down with Netanyahu and scout out site for embassy***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 6:23 pm*

**President Reuven Rivlin on Monday formally received the first-ever ambassador to Israel from the United Arab Emirates, following last year’s historic agreement between the countries to normalize t**ies.

**UAE envoy Mohamed Mahmoud Al Khajah, who arrived in Israel earlier Monday, delivered his credentials to Rivlin at a ceremony in Jerusalem where he was greeted with a musical reception and a red** carpet.

Rivlin welcomed Al Khajah in Arabic before continuing his remarks in Hebrew.

“This is a moving ceremony for me, as president of Israel,” Rivlin said, adding that it was personally emotional for him in light of his late father’s love of Arabic and translation of the Quran into Hebrew.

Ties between Israel and the Emirates had developed quietly over a long time, said Rivlin. “We believed that if we waited patiently, the right time would come in which we would be able to take our ties a step forward. To deepen the friendship between us. To make it public.”

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| ***[The UAE's first ambassador to Israel, Mohammad Mahmoud Al Khajah, presents his credentials to President Reuven Rivlin in Jerusalem on March 1, 2021. (Mark Neyman/GPO)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/WhatsApp-Image-2021-03-01-at-17.00.57-e1614611243580.jpeg)***  ***The UAE's first ambassador to Israel, Mohammad Mahmoud Al Khajah, presents his credentials to President Reuven Rivlin in Jerusalem on March 1, 2021. (Mark Neyman/GPO)*** | ***The UAE’s first ambassador to Israel, Mohammad Mahmoud Al Khajah (R), after presenting his credentials to President Reuven Rivlin in Jerusalem on March 1, 2021. (Mark Neyman/GPO)*** |

**The UAE was the first country to agree to establish full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state** under the Abraham Accords, a pact brokered by former US president Donald Trump.

**Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan have subsequently joined the Abraham A**ccords.

The agreements broke with longstanding Arab consensus that there should be no normalization with Israel until it reaches a comprehensive peace deal with the Palestinians.

**“Our countries have a shared ethos: a small country committed to turning arid land into a flourishing garden, against all the odds,” R**ivlin said at Monday’s ceremony.

Rivlin said it was “a terrific day, in which the Emirati flag flies alongside the Israeli flag over the President’s Residence in Jerusalem.”

“The entire Israeli nation is moved and welcomes you, gladly,” he added.

**“Leaders sign deals, but real peace, lasting peace — [that] peace is made ‘people to people,’ face to face**,” said Rivlin, wishing Al Khaja success in his new diplomatic role.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/WhatsApp-Image-2021-03-01-at-17.00.56.jpeg)

***The UAE’s first ambassador to Israel, Mohammad Mahmoud Al Khajah, arrives to presents his credentials to President Reuven Rivlin in Jerusalem on March 1, 2021. (Mark Neyman/GPO)***

**Al Khajah said that he would work to tighten relations between Jerusalem and Abu Dhabi and to increase ties in culture, business and educatio**n.

“Our two countries have the largest and most important economies in the region,” he said.

“I will make every effort to make these relations ever tighten, to close the gap between the two countries and their people,” he added, noting that Israel and the UAE have collaborated in fighting COVID-19.

 “The vision which begins today is one which seeks a more flourishing, more stable future,” Al Khajah said. By partnering with Israel, the United Arab Emirates is offering “a new civilizational approach” that aims “to open the door to new opportunities.”

**Al Khajah said, “The two nations have a shared mission: to establish peace and security throughout the reg**ion.”

***Mohammad Mahmoud Al Khajah, the UAE’s first ambassador to Israel (Twitter)***

**The ambassador arrived to Israel in a private jet and, in keeping with Israel’s Health Ministry policy, immediately underwent a coronavirus t**est, Hebrew-language media reported.

**Al Khajah will spend several days in the country, during which he will reportedly meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other senior officials,** as well as scout out suitable locations for the embassy and his home.

**Earlier Monday, he met in Jerusalem with Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkena**zi, who wished him success in his “historic mission.”

Noting the historic nature of his appointment, Al Khajah said he was “very proud and honored to be the first Emirati ambassador to the State of Israel.” “My mission here is to foster and develop this relationship,” he added. “We hope this will bring peace and prosperity to the people of the Middle East.”

**Ashkenazi said the two countries have “an historic opportunity to present a model of a warm and comprehensive peace between countries and nation**s. The opening of Foreign Ministry missions in Abu Dhabi and Dubai and the opening of the Emirates’ Embassy in Israel are critical to establishing bilateral relations and promoting peace.”

**Israel opened its UAE embassy in January, with veteran diplomat Eitan Naeh** heading the Abu Dhabi mission.

“I am happy to see the rapid warming of relations between the countries, and the realization of the vision of peace between cultures and peoples,” Ahkenazi added.



***Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi (R) meets with Emirati Ambassador to Israel Mohammad Mahmoud Al Khajah on March 1, 2021 (Foreign Ministry)***

**Following the meeting, Al Khajah tweeted that he had arrived in Tel Aviv and spoken with Ashkenazi on “growing bilateral relation**s,” as well as on enhancing cooperation in various fields.

**Al Khajah has opened a** [**Twitter account**](https://twitter.com/AmbAlKhaja) **that posts messages in both English and Hebrew. So far he has gained nearly 30,000 followers**. The UAE embassy to Israel also already has a [Twitter account](https://twitter.com/UAEinIsrael), opened this month.

I arrived today in Tel Aviv as the first UAE Ambassador to the State of Israel and met with HE [@Gabi\_Ashkenazi](https://twitter.com/Gabi_Ashkenazi?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw), Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, to discuss growing bilateral relations since the signing of the Abraham Accords, as well as enhancing cooperation in various fields [pic.twitter.com/JcsWqQ4ht7](https://t.co/JcsWqQ4ht7)

— Mohamed Al Khaja (@AmbAlKhaja) [March 1, 2021](https://twitter.com/AmbAlKhaja/status/1366354810820300804?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Although the exchange of embassies has progressed, a visa waiver agreement for travelers between Israel and the UAE has been held up due to the coronavirus pande**mic.

Earlier this month, Netanyahu postponed what would have been his first official visit to the UAE since the establishment of official diplomatic relations, and no future date has yet been announced. The Prime Minister’s Office said at the time that the decision to postpone the trip indefinitely was made due to the closing down of air travel to and from Israel, as part of a national lockdown aimed at preventing coronavirus infections arriving from abroad. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/a-shared-mission-israel-officially-receives-first-ever-uae-ambassador/> **[This may seem a bit overdone to some but this is actually a huge step in the Middle Eastern relationship process. Having gone from the 3 NO’s of Khartoum for so many years to this is very dramatic. -RDB]**

**High Court recognizes Reform, Conservative conversions carried out in Israel**

***Judges say converts through non-Orthodox denominations in Israel must be considered Jews for citizenship purposes; chief rabbis fume; Orthodox parties vow law to overturn ruling***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:51 pm*

**The High Court of Justice ruled Monday that people who convert to Judaism in Israel through the Reform and Conservative movements must be recognized as Jews for the purpose of the Law of Return, and are thus entitled to Israeli citizenship**.

**The bombshell decision, which shatters the longstanding Orthodox monopoly on officially recognized conversions in Israel, was the culmination of an appeal process that began more than 15 years ag**o, involving 12 people in the country who converted to Judaism through non-Orthodox denominations. The justices specified that they had previously withheld issuing a ruling to allow the state to handle the matter, but the state had failed to do so.

**Most of the petitions were launched in 2005, Chief Justice Esther Hayut noted, and the court repeatedly postponed a ruling to enable legislation**.

**“We refrained from issuing a ruling in order to allow the state to advance legislation on the issue,” wrote Justice Dafna Barak-Erez. But since people’s “rights hang in the balance” and no such legislation is advancing, the court decided to issue its rul**ing.

**The ruling was 8-1, with Justice Noam Sohlberg dissenting. Sohlberg said that while he agreed with “the legal conclusion of the verdict,” more time should be granted for the government to pass legislat**ion on the issue.

**The decision was denounced by right-wing religious politicians, who vowed to advance legislation in the next parliament to overturn it, and by the chief rabbis of Israel**.

**“What the Reform and Conservatives call ‘conversion’ is nothing but a forgery of Judaism,”** Chief Sephardic Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef said in a statement, calling on lawmakers to work for a “quick” legislative fix.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2020/03/F190721NRF05-e1584033051974.jpg)

***Israel’s Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi David Lau (Noam Revkin Fenton/Flash90)***

**Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi David Lau claimed those who undergo Reform or Conservative conversions “are not Jews**.” **“No High Court decision will change this fact,**” he was quoted as saying by the Kan public broadcaster.

**Lau added: “The court is approving the flooding of the State of Israel with immigrants who have nothing to do with Judaism. How is the State of Israel the Jewish state if every gentile can become a citi**zen?”

**Interior Minister Aryeh Deri, who heads the ultra-Orthodox Shas party, said the High Court’s decision constitutes “a mortal blow to the Jewish character of the stat**e” and the “complete demolition of the status quo [on religious affairs in Israel] that has been upheld for over 70 years.”

**Shas said that the ruling underlines the court’s disconnection from the majority of the Israeli peop**le, “who want to maintain the Jewish state and preserve Judaism according to traditions that go back thousands of years.”

**The party vowed to initiate legislation to overturn the court’s ruling** and to support legislation that will prevent the court from intervening in such matters in the future.

The heads of the fellow ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism party denounced the ruling as “disastrous for the significance of the term ‘Jewish state.'**” Housing Minister Yaakov Litzman and UTJ MK Moshe Gafni said that they would demand the advancement of a so-called override clause, allowing the Knesset to overturn High Court rulings, as a condition for joining a coalition after the March 23 elections**.

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office declined to comment** on the ruling, though members of his Likud party, which is closely allied with Shas and UTJ, denounced it.

**“The High Court decision is scandalous! It will bring disaster upon us,” coalition whip Miki Zoha**r tweeted.

Zohar also claimed: “Anyone around the world can go to a Reform rabbi and receive permission to immigrate to Israel within 30 days. It’s clear that in a short time, Israel will no longer be Jewish or democratic.”

**Monday’s ruling only applies to conversions in Israel. A previous court decision forced the state to recognize non-Orthodox conversions abroad for purposes of immigration, but not those performed in the country**.

**MK Naftali Bennett’s Yamina party castigated the High Court, accusing it of “intervening in government decisions and forgetting its r**ole.”

The State of Israel’s stance on conversion to Judaism, said the Orthodox nationalist party, “will be determined by the democratically elected representatives of the people, not by jurists.”

It also said it would advance legislation on the issue based on a framework devised by former justice minister Moshe Nissim.

**Secularist politicians, meanwhile, hailed the court rulin**g.

**“Israel must have complete equality of rights for all streams of Judaism – Orthodox, Reform or Conservative,” said Opposition Leader Yair Lapi**d, who heads the Yesh Atid party. “We all need to live here together with tolerance and mutual respect.”

“A sane government will put an end to the ridiculous situation whereby Israel is the only democracy in the world without freedom of religion for Jews.”

**Yisrael Beytenu leader Avigdor Liberman called the decision “histori**c.”

He said his party would “continue to battle religious coercion and to preserve the State of Israel’s character as a Jewish, Zionist and liberal state.”

The latest ruling follows a 2016 High Court decision ordering the state to recognize private conversions to Orthodox Judaism that are conducted outside the framework of the Chief Rabbinate. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israels-top-court-recognizes-reform-conservative-conversions/> **[You will hear much more about this situation because it will not ever be put to rest. This could well grow into a major issue for the upcoming election and I am sure there will be legislation to change the ability of the court to make such decisions. The issue of whether a person is considered Jewish is made by a Beit Den, a Jewish court, not a civil court. While there are Beit Den’s in Reformed and Conservative Judaism they are not recognized by the Orthodox group as legitimate. The Supreme court acted on the status of Reformed and Conservative converts from outside the confines of Israel some time ago which was also a major political issue because of the relationship with American and European Jewry, but this is a different matter. The fires will be burning on this one for a long time. – rdb]**

**Health Ministry said pushing for delay in easing virus restrictions**

***Nevertheless, Netanyahu and health minister reportedly reach deal behind education minister’s back on reopening grades 7-10 next week***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:02 pm*

***[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/F210301MA07-e1614610357968.jpg)***

***Israelis shop at the Carmel Market in Tel Aviv, on March 1, 2021. (Miriam Alster/Flash90)***

**The Health Ministry was pushing to delay a further rollback of coronavirus restrictions planned for next week, as ministers convened Monday to discuss reopening grades 7-10 in some areas and removing entry restrictions at Ben Gurion** Airport.

**The ministry’s position, which officials were set to present during the cabinet meeting, was due to concerns over the rise in the transmission rate, according to the Haaretz daily**. The figure, which represents the number of new COVID-19 cases from each infection, reached 1 in the morning, with any number above that meaning the spread of the virus is accelerating.

**Health Ministry officials were also reportedly wary of a swift rise in new cases due to illicit mass gathering**s over the Purim holiday.

“The previous decline [in infections] has halted,” a ministry source was quoted as saying by the newspaper. “We already saw the changing trend before Purim. This means that morbidity is beginning to rise.”

**The source said an increase in infections was expected after the lifting of some restrictio**ns on commerce and schools, but “the question is how far it will go.”

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***Young people dressed up in costumes during the Jewish holiday of Purim, dance at a street party in the neighborhood of Nahlaot in Jerusalem on February 28, 2021 (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)***

**The next stage of the government’s reopening plan, scheduled for around March 7, includes allowing students in grades 7-10 to return to school in low-infection ar**eas, reopening restaurants and cafes, permitting hotels and event venues to open in accordance with Health Ministry guidelines, and easing limitations on gatherings.

**Despite advocating for pushing off easing restrictions on businesses and gatherings, the Health Ministry backed further reopening schools next week, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Health Minister Yuli Edelstein agreeing students would go back to the classroom on March 7**, Hebrew media reports said.

**The agreement was reached without consulting Education Minister Yoav Gallant**, according to the reports. Gallant, a member of Netanyahu’s Likud party, has been pushing for grades 7-10 to reopen Wednesday and was expected to tussle with other ministers on the issue during the cabinet meeting.

Netanyahu had indicated Sunday [he wanted schools to reopen](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-says-all-students-to-return-to-class-in-low-infection-areas/) in the coming days, but Channel 12 news reported he was persuaded by health officials to postpone the reopening until next week

**Speaking at the start of the cabinet meeting, Netanyahu condemned illegal parties a**nd gatherings that had taken place during Purim, calling the violations “intolerable.” Major street parties were held in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and around the country.

The prime minister also said he was seeking to reopen more schools in areas with high vaccination rates, according to leaks from the meeting.

**Defense Minister Benny Gantz, meanwhile, called for allowing all Israelis unable to return from abroad due to the closure of Ben Gurion Airport back into the cou**ntry.

“There is no prohibition in other countries on citizens returning to their countries,” he said.

**Transportation Minister Miri Regev was expected to present a plan to the cabinet whereby all Israelis abroad would be permitted to return to Israel to vote in** the March 23 elections.

**Regev said Sunday that entry will be granted without requiring the permission of the controversial permits com**mittee, which a television report last week claimed was giving preferential treatment to requests by Haredim. This led opposition politicians to accused Netanyahu of using the committee to allow only potential right-wing voters to arrive in the country ahead of the March 23 elections. Netanyahu and Regev have strongly denied those claims.

Israel’s land and air gateways have been largely closed since January 25, with Ben Gurion Airport shuttered for all but a few special flights by Israeli and some foreign airlines to bring back citizens stranded abroad, leaving thousands unable to return. Entrance into the country requires special permission by the government that is granted on a case-by-case basis ahead of a flight. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/health-ministry-said-pushing-for-delay-in-easing-virus-restrictions/> **Tis a pity that The Holy Land has had what I would consider a fiasco at the management of this PCR outbreak and it would have been better had the not listened to WHO and others who seem intent on destroying countries. – rdb]**

**Top health official: Election fever driving government’s pandemic decisions**

***Despite successful vaccination campaign, Chezy Levy says fourth lockdown possible if virus cases continue to rise***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:14 am*

**A senior Health Ministry official on Tuesday suggested the government’s latest decisions to lift coronavirus-related restrictions were influenced by the upcoming election later this month**.

**“We all assess that all these discussions are influenced and tainted by the panic over elections and are affected by it,” Health Ministry Director General Chezy Levy told Radio 103FM in an i**nterview.

Israel heads to elections on March 23, its fourth in two years.

Levy’s comments came after the government late Monday decided [to press ahead](https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministers-vote-to-reopen-grades-7-10-continue-easing-restrictions-sunday/) with its plan to ease more restrictions next week, despite widespread violations of the rules over the weekend’s Purim holiday and an increase in the virus transmission rate. The Health Ministry had reportedly sought to delay these moves.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “had been very cautious, he didn’t want to open [the economy],” said Levy. “For weeks, he said he supports the views of the experts and is opposed to [Blue and White party head Benny] Gantz’s position in favor of opening. Now he joined him.”

Previous cabinet meetings were reportedly marked by shouting matches between Netanyahu and Gantz, who pushed for lifting the restrictions faster.

**Levy opined that ministers were driven by political “agendas**.”

In his radio interview, Levy also declared that a fourth nationwide lockdown was possible, despite the country’s world-leading vaccination campaign.

“A fourth lockdown… or various restrictions are not off the table,” he said, as the government moved to ease the rules of the third lockdown.

Despite a slight rise in coronavirus infections, ministers on Monday backed sticking to a plan to gradually reopen the economy, which will see restaurants and hotels open their doors to the vaccinated next week. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/top-health-official-election-fever-driving-governments-pandemic-decisions/>

**Israel performs first heart accessory implant surgery in the world**

***Usually, when a cardiac aid is implanted, it is done through open heart surgery. But Israeli doctors managed to implant one under the skin of the patient, effectively saving her life.***

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff)   MARCH 1, 2021 18:35

**The first cardiac accessory implant surgery in the world was performed Monday at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva, highlighting a major medical technological advancement in the field of cardiac healthcare**.

**In this case, a patient required a cardiac aid, but this time, rather than being implanted using open heart surgery as is usually the case, the implant was simply inserted beneath the** skin.

The 65-year-old patient had entered surgery to replace a faulty and infected valve when she had suffered [heart](https://www.jpost.com/health-science/yale-hospital-is-first-to-use-israeli-made-ai-to-combat-critical-pe-cases-660528) failure.

Emergency intervention was needed to save her life.

At the prompt decision of Dr. Yaron Barak, director of the Heart and Lung Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support Programs at the Division of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery at Beilinson, the [medical team](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/antiparasitic-drug-reduces-covid-19-infection-exclusive-658949) proceeded to perform a surgery that included attaching the patient to a valve implant via a subcutaneous — or beneath the skin — approach, unlike the more common procedure involving open heart surgery to hide the device.

In this procedure, the patient remains fully conscious, mobile and able to perform daily tasks during the recovery process.

Following the procedure, only a brief rehabilitation process was required and the patient was released home.

The procedure was completed without a hitch. Such treatment could open a whole new world of treatment for more complicated cases. <https://www.jpost.com/health-science/first-ever-heart-accessory-implant-surgery-performed-at-beilinson-hospital-660580>

**Former French president Sarkozy convicted of corruption, jailed for a year**

***66-year-old politician found guilty of illegally obtaining information from magistrate; faces another trial for illegal financing of 2012 campaign***

*By* [*Sylvie Corbet*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/sylvie-corbet/) *Today, 4:03 pm*

**PARIS (AP) — A Paris court on Monday found French former President Nicolas Sarkozy guilty of corruption and influence-peddling and sentenced him to one year in prison and a two-year suspended sentence**.

**The 66-year-old politician, who was president from 2007 to 2012, was convicted for having tried to illegally obtain information from a senior magistrate in 2014 about a legal action in which he was invol**ved.

**The court said Sarkozy will be entitled to request to be detained at home with an electronic brac**elet.

**Sarkozy will face another trial later this month along with 13 other people on charges of illegal financing of his 2012 presidential campaign**.

**This is the first time in France’s modern history that a former president has gone on trial for corruptio**n. Sarkozy’s predecessor, Jacques Chirac, was found guilty in 2011 of misuse of public money and given a two-year suspended prison sentence for actions during his time as Paris mayor.

**Sarkozy’s co-defendants — his lawyer and longtime friend Thierry Herzog, 65, and now-retired magistrate Gilbert Azibert, 74 — also deny wrongdo**ing.

Prosecutors have requested two years of prison and a two-year suspended sentence for all three defendants over what they said was a “corruption pact.”

“No pact has ever existed,” Sarkozy told the court. “Neither in my head nor in reality.”

“I want to be cleared of that infamy,” he added.

**The trial focused on phone conversations that took place in February 2014**.

At the time, investigative judges had launched an inquiry into the financing of the 2007 presidential campaign. During the investigation, they incidentally discovered that Sarkozy and Herzog were communicating via secret mobile phones registered to the alias “Paul Bismuth.”

**Conversations wiretapped on these phones led prosecutors to suspect Sarkozy and Herzog of promising Azibert a job in Monaco in exchange for leaking information about another legal ca**se, known by the name of France’s richest woman, L’Oreal heiress Liliane Bettencourt.

In one of these phone calls with Herzog, Sarkozy said of Azibert: “I’ll make him move up … I’ll help him.”

In another, Herzog reminded Sarkozy to “say a word” for Azibert during a trip to Monaco.

Legal proceedings against Sarkozy have been dropped in the Bettencourt case. Azibert never got the Monaco job.

**Prosecutors have concluded, however, that the “clearly stated promise” constitutes in itself a corruption offense under French law**, even if the promise wasn’t fulfilled.

Sarkozy vigorously denies any malicious intention.

He told the court that his political life was all about “giving (people) a little help. That all it is, a little help.”

**MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/former-french-president-sarkozy-convicted-of-corruption-jailed-for-a-year/>

**Israel sentences senior PFLP member to two years in prison**

***Palestinian lawmaker Khalida Jarrar pleads guilty to membership in terror group, in deal that will see her serve another eight months after being held in detention for over a year***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 10:57 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2016/06/000_BH43A-e1464962216372.jpg)

***Prominent Palestinian lawmaker Khalida Jarrar greets speaks to reporters in her hometown, the West Bank city of Ramallah, following her release from an Israeli jail on June 3, 2016. (Abbas Momani/AFP/File)***

**Khalida Jarrar, a senior member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), was sentenced on Monday to two years in prison after being held in an Israeli jail for more than a year without charges, the Israeli military said on Sunday**.

“**The Judea Military Court convicted Khalida Jarrar, by her own confession, of the offense of holding office in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine from 2016 until her arrest in 2019,” the army said in a statement.**

Jarrar received two years in jail as part of a plea bargain. As she was first detained over a year ago, however, she will only serve about eight months of her sentence. She will also have to pay a NIS 4,000 ($1,210) fine.

Israel, the United States, and the European Union consider the PFLP, one of several member parties of the Palestine **Liberation Organization, to be a terrorist organization**.

The PFLP’s armed wing, the Abu Ali Mustapha Brigades, committed suicide bombings against Israeli soldiers and civilians during the Second Intifada, and has continued to sporadically attack Israelis since.

Jarrar was elected in 2006 to the Palestinian legislature as a PFLP representative. She has long been a well-known PFLP politician, focusing on women’s rights and the affairs of prisoners in Israeli jails.

**MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-sentences-senior-pflp-member-to-two-years-in-prison/>

**Europeans to push for Iran censure at UN nuclear watchdog meeting**

***Proposed resolution could derail temporary agreement that International Atomic Energy Agency reached with Tehran to mitigate loss of some inspections***

*By* [*Anne BEADE*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/anne-beade/) *and* [*Jastinder KHERA*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jastinder-khera/) *Today, 10:37 pm*

**VIENNA, Austria (AFP) — The three European members of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal will put forward a resolution condemning Iran’s suspension of some inspections by the UN nuclear watchdog, diplomatic sources said Mo**nday.

**France, Germany, and the UK will propose it during this week’s meeting of the UN nuclear watchdog’s board of governors, a delicate moment for diplomacy on the Iranian nuclea**r issue.

**US President Joe Biden has said that he is willing to bring the United States back to the landmark 2015 deal between Tehran** and major powers on its nuclear program. It has been unraveling since his predecessor Donald Trump pulled the US out of the agreement in 2018.

**But the proposed resolution could derail the temporary agreement that International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi hammered out with Iran to mitigate what he calls the “huge loss” of some IAEA** inspections.

A document circulated by the Iranian mission in Vienna and seen by AFP said the introduction of a critical resolution would effectively end the temporary agreement with the IAEA.

Under that three-month arrangement, which went into force on February 23, Iran has pledged to keep recordings “of some activities and monitoring equipment” and hand them over to the IAEA as and when US sanctions are lifted.

***Russian opposition***

**Sources say the European resolution is expected to come to a vote on Friday, and that it is backed by the United States**.

A version of the text seen by AFP “expresses serious concern at Iran’s decision to stop implementing” some inspections-related commitments and “urges Iran to immediately resume implementation.”

The prospect of Iran suspending the temporary agreement with the IAEA in retaliation was described by one diplomatic source as “a risk to be taken” to protect “the credibility of the agency” and stand up to Iranian “blackmail.”

***[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/000_93H6Y6-e1613995234660.jpg)Iran’ Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (L) meets with the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi (R), in Tehran on February 21, 2021. (AFP)***

**They were confident that the resolution would be adopted, the source added**.

**Moscow has made clear its opposition to such a resolu**tion.

**Russia’s deputy foreign minister also condemned Washington for US strikes on Iran-backed militias** in eastern Syria last week, saying the move threatened to scupper potential talks.

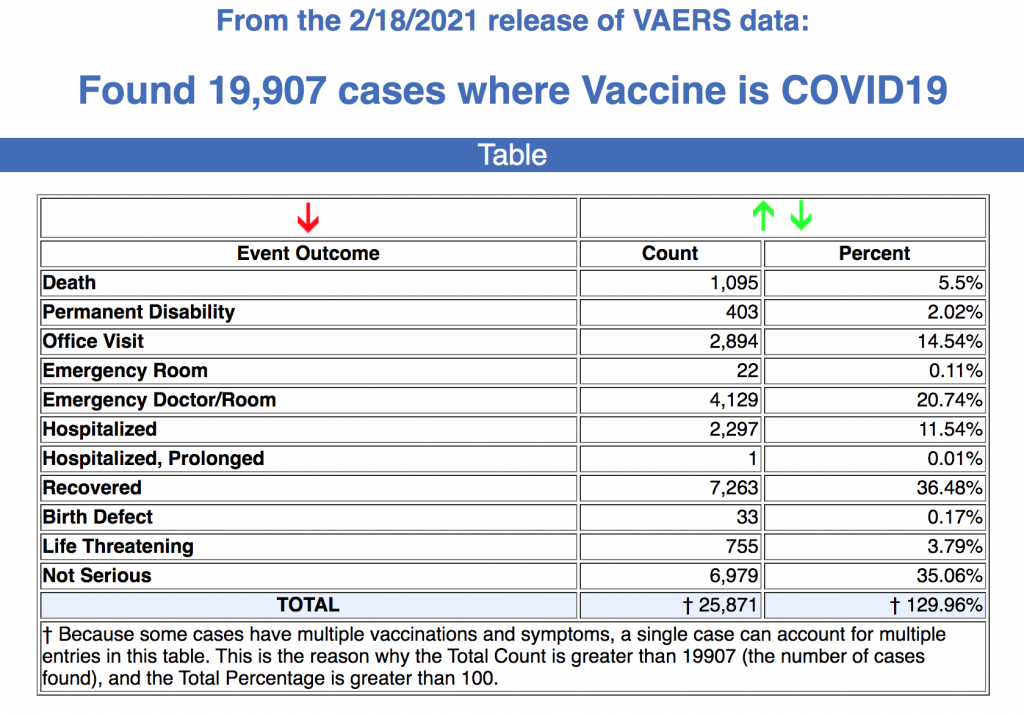
“There is no doubt that influential forces in Washington have taken steps in order to derail this meeting,” Sergei Ryabkov was quoted by Russian state news agency TASS as saying.

**MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/europeans-to-push-for-iran-censure-at-un-nuclear-watchdog-meeting/>

**Number of Injuries Reported to CDC After COVID Vaccines Climbs by Nearly 4,000 in One Week**

***Between Dec. 14, 2020, and Feb. 18, 2021, 19,907 reports of adverse events were submitted to VAERS, including 1,095 deaths and 3,767 serious injuries.***

By Children's Health Defense Team

 **The latest data made public by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting Syst**em.

The latest data made public by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) on deaths and injuries reported after COVID vaccines are in line with trends that have been emerging since the first data were released in December.

Between Dec. 14, 2020 and Feb. 18, 2021, 19,907 reports of adverse events have been reported to VAERS, including 1,095 deaths and 3,767 serious injuries.

**About a third of the deaths reported occurred within 48 hours of vaccination, and 48% of the people who died became ill** within 48 hours of being vaccinated.

**MORE -** [*https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/injuries-reported-vaers-climbs/?utm\_source=salsa&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=c490b1d0-2794-435a-8896-d82a74129051*](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/injuries-reported-vaers-climbs/?utm_source=salsa&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=c490b1d0-2794-435a-8896-d82a74129051)

**Fauci deputy agreed to Beijing-approved secrecy pact**

***'Tailored to China's terms'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published March 1, 2021 at 10:39am* ***By Chuck Ross*** *Daily Caller News Foundation*

**Anthony Fauci’s deputy was required to sign a confidentiality agreement “tailored to China’s terms” before joining a World Health Organization team in China early last year to collect data about the novel coronavi**rus, according to an email obtained by the Daily Caller News Foundation.

**A WHO technical officer informed Dr. Cliff Lane, the Fauci deputy, would have to sign a confidentiality form and a disclosure of interest approved by Chinese authoriti**es, according to a Feb. 15, 2020, email.

**“The forms this time are tailored to China’s terms so we cannot use the ones from before,” Mansuk Daniel Han, a technical officer at WHO’s headquarters in Switzerland, wrote to Lan**e, who serves as deputy director for clinical research at the National Institutes for Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Han asked Lane to complete a DOI, or disclosure of interest, along with the confidentiality form.

The DCNF obtained the email through a Freedom of Information Act [lawsuit](https://dailycaller.com/2020/10/23/judicial-watch-daily-caller-news-foundation-china-who-fauci-coronavirus/) (FOIA) filed on its behalf by Judicial Watch, the conservative watchdog group. The DCNF’s FOIA request sought Fauci and Lane’s emails referencing the World Health Organization and China.

“These new emails show WHO and Fauci’s [National Institutes of Health] gave special accommodations to Chinese communist efforts to control information about COVID-19,” Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said in a statement.

It is not clear what restrictions Beijing included in its confidentiality forms. They were not included in the emails turned over by the government to Judicial Watch and the DCNF.

The WHO did not respond to a request for comment.

**The Chinese government has maintained a tight grip on scientists both inside and outside Chin**a studying the virus.

**Chinese officials have been accused of silencing** [**doctors**](https://dailycaller.com/2020/04/04/lost-credibility-who-mounting-backlash-china-coronavirus/)**,** [**whistleblowers**](https://dailycaller.com/2020/04/10/china-censorship-coronavirus-fcc-brendan-carr/) **and** [**journalists**](https://dailycaller.com/2020/04/01/china-missing-journalists-fang-bin-chen-quishi-li-zehua/) **who tried to alert the public about the virus in December 20**19.

Beijing also delayed a World Health Organization team that visited Wuhan last month to investigate the origins of the virus. On Jan. 4, WHO director general [Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus](https://dailycaller.com/2021/01/05/tedros-adhanom-ghebreyesus-china/) called the setback “disappointing.”

The team was able to visit Wuhan last month, but [some scientists on the mission](https://dailycaller.com/2021/02/21/jake-sullivan-china-wuhan-world-health-organization/) said Chinese authorities had refused to turn over raw data on early coronavirus patients in Wuhan.

China’s delay tactics earned a stern rebuke from the Biden administration, which called on authorities to turn over the raw data.

“They’re about to come out with a report about the origins of the pandemic in Wuhan, China, that we have questions about because we do not believe that China has made available sufficient original data into how this pandemic began to spread both in China and then eventually around the world,” National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said of the WHO during a Feb. 21 interview. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/fauci-deputy-agreed-beijing-approved-secrecy-pact/> **[If you took the time to listen to the attorney and their interrogation process of the Norwegian lady who had worked for the WHO which was in the second video link you would see that this is the ‘standard’ for the WHO as well as for Gates and a number of others who seem related to the globalist UN process. They all have strict indemnification clauses with severe restraints on your ability to access any and all information which you may perceive as needed for your investigation or work, should they decide they don’t want you to see it. There is absolutely no transparency in any of these groups and those calling the shots are exempt from any type of real investigation. In the ladies testimony before the attorney is was most interesting to find out the Gates HIMSELF requested the WHO to declare HIM (an INDIVIDUAL) as a member state to the WHO so he could call all the shots since he is one of the big donors. This entire process has gone too far and after watching those two videos it should be apparent that most of this entire situation is a total fraud which was instigated by a group probably for very nefarious purposes and the promotion of their personal power and financial well being at the expense of the citizens of the world. This is international globalism (read that communism or dictatorship) at its worst. – rdb]**

**Sidney Powell: 'More than enough evidence' to reverse election results in at least 5 states**

***'There were counterfeit ballots'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published March 1, 2021 at 3:37pm*

**As if to put an exclamation point on a decision by the majority of the court to refuse to act on any allegations of fraud regarding the 2020 presidential race, the Supreme Court on Monday rejected, without comment, a few of the last remaining clai**ms.

[**The court only a week ago**](https://lawandcrime.com/supreme-court/supreme-court-rejects-sidney-powells-election-fraud-petitions-without-further-comment/) **had thrown out several similar cases and this week rejected two mandamus petitions from noted lawyer Sidney Powell, who has alleged a long list of fraudulent activities in the 2020 electi**on.

**She had promised, in the aftermath of the 2020 results that gave the victory to Joe Biden after some highly anomalous circumstances were noted – like dumps of hundreds of thousands of votes for Biden in the middle of the ni**ght after counting had been halted and then restarted – to deliver the "Kraken" lawsuit that would blow up the claims that the tally was legitimate.

Those claims, however, never made it past the decisions by multiple courts to reject her assertions on a wide range of procedural grounds. In fact, she clashed with a conservative talk-show host at one point who challenged her to show the evidence.

**In Powell's cases, In re Tyler Bowyer, et al and In Re William Feehan, the Supreme Court offered no comment, no explanation, no reasoning, stating only, "The petitions for writs of mandamus are d**enied."

The cases had raised questions about the responsibility and rights of presidential electors, and whether they can challenge the results based on fraud and illegality of election actions.

**The results, however, have not shaken Powel''s confidence that the election was t**ainted.

**She said, during an interview on Erskine Radio, on** [**iHeart Radio,**](https://www.iheart.com/podcast/966-erskine-radio-54283773/episode/ltg-michael-flynn-sidney-powell-78148871/) **that the 2020 results come after "a complete breakdown of every institution of law enforcement and rule of law we have trusted in this c**ountry."

**The reality, she charged, is that there is "more than enough evidence in the public now to more than reverse the election in at least five states."**

**The** [**Gateway Pundit reported she said:**](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/02/sidney-powell-live-enough-evidence-public-now-reverse-election-least-5-states-video/) **"There’s all kind of precedent for fixing what happened in this election from Bush vs. Gore to other cases as well… Fractionalized votes. That’s exactly what we have here from a computer algorithm that we can prove in multiple counties and it could prove across the country if anybody would issue an order allowing inspection of the ma**chines.

**"Federal law calls for election records to be kept for 22 months… In this case it requires forensic evaluations of the machines and looking at all of the paper ballots. We already know that’s not going to match up**. There were counterfeit ballots. People were saying, 'Oh, well they did a full audit in Georgia.' Well, if you just keep running the same counterfeit bill through the same counting machine you’re going to get the same result," she said.

**She said she cannot explain how disappointed and upset she is that the courts have not reviewed the cla**ims, the evidence, and made a judgment.

"It's incomprehensible," she said. "There is no rational explanation for not applying the law."

There have been multiple allegations: huge stacks of ballots delivered and counted in the dark of the night, fractional votes that gave more weight to a Biden vote than a Trump vote, falsified ballots, and more.

**Further, what is not even is dispute is that some state officials changed state laws – or told ballot counters to ignore them – in order to count mostly mail-in ballots**, which were weighted heavily toward Biden.

**Those actions were taken in direct opposition to state laws established by state legislatures,** to which the Constitution grants exclusive authority to determine state election requirements.

**Powell explained in the interview there more than 5,000 Americans who signed sworn affidavits as witnesses to election proble**ms.

**And she noted one state already had pulled 177,000 voters off voter rolls, because they were unqualified to be there. The margin of victory for Biden, in that state, she said, was less than that**.

**When Powell's "Kraken" lawsuit, pending at the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, was dropped, she said the actions would mean more if the judges had actually reviewed the facts**. She also is being sued by voting machine company for challenging the accuracy of its operations.

"We have just an extraordinary volume of evidence that you wouldn't even put in the complaint stage of a normal case," she said at the time.

Powell, along with Trump's former national security adviser Lt. Gen Michael Flynn, had her [Twitter account permanently suspended](https://www.wnd.com/2021/01/4883461/), with the social-media giant citing "behavior that has the potential to lead to offline harm."

**Powell served in the Department of Justice for 10 years and for the last 20 years has devoted her private practice to federal appeals. She was the youngest assistant U.S attorney and later becam**e chief of the appellate section for the Western and Northern Districts of Texas.

While her concerns have not been shared by specific judges, or the majority of the high court, three justices there said the fact that such suspicions have appeared in elections is a troubling sign.

**Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch wanted to review last week's cases, and Thomas warned of "catastrophic" consequences** if the court doesn't address the issue of authorities "changing the rules in the middle of the game."

[**University of California at Irvine Professor Rick Hasen on his Election Law Blog**](https://electionlawblog.org/?p=120941) **wrote it's "a ticking time bomb" that the Supreme Court "is going to have to resolv**e."

**Hasen wrote: "So why didn’t the court go further in this case? My guess is that it is either the fact that the case is moot (and the court would rather address the issue in the context of a live case, but with lower stakes) or because the Trump cases are somewhat radioactive at the court**. Given former President Trump’s continued false statements that the election was stolen, the case would become a further vehicle to argue that the election results were illegitimate. It would thrust the court back in the spotlight on an issue the justices showed repeatedly they wanted to avoid.

**"So the bottom line is that the independent state legislature doctrine hangs out there, as a ticking time bomb, waiting to go off in a future case," he** said.

**Thomas said the Pennsylvania cases "provide us with an ideal opportunity to address just what authority non-legislative officials have to set election rules**, and to do so well before the next election cycle."

"The refusal to do so is inexplicable."

He said there's little dispute about the facts:

The Constitution gives to each state legislature authority to determine the 'Manner' of federal elections. … Yet both before and after the 2020 election, nonlegislative officials in various states took it upon themselves to set the rules instead. As a result, we received an unusually high number of petitions and emergency applications contesting those changes. The petitions here present a clear example. The Pennsylvania Legislature established an unambiguous deadline for receiving mail-in ballots: 8 p.m. on election day. Dissatisfied, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court extended that deadline by three days. The court also ordered officials to count ballots received by the new deadline even if there was no evidence—such as a postmark—that the ballots were mailed by election day. That decision to rewrite the rules seems to have affected too few ballots to change the outcome of any federal election. But that may not be the case in the future.

**Alito, joining with Gorsuch in dissent**, [pointed out that lower courts are divided on the issue](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20-542_2c83.pdf#page=12).

"In the cases now before us, a statute enacted by the Pennsylvania Legislature unequivocally requires that mailed ballots be received by 8 p.m. on election day. … Nevertheless, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court … altered that deadline and ordered that mailed ballots be counted if received up to three days *after* the election," he said.

Thomas, [in a separate opinion](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20-542_2c83.pdf), noted that the Constitution gives each state legislature the authority to determine the "manner" of federal elections.

"Yet both before and after the 2020 election, nonlegislative officials in various States took it upon themselves to set the rules instead," he wrote.

"This is not a prescription for confidence. Changing the rules in the middle of the game is bad enough. Such rule changes by officials who may lack authority to do so is even worse. When those changes alter election results, they can severely damage the electoral system on which our self-governance so heavily depends. If state officials have the authority they have claimed, we need to make it clear. If not, we need to put an end to this practice now before the consequences become catastrophic," he said. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/sidney-powell-enough-evidence-reverse-election-results-least-5-states/> **[This is a true travesty of Justice. The Supreme Court has an obligation to deal on matters of constitutionality and this is a huge issue of the constitutional actions of 5 states. It appears to me that there must be some deeply embedded dirt on a number of those in the SCOTUS for their failure to even look at evidence. 5000 signed statements of irregular action along with the request from the AGs of the multiple states should have set them to work. – rdb]**

**Judge to review Psaki's email admitting 'lying' to the media**

**'It's certainly not up to a press secretary to spoon out what they believe we deserve to know'**

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published March 1, 2021 at 8:04pm*

**A court has ordered the federal government to hand over for review an email by Jennifer Psaki regarding secret Obama-Biden administration meetings with Ira**n.

**The order came in a lawsuit by the American Center for Law and Justice, which contends the State Department deleted an embarrassing admission in a 2013 press briefing video that the administration lied about its Iran nego**tiations.

The ruling centers on an email by Psaki, who now is White House secretary, which [the ACLJ claims is evidence that she lied during the briefing, when she was serving as the State Department spokeswoman](https://aclj.org/government-corruption/judge-in-aclj-foia-case-orders-deep-state-to-produce-for-court-review-jen-psaki-email-regarding-secret-obama-biden-admin-meetings-with-iran).

In an exchange about the Obama administration's secret negotiations with Iran, she was asked, "Is it the policy of the State Department, where the preservation or the secrecy of secret negotiations is concerned, to lie in order to achieve that goal?"

**Psaki replied: "I think there are times where diplomacy needs privacy in order to progre**ss. This is a good example of that."

The ACLJ filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit to obtain the email.

"**Despite attempts by the Deep State to try and sweep this one under the rug, the court agreed with our arguments and ordered the Biden State Department to hand over a crucial document for 'in camera' review by the judge himself," the ACL**J said.

The complaint was filed five years ago.

**The ACLJ said it caught the Obama-Biden administration at the time "censoring an official State Department press briefing video to delete an embarrassing admission that the admission lied about its Iran deal negotiat**ions."

**The Obama-Biden team "intentionally manipulated the public video record" by deleting the incriminating portion.**

**The administration first claimed it was a "glitch" but later admitted it was done deliberately.**

Psaki's email, obtained by the ACLJ, has information relevant to the issue, the organization said.

**However, "in typical Deep State fashion, the chain of emails has been so heavily redacted that it is hard to make heads or tails of the conversation, except that the Iran discussion is specifically r**eferenced."

The ACLJ said Psaki "essentially admitted she feels it is justifiable to withhold the truth from the American people – otherwise known as lying – at her own discretion."

"It's rather alarming that Ms. Psaki has authorized herself to determine when she should and should not tell the truth, considering that she now speaks for the White House and President Biden," the ACLJ said.

The Obama-Biden administration "engaged in closed-door negotiations with Iran, the leading state sponsor of terrorism in the world, long before the public knew."

"And then they tried to obscure the facts to cover it up. They lied to the American people about the most critical and controversial diplomatic negotiations in decades."

The American people have a right to know who was involved in the cover-up, the ACLJ said.

"By law we have a right to know if our leader was conducting clandestine meetings with the world’s number one state sponsor of terrorism." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/judge-review-psakis-email-admitting-lying-media/>

**Christians forced to eat pages of the Bible during horrific knife attack**

[*Staff writer*](https://www.christiantoday.com/reporter/staff-writer) *27 February 2021 | 12:09 PM*

**Christians in Venezuela are reeling from a shocking knife attack in which they were forced to eat pages of the Bible and had crosses cut into their skin. The victims, all men, were beaten up by a hooded gang armed with knives and sticks in Venezuela, Open Doors repor**ts.

The men are from a Christian church in Libertador, in Mérida State, western Venezuela.

They were at the House of Restoration, a rehabilitation centre for recovering drug addicts when the attack took place.

"They covered our faces and started to beat and stab us," said one of the victims.

The victims have been discharged from hospital but are recovering in a secret location because of ongoing threats.

Open Doors believes that the attack was perpetuated by 'colectivos' - a collective made up of members from different groups working closely with the regime. **MORE -**<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/christians.forced.to.eat.pages.of.the.bible.during.horrific.knife.attack/136438.htm>

**BUSTED: What an SF Bay Area Teachers' Union President Was Caught Doing Should Have Parents' Blood Boiling**

[*Matt Vespa*](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/) *Posted: Mar 01, 2021 6:00 AM*

**You cannot make this up. Actually, nothing is shocking anymore. What if I were to tell you that a teachers’ union president quarterbacked an effort to keep schools closed, but then was caught dropping his daughter off at an in-person preschool? You’re probably not shocked. We have a class of people who think the rules don’t apply**. It’s infested the political class. It reeks of it on the Hill. And public-sector unions are no different. It should make parents’ blood boil (via [KQED](https://www.kqed.org/news/11862469/after-leading-school-closures-berkeley-teachers-union-president-spotted-dropping-daughter-off-at-in-person-preschool)):

**Parent groups are crying "hypocrisy" after a video surfaced showing the president of the Berkeley teachers union dropping off his two-year-old daughter at an in-person presch**ool.

Matt Meyer, president of the Berkeley Federation of Teachers, has fought for what he called the "gold standard" for the teachers he represents — saying Berkeley schools should only reopen to in-person learning when educators are vaccinated, among other criteria.

A tentative plan between the Berkeley Unified School District and Berkeley Federation of Teachers in mid-February would see preschoolers through second grade returning to class at the end of March and other grades staggering back to in-person learning through April, according to Berkeleyside.

**But some Berkeley parents have claimed that the union is moving too slo**w and are pushing for earlier school reopenings. They have long argued — and the Center For Disease Control and Prevention has agreed — that schools are safe to reopen without vaccinations for all teachers.

Looking to prove a double-standard by the Berkeley Federation of Teachers union president, they followed Meyer and his 2-year-old daughter to her preschool, camera in hand. The footage they captured has ignited the ire of parents groups fighting teachers unions — and Meyer in particular.

Here is the YouTube video. One of the union demands before a return to the classroom was every teacher vaccinated. How long has Matt Meyer’s daughter been attending in-person private school?  
2/3<https://t.co/dCQNK0nUeQ>

— Reopen California Schools (@ReopenCASchools) [February 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/ReopenCASchools/status/1365963005679181829?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Perfect [pic.twitter.com/7mIs3hjkbo](https://t.co/7mIs3hjkbo)

— Guy Benson (@guypbenson) [March 1, 2021](https://twitter.com/guypbenson/status/1366258168460943360?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**This isn’t the first-time teachers, or their unions have been caught acting deplorably as parents deal with the mental health issues at home**. Kids are seeing massive spikes in cases of anxiety and depression. And yes, some are tragically committing suicide. It’s why San Francisco [wants to reopen](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/2021/03/01/xvhttps%3A/townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/2021/02/15/the-other-side-effect-of-covid-has-hit-san-francisco-n2584737). It’s why Clark County, Nevada, is pursuing reopening as quickly as possible; student suicides are on the uptick. Teachers and their unions don’t appear to care. They’re more worried about limiting their ability to comment during board meetings. Yes, that point was captured on a video call with members of [a school board in Oakley](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/2021/02/19/disgusting-hot-mic-moment-rightfully-led-to-a-sf-bay-area-school-board-president-n2584988), which is also in the San Francisco Bay Area. They didn’t know their meeting was being broadcast publicly. It led to mass resignations and rightfully so.  <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/2021/03/01/busted-what-a-sf-bay-area-teachers-union-president-did-should-have-parents-blo-n2585490>

**Commentaries**

**“Useful Idiot” Is a Technical Term***By* [*J.B. Williams*](https://newswithviews.com/author/jbwilliams/)*|March 1st, 2021* Yes, I know we’re not supposed to write or say anything that might offend someone. But let’s face it, everything offends someone today, in a world full of terminally offended people with skin so thin you could read the newspaper through it.  
 Nothing offends people more than the cold hard truth these days. That’s why it’s fatally dangerous to shut down any and all voices of dissent and only allow the echo chamber in your life. Truth is not really in the eye of the beholder. Most truths are self-evident, you know it’s true the minute you hear it or see it, even when you don’t like it.  
 But because carefully crafted and circulated lies are far more popular today, and far more available than any truth, most are drowning in an ocean of lies and are no longer able to tell up from down, much less right from wrong.  
 Everything, every thought, every comment today is couched in RIGHT or LEFT today, as most on both sides of our Deeply Divided States of America, totally ignoring fundamental right from wrong by doing their best to avoid any real truth.  
 The term “useful idiot” applies to many in our country today, far too many, on both sides of the political socio-economic wasteland. It’s a real term with specific meaning, which means, we’re not supposed to use it ever today, because the truth hurts.  
 [**USEFUL IDIOT**](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/useful%20idiot) – *“a naive or credulous person who can be manipulated or exploited to advance a cause or political agenda”*–and based on how easy it was for mere politicians seeking unbridled power over the people, to trick the people into ruining their own lives…committing themselves to voluntary house arrest and making citizens so scared that they are afraid to even drive their own car alone without a worthless mask on…I’d say the term might apply to 90% of Americans now.  
 *“A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within.”* It’s been attributed to Cicero, but honestly, no matter who first said it, they spoke an undeniable truth. The quote goes on to say;  
 *“An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known, and he carries his banners openly against the city. But the traitor moves among those within the gates freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself. For the traitor appears no traitor; he speaks in the accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their garments, and he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He rots the soul of a nation; he works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of a city; he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to be feared.”*  
 Of course, the part left out is that fools, with the power to vote themselves into tyranny, cannot be survived. Useful idiots with an ounce of power, will eventually destroy themselves and everyone around them. This is exactly what makes an idiot useful to tyrants and also why tyrants spend years dumbing down a society until it’s little more than a village full of idiots.  
 The 2020 elections *(using the term “election” loosely)* may prove to be that fatal moment in history when the USA found itself saddled with more useful village idiots than patriots. If you can see, hear, and smell, you know Biden and Harris were never “elected” by any legitimate process and you also know that these two useful idiots are not running anything, even their teleprompter.  
 On the other hand, as the old farmer used to say, *“pigs don’t know that pigs stink.”* In other words, if you are an idiot, you probably can’t smell an idiot, even up close. (Yes, I grew up on a beef farm surrounded by farmer wisdom.)  
 My point is this, Ben Franklin said they created *“a Republic, if you can keep it.”*This was his dire warning, that they had created a form of self-governance to protect freedom, and liberty, that was disposable. It was not something that would last forever unless the people were *“forever vigilant”* in their efforts to uphold and defend the Constitution and Bill of Rights.  
 Without a society capable of and determined to be “free,” what they had created, our Constitutional Republic, would eventually fail. No, as even Nikita Khrushchev knew, it would not fall to any foreign power, but instead, from within. The people themselves would destroy freedom and liberty, either by their ignorance or by their cowardice, or as history will show, a generous dose of both. They would eventually vote themselves back into tyranny…believing the entire time, that they were doing wisely.  
 See, the most dangerous attribute of a useful idiot is they are unteachable. No matter how much evidence there is, or how many times they and their notions have failed throughout history, they still believe they are right and therefore, they dare not even consider the possibility that they could be wrong.  
 We’re not allowed to speak the truth because, YOU are not allowed to know the truth. Get that? And just for the record, if the news hurts, it’s probably true. If it feels good, it’s probably false. Fact-check that!  
 The good news is the idiots will pay the highest price of all for their idiocy. But the bad news is, they will force the rest of us to pay a hefty price for their self-indulgent ignorance as well.  
 2020 could mark the end of the USA, totally. Two groups are responsible, if that be the case.  
 The useful idiots drove the nation to the cliff, but the cowards who know better, let the country fall off the cliff. <https://newswithviews.com/useful-idiot-is-a-technical-term/>

**And then…**

**Mark Levin reveals direct link between the U.S. media's longstanding hostility towards Israel and its burgeoning anti-Americanism   
*By Caroline Glick JNS.org*** *Published March 1, 2021* Mark Levin, a Jewish American talk radio host and former Reagan administration official, makes no effort to hide what he thinks. Indeed, what his three-hour radio show’s 14 million regular listeners and the millions more who watch his top-rated show on *Fox News* every Sunday love most about Levin is that he gives them the unvarnished truth as he sees it. And Levin does so with a combination of intellectual depth and populist passion.   
 Levin’s massive audience insulates him from the growing fear of censors that now plagues conservatives in America. At a time when progressive propaganda has become a substitute for news reporting at liberal media organs across the United States, fresh from four years of unrelenting media assaults on former President Donald Trump and his supporters, Levin is a leading voice for millions of Americans who feel increasingly marginalized and besieged.   
 Ahead of the release of the Hebrew edition of his *New York Times* bestseller “Unfreedom of the Press,” (Sella Meir Publishers), Levin sat down for a conversation with *Israel Hayom*. He explained what moved him to research the roots of media bias and why he believes the rising extremism of the U.S. media poses a threat to the future of the most powerful democracy in the world.   
 Levin sees a direct link between the U.S. media’s longstanding hostility towards Israel and its burgeoning anti-Americanism. He also sees parallels between the overwhelmingly leftist Israeli media and the U.S. media.  
 Our conversation was broadcast last week to mark the official launch of the Hebrew edition of his book. What follows are excerpts from our discussion.  
 “As somebody who watches the Israeli media, the Israeli media is a disaster,” Levin begins.  
 “The American media is a disaster. But at least in America, we have conservative talk radio. You have a few outlets in Israel — not many. And we have *Fox News* where at least we have some conservative opinion shows. You have nothing like that in Israel. You pretty much have a statist media that backs the left — as small as the left is now politically, the media remains overwhelmingly leftist in Israel.  
 “They are constantly, in my humble opinion, trying to undermine the conservatives, the hawks, the Netanyahu administration. And yet the people of Israel have pretty much rejected the media, haven’t they? At least in the last number of elections. The Labor Party really only exists in *The Jerusalem Post* and some of the other media outlets there. But it’s appalling to watch it. It’s appalling to watch the lies about the prime minister because I’m very familiar with his legal situation and the law in Israel.  
 “And I would say the other problem is basically — I hope this doesn’t get me in trouble — the founding socialists pretty much adopted the Italian parliamentary system. So you have 412 parties that are constantly running, and if you can pick off three guys maybe you can get a coalition. So it’s this constant state of play which is unstable, I think, for democracy.  
 “Now that said, in my own country over here, we have disasters looming all over the place. Part of the problem is our media. Our media here is a one-party media. I call it ‘the Democrat Party Media’ because that’s what it is. We have individuals in our media who worked in Democrat presidential administrations, Democrat presidential campaigns, who worked for members of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, and vice versa.  
 “The media in our country is at the tip of the spear dividing our country in many vile ways. They talk about incitement of an insurrection in our country and they’re attacking former President Donald Trump for that. He didn’t incite an insurrection.  
 “If the president of the United States wanted to lead an insurrection, I don’t think he would’ve sent 200 militia guys from all over the country into the Capitol. I think he would have sent in the Marines. But that’s quite beside the point. What about the left, and their language and their incitement? How do we know that doesn’t anger people and cause people to do things they ought not to do?  
 “But all that said, it’s kind of hard to maintain a republic, a civil society, rational debate when you have a media that has no interest in reporting the news. There are many ways you can affect the news — one is by censorship, not reporting the news even though something is newsworthy. And the other is of course with political bias. I am 63 years old and I have never seen anything like what is going on in our country before. The media are not really a profession anymore. They are social advocates.  
 “Let me just say this, in our journalism schools today there’s something taught called public or social advocacy. This is something that goes back a hundred years in our country to the progressive movement, the neo-Marxist movement. And you have it in your country too, trust me. You even have it on your Supreme Court.  
 “This is what it is: You don’t teach anything — science, math, history, language, literature, without it having a patina of social activism. In other words, it’s got to be placed in some social activist category. So you don’t just teach math, that’s too rote. In our journalism schools they’re being taught, ‘Don’t just report news. You have to give it an angle — and certainly not a conservative angle or a free-market angle or a constitutional angle. No, no, no. It’s got to be the left’s angle because only the left believes in humanity. Only the left is compassionate. Only the left wants progress.’ And that is what we are getting out of our media in the U.S. today, and I daresay in Israel today.”  
 **Q: In terms of the commingling of media and government, it’s hard to know sometimes where the media begins and the government ends. The most outstanding example of that was during the Obama administration when Obama’s information czar, his deputy national security advisor Ben Rhodes, was placed in charge of selling the Iran nuclear deal while Rhodes’ brother, David Rhodes. was the president of *CBS*.**  
 **Rhodes bragged in a media interview about how he created an “echo chamber” around the deal. It began with the administration, went through “experts” at allied think tanks, and was digested by reporters whom he noted derisively “literally knew nothing” about Iran or its nuclear program and were in no position to question the propaganda they were spoon-fed by Rhodes’ echo chamber. That echo chamber was responsible for falsely portraying a deal that guaranteed Iran would get the bomb inside a decade as a non-proliferation agreement. It also demonized deal opponents as warmongers and agents of a Jewish financial conspiracy that extended from Jerusalem to New York. And it worked. The merging of the media with the administration on the Iran deal looked an awful lot like fascism. How do you view this unity of forces and combined action?**  
 **A:** That is a perfect example. He was putting out propaganda. They deliberately lied about everything. They knew the government of Iran wasn’t moderate but they were claiming it was moderate. They knew the government of Iran wasn’t trustworthy but they said it could be trusted. All those people are back. I just want my Israeli brothers and sisters to know, all those people are back in the Biden administration, and then some.  
 You’re going to have your hands full. We have our hands full here. And if you can’t have an honest media — which you do not have in Israel and which we do not have in the United States — it’s hard to preserve a free society.  
 I would though slightly amend what you said. The media are only part of the state when the left controls the state. Otherwise, they try to undermine the state as much as they can.  
 So as long as they’re Democrats, the media is fine. You can see the treatment here with Biden. Biden doesn’t hold press conferences. Biden is not challenged. Biden is signing executive orders like some kind of king. We don’t do that in the United States. He’s signing exceedingly radical executive orders, so he’s legislating through the executive branch. We have this system of checks and balances here which is relatively formal. And you don’t hear any talk about impeachment. You don’t hear any talk about violating the Constitution when it comes to Joe Biden.  
 I call the media in our country when it comes to Biden and Obama “The Praetorian Guard Media.” They not only do not want to report on what these guys are doing — they seek to protect them. And they protect them during their campaigns and they protect them when they are in office.  
 And what I do in the book, it’s chapter and verse. I don’t just give my opinion. I’ve got hundreds of endnotes in this book. I’ve got an enormous number of examples. I’ve got some in the media criticizing others in the media. You know, some “old school” guys who are liberals saying, “You know, we can’t do this,” and yet, they’re still doing it. You know it’s actually getting worse in this country. And it’s because, whether it’s media in this country or Hollywood, or academia or the Democrat Party, they’ve all been devoured by this progressive, sort of neo-Marxist movement. They’re all kind of one and the same, moving in the same direction.”  
 **Sign up for the daily JWR update. It's free. Just click** [**here.**](http://www.jewishworldreview.com/subs.php)  
 When I write these books, and I’m working on another one, it’s really quite depressing. What you find is that these so-called intellectuals and masterminds of critical race theory have as their intention, literally, to bring down a society. You’ll get it in Israel. It will come in the form of the Palestinians, the Arabs. We get it here in the form of everyone other than Caucasian Christians. And I would argue that they have a voice certainly in a corner of the Democrat Party but a growing part of the Democrat Party with Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib and AOC [Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez], and these anti-Semites and anti-American types. It is a growing part of the Democrat Party. The media not only do not condemn them, they promote them. And the Democrat Party doesn’t condemn them. They seek their reelection.  
 **Q: One of the things you discuss in your book is how progressive Jews over time have covered anti-Semites. You devote a chapter, for instance, to how the Sulzbergers — the progressive Jewish owners of *The New York Times —* deliberately hid news of the Holocaust from their readers and in so doing, helped the Nazis to expand the pace of the genocide of European Jewry unabated.**  
 **Today we see progressive American Jewish organizations and leaders calling for the Biden administration to deny civil rights protections to American Jews who are being persecuted by progressive anti-Semites through the BDS movement and other anti-Israel campaigns. So these progressive Jewish groups are actually enabling progressive anti-Semitism and allowing progressive anti-Semites to get off scot-free for harming Jews. What do you make of this?**  
 **A:** Well, you’ve got groups like J Street, and all the anti-Semites go to J Street and they speak. And they’re all given a plaque and patted on the head. And then they feel that they’ve spoken to Jews around the world. I’ll just be honest. I’ve said it on the radio. These are self-hating Jews.  
 I don’t know what their problem is. But you know, we’ve always had this phenomenon. There’s always been a corner of Judaism that is self-hating Jews. I would argue that these are some of them. So the anti-Semites and those who are very hostile to the current government in Israel, they go to these groups. And they speak. And they feel like they’ve spoken to “the Jews,” and they haven’t.  
 As for reportage of the Holocaust, I didn’t feel enough Americans were aware enough of what the *New York Times* did and didn’t do during World War II and the Holocaust. It wasn’t just the *New York Times*. It was all the American media. Old man Sulzberger was a secularist. He was hostile to the Zionist movement. He was hostile to Orthodox Jews. And he was a Roosevelt sycophant.  
 The Roosevelt administration was very hostile to the Jews. They wanted to keep the Holocaust quiet, as quiet as possible. And the *New York Times* assisted them. The American media assisted them. This is what happens when you don’t have a media that is responsible, that is independent, that is going to report “the news” as opposed to its opinions.  
 President Trump refers to the media in America as “the enemy of the people.” And when he says that you have the *New York Times* saying, ‘That’s outrageous, that’s like Hitler.’  
 I mean, are you kidding me? You guys, who hid what Hitler was doing, you’re casting aspersions? But the *New York Times* really hasn’t changed in many ways. As I write in the book, they still are extremely hostile to Israel. They are very sympathetic to Hamas and to terrorist activities.  
 The book isn’t about Israel. But I don’t know how you can talk about America and America’s principles and the way America’s covered without talking about Israel, and Israel’s principles and the way Israel is covered in America.

<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0321/glick030121.php3>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**The change in tone of the US State Department**

***State Department spokesman hints at press briefing what the new administration's positions would be on Iran, Israel-PA.***

*Nitsan Keidar , Mar 01 , 2021 11:43 PM*

**US State Department spokesman Ned Price spoke to reporters on Monday, with his answers to reporters’ questions clarifying the change between the positions of the Trump administration and those of President Joe** Biden.

**Price noted that “the United States opposes any action taken by Israel which may make it difficult to reach a two-state solution**.”

On the **Iranian issue over which Israel has been very concerned lately, Price said**, “We believe Diplomacy is the most effective means to prevent Iran from ever obtaining nuclear weapons.”

Regarding the Abraham Accords, Price was asked about the possibility of promoting ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel. The question came in the background of the US criticism of Saudi Arabia over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, and the US intelligence report blaming the Saudi Crown Prince for the murder.

**“We seek to accomplish a great deal with the Saudis, to end the war in Yemen and ease Yemen’s humanitarian** crisis, to use our leadership to forge ties across the region’s most bitter divides, whether that’s finding a way back from the brink of war with Iran into a meaningful regional dialogue, or forging a historic peace with Israel,” he said.

Price added, however, that this would only be possible “in a partnership with Saudi Arabia that respects America’s values.” <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297730>

**Yamina Party: 'This is old politics, not New Hope'**

***Yamina responds to New Hope Party announcement to election committee that it is behind publications against Naftali Bennett and his party.***

*Hezki Baruch , Mar 01 , 2021 8:14 PM*

**The New Hope Party has made it clear to the Central Election Commission that it is behind the publications against the Yamina Party and Naftali Bennet**t.

**The party's lawyer stated that "beyond the party's announcements to the media, the party leaders have stated in the media that it is the party that is behind the publicat**ions."

According to them, "MK Yifat Shasha-Biton explicitly admitted that it was the party that was behind the publication: 'We uploaded articles that referred to Bennet. This is not something we did covertly. In the end, the goal of all of us is one - to bring stability, to bring unity, with Gideon Sa'ar being the only one who knows how to connect everyone. The wars with Bennett are not helpful. Yair Lapid cannot form a government because he is Left of center."

They further note that "Ze'ev Elkin said similar things in an interview: 'I think it was explicitly stated that this is a sponsored publication. The issue here is very, very simple. We did not initiate it. We just redesigned it. The one who refuses to say where he is is Naftali Bennett. He attacks Netanyahu on the one hand and on the other hand doesn't say whether he is willing to sit down with him."

The New Hope Party's lawyer added that "to avoid doubt, these expenses were included in advance in the election expenses that will be reported by the party to the State Comptroller by law."

**The Yamina Party said in a response: "Make a surprised face - the party that funded defamatory articles anonymously against Bennett has been exposed. This is old poli**tics, not New Hope." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297723>

**Likud MK blames Coronavirus Committee chief for COVID deaths**

***'If we had fired her, not nearly as many people would have died.' Coalition Chairman blames Likud MK who joined New Hope for COVID deaths.***

*David Rosenberg , Mar 02 , 2021 1:52 PM*

**Coalition whip Miki Zohar (Likud) excoriated a fellow Likud lawmaker Tuesday, claiming that her actions at the helm of the Knesset’s Coronavirus Committee led to the present level of COVID infections and dea**ths. Speaking with *Radio 103FM* Tuesday morning, Zohar said that Coronavirus Committee chairwoman MK Yifat Shasha-Biton is to blame for many of the coronavirus-related fatalities in Israel.

**“When they sum up Yifat Shasha-Biton’s action, she will go down in history as being the main party to blam**e.” “Israel lost thousands of people and she gets a great deal of ‘credit’ for this. If we would have fired her, we would not have the number of deaths today that we have.”

**“It looks like she’s the main one to blame for the fact that we got to 9,000 infections per da**y. I have one real regret in my political career – that I wasn’t able to have her fired from her position. If we had fired Shasha-Biton, the numbers wouldn’t be what they are.”

**Earlier on Tuesday, the Israeli Health Ministry reported that the total number of deaths among people diagnosed with the coronavirus now stands at 5,779**.

In July, Zohar vowed to have Shasha-Biton removed as chair of the Knesset’s Coronavirus Commmittee, after Shasha-Biton refused to automatically approve cabinet decisions closing a number of businesses, including out-door pools, gyms, and restaurants.

Shasha-Biton, who is now running on the New Hope list, had called on the government and health officials to provide statistics justifying their plans to close various sectors of the economy. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297763> **This is more political posturing by Likud. The real issue is those advising them were following Fauci and WHO. – rdb]**

**Rabbi Zalman Melamed: 'Unvaccinated? Find a different yeshiva to learn in'**

***Head of Beit El yeshiva calls on students to vaccinate themselves against coronavirus.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 02 , 2021 2:16 PM*

Rabbi Zalman Baruch Melamed, dean of the Beit El Yeshiva, requested that the yeshiva's married students be informed that they are required to vaccinate themselves against coronavirus in order to continue their studies.

A statement sent to those students in Rabbi Melamed's name read: "A married student who is not vaccinated before the summer term will need to find himself another yeshiva to learn in. I wish all of us good health and happiness."

Rabbi Melamed's instruction follows [a similar call](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/296502) from haredi rabbis, urging yeshiva students to get the vaccine. In that letter, rabbis wrote: "We call on all married students who can to follow the doctors’ advice and get vaccinated.”

**Leading Sephardic rabbi, Rabbi Meir Mazuz, echoed these sentiments, stating: "It is incumbent upon** [**every yeshiva student**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297346) **who comes to learn in your kollels (yeshivas for married men) to get vaccinated,** as the doctors, law, and constitution have said."

**Meanwhile, Rabbi Yaakov Ariel, former rabbi of Ramat Gan, has said that teachers who** [**refuse to vaccinate**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297758) **and then infect their students can be sued for da**mages. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297761>

**Will Ramadan cause unprecedented coronavirus outbreak?**

***Low vaccination rates in Arab sector raise concerns of enormous outbreak during Ramadan, wedding season.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 02 , 2021 10:14 AM*

**Israel's Health Ministry and Israeli-Arab leaders are concerned about the possible effects of the wedding season - due to begin mid-March for Arabs - followed within the month by the holiday of Ramadan, Israel Ha***yom* reported.

**Part of the concern is due to the fact that the number of Israelis who received the** [**coronavirus vaccine**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297479) **is very low relative to their numbers in the population** - despite concentrated efforts to increase education on the issue.

Last year, weddings and large family gatherings in the Arab sector caused a serious outbreak among the population.

Dr. Masad Barhoum, General Director Galilee Medical Center, said: "We all remember what happened last time, when weddings were held in the sector. This time, the British variant and additional mutations have also entered the equation.

A senior source in the Coronavirus Directorate for the Arab Sector told *Israel Hayom* that the preparations for the possibility of an additional outbreak within the Arab sector are not enough: "We see what's happening in East Jerusalem. **MORE -** <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297750>

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**03/01/2021 NEWS AM**

**'Amazing Grace' Flashmob in Tweede Kamer gebouw**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKd7yIMqWeE**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKd7yIMqWeE)

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| **"Government will not fail to employ education to strengthen its hands and perpetuate its institutions." -- William Godwin (1756-1836) English journalist, political philosopher and novelist** |

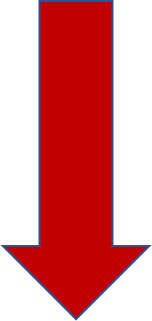
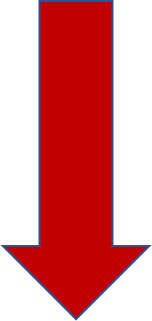
**Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!**

**That is the only hope for this nation!**

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for TR – abnormal Mammogram having double biopsy – Positive for cancer**  **Pray for ZH - having trouble with PTSD**  **Pray for LAC – recurrent cancer getting treatment**  **Pray for Ella – emotionally disturbed abused child and brother with ? heart problem**  **Pray for JN – Neuro disease**  **Pray for MS – Job issues and change**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for Felicia – post op problems – continuing**  **Pray for SH and family – lady’s husband passed away and she is in Nursing home. Not doing well.**  **Pray for MP – Very complex problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 19:33And they cause their father to drink wine on that night; and the first-born goeth in, and lieth with her father, and he hath not known in her lying down, or in her rising up. 34And it cometh to pass, on the morrow, that the first-born saith unto the younger, `Lo, I have lain yesterday-night with my father: we cause him to drink wine also to-night, and go thou in, lie with him, and we preserve from our father--a seed.' 35And they cause their father to drink wine on that night also, and the younger riseth and lieth with him, and he hath not known in her lying down, or in her rising up.**

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| **ETBPF has a new venue called Discord. It is a private web site where we are posting news and the daily news posting and you can respond with posts if you want. This ‘app’ can be used almost like facebook and twitter but without the intervention. We are just starting it and a bit slow to learn how to use it but it helps keep us off the Big Guys. It is a freebee and private. We have set levels of access to make sure only real responsible people are able to access. You can look at and join by going to:** [**https://discord.gg/4576x47ezN**](https://discord.gg/4576x47ezN) |



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| **German Lawyer Sues The World Over Coronavirus**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpOzHHJmy7g&feature=emb_imp_woyt>  **This is long BUT a most revealing interview. People would do well to watch!**  **He goes over why he is doing this and the basis of the defrauding the people of the world**  Mordechai Sones , Feb 28 , 2021 11:12 AM  A group of lawyers is preparing to sue the World Health Organization and some of its partners for allegedly misleading the world over the severity of the COVID-19 outbreak and the measures taken to control it, which they say have damaged livelihoods and caused tremendous harm to economies.  The move was announced by Dr. Reiner Fuellmich, one of four members of the German Coronavirus Investigative Committee that has been hearing international scientists’ and experts’ testimonies since July 10, 2020.  In a video released to his YouTube channel, Fuellmich accuses WHO Director Tedros Adhanom, Dr Christan Drosten, the head of virology at Berlin’s Charité Hospital, and Dr Lothar Wieler, the head of the RKI, the German counterpart of the U.S. Center for Disease Control, whom he claims knowingly misled governments across the world.  [**https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297626**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297626)  **another follow up video:** [**https://www.bitchute.com/video/s8ywf3Y47oZ4/**](https://www.bitchute.com/video/s8ywf3Y47oZ4/) |

**Iran rejects offer for informal nuclear talks with US, demands sanctions relief**

***Tehran says now ‘not the time’ for such a meeting; White House says it is disappointed at the response but ‘remains ready to reengage’***

*By* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:40 pm*

**Iran on Sunday rebuffed an offer from the European Union to hold informal direct talks with the EU and US on Tehran’s nuclear program. US President Joe Biden’s administration had accepted in pr**inciple.

**“Considering the recent positions and actions of the United States and the three European countries, [Iran] does not consider the time suitable to hold the informal meeting proposed by the European coordinato**r,” foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a statement.

**Khatibzadeh said the first necessary step was the removal of sanctions placed on Iran by the previous US administration. “There has still been no change in the US positions and behavior yet**,” he added, saying the Biden administration has continued “Trump’s failed policy of maximum pressure.”

**He said Iran “will answer action with action, and just as it will return to [its] commitments in accordance with the lifting of sanctions, it will respond to hostile actions and behaviors in the same** way.”

A White House spokeswoman told Reuters: “While we are disappointed at Iran’s response, we remain ready to reengage in meaningful diplomacy to achieve a mutual return to compliance with JCPOA commitments.”

**Biden has signaled readiness to revive the deal, but insists Iran first return to all its nuclear commitm**ents, most of which it suspended in response to the sanctions, while Tehran demands Washington take the first step by scrapping the sanctions.

Khatibzadeh’s statements confirmed an earlier report in The Wall Street Journal. Citing two unnamed Western diplomats, [the newspaper said](https://www.wsj.com/articles/iran-rejects-offer-of-direct-us-nuclear-talks-senior-diplomats-say-11614529319?mod=hp_lead_pos4) Iran rejected the offer to hold talks in the coming days, as it wanted a pledge some US sanctions would be lifted after the meeting. Biden administration officials have said sanctions will not be lifted until Iran returns to compliance with the 2015 international accord limiting its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

The diplomats said there was still hope for resuming nuclear talks despite Iran’s spurning of the EU offer, and suggested that the rejection may be aimed at gaining negotiating leverage.

**Israeli and its Arab allies in the region strongly oppose a US return to the deal in its original fo**rm.

**Iran’s statements came just days after the top EU diplomat supervising the nuclear deal called for a concerted effort to reinvigorate the pact,** even as the Islamic Republic reneges on some of its commitments.

“This is an occasion that we cannot miss,” to revive the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell told reporters Friday via video link.

The deal almost collapsed after the Trump administration unilaterally pulled the US out three years ago, triggering crippling economic sanctions on Iran. Britain, France and Germany notably struggled to keep it alive and have been heartened by President Joe Biden’s willingness to bring the US back in. **[The “deal” was collapsed before it was ever initiated because it was a one sided deal that guaranteed a nuclear Iran within 10 years. Iran has a history of not adhering to their ‘international agreements’ so why expect them to adhere to this one. These people are stupid. – rdb]**

“I am convinced as coordinator of the JCPOA that we do have diplomatic space, a diplomatic window of opportunity to dialogue” in line with Biden’s aims, Borrell said. “We need to use this opportunity and focus on solutions to bring the JCPOA back on track in order for everybody [to fulfill] their commitments.”

**Iran last week effectively set a deadline to lift the US sanctions within three months, after which** it said it would erase surveillance footage of its nuclear facilities. It has also limited some monitoring of its activities which is meant to help ensure that Tehran’s nuclear work is peaceful.

**The UN’s nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, has also reported that Iran has added 17.6 kilograms (38.8 pounds) of uranium enriched up to 20% to its stockpile as of February** 16 — far past the 3.67% purity allowed under the JCPOA.

Borrell said that Iran’s latest moves “are very much concerning.”

According to a report earlier this month, IAEA inspectors last summer found uranium particles at two Iranian nuclear sites that Iran tried to block access to.

Iranian authorities had stonewalled the inspectors from reaching the sites for seven months before the inspection, and Iranian officials have failed to explain the presence of the uranium, the Reuters news agency reported, citing diplomats familiar with the UN agency’s work.

The inspections took place in August and September of 2020, the report said. The IAEA keeps its findings secret and only shared the details of the find with a few countries. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-said-to-reject-offer-for-direct-nuclear-talks-with-us/>

**Israel said to hit Iranian targets in Syria after Tehran blamed for ship blast**

***Syrian state media claims air defenses shot down several missiles; Hebrew media outlets indicate raid a retaliation for explosion that hit Israeli-owned vessel in Gulf of Oman***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *28 February 2021, 11:07 pmUpdated at 11:57 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/Screen-Shot-2021-02-28-at-22.54.38-e1614545804642.jpeg)

***Footage from Syrian state media said to show air defense missiles being fired near Damascus in response to Israeli strikes, February 28, 2021. (Screen capture: Twitter)***

**Syrian state media reported Sunday that air defense systems were activated around Damascus due to an Israeli attack. A report carried on the official SANA news agency claimed the Syrian military intercepted several Israeli missiles**.

**There was no comment on the reported strikes from the Israel Defense Forces**, which rarely acknowledges specific attacks.

**Israel’s Kan News, Channel 13 News and Ma’ariv newspaper all described the strikes as targeting Iranian sites, and characterized them as a response to a blast last week that hit an Israeli-owned ship** in the Gulf of Oman, which Israeli officials have said was likely carried out by Iran.

**None of the outlets provided sourcing for their reports**.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor which has had its credibility questioned in the past, said the strike hit the area of Sayyida Zeinab south of Damascus, where the Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah are present.

סוכנות הידיעות הסורית: מערכות ההגנה האוויריות הצליחו להפיל כמה מהטילים הישראליים[@HaimOmri](https://twitter.com/HaimOmri?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/xKmSK4SPkh](https://t.co/xKmSK4SPkh)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [February 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1366127868154118150?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Kan had earlier reported that leaders of Israel’s security establishment met on Sunday evening to discuss the alleged Iranian attack on the MV Helios Ray.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz said on Saturday he believed Iran was behind the explosion Thursday. On Sunday IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi called the explosion that hit the Helios Ray a “[reminder](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-chief-blast-on-israeli-owned-ship-was-a-reminder-from-iran/)” from Iran.

“This is the place to reiterate that the IDF acts and will act against the threats that endanger [Israel], near and far,” he said during a ceremony. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/syria-reports-israeli-airstrikes-in-damascus-area/>

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**Former US secretary of state Pompeo: Many Saudis want normalization with Israel**

***America’s erstwhile top diplomat asserts killing of top Iranian general enabled the Abraham Accords between the Jewish state and 4 Arab countries***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 7:13 pm*

**Former US secretary of state Mike Pompeo has said “many” people in Saudi Arabia want normalized relations with Israel, voicing hope the kingdom will join the Abraham Accords agreed on during Donald Trump’s administratio**n.

**Pompeo, who served as Trump’s CIA director and top diplomat, made the comments in a recorded video address to the Combat Anti-Semitism Movement, which will give him its inaugural Global Leadership Award on Mond**ay.

Under the Abraham Accords brokered by Trump last year, four majority Arab states — the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan — agreed to establish ties with Israel.

**The Israeli press was rife with speculation about other Arab nations interested in joining the pa**ct, with powerhouse Saudi Arabia widely regarded as a top prize for the Jewish state.

**“Predicting the future has proven a struggle for me,” Pompeo said in remarks shared with AFP, adding that he thinks “many more” countries will seek ties with** Israel. “I hope that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can find its way to join the Abraham Accords. I know that many inside that country want that to take place,” he said.

**Sources in Jerusalem have said Pompeo and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in November in the Red Sea city of Neom. The meeting, denied by Riyadh, fueled frenzied speculation i**n Israel that a normalization deal might be close.

Publicly the kingdom has affirmed its decades-old policy of not establishing ties with Israel until a deal is reached to resolve the Palestinian conflict.

**The Trump administration courted Riyadh as it sought to isolate common foe Iran and withheld tough critici**sm of alleged rights abuses in the kingdom, including over the gruesome 2018 murder of Saudi journalist and royal critic Jamal Khashoggi.

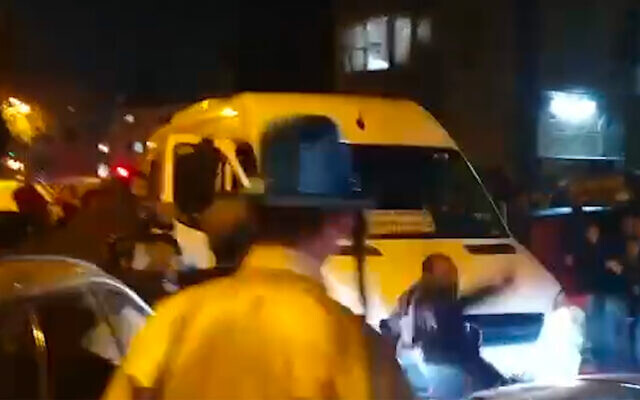
Breaking with Trump’s approach, US President Joe Biden said Friday Washington would “hold [Saudi Arabia] accountable for human rights abuses” as it released an intelligence report accusing Prince Mohammed of approving Khashoggi’s murder by Saudi agents in Istanbul. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/former-us-secretary-of-state-pompeo-many-saudis-want-normalization-with-israel/> **[Waiting to see how long before “Bi-dumb” is able to destroy the ME accords put together by The Donald. I don’t think it will take long. – rdb]**

**Man crushed by minibus, critically injured during Jerusalem COVID protest**

***Driver plows into crowd demonstrating against virus restrictions, attempts to flee but is arrested; victim rushed to hospital***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:50 pm*

**A man was slammed by a minibus and critically wounded Sunday night in Jerusalem during** protests against lockdown restrictions. **The man was hit in the capital’s ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim neighborhood. The driver fled the scene but was later cau**ght and arrested by police.

*[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/Untitled-11-4.jpg)* **The Magen David Adom emergency services organization said it responded to the incident. Paramedics said the man had severe upper-body inju**ries and appeared to be around 30 years old. The man was rushed to Jerusalem’s Hadassah Medical Center in critical condition.

***A minibus slams into a protester in Jerusalem, February 28, 2021. (Screenshot/Twitter)***

**At the time of the incident, dozens of protesters were blocking traffic and hurling bottles at vehicles in a rally against coronavirus lockdown rules**.

**Graphic video from the scene showed a raucous crowd surrounding a white minibus, which lurched forward suddenly with one door half-open, slamming a man into another vehicle and crushing him against i**t.

תיעוד קשה: רכב הסעות דרס גבר בירושלים, מצבו אנוש; הנהג נמלט ונעצר<https://t.co/CTIpkR7YZ7>[@GiladCrm](https://twitter.com/GiladCrm?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/PLfkWHRubQ](https://t.co/PLfkWHRubQ)

— ynet עדכוני (@ynetalerts) [February 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/ynetalerts/status/1366092415434694660?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Some reports said the driver had been attacked by the crowd and was attempting to flee** when he plowed into the demonstrator.

**A sign under the minibus’s windshield appeared to identify it as a medical vehicle in the service of a hospi**tal.

**Police dispersed the crowd with flash grenades and arrested two people during the clash**es, Kan news reported.

Sunday saw many ultra-Orthodox and non-Haredi Jerusalemites alike [celebrate the Purim holiday](https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-transport-blocked-hundreds-walk-to-jerusalem-for-banned-purim-parties/) in violation of the virus restrictions.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was at the same time attending an event at the Education Ministry minutes away from the scene of the accident. It wasn’t clear if his presence was related to the protest. The area was the scene of scuffles between police and protesters earlier in the day. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/man-crushed-by-minibus-critically-injured-during-jerusalem-protest/>

**Netanyahu says all students to return to class in low-infection areas**

***Premier proposes extending school year into summer to make up for lost time; teachers’ leaders oppose plan***

*By* [*Luke Tress*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/luke-tress/) *Today, 9:32 pm*

**Schools will fully open in low-infection areas in the coming days, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday, adding that he will present a plan to extend the school year into the summer to make up for lost tim**e.

**The proposal was immediately opposed by teacher union leaders, while Netanyahu’s political rivals accused him of engaging in empty campaign promises**.

Netanyahu said classes will resume in “green” and “yellow” areas with low-infection rates, including for grades 7-10, which had so far remained closed.

**He said that he, along with Education Minister Yoav Gallant, will bring a framework for extending the school year into Ju**ly.

**“There is a need to make up for the educational gaps that were created during this difficult year,” Netanyah**u said. “We need to give every boy and girl in Israel the opportunity to make up what they missed. This is what Israeli children need, and what they deserve.” **[How do you make up an entire years ‘hit or miss’ and confused education? You really can’t. Unless the parents are disciplined and have the resources to teach it is very difficult to begin to maintain the level that the children were at when their schools closed let along progress to grade level. The American Home school process has a lot of resources in order to help guide the parents and it is almost a full time job to adequately keep children at their level and progress them. Fortunately many have dedicated their efforts to doing so because those children will be head and shoulders above those from the public system now. – rdb]**

**The effort was part of a multi-step process to bring the education system out of the pandemic, the pr**emier said. He stressed that the government will protect the rights of teachers and make sure to pay them all required sums for the extended school year. According to Channel 12, teacher participation would be voluntary and teachers who agree to take part would be paid bonuses.

**Netanyahu made the statement during a live speech at the Education Ministr**y that was broadcast on his social media channels.

**Speaking after Netanyahu, Gallant said the plan to close educational gaps will consist of four par**ts, with Sunday’s announcement marking the beginning of the first step.

**The studies in July will focus on closing learning gaps in math, English, Hebrew and science,** Gallant said.

Finance Minister Israel Katz said he had accepted the plan, and that funding will come from a budget of NIS 4.2 billion ($1.27 billion) to help the education system cope with the pandemic, and NIS 20 billion ($6.03 billion) in the budget earmarked for “reinforcing the education system.”

**The head of the Secondary School Teachers’ Association, Ran Erez, and the leader of the Teachers’ union, Yaffa Ben-David, both opposed the school year extending beyond June,** though they did leave the door open for voluntary teachers’ work.

Neither were present during Netanyahu’s speech, but he addressed them both by name in an attempt to placate opposition to his outline. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-says-all-students-to-return-to-class-in-low-infection-areas/>

**Thousands of Haredim crowd Jerusalem streets for last day of Purim**

***Officials from the Gur Hasidic movement, which staged a mass Tish, say all participants are either vaccinated or recovered from COVID; in another incident, intoxicated Haredi men attacked police officers, wounding one and causing damage***

*Kobi Nachshoni | Published: 02.28.21 , 18:22*

**Thousands of ultra-Orthodox Israelis crowded the streets of the Jerusalem on Sunday evening, celebrating the last day of the Purim holiday despite the coronavirus restrictions**.

Hundreds of ultra-Orthodox Israelis [were spotted earlier](https://www.ynetnews.com/article/HJA5Z7Yzu#autoplay) walking along the highway leading to the capital, determined to celebrate the final day of Purim holiday, despite public and organized group transportation to Jerusalem halted until Sunday night.

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| ***תיש בחסידות גור***  ***Members of the Gur Hasidic movement stage Purim Tish on Sunday evening*** | ***התקהלות בטיש חסידי בירושלים***  ***Hassidic sect holds mass Tish amid coronavirus (Photo: Twitter )*** |

**A mass Tish - a mass gathering of a senior rabbi and his flock - was held by members of the Gur Hasidic movement at Beit Midrash of their rebbe in the capital.** The movement officials said the participants are all either vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19.

Large police forces have been patrolling the ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods of the capital since the morning hours in the wake of the possibility the residents would hold mass Tishes and violate the coronavirus regulations.

**In addition, dozens of seemingly intoxicated ultra-Orthodox men gathered at the Bar Ilan Junction in Jerusale**m and attacked police officers. One of the officers was attacked with pepper spray and needed medical attention.

Police said a large force had been deployed to the scene and was attacked by several rioters who violated the government orders.

"Additional forces were called to the scene and three suspects were detained for questioning, one of whom was injured during his arrest and needed medical treatment," said police in a statement.

It was reported that during the incident, Haredi rioters damaged several police vehicles. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/ByUmsEFfd>

**Israel authorizes plan to vaccinate over 120,000 Palestinian workers**

***Shots will be administered in next few days by Israeli healthcare workers at border crossings and industrial zones in West Bank, COGAT says; contagion in West Bank hits new highs***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 4:59 pm*

**The Israeli government on Sunday approved a plan to vaccinate over 120,000 Palestinians who are legally employed in Israeli communities, Israel’s military liaison to the Palestinians said in a statemen**t.

**The Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, which administers Palestinian civilian affairs, announced that it would roll out an immunization campaign at border crossings and industrial zones across the West Bank** in the next few days. According to COGAT, Israeli healthcare workers will administer the shots.

**“As part of the fight against the spread of the coronavirus and in accordance with the recommendation of COGAT and the Ministry of Health, the government approved a vaccination campaign for Palestinian workers with work permits in Israel and Israeli settlements,**” COGAT said in a statement.

**Around 87,000 Palestinians hold work permits in Israel, and an additional 35,000 work in Israeli settlements, according to Defense Ministry fig**ures.

While Israel has surged ahead in vaccinating its population — over half of all Israelis have received at least one dose of a coronavirus shot — **only scattered shipments of vaccines have reached the Palestinians so far**. The Palestinian Authority expects to begin its public vaccination campaign in early March with the arrival of a major shipment of AstraZeneca vaccines.

Israel has come under criticism for not vaccinating Palestinians, many of whom live under Israeli military rule. Human rights groups charge that international law requires Israel as an occupying power to provide vaccines for Palestinians.

**Israel rejects the characterization that it occupies Palestinian territory, deeming the West Bank “disputed.” Israeli officials have also pointed to bilateral agreements betw**een Israel and the Palestinians which designate responsibility for health care to the Palestinian Authority.

But current and former health officials have also repeatedly said that helping Palestinians get vaccines — especially Palestinians who work in Israel — is a public health priority for the Jewish state, as they regularly mix with Israelis.

“The message is very simple: We are one epidemiological unit. As much as we can, we have to help them address this matter,” recently departed Health Ministry Director-General Moshe Bar Siman-Tov told The Times of Israel. **MORE -**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-authorizes-plan-to-vaccinate-over-120000-palestinian-workers/>

**Was the attack on the Israeli cargo ship successful?**

***Some link this incident to the unsuccessful attempts by Iran and its proxies to avenge the death of senior Iranian figures, such as top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.***

*By* [*UDI SHAHAM*](https://www.jpost.com/author/udi-shaham) *FEBRUARY 28, 2021 21:39*

**At a quick glance, the attack on the Israeli-owned cargo ship near Oman doesn’t look like a major Iranian success**.

**According to reports, the ship – owned by Israeli businessman Rami Ungar and carrying automobiles from Saudi Arabia to Singapore – was hit in its bow by a missile or underwater mine causing damage,** but not severe. The attackers did not manage to sink it, and none of the crew members on deck was injured.

**Some link this incident to the unsuccessful attempts by Iran and its proxies to avenge the death of senior Iranian figures, such as top nuclear scienti**st [Mohsen Fakhrizadeh](https://www.jpost.com/tags/mohsen-fakhrizadeh), who was gunned down in November outside of Tehran. Iran, which blamed Israel for the assassination, is suspected of being behind an explosion near the Israel Embassy in New Delhi last month in which no one was injured.

**Experts deem Iran’s ability to operate outside its borders as limited, and on the declin**e. An example was its response to the assassination of Quds Force commander [Qassem Soleimani](https://www.jpost.com/tags/qassem-soleimani) last year. Nothing major happened outside of Iran except for a rocket attack against the US Embassy in Iraq, but also there, no major success was evident.

However, some see last Thursday’s sea offensive as an attack that was exact and precise.

**Despite the cargo vessel departing from a country that Israelis can’t even enter, and that no major damage was cau**sed, former defense officials say the Iranians knew exactly what they are doing, as well as what they were trying to achieve.

**“This is a clear Iranian signal,” said a former senior defense o**fficial experienced in combating Iran as well as its at-sea capabilities.

“The Iranians knew exactly who they are hitting, and if they wanted to sink the ship they could have done that,” he said. The method would have been by aiming the explosion at the rear of the ship, where the engines are located.

The ship was hit not far from the Iranian coastline, near the Gulf of Oman, which is traversed daily by hundreds of ships.

Experts said that it was possible that the ship was hit by an anti-tank missile, launched from a nearby boat sailing not far from the ship. **MORE -** <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/was-the-attack-on-the-israeli-cargo-ship-successful-660507>

**Deaf rabbi translates Torah into sign language**

***Yehoshua Soudakoff says his project, which will see the entire Bible visually acted out, makes Judaism accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing who miss out on communal readings***

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/Rabbi-Ellie.3-1024x640-1.jpg)*By* [*Ellie Jacobs*](http://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com) *Today, 11:29 am*

***Rabbi Yehoshua Soudakoff (left) in the green screen room with actors Daniel Malka (center) and Chen Belilty. (Courtesy)***

**LONDON  (Jewish News) — Israel’s only deaf rabbi is giving a hand to the hard of hearing by translating the entire Torah into sign language**.

**Speaking to the Jewish News from Rishon Lezion in Israel through a sign language interpreter, Rabbi Yehoshua Soudakoff admits that it’s a “big responsibility” to try to make Judaism “accessible and possible” for the 15,000 Israelis who are deaf or hard of hearing and who** communicate in sign language. He jokes that he “wishes he had competition.”

With a team of dedicated scholars and actors, US-born Chabad rabbi Soudakoff has started the unprecedented, yet “very exciting” task of translating the 24 books that make up the Tanakh (which is comprised of the Five Books of Moses, the Prophets, and the Writings) into visual format, in order to “bring the word to life” for those who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Bringing the stories to life is particularly important, he says, for the 40,000-50,000 Jews who use sign language worldwide, because the Torah is meant to be read aloud, in synagogue, three times a week, to the congregation. **MORE -**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/deaf-rabbi-translates-torah-into-sign-language/> **[That is really amazing. I can’t comprehend what it would take to take sign language and use it in another language let along doing it with Biblical Hebrew. – rdb]**

**European UNSC members: IDF must halt razing of Palestinian Humsa tents**

**Demarche issued to Israel, UN says 185% increase in demolitions.**

*By* [*TOVAH LAZAROFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/tovah-lazaroff) *FEBRUARY 28, 2021 21:22*

**Israel must halt its continuous demolitions of the Palestinian herding village of** [**Humsa**](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/idf-razes-palestinian-herding-village-khirbet-humsa-twice-in-one-week-657713) **in the Jordan Valley, six current and former members of the United Nations Security Council have dema**nded.

“We are deeply concerned at the recent repeated demolitions and confiscation of items, including of EU- and donor-funded structures carried out by Israeli authorities at Humsa Al-Bqai’a in the Jordan Valley, as well as at its impact on its community of approximately 70 people, including 41 children**,” Estonian Ambassador to the UN Sven Jürgenson** said.

He spoke on behalf of his country and the two other European Union UNSC members, Ireland and France, as well as European UNSC members Norway and the United Kingdom. He also represented the two former EU UNSC countries of Belgium and Germany.

**Ambassadors from all six countries issued the virtual message Friday in the afterma**th of the UNSC monthly meeting on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in which member states also took issue with the demolitions.

While only six European countries signed the message, they represented a larger group of European countries, including the EU itself, which has expressed concern.

Local European diplomats in February made multiple visits to the site of the herding village illegally built in an IDF firing zone in a remote area of the Jordan Valley.

In some cases, IDF confiscations of tents at the site took place while the diplomats were present. On Thursday, a demarche was issued to Israel on the matter by the EU and some individual European countries. The EU asked that Israel return any European donor-funded material that had been confiscated.

In November, the IDF Civil Administration initially demolished the herding village made up of tents and huts, some of which had been donated by Europeans. It returned six times in February, including last Monday, to demolish tents that were put up in the aftermath of each demolition and confiscation of equipment. **MORE -**<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/european-unsc-members-idf-must-halt-razing-of-palestinian-humsa-tents-660506> **[NOTE! These are simply independent opinions from people who have been on the security council. When you read this you may think it is a Security council mandate. That is not the case. This is simply one more way the media plays with words to get their opinion across. – rdb]**

**It's time for Biden to halt 'what looks like a COVID-19 cover-up'**

***'China should be given a deadline to turn over case data'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published February 28, 2021 at 1:50pm* ***By Dave Seminara*** *Real Clear Politics*

**China is testing President Biden, but his party is still preoccupied with Donald Trump. Chinese authorities refused to provide World Health Organization investigators with raw data on early COVID-19 cases that could help them determine how and when the coronavirus spread in China. The stakes in learning as much as we can from this pandemic couldn’t be higher.**  But it’s unclear if our new leaders are ready to confront China’s increasingly intransigent leaders, who are keen to promote unlikely theories on the origins of the virus that absolve them of culpability.

**The virus has killed nearly 2.5 million peop**le worldwide and the International Monetary Fund has estimated that the global cost of the pandemic is $28 trillion. A paper published in The Journal of the American Medical Association, put the total cost in the U.S. at more than $16 trillion, or nearly $200,000 for a family of four. With case counts declining and vaccines here, we now see a light at the end of the tunnel, but this is no time for complacency. This should be a “never again” moment where we steadfastly resolve to do everything in our power to ensure that we never experience another catastrophic plague like this one again.

**President Biden has yet to speak publicly about China’s refusal to hand over raw data on early case**s, but Jake Sullivan, his national security adviser, issued a [statement](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/13/statement-by-national-security-advisor-jake-sullivan/). “**At this critical moment, protecting the WHO’s credibility is a paramount priority,” he said.  “We have deep concerns about the way in which the early findings of the COVID-19 investigation were communicated and questions about the process used to reach** them.”

 The **statement was better than nothing, but there was no call to action** or mention of potential consequences if China fails to comply, which is exceedingly likely given Beijing’s track record on transparency and COVID-19. Sullivan merely said that “[a]ll countries, including China, should participate in a transparent and robust process for preventing and responding to health emergencies — so that the world learns as much as possible as soon as possible.”

**Since the news broke on Feb. 12, other top Democrats have been silent regarding China’s failure to fully coop**erate with WHO investigators. Speaker Nancy Pelosi has sent multiple tweets about impeachment but none about China. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has also been silent, but has sent a half dozen tweets about the impeachment. There’s also been nary a peep on China’s attempted coverup from Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who has more Twitter followers than Schumer and Pelosi put together, or Sen. Bob Menendez, the chairman of the Senate’s Foreign Relations Committee who has sent a dozen tweets about impeachment in recent days while remaining silent on China.

**Vice President Kamala Harris has made no mention of the WHO team’s China mission**, but the day after the news broke, she sent a tweet warning of xenophobia. “Hate crimes and violence against Asian Americans and Asian immigrants have skyrocketed during the pandemic. That’s why our Administration has taken actions to address these xenophobic attacks.” Bottom of Form

Combating xenophobic attacks is a laudable goal, but my fear is that the too-woke, too-cozy-to-China Democratic Party may not act forcefully for fear of stoking xenophobia. Remember, for example, how then candidate Joe Biden called Trump’s China travel ban “xenophobic,” and how Democrats like Pelosi and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio urged Americans to visit Chinatowns at the start of the pandemic.

**For years, the Putin-obsessed Democratic Party has acted as though Russia is still our primary geopolitical adversary when China is clearly our biggest th**reat.

**We can demand accountability from China without inflaming anti-Asian sentiment.** President Biden must use forceful diplomacy to bring other world leaders around to force China’s hand. Finding consensus will be difficult, but issuing statements of concern is clearly not enough.

The Chinese government should be given a deadline to turn early COVID-19 case data over to the WHO and there must be clear consequences for failure to comply. Any number of sanctions, including asset freezes and travel bans for China’s leaders, should be on the table. We should also strongly encourage the WHO to immediately send its team of investigators back to China. They should remain there until China’s leaders fully cooperate, and if they don’t, team members should hold daily press conferences to shame them.

**Sen. Lindsey Graham introduced a bill, the**[**COVID-19 Accountability Act**](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/s3683)**, last May calling for sanctions on China if it failed to fully cooperate with the U.S. and international organizations conducting investigations.** The bill never received a vote but now is the time to reignite talks of how to respond to China’s dangerous lack of transparency.

China doves and free-trade-at-all-costs types will insist that we can’t afford to confront China, which is our third largest trading partner. But when you stack up the economic cost that may arise from rising tensions with China against the potential cost of enduring another pandemic, the choice is clear. It’s time for Joe Biden and other world leaders to send a clear, united message to China that the world will not allow them to persist in what looks like a COVID-19 coverup.

*Dave Seminara is a former diplomat and author of “Footsteps of Federer: A Fan’s Pilgrimage Across 7 Swiss Cantons in 10 Acts,” forthcoming on March 2.* <https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/time-biden-halt-looks-like-covid-19-cover/>  **[We know that many people have died ‘carrying a diagnosis’ because they had a positive PCR test. Whether the infection by a virus was the actual cause of death or it was an incidental finding is an entirely different question. No matter, it is still important to know who and in what way this entire mess was instigated and whether liability for the trillions of dollars can be applied to a group or nation and even the criminal liability for the decimation of lives and businesses can be properly directed. – rdb]**

**Congressional Research Service delivers forecast on COVID's impact on economy**

***Could produce 'labor dislocations' not seen since Great Depression***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published February 28, 2021 at 12:51pm*

The Wuhan virus, nicknamed for the Chinese city where it is thought to have originated, officially has resulted in nearly 2.5 million deaths worldwide and 500,000 in the United States alone.

**And while each COVID-19 death is a tragedy, a** [**report by the Congressional Research Service**](https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R46270.pdf) **looks at another impact: the econom**y.

**"The pandemic has negatively affected global economic growth beyond anything experienced in nearly a century," the government agency sa**id.

**"Estimates so far indicate the virus could reduce global economic growth to an annualized rate of -4.5% to -6.0% in 2020, with a partial recovery of a rate of 2.5% to 5.2% in 2021**," the report continued. "Major advanced economies, which comprise 60% of global economic activity, are forecasted to operate below their potential output level through at least 2024.

"Compared with the synchronized nature of the global economic slowdown in the first half of 2020, the global economy showed signs of a two-track recovery in the third quarter of 2020 with developed economies experiencing a nascent recovery and economic growth in developing economies lagging behind."

**The report noted a surge in infectious cases in Europe, the U.S. and a few other economies late in 2020 triggered additional lockdowns, with a resulting delay in** recovery.

"The **economic fallout from the pandemic could risk continued labor dislocations as a result of lingering high levels of unemployment not experienced since the Great Depression of the 1930s** and high levels of debt among developing economies," the report said. "Job losses have been concentrated more intensively in the services sector where workers have been unable to work offsite. The human costs in terms of lives lost will permanently affect global economic growth in addition to the cost of rising levels of poverty, lives upended, careers derailed, and increased social unrest." **[So lest go “Bi-dumb” and destroy some more jobs? – rdb]**

**The report estimates that from 100 million to 110 million people around the globe could be pushed into "extreme poverty" because** of the hit on the economy.**[What about the elite group that are making a fortune off of this, hummmmm Vaccine companies, China industry and those with Gates groups. ? – rdb]**

**"In addition, some estimates indicate that global trade could fall by an annual amount of 9.0% or slightly less in 20**20 as a result of the global economic downturn, exacting an especially heavy economic toll on trade-dependent developing and emerging economies."

**For workers, the impact can be measured in years of lost work, t**he report said.

**The World Economic Forum "estimated that 93% of the world’s workers were living under some form of workplace restrictions an**d that 8.8% of global working hours were lost in 2020 relative to the fourth quarter of 2019, an amount equivalent to 255 million full-time jobs." **[And the head of the WEC is loving this. This is his avenue right into his world wide economic reset that he is pushing along with his eugenics programs. – rdb]**

"Total working hours lost in 2020 compared with 2019 were highest in Europe (14.6%) and the Americas (13.7%), where quarantines and lockdowns had been extensive followed by lower-middle income economies."

**The workplace will never be the same, the report said**, with telework now a permanent fixture, involving up to 25% of workers in developed economics. At e-commerce could impact jobs in several categories. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/congressional-research-service-delivers-forecast-covids-impact-economy/>

**Facebook Posts Back Up VAERS Reports Linking COVID Vaccines to Injuries, Including Death**

***As the number of reported injuries and deaths following COVID vaccines continues to climb in VAERS, the CDC’s official vaccine adverse event reporting system, social media users also point to Facebook posts by people who enthusiastically got the vaccine, but have since died.***

*By* [*Celeste McGovern*](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/authors/celeste-mcgovern/)  *02/25/21*

**Facebook users have identified people who posted having a** [**COVID-19**](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender_category/covid/) **vaccination and then dying within h**ours.

The most recent [Facebook post](https://www.facebook.com/brittany.h.perez) of 39-year-old Brittany Hall Perez of Atlanta on Jan. 12, for example, shows her wearing a mask while holding up a vaccination card with the slogan, “SAVE LIVES. Say Yes to COVID-19 vaccine,” and framing her photo. An [obituary](https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/19653656/Brittany-Hall-Perez/Owens-Cross-Roads/Alabama/Hampton-Cove-Funeral-Home) for Brittany Hall Perez of Owens Cross Roads, Alabama on Tribute Archive announced the death of the mother of two young girls on Jan. 13, but does not say how she died.

Other [Facebook](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/chd-files-first-amended-complaint-lawsuit-against-facebook/) users have pointed to the [latest post of Julie Schlachter Splattstoesser](https://www.facebook.com/julie.schlachtersplattstoesser), a 50-year-old from Grand Island, Neb., whose Facebook page features the motto “The love of a family is life’s greatest blessing” and shows her most recent post on Dec. 31, 2020 with her husband and a heart-shaped logo saying, “I GOT MY COVID-19 VACCINE!”

An [obituary](https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/theindependent/name/julie-splattstoesser-obituary?pid=197437538) in The Grand Island Independent states that Splattstoesser, the mother of five sons, died “unexpectedly” on Dec. 31, 2020. She had been A Clinical Research Coordinator at CHI Health Cancer Treatment Center.

A report from the government’s [Vaccine Adverse Event Report System](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/rfk-jr-david-kessler-covid-vaccine-vaers/) (VAERS) describes a 50-year-old Nebraska woman who died Dec. 31 on the same day that she received a [Moderna vaccine](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/pfizer-moderna-vaccines-life-threatening-blood-disorder/) after suffering from “cardio-respiratory arrest.” [[918518](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=918518)]

**A few deaths following vaccinations have been reported in the mainstream media. A celebrated 68-year-old** [**Detroit news anchor**](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/latest-data-cdc-vaers/) **died suddenly the day after she received a COVID-19 vacci**ne, CBS Detroit [reported](https://detroit.cbslocal.com/2021/02/16/former-detroit-tv-anchor-dies-one-day-after-taking-covid-vaccine/). Karen Hudson-Samuel, who had been a Detroit media celebrity for decades, was found dead at her home by her husband, though the cause of her death is still unknown.

“We suspect it may have just been [a stroke](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/moderna-pfizer-vaccines-blood-clots-brain-inflammation-heart-attacks/), but because of the normal side effects of the vaccine it may have masked that. Hopefully, we’ll know soon from the autopsy report,” her husband, Cliff Samuels, told the news outlet.

[A man in his 70s](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/vaers-injuries-covid-vaccine-cdc-data/) collapsed 25 minutes after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine at the Javits Center in New York, KVOA News [reported](https://kvoa.com/coronavirus-coverage/2021/02/08/new-york-man-dies-25-minutes-after-receiving-covid-19-vaccine/). He died later in hospital and New York health officials said he did not have an allergic reaction.

The [Windsor Star](http://sports.espn.go.com/mlb/scoreboard) reported that a woman’s death after the COVID-19 vaccination was being investigated but provided few details.

[As of Feb. 12](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/latest-data-cdc-vaers/), 929 deaths**, 616 life-threatening adverse events, 316 cases of permanent disability, and more than 5,000 hospitalizations and emergency room visits after COVID vaccinations** were reported to VAERS, which is updated weekly.

**“VAERS reports alone cannot be used to determine if a vaccine caused or contributed to an adverse e**vent or illness,” according to the CDC VAERS [website](https://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/datarequest/D8;jsessionid=B65122D7057964467A74BB3C3370). Rather, it is considered to be a tool for detecting “signals” or patterns of significant problems with vaccines. Any healthcare worker, vaccine manufacturer or member of the public can submit a report to VAERS, so interpretation is limited.

Still, many VAERS reports give detailed pictures of [adverse events](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/thousands-covid-vaccine-injuries-13-deaths-reported-december/) that have occurred. **For example, the 929 COVID-19 vaccination-associated reported deaths include information about the patient’s age, state and how long after vaccination their symptoms began as in the** following samples:

* A 58-year-old Washington woman took [Pfizer’s](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/johns-hopkins-scientist-medical-certainty-pfizer-vaccine-caused-death-florida-doctor/) first dose of COVID vaccine at about 9 a.m. on Jan. 4 at the medical center where she worked as a housekeeper and one hour later began to complain of nausea and feeling like she was going to pass out. By 3 p.m. that day, she “appeared tired and lethargic,” according to a VAERS report, and about 4 p.m. she “went into cardiac arrest and was unable to be revived.” [[921768](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=921768)]
* A 56-year-old man who worked at an extended care community facility in Florida received a second dose of Pfizer’s COVID vaccine on Jan. 12 and was found “unresponsive,” within one hour. He was pronounced “brain dead” the same day and died two days later. [[944595](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=944595)]
* A [58-year-old woman](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/woman-dies-hours-after-first-dose-pfizer-vaccine/) walked to her car 20 minutes after receiving the first Pfizer vaccine dose in the state of Virginia on Jan. 30. According to a VAERS report, she was leaning out of her car saying that she couldn’t breathe and began vomiting. She was administered two epi-pens and an epinephrine gas but became unresponsive shortly after she was put in an ambulance, where a “large amount of fluid was suctioned from the patient’s lungs,” and she was pronounced dead at the emergency department. [[989006](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=989006)]
* A [23-year-old New York man](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/vaers-injuries-covid-vaccine-cdc-data/) received a first dose of Pfizer’s COVID vaccine on Jan. 17. “Patient developed 104.4 temp approximately 48 hours after being given the vaccine. I treated him with antibiotics, IV fluids, cooling methods,” stated one report filed by a physician. “Unfortunately, he suffered a cardiac arrest on 1/21/21 in the early morning and expired.” [[960841](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=960841)]
* A 28-year-old New Jersey man was due for his second dose of Pfizer’s vaccine Jan. 11 but was found unresponsive at his workplace in the hospital. His pupils were “fixed and dilated,” according to a VAERS report, and attempts to revive him were unsuccessful. [[943397](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=943397)]
* A 33-year-old woman died on Jan. 28 following her first dose of Pfizer’s vaccine. The report filed by a physician stated that “16 hours after receiving the vaccine (the) patient was found dead at her home.” [[1000669](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=1000669)]
* A 43-year-old man who received Moderna’s COVID vaccine on Jan. 8 in New York died the following day. [[933578](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=933578)]
* A 43-year-old woman with no pre-existing medical conditions and no known medications died six hours after receiving Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine on Jan. 13, according to a VAERS report made by a pharmacist. “An autopsy was not performed. The cause of death was unknown, death unexplained. No follow-up attempts are possible. No further information is expected,” the report stated. [[965441](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=965441)]
* A 48-year-old Tennessee woman experienced a temperature, nausea and vomiting after her first dose of Moderna’s COVID vaccine on Jan. 30 and died Feb. 1. [[994913](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=994913)]
* A 49-year-old Alabama woman had her first dose of Moderna’s vaccine on Jan. 15 and died within hours after suffering a seizure and heart attack. [[950057](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=950057)]
* A 53-year-old California man who received an injection of Pfizer’s COVID vaccine on Jan. 4 began to feel unwell immediately, according to one VAERS report. “He went right home and went to bed.” The man slept intermittently and began vomiting and developed trouble breathing. He was taken by ambulance to an urgent care facility, where became increasingly “agitated,” he continued vomiting and was dehydrated. The following morning, according to the VAERS report, “The patient stated that he couldn’t breathe, and his mind was racing.” He died at 10:15 am on Jan. 6 and, according to the VAERS report filed by his brother, “it was reported that none of the symptoms occurred until the patient received the vaccine.” [[934968](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=934968)]
* A 58-year-old Virginia pharmacist developed fatigue and shortness of breath hours after receiving Moderna’s second dose vaccine on Jan. 21. He was hospitalized two days later as his condition worsened, but he repeatedly tested negative for COVID-19. He died on Feb. 5. [[1006168](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=1006168)]
* A 52-year-old Hawaiian woman died two hours after receiving Moderna’s first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, after having a stroke. [[930910](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?IDNUMBER=930910)]

<https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/facebook-posts-vaers-link-covid-vaccines-injuries-death/>

**46 residents in Spanish nursing home die after receiving COVID-19 vaccine**

***Health authorities have reportedly halted the administering of the second shot of Pfizer’s vaccine***

*Mon Feb 15, 2021 - 3:48 pm EST By Celeste McGovern*

*LifeSiteNews has been permanently banned on YouTube. Click*[*HERE*](https://lifesitenews.us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=3b519162c561a81f1ee4736a3&id=747195aa73) *to sign up to receive emails when we add to our video library.*

SPAIN, February 15, 2021 ([LifeSiteNews](http://www.lifesitenews.com/)) —**Forty-six nursing home residents who had received their first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech’s fast-tracked vaccination against COVID-19** at the beginning of January had died by the end of the month, Spanish media have [reported](https://sevilla.abc.es/andalucia/cadiz/sevi-brote-residencia-barrios-provoca-46-muertes-coronavirus-202102040941_noticia.html?ref=https:%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F#ancla_comentarios).

Staff first reported a coronavirus outbreak at Nuestra Señora del Rosario (Our Lady of the Rosary), a nursing home in the province of Cadiz, Andalusia in Spain on January 12, in the wake of a vaccine distribution campaign.

The Ministry of Housing and Families intervened in the private facility which houses up to 145 residents and where local media reported on February 4ththat a further 28 of 94 residents as well as 12 staff members had tested positive for COVID-19.

At another nursing home in the same southwestern Spanish province, in Novo Sancti Petri, in Chiclani, [22 elderly residents died](https://www.en24news.com/e/2021/02/22-elderly-people-die-from-an-outbreak-of-covid-19-in-a-cadiz-residence-which-already-leaves-103-infected.html) and 103 were infected following a vaccination campaign.

Similar outbreaks and death clusters following vaccination have been reported across the globe, including:

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* 29 elderly people died in [Norway](https://7news.com.au/sunrise/on-the-show/29-norwegians-died-after-taking-pfizer-covid-jab-so-should-we-be-concerned-c-1977656) shortly after receiving Pfizer’s vaccination.
* 13 deaths among 40 residents following vaccination at one nursing home in [Germany](https://www.suedkurier.de/region/bodenseekreis/bodenseekreis/elf-todesfaelle-im-seniorenwohnpark-laut-buergermeister-ein-tragischer-zufall-und-ohne-zusammenhang-zum-impftermin;art410936,10719652) were dismissed as “tragic coincidence.”
* 10 deaths in a [German palliative care patients](https://www.aninews.in/news/world/europe/german-specialists-probing-10-deaths-of-people-vaccinated-against-covid-1920210115045615/) within hours to four days of COVID-19 vaccination were deemed a “coincidence.”
* 22 of 72 residents of a nursing home in [Basingstoke, England](https://www.basingstokegazette.co.uk/news/19043790.coronavirus-outbreak-22-deaths-pemberley-house-care-home/) have died following vaccination.
* 24 seniors at a nursing home in [Syracuse, NY](https://www.syracuse.com/coronavirus/2021/01/covid-19-outbreak-at-auburn-nursing-home-infects-137-residents-kills-24.html) were reported to have died from COVID-19 as of January 9, 2021 despite having been vaccinated beginning December 22, 2020.
* 10 cases of COVID-19 were [reported](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-01/28/c_139704947.htm) on January 28 among seniors who had received both doses of Pfizer’s vaccine at one care home in Stockholm Sweden. The residents were vaccinated on December 27 and again on January 19.
* The COVID-19 death toll in the small British enclave of Gibraltar numbered 16 before it launched its Pfizer vaccination campaign on January 10, 2021 and then shot up to 53 deaths 10 days later and to 70 seven days after that. According to a [Reuters report](https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-gibraltar-deaths-idUSKBN2A22CC), the Gibraltar Health Authority declared there was “no evidence at all of any causal link” between 6 of the deaths that were investigated and the Pfizer’s vaccine, despite the individuals having tested negative for Covid-19 before vaccination,  but positive “in the days immediately after.”
* 4,500 COVID-19 cases in Israel occurred in patients *after*they had received one dose of Pfizer’s vaccine and 375 of those vaccinated patients required hospitalization, Israeli news media [reported](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/294794) on January 12.
* Seven adults living in a care home in Saskatoon tested positive for coronavirus a week after residents were vaccinated at the Sherbrooke Community Centre, the CBC [reported](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/sherbrooke-community-centre-saskatoon-1.5882719). There were no positive cases at the time of vaccination.
* Seven residents at a [Montreal](https://www.theepochtimes.com/seven-residents-at-montreal-care-home-get-covid-19-after-receiving-first-vaccine-dose_3655145.html) long-term care facility tested positive for Covid-19 within 28 days of being vaccinated with Pfizer’s vaccine, prompting the province of Quebec to delay the second Pfizer dose.
* Abercorn Care Home in Scotland, which began COVID-19 vaccinations on December 14, 2020 was home to an outbreak of the virus by January 10 and the National Health Service for the region refused to comment on whether vaccinated residents were ill. A care home staff group founder told the Scottish [Daily Record](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/first-care-home-receive-vaccine-23291707): “We have had members of our group whose parents have had the vaccine and then two weeks later have tested positive for coronavirus.”
* All of the residents at a home in [Inverness, Scotland](https://news.stv.tv/highlands-islands/covid-infects-35-vaccinated-staff-and-residents-at-care-home?top) were vaccinated against COVID-19 early in January, but 17 became infected with the virus after the first dose.

The UK Medical Freedom Alliance – a group of doctors, scientists, lawyers and other professionals who advocate for informed consent in the United Kingdom – published an urgent [open letter](https://www.ukmedfreedom.org/resources/covid-19-vaccine-info#Open-Letters) to Nadhim Zahawi, Minister for COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment; Matt Hancock, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care; and two vaccine oversight agencies calling for an immediate audit of the deaths following vaccination in the U.K.

The group refers to graphs showing a surge in care home deaths and cites data from the Office for National Statistics that residents’ deaths tripled in the two weeks between 8th and 22nd January 2021 at a time when there was a massive increase in the rate of vaccinations in care homes.

Similar graphs for Israel, Ireland, Bahrain and Jordan show a similar correlation. <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/46-residents-in-spanish-nursing-home-die-after-receiving-covid-19-vaccine> **[I don’t recall seeing much of this in the mainstream media. While these deaths may not be related to receiving the vaccine from what is given there is certainly a bit of proximity to make you think. That is my objective. Think about this. 99.9% of most people do well with the problem. Why a vaccine when there are several treatments that are effective? People must wake up and start to think. – rdb]**

**Despite news blackout, awesome COVID-19 protection is available**

***Joel S. Hirschhorn exposes health system's abject failure to support early outpatient treatment***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published February 28, 2021 at 12:38pm*

*Following is an exclusive excerpt from the new book,* [*“Pandemic Blunder: Fauci and Public Health Blocked Early Home COVID Treatment”*](https://www.amazon.com/Pandemic-Blunder-Public-Blocked-Treatment/dp/197723822X/ref=nav_ya_signin?dchild=1&keywords=Pandemic+Blunder&qid=1612289098&sr=8-1&&&&captcha_verified=1&) *by Joel S. Hirschhorn. The author has a long history of working on health issues, including being a full professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a senior official at the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment and the National Governors Association. A member of both the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons and America's Frontline Doctors, Hirschhorn has authored several books and hundreds of articles.*

**By Joel S. Hirschhorn**

**Pandemic blunder is defined as the failure of the United States public health system and federal agencies to support and promote early home/outpatient treatment for the COVID-19 pandemic disea**se. Considerable medical information and data convincingly show that when given early, a number of proven safe, cheap, generic medicines and protocols knock out the coronavirus. Early means within the first few days of getting symptoms or a positive test. Some pioneering and courageous doctors have been using innovative approaches to prevent their COVID patients from needing hospital care and facing death. Many doctors support the view that 70% to 80% of COVID deaths could have been prevented – and still can for future victims of the disease.

**This book does more than describe the pandemic blunder, particularly in terms of the influence of Dr. Anthony Fauci. It can help Americans protect their lives by not being victimized by disinformation and propaganda from leftist me**dia. Pandemic management has failed because of corrupt forces aiming to make billions of dollars from expensive medicines and vaccines. There has been widespread dereliction of duty on the part of many local, state and federal government officials.

***Developing a personal strategy to stay healthy***

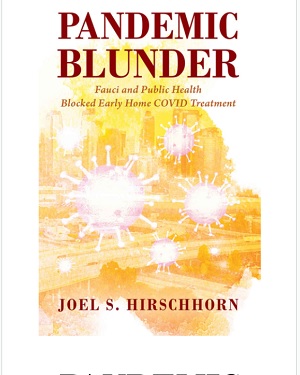
**The beginning of any personal strategy to stay healthy and survive the COVID pandemic is a deep appreciation for the undeniable truth that there are proven ways to save lives.** This is the profound truth about the big pandemic blunder, meaning the failure of the public health system to support early home/outpatient COVID treatment. …

A number of statements by credible sources are presented here to convince you of life-saving truths:

**\* The white paper on the website of America’s Frontline Doctors by Dr. Simone Gold in the summer of 2020 concluded: “What we do know is that 70,000-100,000 excess American lives have been lost due to lack of access to HC**Q.” **[anyone want to call that a genocide? – rdb]**

\* On Fox News in July 2020, Dr. Harvey Risch said, “75,000 to 100,000 lives will be saved” with use of the controversial medicine, and “we’re basically fighting a propaganda war against the medical facts.” Later in October 2020, after many more deaths, Risch wrote in the Washington Examiner: “Many or most of the 220,000 deaths in the United States to date could have been prevented by widespread HCQ use that the FDA blocked. It is the FDA that is responsible for these deaths, not the president.” But Fauci is the power behind the throne, dictating FDA actions. What Risch said holds true now, with a much higher number of deaths.

\* Dr. Brian Tyson has said that between 75% and 80% of the over 200,000 deaths thus far could have been prevented by using HCQ!



\* In November 2020, Dr. Peter McCollough said**: “Public health historians will look back and call out a blunder. The lack of investment, execution of large-scale clinical trials, and implementation of available oral medications in a sequenced regimen**, conceptualized by doctors in early April, was responsible for the greatest amount of human suffering and death in our nation’s history. The avoidable loss of life is in the hundreds of thousands. The great gamble on the vaccine was a race in time in which ‘warp speed’ was simply not fast enough for those ill now and over the months to come before immunity closes out the crisis.”

\* Also in November 2020, Dr. Zev Zelenko said: “There is a cure for COVID-19 as well as effective prevention options. The Zelenko Protocol could have saved over 200,000 lives.” Considering that this was when the national death figure was close to 280,000, this translates to about 70% of lives that could have been saved. But in his December 2020 published study “COVID-19 outpatients: Early risk-stratified treatment with zinc plus low-dose hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin: a retrospective case series study” in the International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents, Zelenko found an 80% reduction in deaths among those receiving early home treatment with his protocol.

\* In November 2020, Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said thousands of people have died because doctors have ignored treating COVID-19 patients early with the use of alternative drugs, notably HCQ. ''Thousands of people have died because we’ve ignored it. That’s a question we’re asking: Why?'' Johnson added, “There’s a host of things we should have explored, we should be using, we should be letting doctors be doctors. And we should be celebrating their courage and their compassion rather than raking them over the coals and calling them names. … This is ridiculous.''

\* In December 2020, Dr. Ramin Oskoui, who appears often on Fox News, said that with HCQ use, “probably over 100,000 deaths could've been easily avoided.” How much over is the question. He added that because of the U.S. rejection of hydroxychloroquine, “we've stressed our health care system, we've almost crashed our economy, and we've destroyed small business, and potentially, sadly, we may have really wounded ourselves from a military standpoint and a health care standpoint for years to come.”

\* Also, in December 2020, Dr. Pierre Kory said: “The effective vaccines for which we have all been waiting are coming very soon, but not soon enough to save the tens of thousands who are projected to die before the widespread distribution of the vaccines can be completed. Right now, COVID-19 is a runaway train barreling down the tracks, and if you’re on those tracks, ivermectin can help lift you out of harm’s way.”

\* In his second Senate hearing on early home/outpatient treatment in December 2020, Sen. Ron Johnson emphasized that probably hundreds of thousands of lives have been lost because of inattention to the use of the safe, low-cost HCQ and IVM generics for early home/outpatient treatment. At the same hearing, Dr. Rajter emphasized that “we cannot stand by and let hundreds of thousands of patients go untreated,” with the clear inference that otherwise there would be hospitalizations and deaths. He emphasized that IVM destroys the COVID virus in 48 hours.

The most important point is that the data on the advantage of using HCQ (with a 70% reduction in deaths) imply saving about 200,000 U.S. lives in November 2020, when the total deaths were about 280,000. This savings figure of course will increase as the number of deaths, sadly, keeps increasing without wide home/outpatient use of HCQ or IVM, likely along with other medicines and supplements. **MORE -** <https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/despite-news-blackout-awesome-covid-19-protection-available/>  **[I have used HCQ myself and on multiple patients who have asked for it for their positive PCR test for Covid and they have all done well. I have given it prophylactically for those in the at risk group who are concerned and wanted it. IT WORKS. It works well. Fauci knew this from the ONSET because he wrote a paper on in in 2005 but he and his group chose to promote negative reports concerning HCQ in order to advance their agenda of a toxic experimental treatment that they call a vaccine. They will make bundles off of this experiment and potentially subject people to a dangerous reaction from it. Learn and think before you act. These people are not tin hats and they are not crazy. They are honest with an excellent traditional ethic that says patients first. With the group from organized medicine acting like a bunch of ignorant robots following the narrative without doing their own due diligence, it is an embarrassment anymore to a physician with the likes of these folks in charge. If you have effective treatments for a problem you don’t need a vaccine if you don’t have it. To be honest much of the over vaccination that is being done is in my perspective a complete scam and a money grabbing con game. – rdb]**

**Commentary:**

**China Buys Western Academics  
*by*** [***Giulio Meotti***](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Giulio+Meotti) ***February 28, 2021 at 5:00 am***A shocking [investigation](https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/comment-la-chine-pousse-ses-pions-a-l-universite-26-02-2021-2415542_24.php) was just published by the French weekly *Le Point* on how Beijing is buying the favor of Western universities. An Italian associate professor, for example, [Fabio Massimo Parenti](http://www.chinahumanrights.org/html/Features/07/5/1/2019/0912/13786.html), at the Lorenzo de Medici International Institute in Florence, was hosted in Xinjiang, where [up to two million](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-rights-un/u-n-says-it-has-credible-reports-that-china-holds-million-uighurs-in-secret-camps-idUSKBN1KV1SU) Uyghurs are estimated to be locked up in "re-education camps". In addition, many British schools are now closely under Chinese radar of influence and propaganda. Nigel Farage, the leader of Britain's Reform UK Party, recently [tweeted](https://twitter.com/nigel_farage/status/1363247305764311054) that "Chinese billionaires with direct links to the CCP are buying up British schools — and flooding the curriculum with their propaganda," and [listed](https://twitter.com/nigel_farage/status/1363546052050247687) the names of some in the UK "under Chinese control":  
 "Abbots Bromley School  
Bournemouth Collegiate  
St Michael's School  
Bosworth College  
Bedstone College  
Ipswich High School  
Kingsley School  
Heathfield Knoll School  
Thetford Grammar  
Wisbech Grammar  
Riddlesworth Hall  
Myddelton College  
CATS Colleges"  
 Beginning in September 2019, in Urumqi, the capital of the Uyghur region of Xinjiang in western China, Christian Mestre, honorary dean of the University of Strasbourg faculty of law, participated in an "international seminar on the fight against terrorism, de-radicalization and the protection of human rights". The seminar was organized by the People's Republic of China. Mestre's statements were transcribed by both the state media, the Xinhua news agency, as well as the nationalist newspaper *Global Times*.  
 "I hope that France and other European countries can adopt the answers provided by Xinjiang", professor Mestre [said](https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/comment-la-chine-pousse-ses-pions-a-l-universite-26-02-2021-2415542_24.php) while visiting one of the "vocational education centers", the name given by Beijing to its re-education camps. "These people are not in prison," the professor [attested](https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/comment-la-chine-pousse-ses-pions-a-l-universite-26-02-2021-2415542_24.php), "but sent to compulsory training". Nothing to see here, as they say.  
 That was the beginning of an impressive investigation by the French weekly [*Le Point*](https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/comment-la-chine-pousse-ses-pions-a-l-universite-26-02-2021-2415542_24.php) on how China has bought the favor of many Western academics. "It is worthy of Aragon's travels to the Soviet Union or the collaborators in Nazi Germany", [said](https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/comment-la-chine-pousse-ses-pions-a-l-universite-26-02-2021-2415542_24.php) Marie Bizais-Lillig, a colleague of Mestre. The reference is to Louis Aragon, the French writer who visited Soviet Union under Stalin and [came back convinced](https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803095421109) of the genuineness of the communist system, and then dedicated himself to its defense.  
 A survivor of China's re-education camps in Xinjiang recently revealed what happens there. Gulbahar Haitiwaji had lived in France for ten years. Her husband and daughters had political refugee status, but Gulbahar preferred to keep her Chinese passport to visit her elderly mother. In November 2016, she bought a ticket to China, where she was swiftly deported to a re-education camp for her people, the Uyghurs. She was detained for two years before being released under pressure from France. Early this year, she published a chilling account, "[Rescapée du goulag chinois](https://www.lefigaro.fr/international/l-effroyable-temoignage-de-gulbahar-ouighoure-rescapee-du-goulag-chinois-20210120)". ["Survivor of a Chinese Gulag"]  
 Gulbahar is the first Uyghur to have been released and repatriated to France. "Xi Jinping, she [sums up](https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2021/01/19/j-etais-morte-de-l-interieur-rescapee-des-camps-chinois-une-ouigoure-de-france-temoigne_6066730_3210.html), "wants Xinjiang without the Uighurs".  
 She was moved from one detention center to another. First the pre-trial detention center, with the rules hanging on the wall: "It is forbidden to speak Uyghur; it is forbidden to pray; it is forbidden to go on a hunger strike..." She had to defecate into a plastic bucket in front of the others.  
 She was chained to her bed for 20 days in 2017. She was taken to one of those new "vocational training centers", the name given by the regime to its gulags. The Baijintan Camp -- three buildings "as big as small airports" on the edge of the desert -- is surrounded by fences topped with razor wire. Prisoners no longer see daylight, only neon. Cameras follow the detainees' every movement.  
 "Thanks to our great country. Thanks to our dear President Xi Jinping", the detainees must repeat from dawn to dusk.  
 After taking on new names (Gulbahar became "Number 9"), their clothes and hair are removed. Chinese re-education then begins to take hold of their mind. A camp guard shows the group of inmates a wall: "What color is it?", he asks. "White", they reply. "No, it is black. It is I who decide what color it is".  
 Then come strange "vaccinations". "Women no longer menstruated. Once I returned to France, I really felt the existence of sterilization..."  
 In France, during the past 15 years, 18 Confucius Institutes have been opened, ostensibly to teach Chinese and promote Chinese culture. In Europe, in 2019, Belgium [expelled](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/10/30/belgium-bars-chinese-professor-suspected-spying-beijing/) the rector of the Confucius Institute of the Free Flemish University of Brussels, after security services accused him of being a spy.  
 A Tibet expert, Françoise Robin, of the National Institute of Oriental Languages ​​and Civilizations (Inalco), [calls](https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/comment-la-chine-pousse-ses-pions-a-l-universite-26-02-2021-2415542_24.php) these institutes "Propaganda weapons", In 2016, Inalco invited the Dalai Lama for a conference. "We received official letters from the Chinese embassy asking us not to receive him," Robin [said.](https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/comment-la-chine-pousse-ses-pions-a-l-universite-26-02-2021-2415542_24.php)  
 In September 2014, Mestre's faculty of law at Strasbourg University hosted a series of events on Tibet, with lectures, exhibitions, dances and concerts organized "at the request of the Consulate General of China in Strasbourg", [according](https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/comment-la-chine-pousse-ses-pions-a-l-universite-26-02-2021-2415542_24.php) to the terms of an email sent by the dean. "The inaugural conference assured [everyone] that Tibet was never annexed, [and] that the Chinese intervention of 1950 had been requested by the Tibetans," Nicolas Nord, a law professor, [recalled](https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/comment-la-chine-pousse-ses-pions-a-l-universite-26-02-2021-2415542_24.php).  
 [*The Economist*](https://www.economist.com/china/2021/02/13/as-in-xinjiang-china-is-tightening-its-grip-in-tibet) recently suggested what the Chinese regime is really doing in Tibet: eradicating the influence of Buddhism from their people's minds.  
 That may be why the proposed new head of the CIA, William J. Burns, [said](https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/02/24/cia-bill-burns-director-confirmation-hearing-china/) that if it were up to him, he would close Confucius Institutes in Western universities. In Britain, they are also apparently worried -- justifiably, it seems. [According to the *Daily Mail*](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9282617/British-private-institutions-bought-Chinese-firms.html), hundreds of independent schools that were left in serious financial difficulty by the Wuhan Virus pandemic have since been targeted by Chinese investors. China is evidently seeking to expand its influence in the British education system, as they are in the [United States](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/PSI%20Report%20China%27s%20Impact%20on%20the%20US%20Education%20System.pdf). Seventeen schools in the UK are already [owned](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9282617/British-private-institutions-bought-Chinese-firms.html) by Chinese companies, and that number is destined to rise. In addition, *The Times* [revealed](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tencent-firm-with-links-to-chinese-state-funds-cambridge-studies-6bp8kmsvs) that the University of Cambridge received a "generous gift" from Tencent Holdings, one of the largest technology companies in China involved in state censorship.  
 One's mind goes back to the "Cambridge Five", the British spy network -- Anthony Blunt, Donald Maclean, Kim Philby, Guy Burgess and John Cairncross -- in the service of the Soviet Union and also based at the famous British university. Kim Philby, who died in exile in the Soviet Union, [never regretted](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/10790144/Kim-Philby-had-no-regrets-about-betraying-Britain-to-the-Soviet-Union-recordings-reveal.html) his betrayal of the UK : "It was only at the end of my stay in Cambridge that I made the final decision to dedicate my life to communism".  
 At the time, many in the West could truthfully have said they did not know how many people had been killed or jailed by the Soviet regime. Today, we know a lot about China's cruelty, including the mass murder by the Wuhan Virus that the Chinese Communist Party forced upon the world, first by lying that the virus was not transmissible person-to-person, then by stopping domestic flights from Wuhan but letting international flights continue. As a consequence, every country on the planet was infected, resulting in the murder of [more than 2.5 million](https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/cumulative-covid-deaths-region?tab=chart&stackMode=absolute&time=2020-01-11..latest®ion=World) people.  
 We also know about the number of people locked up in the *laogai*, the Chinese "administrative prisons" ([estimated at 50 million](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Laojiao,-China's-shame,-where-50-million-people-have-been-detained-17699.html)). We know about the number of Chinese girls that the regime prevented from being born when the "one child policy" was in effect ([estimated at 30 million](https://www.npr.org/2016/02/01/465124337/how-chinas-one-child-policy-led-to-forced-abortions-30-million-bachelors)). We know about the number of people killed at Tiananmen Square, the last time the regime was openly challenged by its citizens ([estimated at 10,000](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-42465516)).  
 "Places inhabited by ethnic minorities, such as Xinjiang and Tibet, have stood out as shining examples of China's human rights progress", China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi [said](https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210222-xinjiang-a-shining-example-of-china-s-human-rights-progress-minister) hours before addressing the annual conference of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Probably even the Soviet Union could not have thought that one up.  
*Giulio Meotti, Cultural Editor for* Il Foglio, *is an Italian journalist and author.* <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/17122/china-buys-western-academics>

**Dodging the Biden Bullet, Part 4***By* [*Roger Anghis*](https://newswithviews.com/author/roger/)*|February 28th, 2021* As we look at these bills that are only disasters for America, America’s economy, and the American worker, keep in mind that I do not believe that if enacted, that they will stand.  I believe that the Creator of this nation, God almighty, is working on something that will shock not just the United States but the entire world as well.  It will be something we’ve never seen before because it will be something that He’s never done before and we will see a restoration on a scale that we have never seen before.  
 Keep in mind, also, that the sole purpose of HR 127 is to disarm the people.  Armed people don’t follow government mandates too well.  Think about this, if the government wants to disarm us after over 400 years of being armed, it is only logical to think that they are wanting to do something we won’t like.  There is a meme out there that says to hold onto the AR-15 because it must have great power that the government does not want you to have.  
 Thomas Jefferson warned that ***“The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.”***  George Washington stated: ***“A free people ought to not only be armed, but disciplined to which end a uniform and well-digested plan is requisite; and their safety and interest require that they should provide such manufacturers as tend to render them independent of others for essential, particularly military supplies.”***  Benjamin Franklin warned us: ***“Never trust a government that doesn’t trust its own citizens with guns.”***  When the Democrats say we need gun control they mean THEY want to control the guns and that means you don’t get to have one.  We must look at history to see what governments do to their citizens when the citizens allow their guns to be taken from them.  It has never been good for the citizens, ever!  
**What happens when guns are controlled by the government?**  
 **DATE      COUNTRY                     RESULT**  
 1929          Soviet Union                     20 million dissidents rounded up and exterminated  
 1911           Turkey                                1,5 million Armenians, were rounded and exterminated.  
 1938          Germany                            13 million Jews and others were rounded up and exterminated.  
 1935          China                                  20 million political dissidents were rounded up and exterminated.  
 1964          Guatemala                         100,000 Mayan Indians were rounded up and exterminated  
 1970          Uganda                               300,000 Christians were rounded up and exterminated.  
 1956          Cambodia                           One million “educated” people were rounded up and exterminated.  
 You may say that that could never happen in America.  Well, did you ever think that a private company could ever control free speech in America?  How about allowing strip clubs to remain open during a plannedemic and deemed ‘essential’ but churches couldn’t meet and when they could, they couldn’t worship?  And the like what happened in New York City the mayor sent out spies to look into synagogue windows to see if the congregants were singing?  Never thought I’d see that.  Then they said you couldn’t visit your loved one in the hospital, go to a funeral, gather for a birthday party or Thanksgiving or Christmas, but then the people that issued those mandates went to birthday parties and gathered with THEIR families for Thanksgiving.  Didn’t see that coming either did you?  
 Remember that the liberal, i.e. communist, mindset has been taught in our public schools and colleges for the last fifty years.  Our constitutional rights are not taught and are actually being denied to us virtually without our knowledge.  Under HR 127 we can no longer inherit a gun that has been in the family for maybe hundreds of years ***without government approval!***  ) ***It shall be unlawful for a person to transfer a firearm or ammunition to a person who is not licensed under section 932(c)(1).***  
 ***“(2) It shall be unlawful for a person to sell or give a firearm or ammunition to another person unless the person has notified the Attorney General of the sale or gift***.[1] I can remember borrowing a rifle from a friend to go deer hunting back in the 80s.  Today would require governmental approval.  ***It shall be unlawful for a person to loan a firearm or ammunition to another person unless the person has notified the Attorney General of the loan, including the identity of such other person and the period for which the loan is made***.[2] Also keep in mind that if you manage to get governmental approval to borrow a gun you must have an insurance policy for the period of time you will have the gun.  I wonder if insurance companies had anything to do with that provision?  Probably not, they’re way too integral to do anything like that.  
 If you loan your rifle to your son to go hunting and your son does not have the proper license, you could be fined $75,000-$150,000 with a minimum sentence of 15 years in jail. ***“(8) Whoever knowingly violates section 922(aa) shall be fined not less than $75,000 and not more than $150,000, imprisoned not less than 15 years and not more than 25 years, or both***.[3] There are several more provisions that you could be fined for under this bill, violation of our 2nd Amendment that need a lot of scrutiny.  Actually, the entire bill, violation of our 2nd Amendment needs to be put in a shredder and forgotten about and the authors and co-sponsors should be tried for attempting to take our constitutional rights away from us.  
 Here is another provision that is as clear as mud: ***) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess a large capacity ammunition feeding device.*** There is only one minor problem with this provision, it does not define ‘large-capacity’.  An Ar-15 magazine holds 30, an M&P Shield can hold 8 in a single stack to 12 with an extended clip.  What defines large capacity?  Who determines that?  It should not be a liberal.  It should be a person educated in the use of the weapon.  Liberals don’t qualify.  
 All this is said to point out where the Democrats want to take America and that is down a road of totalitarianism and tyranny.  They are trying to do this in one fell swoop during the next four years.  God is not done with America.  That is why I’m convinced that He is going to move to remove the party that is temporarily in power.  Scripture tells us to walk by faith, not by sight.  He told the prophets Trump would win and he did.  He also said he would serve his second term.  That’s what we are to look at not what we see.  You may call me foolish but time will tell who gets the last laugh.  
**Foot Notes**  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/127/text?r=19&s=1>  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/127/text?r=19&s=1>  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/127/text?r=19&s=1>   
<https://newswithviews.com/dodging-the-biden-bullet-part-4/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Trump: We're going to unite and be stronger than ever before**

***Former President Trump makes first public appearance since leaving office, addressing 2021 CPAC conference.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Feb 28 , 2021 10:38 PM | updated: 1:38 AM*

**Former US President Donald Trump on Sunday addressed the 2021 Conservative Political Action Conference, being held at the Hyatt Hotel in Orlando, Florid**a. The event is the former president's first public appearance since he left office last month.

“As we **gather this week, we are in the middle of an historic struggle for America's future, America's culture, America’s institutions, borders and most cherished principles**. Our security our prosperity and our very identity as Americans is at stake like perhaps at no other time," Trump said

**"We have the Republican party. It's going to unite and be stronger than ever before. I am not starting a new party. That was fake news.** Wouldn't that be brilliant? Let's start a new party and divide our vote," he added.

Trump **criticized his successor, saying, "Joe Biden has had the most disastrous month in history**. They are anti-borders, anti-women, and anti-science. We went from America First to America last in one month."

"We did such a good job on our southern border. It's all gone now. We had created the most secure border in our history. We built 500 miles of the border wall. Walls and wheels are two things will never change," added Trump.

"Joe Biden has triggered a massive flood of illegal immigration to our country, the likes we have never seen before. They are coming to take advantage of the things he said. We can't afford the problems of the world."

**Trump teased a 2024 run, and said of the Democrats, "Actually, as you know they just lost the White House...who kno**ws, I may even decide to beat them for a third time."

**If Trump does run again in 2024, he will be the first presidential candidate since Richard Nixon to seek the White House after a losing bid**. No candidate since Grover Cleveland has won two non-consecutive terms as president.

Continuing his criticism of Biden, Trump said, "He revoked an executive order cracking down on sanctuary cities has effectively ordered a shutdown of ICE, halting virtually all deportations."

**Trump accused Biden of “making America into a sanctuary nation"** and said Republicans must hold Biden accountable for ripping up asylum cooperative agreements with Northern Triangle countries.

Trump said that kids “must get back [to school] and get back right now." He accused Biden of "selling out America's children to the teachers' unions."

**"Joe Biden has shamefully betrayed America's youth and he is cruelly keeping our children locked i**n their homes, no reason for it whatsoever," added the former President.

**Trump took credit for the vaccine operation in the US, and** said Democrats are "following our plan". He then added, "If we had an honest media, which we don't, they would say it loud and clear."

He criticized Biden for repealing the Trump-era travel bans, saying, “It was a great achievement and he terminated it.”

“He’s increased refugee admissions by nearly 10 times but in effect it'll be hundreds of times as millions of people flow up through our soon-to-be open borders," warned Trump. "Your family can still not go out to eat at local restaurants, but Joe Biden is bringing in thousands upon thou of refugees from all over the world, people who no-one knows anything about."

Trump also criticized Biden's foreign policy, and in particular over the decision to drop a sanctions push against Iran.

“Leave the sanctions, negotiate, does anybody understand what I’m saying here?” he said.

**Trump also commented on the 2020 elections, saying Republicans need to work for fair and secure elections. "We must pass comprehensive election reforms and we must do it now -- the Democrats used the China Virus as an excuse to change all the election rules without the approval of their state legislatures -- therefore making it illegal**," he said.

Trump called the election "rigged" and accused the courts of not doing anything about it.

**He criticized his opponents within the Republican party, saying that Democrats stick together, and Republicans need "spines of steel**."

**"We cannot have leaders who show more passion for condemning their fellow Americans than they every have for standing up to Democrats, t**he media and the radicals who want to turn America into a socialist country," said Trump.

He then named the Republican Senators who voted in favor of impeaching him. When he mentioned Rep. Liz Cheney, he called her a "warmonger".

"Get rid of them all," he added.

Trump concluded the speech by predicting a Republican president will take back the White House, and again hinted of a possible 2024 run.

"And I wonder who that will be, I wonder who that will be? Who who who will that be?" he said. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297668> **[This was his kickoff speech for his next run. It was excellent. – rdb]**

**Arabs throw firebombs and pipe bomb at Beit El**

***Firebombs and pipe bombs again thrown at homes in neighborhood of Beit El. No injuries reported.***

*Ben Ariel , Mar 01 , 2021 1:13 AM*

***Firebomb in the yard of a home Hilleli Amir***

**Four firebombs and a pipe bomb were thrown by terrorists at the western neighborhood of Beit El on Sunday evening. One of the firebombs exploded a few meters from a residence, but no damage was done**.

**Residents of the neighborhood see the incident as part of a series of similar incidents that have taken place in recent weeks. On Saturday, two** firebombs were thrown at houses in the neighborhood, apparently from a passing Palestinian Arab vehicle. A few days earlier, a pipe bomb had been thrown at another house in the neighborhood.

These incidents miraculously ended without injuries even though the explosives and firebombs hit very close to homes during hours when residents are normally in their homes and some are sleeping.

The residents of the neighborhood are once again warning of what they describe as complete helplessness in the face of a recurring phenomenon that could claim casualties in both property and lives.

The IDF responded and said that "any such incident receives full serious attention at the highest levels that reach the area as part of the steps that will eventually lead to the capture of the perpetrators."

An IDF source said that the IDF will continue to "act to close the circle in order to prevent future incidents and strengthen deterrence. We are working throughout the region and not just in Beit El to prevent throwing of rocks, firebombs and explosives. Some activities are secret and some are open." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297671>

**Supreme Court imposes sweeping ban on COVID tracking**

**Use of surveillance techniques to track COVID cases will be strictly limited following court ruling.**

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 01 , 2021 12:50 PM*

**The Israeli Supreme Court ruled against the government's covert tracking program for coronavirus patients, placing strict limits on the use of the Shin Bet intelligence agency for tracing COV**ID cases.

**In its ruling Monday morning, the Court partially accepted the petition filed by a group of NGOs including Adalah, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Physicians Clinic for Human Rights, and Priva**cy Israel.

**The petition had challenged the government's decision to empower the Shin Bet internal security agency to track Israeli citizens without their knowledge i**n order to trace the movements of coronavirus patients and identify people who may have come into contact with COVID carriers.

While the Court did not ban the use of covert Shin Bet COVID tracking of Israeli civilians entirely, it established strict limits on such tracking.

**Under the ruling, the Shin Bet will only be able to track diagnosed coronavirus patients who have refused to cooperate with health authorities in epidemiological tracing investigatio**ns, in which officials attempt to identify any people who came into contact with the infected person long enough to require going into isolation.

The law empowering the Shin Bet to use covert tracking techniques was not struck down, however. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297700> **Comply with big brother or be spied on. – rdb]**

**'Netanyahu is afraid of Gideon Sa'ar'**

***Ze'ev Elkin, a former confidant of Netanyahu, says new poll shows Gideon Sa'ar is viable candidate to replace PM in coming election.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 01 , 2021 2:03 PM*

**Former Likud minister Ze’ev Elkin, who recently left the Likud to join Gideon Sa’ar’s New Hope party, responded Monday afternoon to a new poll showing Sa’ar in a statistical dead heat with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in a hypothetical head-to-head matchu**p.

**Elkin, formerly a confidant of Netanyahu, has sharply criticized the prime minister since his departure fr**om the Likud late last year.

In an interview with *Radio 103FM*, Elkin dismissed Yesh Atid chairman Yair Lapid’s chances of forming a new government – despite Yesh Atid coming in second place in recent polls – adding that he believes Netanyahu is concerned more by Gideon Sa’ar.

Lapid “cannot form a coalition government in this Knesset, since most voters are center-right,” said Elkin.

Netanyahu, he continued, “is afraid of Gideon Sa’ar, since he knows that Sa’ar is an alternative.”

Elkin acknowledged that if Netanyahu and his allies, plus Naftali Bennett’s Yamina, win enough seats, they may form the next government, keeping Netanyahu in power.

“If Netanyahu and Bennett get to 61 seats, they might form a government – but it doesn’t look like it.”

[A new poll released Monday](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297686) by *Radio 103FM* found that in head-to-head matchups, Netanyahu now leads Sa’ar by just a single point, 43% to 42%, the narrowest margin yet recorded in a poll. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297704>

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**02/28/2021 NEWS AM**

**Americans & Canadians Joining the IDF**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lRalcnqwVSM**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lRalcnqwVSM)

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| **"It's a mistake to think that poor people get the benefit from the welfare system. It's a total fraud. Most welfare go to the rich of this country: the military-industrial complex, the bankers, the foreign dictators, it's totally out of control. [...] This idea that the government has services or goods that they can pass on is a complete farce. Governments have nothing. They can't create anything, they never have. All they can do is steal from one group and give it to another at the destruction of the principles of freedom, and we ought to challenge that concept." -- Dr. Ron Paul (1935-) American physician, US Congressman (R-TX), US Presidential candidate** |

**Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!**

**That is the only hope for this nation!**

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for TR – abnormal Mammogram having double biopsy – Positive for cancer**  **Pray for ZH - having trouble with PTSD**  **Pray for LAC – recurrent cancer getting treatment**  **Pray for Ella – emotionally disturbed abused child and brother with ? heart problem**  **Pray for JN – Neuro disease**  **Pray for MS – Job issues and change**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for Felicia – post op problems – continuing**  **Pray for SH and family – lady’s husband passed away and she is in Nursing home. Not doing well.**  **Pray for MP – Very complex problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 19:30And Lot goeth up out of Zoar, and dwelleth in the mountain, and his two daughters with him, for he hath been afraid of dwelling in Zoar, and he dwelleth in a cave, he and his two daughters. 31And the first-born saith unto the younger, `Our father *is* old, and a man there is not in the earth to come in unto us, as *is* the way of all the earth; 32come, we cause our father to drink wine, and lie with him, and preserve from our father--a seed.'**

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| **ETBPF has a new venue called Discord. It is a private web site where we are posting news and the daily news posting and you can respond with posts if you want. This ‘app’ can be used almost like facebook and twitter but without the intervention. We are just starting it and a bit slow to learn how to use it but it helps keep us off the Big Guys. It is a freebee and private. We have set levels of access to make sure only real responsible people are able to access. You can look at and join by going to:** [**https://discord.gg/4576x47ezN**](https://discord.gg/4576x47ezN) |

**Lawyers to sue WHO for 'misleading world over COVID-19 outbreak'**

***Consumer protection trial lawyer Reiner Fuellmich says agencies 'knowingly misled governments across the world.'***

*Mordechai Sones , Feb 28 , 2021 11:12 AM*

**A group of lawyers is preparing to sue the World Health Organization and some of its partners for allegedly misleading the world over the severity of the COVID-19 outbreak and the measures taken to control it,** which they say have damaged livelihoods and caused tremendous harm to economies.

**The move was announced by Dr. Reiner Fuellmich, one of four members of the German Coronavirus Investigative Committee th**at has been hearing international scientists’ and experts’ testimonies since July 10, 2020.

**In a video released to his YouTube channel, Fuellmich accuses WHO Director Tedros Adhanom, Dr Christan Drosten, the head of virology at Berlin’s Charité Hospital, and Dr Lothar Wieler, the head of the RKI, the German counterpart of the U.S. Center for Disease Control, whom he claims knowingly misled governments across the** world.

“**This corona crisis, according to all we know today, must be renamed a corona scandal,** and those responsible for it must be criminally prosecuted, and sued for civil damages,” he said. “On a political level, everything must be done to make sure that no one will ever again, be in a position of such power as to be able to defraud humanity, or to attempt to manipulate us with their corrupt agendas.”

Fuellmich plans on filing a class-action suit in the United States.

**“One: is there a corona pandemic, or is there only a PCR test pandemic, specifically, does a positive PCR test result mean that the person tested is infected with COVID-19**, or does it mean absolutely nothing, in connection with the COVID-19 infection,” he said, unafraid to mention alleged corporate greed in his lawsuit.

**“Two, do the so-called anti-corona measures, such as the lockdowns, facemasks, social distancing, and quarantine regulations serve to protect the world’s population from corona, or do they serve only to make people pani**c, so they believe without asking any questions, that their lives are in danger, so that in the end, the pharmaceutical and technology companies can generate huge profits from the sale of PCR tests, antigen and antibody tests and vaccines, as well as the harvesting of our genetic fingerprints.”

**“Three, is it true that the German government was extensively lobbied, more so than any other government, by the chief protagonists of the so-called corona pandemic?” he questioned. “Germany is known as a particularly disciplined country a**nd was therefore to become a role model for the rest of the world, for its strict, and therefore, successful adherence to the corona measures.”

**Fuellmich deals with concerns over collateral damage** caused by measures claimed to stop COVID-19, in addition to seeking answers about how dangerous the virus truly is, and whether a person whose PCR test has come back positive is actually infected by the disease.

**“Based on the rules of criminal law, asserting false facts concerning the PCR tests or intentional misrepresentation, as conducted by Messrs. Drosten and Wieler and the WHO, this can only be interpreted as frau**d,” he explained. “Based on the rules of the civil tort law, this translates into intentional infliction of damage."

**He claimed that these people knew “the PCR tests cannot provide any information about infections,** but asserted over and over, to the general public, that they can, with their counterparts all over the world repeating this.

“They all knew and accepted that based on their recommendations, the governments of the world would decide on lockdowns, the rules for social distancing, and the mandatory wearing of masks, the latter representing a serious health hazard as more and more independent studies and expert statements show.

“Under tort laws, all those harmed by these PCR test-induced lockdowns are entitled to full compensation for their losses,” he added. “In particular, there is a duty to compensate – that is a duty to pay damages – to companies and self-employed persons as a result of the lockdown and other measures.

“In the meantime however, the anti-corona measures have caused and continue to cause such devastating damage to the world’s population’s health and its economy, that the crimes committed by Messrs. Drosten, Wieler, and the WHO, must be legally qualified as crimes against humanity, as defined in Section 7 of the International Criminal Code,” Fuellmich said. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297626> **[This could well be the biggest and probably the most costly international scandal ever in the world. Good for these people who have been doing their due diligence investigation. May their work pay off for the world. Perhaps we should then start prosecuting many others who have willingly contributed to the fraud. – rdb]**

**Israel stayed away from UAE arms fair ‘for fear Iran would target its delegates’**

***While COVID was cited as official reason for cancelation in this week’s Abu Dhabi event, TV says decision was taken by security establishment***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) *Today, 8:56 pm*

**Israel canceled its participation in this week’s Abu Dhabi arms fair because of fears that its delegates would be targeted for assassination by Iran, a television report** said.

**The Israeli delegation was to have included the heads of Israel’s major defense companies,** seeking lucrative contracts and underlining the newly normalized relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/AP21052435394958-1.jpg)

***Buyers and sellers pictured on the opening day of the International Defence Exhibition Conference, IDEX, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021. (AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili)***

**The biennial International Defense Exhibition and Conference, or IDEX, long has been the largest defense showcase in the Middle East. This year’s event was the first time that Israel had been invited**.

**The Defense Ministry announced on February 15 that the Israeli delegation would not attend after all, however, citing coronavirus restrictions that have forced the closure of Ben Gurion A**irport.

**This was only a pretext, C**hannel 12 news reported Saturday night. In fact, Israel canceled its participation because of fears that its delegates would be targeted by Iran — seeking to avenge a series of attacks attributed to Israel in which Iranian nuclear scientists have been killed and nuclear facilities sabotaged. In the most high-profile such incident recently, [Mohsen Fakhrizadeh](https://www.timesofisrael.com/topic/mohsen-fakhrizadeh/), the alleged father of Iran’s rogue nuclear weapons program, was killed outside Tehran in November in an attack widely attributed to Israel.

**The TV report said the UAE authorities were told the true reason for the cancelation, and accepted it without ranco**r. It said the decision to cancel was taken by “the security establishment,” and was not a source of dispute between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

**The report added that Friday’s attack on an Israeli-owned cargo vessel in the Gulf of Oman is regarded in the Israeli security establishment as** [**likely the work of Iran**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-to-believe-iran-behind-blast-on-israeli-owned-cargo-ship/)**, and evidence of its no-holds-barred efforts for revenge against Isra**el. It is also thought to be an attempt to signal to US President Joe Biden that while it wants to return to the 2015 P5+1 nuclear deal, it seeks to do so “on its own terms.”

There was no confirmation of the TV report from the Defense Ministry.

**Dozens of Israeli companies, including state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, had planned on sending delegations to the IDEX arms fa**ir.

The Defense Ministry, which oversees weapons exports, said it sought permission to allow the delegation to travel, but a governmental committee that grants exemptions allowing people to fly denied the request. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-stayed-away-from-uae-arms-fair-for-fear-iran-would-target-its-delegates/>

**Oil spill in Mediterranean: Additional slick confirmed, might hit Israel**

***Combining IAF drones and satellite images, experts say the slick could hit Israel in days.***

*By* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff) *FEBRUARY 27, 2021 19:27*

**An oil slick in the Mediterranean was confirmed by the Environmental Protection Ministry on Saturday, confirming satellite footage obtained on Friday indicating yet another Mediterranean disaste**r.

**The** [**oil slick**](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/satellite-footage-indicates-another-oil-slick-making-its-way-to-israel-660339) **currently 150 km west of Israel is not expected to reach the country for at least in the next few d**ays.

**Combining IAF drones, satellite images and various prediction models, the ministry claimed that at least within the confinements of the analysis, which ends on Monday, the slick is expected to mostly head south towards Egypt with a portion of it towards the east in the direction of Is**rael.

Should a section of it drift eastwards, it might reach Israel after all.

The ministry added that no other international body reported on the slick. Israel reported it to the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) in [Malta](https://www.jpost.com/tags/malta).

**The ministry held an evaluation under its director David Yahalomi and stated that, for the time being, it is unclear if it is even an oil or Petroleum** slick.

"We continue to follow [the situation]", the ministry said.

"If there is a cause to think an oil spill is endangering the shores of Israel, the ministry will follow the national plan to respond to sea contamination by oil."  <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/oil-slick-not-expected-to-reach-israel-for-now-experts-say-660407>

**Outrage, calls for probe over report Haredim let into Israel, secular denied**

***Opposition accuses Netanyahu of allowing airport entry ‘only for his voters’ during airport’s general closure; Gantz said set to demand cabinet review of authorization process***

*By* [*Tal Schneider*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/tal-schneider/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:17 pm*

**Politicians expressed outrage Saturday and demanded scrutiny of the screening process for Israelis seeking to travel into the country, after a television report showed the vast majority of Israelis being approved to enter the country during a general border closure were ultra-Orthodox, while many secular people were being deni**ed.

**Opposition politicians lashed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the report, accusing him of allowing only potential right-wing voters to arrive in the country ahead of the March 23 electi**ons.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/F210125YA26.jpg)

***Ultra-Orthodox Israelis at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, on January 25, 2021. (Yossi Aloni/Flash90)***

**According to Channel 12, Defense Minister Benny Gantz was demanding a cabinet discussion to review the decision-making process at the committee that okays individuals to fly on a small number of available flights**, despite the general ban.

**Meanwhile, the network said health officials have said they will not oppose the arrival of Israelis coming in to participate in the national vo**te.

**Opposition leader Yair Lapid, head of the Yesh Atid party, appealed to Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit to look into the matter. Lapid said the government was employing a skewed permissions mechanism at Ben Gurion Ai**rport.

**“Tens of thousands of Israelis are stuck abroad and the only citizens allowed to enter into Israel are the potential voters of Benjamin Netanyahu, Yaakov Litzman and Itamar Ben Gvir**,” Lapid said in a statement, referring respectively to the premier, a leader of the Haredi United Torah Judaism party and the head of the far-right Otzma Yehudit party.

“It is not an Exceptions Committee, but a “Voters’ Committee,” he charged. “We will appeal to the Supreme Court, we will turn to the attorney general, we will stop this national scandal.”

**Transportation Minister Miri Regev, whose ministry oversees the committee, rejected the allegation of political bia**s in its decision-making, saying Saturday night it was a thoroughly professional body, and that the claims of discrimination constituted “incitement” against the ultra-Orthodox community.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2020/08/F200708OF11-1.jpg)

***Transportation Minister Miri Regev. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)***

**The Channel 12 report was “fake news,” she said. “We know your agenda,” she said in an in**terview with the same channel. “We know that you want to hurt Likud.”

**A Channel 12 investigation revealed that thousands of Israelis who are stuck abroad are being denied entry to the country, while the 2,000 daily passengers who are approved are mostly from the Haredi community. T**he network asserted that many Haredim were flying in using fraudulent permits, and that some had secured their authorizations through ties to ultra-Orthodox politicians. **[The latest rules that I have seen only allow for 200/day/ - rdb]**

**Yisrael Beytenu leader Avigdor Lieberman and Labor leader Merav Michaeli also expressed outrage** following the report.

“Litzman and [Shas leader Aryeh] Deri’s shady business at the expense of the secular community must end,” Liberman tweeted Friday.

Michaeli decried the fact that “only those associated with [Netanyahu’s] bloc get approval to enter Israel.”

In response to the Friday report, The Transportation Ministry said that “the Exceptions Committee works 24 hours a day and approves requests according to government policy,” adding that “attempts to pressure the committee using public officials or travel agents, will not change the committee’s final decision.”

**On Wednesday, two Haredi families who arrived on a flight to Israel from New York were found to have** [**forged their entry permits**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/2-families-to-be-deported-after-forging-permits-to-fly-to-israel/)**.**

In a separate incident this week, Israeli authorities were investigating claims that Haredi passengers on an El Al flight from New York had [provided fake coronavirus test results](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-checking-claims-passengers-boarded-el-al-flight-with-fake-virus-tests/) before boarding the plane. Eleven Haredi passengers were later found to be carrying the virus. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-liberman-accuse-netanyahu-of-allowing-air-travel-only-for-his-voters/>

**Spurning Purim curfew, anti-Netanyahu protesters rally for 36th week**

***Some demonstrators claim public transportation halt over the Jewish holiday is intended to limit protests; man arrested for allegedly tear-gassing protester***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:14 pm*

**Anti-Netanyahu protesters rallied across Israel on Saturday evening, the 36th week of mass demonstrations against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over his indictment on graft charges and handling of the coronavirus pand**emic. **The main demonstrations were held outside the Prime Minister’s Residence in Jerusalem and Netanyahu’s private home in the coastal city of Caesaria**. Several hundred demonstrators gathered in each of the locations. Smaller protests took place at highway overpasses and intersections around the country.

**In Herzliya police said they arrested an 18-year-old suspect for allegedly spraying a demonstrator with tear ga**s.

המחאה נגד נתניהו – שבוע 36!  
שקרי נתניהו הולכים ונחשפים יותר ויותר, הדיקטטורה מסלימה, פחות מחודש לבחירות, האזרחים ממשיכים להילחם ברחובות.  
הצעדה מגשר המיתרים לבלפור –  
שידור חי מיד אצלי בפייס [pic.twitter.com/BMvIgfWWC5](https://t.co/BMvIgfWWC5)

— Or-ly Barlev ~ אור-לי ברלב (@orlybarlev) [February 27, 2021](https://twitter.com/orlybarlev/status/1365710343708831753?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

***Israelis wearing costumes take part in a parade during the festivities of the Jewish holiday of Purim, while also protesting against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on February 26, 2021 in Tel Aviv (JACK GUEZ / AFP)***

**Demonstrators said they would continue to protest despite a COVID-19 curfew on the Purim holiday. S**aturday was the last day of the nationwide curfew, which limits Israelis to within a kilometer of their home between 8:30 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.

**One protest group claimed the curfew was in fact intended to limit the protests, but insisted it was “determined, and no regulation will break our spirit.”** The curfew was also in effect on the nights of Thursday and Friday — not times in which any major protests are held.

Ministers this week also decided to halt public transportation to Jerusalem on Saturday night and Sunday to prevent revelers from traveling to the city for Shushan Purim celebrations — a final day of the holiday, traditionally celebrated in walled cities such as Jerusalem and Safed a day after Purim ends in other places.

Demonstrators have been holding regular protests for months against Netanyahu, demanding he resign over his trial on charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust.

They have also criticized his government’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Netanyahu denies wrongdoing and claims the indictments are part of an effort by political rivals, the media, police, and prosecutors to remove him from office.

Israel is preparing to hold new elections on March 23. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/spurning-purim-curfew-anti-netanyahu-protesters-rally-for-36th-week/> **[Hey folks this was a PROTEST not a PURIM PARTY! Hard to tell the difference. – rdb]**

**More illegal Purim partying Saturday as hundreds converge on Jaffa Flea Market**

***Few reports of police enforcement as throngs ignore pleas of health officials and take to the streets to celebrate the costume holiday***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:00 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/שדגדשגדשגדשגדש.jpg)

***People celebrate the holiday of Purim in violation of coronavirus restrictions, at Jaffa's Flea Market in Tel Aviv-Jaffa, February 27, 2021 (video screenshot)***

**Hundreds of people took part in a large Purim costume party in Jaffa’s popular flea market Saturday afternoon in violation of coronavirus health restrictions, with no social distancing and few masks in sig**ht.

**One reveler told the broadcaster: “It’s strange that there are no police, but it’s good, we can party without being distur**bed.” A woman was filmed singing “No corona, corona is over.” **[It hardly looks like a Purim Party – not many costumes. – rdb]**

**According to Channel 12, some bars and restaurants at the market allowed revelers to be seated, despite the prohibition on doing** so.

“I came to celebrate Purim,” another person told Channel 12. “I’m a recoverer [from the virus] and I have antibodies. It doesn’t make sense for me to stay at home.”

**Only after a few hours did police arrive to disperse the crowd**s.

שעות לפני תחילת העוצר הלילי: מסיבות רחוב המוניות מתקיימות בשוק הפשפשים ביפו[@daniel\_elazar](https://twitter.com/daniel_elazar?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/FQ7rQMKrxx](https://t.co/FQ7rQMKrxx)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [February 27, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1365645026529804296?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Police officials insisted that officers were active in the market area** from the morning, but no enforcement was apparent during several hours of celebrations at the scene.

A similar party was reported on Friday afternoon, with police doing little to disperse the crowds.

צילום של [@tomerappelbaum](https://twitter.com/tomerappelbaum?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) בו רואים את ההצלחה הכבירה של הסגר הלילי בתל אביב. מאות חוגגים בכמה מוקדים ברחבי העיר בשעות הצהריים. המשטרה מגיעה מעת לעת לפזר אבל בינתיים ההמונים ברחוב [pic.twitter.com/wfFmCq5hKt](https://t.co/wfFmCq5hKt)

— Bar Peleg (@bar\_peleg) [February 26, 2021](https://twitter.com/bar_peleg/status/1365310203722366978?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**The government has urged the public to avoid parties on the holiday, which is ending today in most locations, with the coronavirus far from being under control and infection indicators once ag**ain on the rise. Officials have warned that it is not yet clear that vaccination prevents one from carrying the pathogen, and thus fully inoculated people who are not careful could still be a danger to others.

"אין קורונה, נגמרה הקורונה": אחת החוגגות במסיבת פורים בשוק הפשפשים[@daniel\_elazar](https://twitter.com/daniel_elazar?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/zkEZbavUUt](https://t.co/zkEZbavUUt)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [February 27, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1365663874163355653?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**In a bid to limit mass celebrations, the government enacted a nightly curfew on Thursday and Frida**y and will do so on Saturday as well, instructing Israelis to remain up to a kilometer from home between 8:30 p.m. and 5 a.m. and to avoid any gatherings. Only essential businesses may open during those overnight hours.

**But much of the public has ignored the government’s appeals** and police have struggled to clamp down on dozens of daily Purim parties in recent days that have drawn mass crowds.

**On Friday video from Tel Aviv’s Kerem HaTeimanim neighborhood surrounding the Carmel Market showed hundreds of revelers, many not wearing masks, dancing and drinking in the** streets.

Police officers on loudspeakers urged participants to disperse before they began issuing fines.

**Revelers seemed unconcerned. “I’m vaccinated, young and wearing a mask,”** one participant told Channel 12, when asked why he wasn’t afraid of getting the virus.

Police said officers have and would continue to issue fines, but called on the public to avoid such gatherings.

Law enforcement was also concerned about “tisch” gatherings slated to take place Saturday night throughout Haredi communities, which have been virus hotspots all year, with many repeatedly flaunting government guidelines.

Health officials told Hebrew media that the scenes of parties over the Purim holiday on Thursday night and Friday were deeply concerning and have them worrying whether they will lead to another wave of infections that could lead to a delay in the economy’s reopening.



***People wearing costumes celebrate the holiday of Purim at Habima Square in Tel Aviv, February 26, 2021 (Miriam Alster/Flash90)***

**The next stage of restriction-easing is slated to take place on March 7 and include the reopening of restaurants for seatin**g. But if case numbers remain high and the healthcare system is once again strained, reopening plans will have to be delayed, health officials said.

**Police on Thursday night dispersed over 100 Purim parties and events around** the country that saw dozens or hundreds of people congregate against health regulations and in violation of a nationwide curfew.

Holiday celebrations were broken up in Jerusalem, Beit Shemesh, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Ashdod, Rehovot, among other locations, officials said. Dozens of people were arrested or detained. Fines were handed out to both participants and organizers of events.

Police said Friday morning that some 2,500 fines had been handed out on the first night of the curfew for violations.

Law enforcement has deployed checkpoints in 24 locations around the country to enforce the curfew, and hundreds of police cars patrol the roads. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/more-illegal-purim-partying-saturday-as-hundreds-converge-on-jaffa-flea-market/>

**Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla calls Israel 'world's lab' in interview to NBC**

***Bourla further noted that studies on the risk of the vaccine are also underway on pregnant women and younger children.***

*By* [*CODY LEVINE*](https://www.jpost.com/author/cody-levine) *FEBRUARY 27, 2021 15:15*

**"I believe Israel has become the world's lab right now because they are using only our vaccine at this state and they have vaccinated a very big part of their population, s**o we can study both economy and health indices," said Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla during an interview given to NBC News on Friday.

**"What we've seen is that the vaccine efficacy in real-world data is getting higher as we speak, following the second vaccination, so seven days compared to 14 days post-second vaccination, there** is a difference in efficacy," Bourla claimed. **[I am not sure this is particularly a great commentary considering the fact that there have been an enormous outcry in Israel concerning the fact that Bibi and his wheeling and dealing have turned the people of Israeli into a bunch of guinea pigs on behalf of the Big Pharm enterprises. I can certainly see why they would be upset because the world will now wait and see what happens in the long term as a result of the vaccine because there have not been any long term studies and with mRNA vaccine attempts in the past there have been disastrous outcomes in animals with terrible death rates. There have already been a number of deaths that could well be attributable to the ‘vaccine’ or experimental treatment which is a more appropriate term but these have not been widely reported. The US Vaers report which I included in previous news was listing 500+ deaths as possible complication some weeks ago. – rdb]**

**When asked whether one could infect others after receiving two doses of the vaccine, he said: "It is something that needs to be confirmed, and the real-world data that we are getting from Israel and other studies will help us understand thi**s better.

"But there are a lot of indicators right now that are telling us that there is a [protection](https://www.jpost.com/coronavirus) against the transmission of the disease," Bourla added.

Bourla further noted that studies on the risk of the vaccine are also underway on pregnant women and younger children.

"We have already licensed for kids 16 and above... we are already doing trials for kids between 11 years old all the way to 16, and I hope that we will be able to have data in a couple of months. We are also planning to initiate pediatric studies from a younger age, from age 5 all the way to 11. And I believe we should have data about this population by the end of the year," Bourla said, according to NBC.

**Regarding how long the protection remains after receiving both doses o**f the vaccine, Bourla said current data shows that after six months the protection is robust, but we need to wait until a year in order to determine if it remains for the full year.

The NBC interview also made mention of the recent Israeli study regarding the effectiveness of the vaccine, with Bourla noting that the data came largely from a younger population. He said it remains a high risk to rely on only one dose of the vaccine to combat the [coronavirus](https://www.jpost.com/health-science/can-a-vaccinated-person-still-spread-coronavirus-660244).  <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/pfizer-ceo-albert-bourla-calls-israel-worlds-lab-in-interview-to-nbc-660349> **[So the implication is a YEARLY Covid shot along with other vaccinees? I don’t think so, than you. I stopped getting flu shots and other vaccines 20 years ago and don’t intend to take any of their toxins. – rdb]**

**Hamas naval vessel posing as fishing boat said destroyed off Gaza coast**

***According to unsourced Channel 12 reporting, Israeli forces fired missile to sink ship in Monday incident; IDF had said it uncovered ‘potential threat’ to navy ships***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 2:47 pm*

**A Hamas naval vessel posing as a fishermen’s boat off the Gaza coast this week was the source of a “potential threat” to Israeli ships in the area, according to an unsourced report by Channel 12 on Fri**day.

**The network’s military correspondent reported that many of the details of the incident on Monday were banned from publication by the military censor,** but the Hamas boat was destroyed and sunk by a missile fired by Israeli forces, according to the report which could not be verified.

**It was not immediately clear how many people were aboard, but Channel 12** reported that the boat was operated by members of Hamas’s naval commando unit.

**The Palestinian news site Shehab had reported that the boat was destroyed by two missiles off the coast** of the Gazan city of Khan Younis.

On Monday, the Israel Defense Forces [said it uncovered a “potential threat”](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-says-it-uncovered-potential-threat-to-navy-ships-off-gaza-coast/) to naval ships off the Gaza coast, without elaborating on the nature of the threat.

**“Earlier today, our troops spotted suspicious naval activity in the maritime zone along the Gaza Strip which posed a potential threat to Israeli Navy vessels,” the military s**aid.

“IDF troops detected the activity and thwarted it,” the military added.

**After initially saying additional information would be released about the incident, the military refrained from commenting f**urther.

“The IDF will continue to take action against dangerous threats on the maritime front,” the military added.

The Israeli military has repeatedly warned that the Hamas terror group, the de facto ruler of Gaza, as well as other terrorist organizations in the Strip have been developing a number of different maritime-based weapons, including naval mines, explosives-laden kamikaze boats and autonomous submarines.

**A senior Israeli military commander said earlier this week that, according to IDF estimates, Hamas has** [**replenished its arsenal**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/senior-idf-commander-says-hamas-has-7000-rockets-dozens-of-drones/) **since a 2014 war with Israel and now has a vast collection of rockets, guided missiles and drones**.

It also has acquired dozens of unmanned aerial vehicles and has an army of some 30,000 men, including 400 naval commandos who have received sophisticated training and equipment to carry out seaborne operations, the commander added. He spoke on condition of anonymity under military guidelines. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-naval-vessel-posing-as-fishing-boat-destroyed-off-gaza-coast-report/>

**PA to close schools, partially lock down West Bank as cases double in two weeks**

***Health officials had recommended a full two-week lockdown; 24% of tests come back positive Saturday PA PM says major vaccine shipment due in early March***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 7:24 pm*

***Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh at a press conference in Ramallah, February 27, 2021 (WAFA)***

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/b45c2be1-f7a3-4ff3-858a-490499476cda.jpg)

**The Palestinian Authority will enact a partial lockdown in the West Bank for the next 12 days after cases more than doubled over the past two weeks, PA Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh said Saturday**.

**The steps will include a closure of all educational institutions; a ban on travel between provinces; a ban on the entry of Arab Israelis**; a ban on all parties, weddings and funerals; a nighttime curfew, with all vehicular travel prohibited; and a full lockdown on weekends. **[Well we all know how well lock downs work in the long run, don’t we??? – rdb]**

**Health officials had called for a “full two-week lockdow**n” in their recommendations to the prime minister. In televised remarks on Saturday, Shtayyeh did not say why a partial lockdown had been chosen rather than a full one.

**“A two-week [total] lockdown would reduce the number of infections, reduce transmission and reduce hospital occupancy,” Palestinian Authority Health Minister Mai Al-Kaila had said on Thursda**y.

According to the PA Health Ministry, there are currently 12,015 active cases in the West Bank. Two weeks ago, there were only 5,971 West Bank cases, the Health Ministry reported.

Around 24 percent of coronavirus tests came back positive across the West Bank on Saturday. In some governorates, this has risen as high as 30% over the past few days.

**In the Jerusalem neighborhood of Issawiya, the impending closure on the entry of Palestinians living within the Green Line sparked a rush on stores in West Bank Palestinian ar**eas.

**“Everyone went off to the West Bank today to go shopping before the impending closure. It’s what people can affo**rd — the shekel goes much farther there,” local leader Omar Atiyeh remarked to The Times of Israel.

While Israel has surged ahead in vaccinating its population, potentially allowing it to avoid a fourth wave, Palestinians have yet to obtain a significant amount of vaccines, although some medical staff have been vaccinated.

**Shtayyeh said the first major batch of vaccines to reach the Palestinians — part of a two-million-dose deal inked with the British pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca — would arrive in the first week of March**.

“We’ve paid for $10 million in doses. We had expected them to arrive by the end of February, but there has been a delay associated with the manufacturing company, not with us,” Shtayyeh said.

**The decision to impose new restrictions was made in response to a surge of cases throughout the West Bank in recent days**. The health system has been under strain as the number of cases in intensive care reached new heights.

PA officials said Thursday that around 62 percent of ventilators are in use, setting a new record since the beginning of the pandemic. Across the West Bank, around 85.6% of hospital beds were in use.



***A Palestinian security unit mans a checkpoint at the entrance to the West Bank city of Bethlehem, Friday, Feb. 26, 2021 (AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)***

**After weeks in which the virus’s curve was relatively stable, even declining, a third wave of the pandemic has surged in recent days among West Bank Palest**inians.

**Health officials have blamed the rapid rise in infections on more contagious mutations of the virus. A** recent random survey by the PA Health Ministry found that of 460 randomly tested patients, 352 had been infected with the so-called British variant, which was first detected in the United Kingdom.

“What makes this stage different is the quick spread of the virus. We’re seeing situations in which whole families are being infected,” said Dr. Shadi al-Laham, who directs the Bethlehem governorate for the PA Health Ministry. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/pa-to-close-schools-partially-lock-down-west-bank-as-cases-double-in-two-weeks/>

**US bans 76 Saudis over Khashoggi killing, but doesn’t sanction crown prince**

***Blinken says US henceforth will restrict any individuals who have engaged in ‘serious, extraterritorial counter-dissident activities’ against journalists, activists***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *26 February 2021, 10:04 pm*

WASHINGTON — The United States will ban entry of foreigners who threaten dissidents and will immediately restrict 76 Saudis in honor of the slain Jamal Khashoggi, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Friday.

After President Joe Biden declassified a report that pinned blame on Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over Khashoggi’s 2018 killing in Istanbul, Blinken vowed the administration will “push back against governments that reach beyond their borders to threaten and attack journalists and perceived dissidents for exercising their fundamental freedoms.” It did not sanction or otherwise target the crown prince.

**“We have made absolutely clear that extraterritorial threats and assaults by Saudi Arabia against activists, dissidents and journalists must end. They will not be tolerated by the United States,”** Blinken said in a statement.

**Under the new “Khashoggi ban,” the United States will restrict any individuals who have engaged in “serious, extraterritorial counter-dissident activities”** that include harassment of journalists or their families, Blinken said.

**In a first implementation, Blinken said the United States will ban the entry of 76 Saudis who have been engaged in threatening dissidents overseas including in the Khashog**gi case.

The US also imposed sanctions on an elite Saudi unit as well as a former intelligence official over their role in the killing.

**The Treasury Department said it would block assets and criminalize transactions with the Rapid Intervention Force**, which a declassified intelligence report said was answerable to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, as well as former intelligence official Ahmad al-Assiri.

“Those involved in the abhorrent killing of Jamal Khashoggi must be held accountable,” Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement. **[Khashoggi was a pet of the Washington Post and was a vocal Saudi dissident. He may have transgressed Saudi law, but can’t be sure about that. He was also as I recall more in line with the Turkish group from the Muslim Brotherhood who hate the Saudi’s. I believe he was under Saudi scrutiny should he return. Too bad it didn’t occur on their soil This is going to be most difficult for the overall approach to middle eastern relations. It is obvious that “Bi-dumb” is leaning way over to the Turks and Iranian regimes. – rdb]**

“The United States stands united with journalists and political dissidents in opposing threats of violence and intimidation.”

US President Joe Biden declassified an intelligence report that found that Crown Prince Mohammed ordered the 2018 killing of Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

The report said that seven of the 15 members of the hit squad belonged to the Rapid Intelligence Force.

Assiri, part of the crown prince’s inner circle, was exonerated in a closed-door trial in Saudi Arabia that was sharply criticized by rights groups. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-bans-entry-to-76-saudis-over-khashoggi-killing/>

**Austrian, Danish leaders to visit Israel for talks on joint vaccine efforts**

***Sebastian Kurz, Mette Frederiksen to arrive next week for sit-down with Netanyahu on cooperation in procuring, developing inoculations***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *Today, 4:52 pm*

**Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen are expected to visit Israel next week for talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyau on cooperation on the procurement and development of coronavirus vacc**ines.

**Kurz made the announcement Saturday** [**on Twitter**](https://twitter.com/sebastiankurz/status/1365529451308662790)**, saying the three countries “have been in close contact” since last spring when the spread of COVID-19 began accelerating all over the world, and now “want to expand the coopera**tion.”

The Austrian leader, a close ally of Netanyahu, said he wanted **to “arrange the closest possible cooperation in the research and production of vaccines.” Austria’s first priority is to “accelerate the production and procurement** of vaccines for the future.”

**Kurz estimated that Austria will “return to normal in the summer”** but the pandemic will linger on, specifically with mutations that may require further vaccines and treatments.

“We have to prepare for this **and for the phase after the summer**,” he wrote. **[So what is the “phase after the summer”? Has the WEC not disclosed their future plans to their groups concerning the great reset and how they are going to further emphasize their vaccine program. Mr. Gates let a bit out of the box last fall when he said on video record something to the effect “We will show how well they (non vaccers) will respond with the next round! What ever that means. I am not sure but have an idea that this group has a second fall back plan coming in the near future. – rdb]**

**Kurz and Frederiksen are set to arrive on Thursday. It is not clear how long they wi**ll stay.

The CEO of Pfizer, Albert Bourla, is also expected to visit Israel in March, according to a Channel 12 report last week.

The trip will come as the delivery of 10 million Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine doses to Israel is set to be completed. Bourla may bring additional vaccines, the report said.

**Bourla’s visit will also come several weeks before Israel’s March 23 electio**ns, amid Netanyahu’s efforts to make Israel’s vaccination success a centerpiece of his campaign. The PM has often touted his personal rapport with Bourla, the son of Holocaust survivors.

**Pfizer and BioNTech announced this week that they are** [**studying adding a third dose to their vaccine regime**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/pfizer-to-test-a-tweaked-vaccine-aimed-at-defeating-south-african-virus-strain/) **and testing a new version targeting the South African variant** of the coronavirus.

As countries around the world rush to vaccinate people, concerns have risen that more transmissible variants such as the one first detected in South Africa or another in Britain are more resistant to existing vaccines.

In one study, the US and German pharmaceutical firms said they would look at what happens when people are given a third dose of their two-shot vaccine, six to 12 months after the booster.

**Bourla told NBC News on Thursday: “We believe that the third dose will raise the antibody response 10- to 20-fol**d.”

The companies said in a statement they are also talking to regulators about testing a modified version of their original vaccine to address the South African variant known as B.1.351.

**The South African variant is considered among the more dangerous of current mutations** because it evades some of the blocking action of antibodies that target older coronavirus strains.

**That means people who were infected with the classic strain are more susceptible to reinfection**, and research has also shown the variant has partly reduced the protection of the current generation of vaccines. **[So if you have had it before you are more likely to get it again from this strange new variant? HUMMM! That doesn’t really quite smell right. – rdb]**

Bourla told NBC he believed COVID-19 vaccination would become a standard yearly affair to tackle the latest variants.mr- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/austrian-danish-leaders-to-visit-israel-for-talks-on-joint-vaccine-efforts/>

**‘Jewish ideas poison people,’ State Department official writes in blog**

***Fritz Berggren has been working as a mid-level civil servant since 2009; the personal site under his own name spreads white nationalist and anti-Semitic content***

*By* [*Asaf Shalev*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/asaf-shalev/) *Today, 4:54 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/649263.jpg)

***Fritz Berggren appears in a holiday video shared by the US Department of Defense in 2018. (Department of Defense via JTA)***

**JTA — A US State Department employee named Fritz Berggren has been moonlighting as a blogger devoted to attacking Jews and promoting white Christian nationalism**.

“Jesus Christ came to save the whole world from the Jews — the founders of the original Anti-Christ religion, they who are the seed of the Serpent, that brood of vipers,” Berggren wrote in an October 4, 2020, post on his website titled “Jews are Not God’s Chosen People. Judeo-Christian is Anti-Christ.”

**Later in the post he writes, “Jewish ideas poison peop**le.”

**Berggren has been sharing his extremist and anti-Semitic views under his real name for years while working as a mid-level civil servant**. Politico first reported the connection on Friday after being tipped off by current and former State Department officials. **[Considering the fact that he was in the State Department doesn’t surprise me because that government entity has a long history of anti-Semitism. – rdb]**

Berggren espouses the idea, common among the far-right, that white people are at risk of being eliminated through demographic change and organized persecution. He commonly rails against Black Lives Matter and other social movements identified with the left.

On Friday afternoon, he published a new post titled, “Welcome, Politico readers!” He concluded the post with a PS: “If you have not already surmised, my ideas are my own and not a reflection of any employer, company, agency, country, etc.”

**Politico reported that Berggren works for a State Department unit that handles special immigrant visas for Afghans. He has been identified as a Foreign Service worker since as early as 2009**.

According to biographical information shared by Berggren online, he has a doctorate from the University of Miami. His name is indeed listed on the university’s website, indicating he completed a doctoral dissertation in 2001 about Gerardo Machado, an early 20th-century Cuban dictator. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jewish-ideas-poison-people-state-department-official-writes-on-blog/> **[Way to go fellow. The Nazi group would love you. Actually Probably so would BLM and antifa. – rdb]**

**Israeli high-tech solutions could help Texas winter storm**

***Israel-based firms say their water filtration, farming and energy products could have helped when Lone Star State's power grid collapsed during crisis as infrastructure failed to adapt to extreme weather, leading to worst-case scenarios***

*Tara Kavaler/The Media Line | Published: 02.27.21 , 09:16*

**While the State of Israel can fit into the state of Texas approximately 31 times, it has technological prowess that could help the Lone Star State reduce the chances of infrastructure collapses like the one that occurred after the record-breaking winter storm last week, and provide solutions if th**ey fail.

**The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, or ERCOT, the main company in charge of the Texas power grid, under-forecasted the amount of back-up energy it would need when demand vastly surpassed supply, especially during a time of cri**sis.

**This error was magnified after every power source failed, leading to electricity outages and rolling blackouts throughout the state that lasted for hours at a** time. **These worst-case scenarios occurred against the backdrop of the state failing to upgrade its infrastructure to adapt to the weather**.

**Emek Sadot, CEO of FSight, a technology provider for forecasting and optimizing energy resources, says that while he cannot quantify exactly to what extent, he believes his technology would have helped the Lone Star State t**o, at the very least, better predict its energy needs.

“We would tap into the environment in the Texas electric grid, forecasting demand and supply based upon various attributes: previous historical demand and supply, weather, and expected weather conditions using machine learning and artificial intelligence,” he says.

**“If they were using our technology, they could figure out in [advance] if there is going to be a storm and if the demand is going to be higher than expected** and that the wind turbines would likely fail because it was too cold, leading to shortages in the supply capabilities,” Sadot says.

“The gap between less generation capabilities versus more demand triggers a virtual stages alarm,” allowing the Texas energy sector more time to prepare, he says.

**Another Israeli high-tech option to find problems in Texas’s electric grid sooner is through automatic drones like those manufactured by the Israel-based Percepto compan**y.

The drones monitor infrastructure activities, without human intervention. The equipment and cloud software are all that is required for the drones to operate.

**The drone leaves its charging station and monitors the power line, then comes back to recharge, only to it again as sched**uled.

“Our technology will help them get ready for disasters and make sure the infrastructure does not have any issues that will lead to failure within a few weather events,” says Dor Abuhasira, CEO and co-founder of Percepto.

**“If we see somewhere the connection is not good, those areas will fail first in wind or even in c**old.”

The electric grid was not the only utility to take a beating, as the frigid temperatures froze water pipes in homes and other buildings, some of which have been bursting.

 **Over 1.4 Texans were still without potable drinking water as of Wednesday afternoon, another area where Israeli high-tech can assist residents of the Lone Star State**.

***A Watergen machine in action (Photo: Watergen)***

**Technology created by the Israeli company Watergen, creates clean drinking water literally out of thin air, even in areas where the humidity level is only between 15% and 20%, producing liters of water within m**inutes.

**“Rather than relying on some far-off water site that requires this tremendously complicated and centralized infrastructure, with our systems you have your water source exactly where you need it,”** says Zach Fenster, vice president of government relations and business development at Watergen.

**Depending on the size, a Watergen machine when operating around the clock, can generate up to 6,000 liters, enough to provide thousands of people with some 30 liters each** for a home or office.

The machines suck in air and clean it even before turning it into water, Fenster explains. After cleaning, the machine cools the air.

“The technology we use while cleaning the air causes the water molecules, essentially the vapor in the air, to attach to one another and become heavy and turn into liquid,” Fenster says.

**The water pulled from the air is further cleaned and sterilized by the machine, and then enriched with minerals including calcium, potassium, and magnesium before being stored in the machine until it is ready to be used, he says**.

According to Fenster, the water issues in Texas after the storm highlight the severe drinking-water crisis prevalent around the globe for both rich and poor.

“Pipes are freezing over, which means no water is flowing, which only stresses the dependence on an outdated infrastructure; That’s true not just in Texas,” he says.

“The piping, the water infrastructure that was built decades ago, are made of metals that are rusting, secreting really harmful materials into the water,” he said.

Watergen might also appeal to the Texan mindset of doing things your own way.

“What is needed now is a solution that you can immediately deploy and save people’s lives,” he says, adding that a solution that requires long-term planning and investment that would take years to enact could ultimately be vulnerable to the same types of risks such as storms, or freezing.

**“You are fully independent. … What could be more Texan and American than guaranteeing that peo**ple control their own water supply and their own destiny when it comes situations like this?” he says.

 **Food independence might also appeal to Texas pride**.

**In the immediate aftermath of the storm, there were food shortages in grocery stores due to supply chain disruptions, a problem exacerbated by the food spoili**ng from power outages.

Lines of people stretched around the block at grocery stores in Austin and Houston, with people waiting only to find empty shelves.

Israel high-tech may also be able to help alleviate this problem by reducing the dependency on supply chains.

***A Vertical Field farming method (Photo: Vertical Field)***

Guy Elitzur, CEO of Vertical Field, an agricultural technology firm specializing in vertical farming, or growing crops in stacked layers, says that crops can be grown “semi-automatically” with climate control and fertilization, where the only work humans have to put in is the planting and the harvesting.

“What we are trying to aim for is to grow the food where it is consumed in a way that doesn’t depend on any long supply chains, transportation and other external parameters, that will be able to provide for secure food consumption constantly,” he says. <https://www.ynetnews.com/business/article/BkKzpGrf00>

**Threat level raised for US troops in Iraq; American contractors put on high alert**

***'Protection of coalition troops is the #1 priority, so taking force protection levels higher is wise and prudent'***

*By* [*Trey Yingst*](https://www.foxnews.com/person/y/trey-yingst) [*| Fox News*](https://www.foxnews.com) *23 hours ago*

**EXCLUSIVE — The Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve has raised the threat level for** [**US service members**](https://www.foxnews.com/category/us/military) **in** [**Iraq**](https://www.foxnews.com/category/world/world-regions/iraq)**, while US contractors at Balad Air Base were put on high alert fearing a response to US airstrikes in** [**Syria**](https://www.foxnews.com/category/world/conflicts/syria)**, two sources familiar with the move tell Fox New**s.

**Increasing force protection posture may last several days and is considered a routine precaution given current conditions on the groun**d.

"Protection of coalition troops is the #1 priority, so taking force protection levels higher is wise and prudent," a source told Fox News.

At Balad Air Base, a separate decision was made by Sallyport Global, a company that fulfills US government contracts, to put American contractors on high alert, a person familiar said.

**From 6:30 pm to 5:00 am local time, only mission-essential movement will be allowed on base. Protective gear will be r**equired for anyone outside of hardened buildings.

Balad Air Base was hit with a Katyusha rocket attack last weekend and one person was injured.

This month, three major attacks by suspected Iranian-backed Shia militia have occurred against US citizens.

President Biden approved limited airstrikes in Eastern Syria on Thursday in response to these events. Seven 500-lb laser-guided bombs were dropped near the Iraqi border, according to US officials.

"We’re confident in the target we went after we know what we hit. We’re confident that target was being used by the same Shia militia that conducted the strikes," Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said. <https://www.foxnews.com/world/threat-level-raised-us-troops-contractors-iraq>

**Biden dementia 'worst kept secret' in White House, says Dan Bongino**

***'Everyone knows it – this is the scandal that they’re not telling you'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published February 26, 2021 at 5:21pm*

**The effort by Democratic Congress members to remove the president's sole authority to launch a nuclear attack is turning he**ads. The premise, according to a letter by 31 Democrats, is that the president should be required to seek advice on such a serious decision. And then, the lawmakers say, there's the conduct of "past presidents," referring to Donald Trump, "who have threatened to attack other countries with nuclear weapons or exhibited behavior that caused other officials to express concern about the president’s judgment."

**But Joe Biden is now the president, and former Secret Service agent Dan Bongino says there may be a simple reason that many are afraid to talk ab**out.

**Citing sources in his "network," which includes people outside of law enforcement, Bongino said Thursday it's an open secret in the White House that Biden is suffering from dement**ia.

"It gives me absolutely no joy in saying this. And I mean that. He is in real significant trouble, Joe Biden," said Bongino in an interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity.

**Bongino was a member of the Secret Service presidential detail for George W. Bush and Barack Oba**ma.

**"And listen to me, everyone around him, everyone knows it," he said of Biden. "Everyone knows it. This is the scandal that they’re not telling you** – how bad his condition really is."

Bongino told Hannity he's relaying "what I'm hearing from people in my network."Bottom of Form

"**It's not a mystery, it is the worst kept secret in the White** House," he said

Bongino noted it's only the second month of Biden's administration.

"How bad is this going to be four years from now? This is a serious problem. It's not a joke," he said.

Democratic leaders were worried during their 2020 virtual convention last August about "opening the dementia" thing, [according to an upcoming book by Jonathan Allen](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/biden-dementia-dnc-julia-louis-dreyfus-b1808331.html).

[Vanity Fair published an excerpt](https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2021/02/inside-team-bidens-freakout-over-julia-louis-dreyfuss-trump-jokes) on Friday that said Democratic National Convention chief program executive Stephanie Cutter asked for the convention host on the last night, comedian Julia Louis-Dreyfus, to tone down her act.

Cutter eliminated a joke about how Biden understood hard work and struggle, whereas "the only time Donald Trump has struggled is walking down a ramp and trying to drink a glass of water," according to the book, "LUCKY: How Joe Biden Barely Won the Presidency."

"We’re not opening the dementia thing," Cutter screamed, insinuating that joking about Trump's clumsiness could remind viewers that Trump portrayed Biden as senile.

The scriptwriter for Louis-Dreyfus, David Mandel, pushed back, according to the book.

“You not opening the dementia thing is not going to prevent the Republicans from doing it till the end of time," he said in response. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/4895802/>

**State goes 'economically illiterate' on new taxing scheme**

***'Amusing' digital tax forecast to 'hurt people and small businesses'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published February 27, 2021 at 1:32pm* ***By Andrew Wilford*** *Real Clear Markets*

**More than six months after Governor Larry Hogan vetoed the Maryland’s proposed first-in-the-nation digital advertising tax, the legislature has moved forward with overriding the governor’s veto. In so doing, they fulfilled the fears of small businesses and consumers worried about having to bear the burden of the new tax.** Now the bill’s lead advocate, Senate President Bill Ferguson, is attempting to assuage these concerns with a hilariously ineffective proposal to simply tell digital firms that they may not pass on the costs of the state’s digital tax.

**Maryland passed its digital advertising tax legislation early last year, but was prevented from implementing it by Hogan’s veto in May. Nevertheless, like a man who has been saved from shooting himself in the foot by a concerned friend who then proceeds to successfully shoot himself in the foot soon after, the necessary supermajority of Maryland’s legislature decided to override Hogan’s vet**o.

The bill is foolish for several reasons, not the least of which is the fact that it will [face serious legal challenges on multiple points](https://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2020/01/27/france_is_backing_down_from_its_digital_tax_states_should_do_the_same_104054.html). **But even if the bills were legally flawless, digital advertising taxes suffer from other, more pressing problems**.

SB2, the legislation at issue, **attempts to create a**[**four-tiered gross receipts tax**](https://www.ntu.org/foundation/detail/state-digital-advertising-taxes-a-new-trend-that-should-end-quickly)**on businesses with digital revenue in Maryland based on their global revenues. Businesses with global revenues over $100 million would face a 2.5 percent gross receipts tax, with rates raising up to as high as 10 percent for businesses** with global revenues over $15 billion.

The fact that this tax is structured as a gross receipts tax makes these rates effectively even higher than they look — a business with over $15 billion in revenue would have to run a profit margin of 10 percent in Maryland just to break even. Most would likely decide their advertising dollars were better off spent elsewhere. **MORE -**<https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/state-goes-economically-illiterate-new-taxing-scheme/>

**The Facts About H.R. 1: The “For the People Act of 2021” [READ THIS CAREFULLY! – rdb]**

*By:* ***The Heritage Foundation*** *February 21, 2021*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 1 would federalize and micromanage the election process administered by the states, imposing unnecessary, unwise, and unconstitutional mandates on the states and reversing the decentralization of the American election process—which is essential to the protection of our liberty and freedom. It would (among other things) implement nationwide the worst changes in election rules that occurred during the 2020 election; go even further in eroding and eliminating basic security protocols that states have in place; and interfere with the ability of states and their citizens to determine the qualifications and eligibility of voters, ensure the accuracy of voter registration rolls, secure the fairness and integrity of elections, and participate and speak freely in the political process.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

H.R. 1 would federalize and micromanage the election process, imposing unnecessary, unwise, and unconstitutional mandates on the states.

It would reverse the decentralization of the American election process— an essential protection of our liberty and freedom.

It would implement nationwide the worst changes in election rules that occurred in 2020 and further damage or eliminate basic security protocols.

**The Issue**

H.R. 1 would federalize and micromanage the election process administered by the states, imposing unnecessary, unwise, and unconstitutional mandates on the states and reversing the decentralization of the American election process—which is essential to the protection of our liberty and freedom. It would implement nationwide the worst changes in election rules that occurred during the 2020 election and go even further in eroding and eliminating basic security protocols that states have in place. The bill would interfere with the ability of states and their citizens to determine the qualifications and eligibility of voters, to ensure the accuracy of voter registration rolls, to secure the fairness and integrity of elections, to participate and speak freely in the political process, and to determine the district boundary lines for electing their representatives.

**What H.R. 1 Would Do:**

* **Seize the authority of states** to regulate voter registration and the voting process by forcing states to implement **early voting**,**automatic voter registration**,**same-day registration**,**online voter registration**, and **no-fault absentee balloting**.
* **Make it easier to commit fraud** and promote chaos at the polls through **same-day registration**, as election officials would have no time to verify the accuracy of voter registration information and the eligibility of an individual to vote and could not anticipate the number of ballots and precinct workers that would be needed at specific polling locations.
* **Hurt voter turnout through 15 days of mandated early voting**by diffusing the intensity of get-out-the-vote efforts; it would raise the cost of campaigns. Voters who vote early don’t have the same information as those who vote on Election Day, missing late-breaking developments that could affect their choices.
* **Degrade the accuracy of registration lists by requiring states to automatically register** all individuals (as opposed to “citizens”) from state and federal databases, such as state Departments of Motor Vehicles, corrections and welfare offices, and federal agencies such as the Social Security Administration, the Department of Labor, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the Department of Health and Human Services. This would **register large numbers of ineligible voters**, including aliens, and cause multiple or duplicate registrations of the same individuals and put federal agencies in charge of determining a person’s domicile for voting purposes (as well as that individual’s taxing state).
* **Constitute a recipe for massive voter registration fraud by hackers and cyber criminals through online voter registration** that is not tied to an existing state record, such as a driver’s license. It would make it a criminal offense for a state official to reject a voter registration application even when it is rejected “under color of law” because the official believes the individual is ineligible to vote. It would also require states to allow 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds to register; when combined with a ban on voter ID and restrictions on the ability to challenge the eligibility of a voter, this would effectively ensure that underage individuals could vote with impunity.
* **Require states to count ballots cast by voters outside of their assigned precincts**, overriding the precinct system used by almost all states that allows election officials to monitor votes, staff polling places, provide enough ballots, and prevent election fraud.
* **Mandate no-fault absentee ballots, which are the tool of choice for vote thieves. It would ban witness signature or notarization requirements** for absentee ballots; **force states to accept absentee ballots received up to 10 days after Election Day** as long as they are postmarked by Election Day; and **require states to allow vote trafficking (vote harvesting)** so that any third parties—including campaign staffers and political consultants—can pick up and deliver absentee ballots.
* **Prevent election officials from checking the eligibility and qualifications of voters and removing ineligible voters**. This includes restrictions on using the U.S. Postal Service’s national change-of-address system to verify the address of registered voters; participating in state programs that compare voter registration lists to detect individuals registered in multiple states; or *ever* removing registrants due to a failure to vote no matter how much time has elapsed. It also would substantially limit the public release of voter registration information, **making it almost impossible** for nonpartisan organizations to **verify the accuracy of registration rolls**, and prohibit states from using undeliverable election mail as a basis for challenging a registrant’s eligibility.
* **Ban state voter ID laws** by forcing states to allow individuals to vote without an ID and merely signing a statement in which they claim they are whom they say they are.
* **Violate the First Amendment with respect to a vast range of legal activity**. Voter intimidation or coercion that prevents someone from registering or voting is already a federal crime under the Voting Rights Act and the National Voter Registration Act. But H.R. 1 would add a provision criminalizing**“hindering, interfering, or preventing”** anyone from registering or voting, which is **so vague and so broad** that it could prevent providing any information to election officials about the ineligibility of an individual, such as an applicant not being a U.S. citizen.
* **Expand regulation and government censorship of campaigns and political activity and speech**,**including online and policy-related speech**. H.R. 1 would impose onerous legal and administrative compliance burdens and costs on candidates, citizens, civic groups, unions, corporations, and nonprofit organizations. Many of these provisions **violate the First Amendment**,**protect incumbents**,**and reduce the accountability of politicians** to the public; its onerous disclosure requirements for nonprofit organizations would subject their members and donors to **intimidation and harassment—**the modern equivalent of the type of disclosure requirements the U.S. Supreme Court in *NAACP v. Alabama* (1958) held violated associational rights protected by the Fourteenth Amendment.
* **Reduce the number of Federal Election Commission members** from six to five, allowing the political party with three commission seats to control the commission and engage in **partisan enforcement activities**.
* **Prohibit state election officials from participating in federal elections**and impose numerous other **“ethics” rules that are unconstitutional or unfairly restrict political activity**, eliminating the ability of the residents of specific states to make their own decisions about what rules should govern their state government officials.
* **Require states to restore the ability of felons to vote** the moment they are out of prison regardless of uncompleted parole, probation, or restitution requirements. Section 2 of the Fourteenth Amendment gives states the constitutional authority to decide when felons who committed crimes against their fellow citizens may vote again. **Congress cannot override a constitutional amendment with a statute.**
* **Transfer the right to draw congressional districts** from state legislatures to “independent” commissions whose members are unaccountable to voters. H.R. 1 would make it a violation of federal law to engage in “partisan” redistricting and **mandate the inclusion of alien population**,**both legal and illegal**,**in all redistricting**. This is an **anti-democratic**,**unconstitutional measure** that would take away the ability of the citizens of a state to make their own decisions about redistricting.
* **Authorize the Internal Revenue Service to engage in partisan activity.** H.R. 1 would permit the IRS to investigate and consider the political and policy positions of nonprofit organizations before granting tax-exempt status, thus enabling IRS officials to target organizations engaging in First Amendment activity with disfavored views.
* **Limit access to federal courts for anyone challenging H**.**R. 1.** The bill would prohibit the filing of any lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of H.R. 1 anywhere except in the District Court for the District of Columbia and would allow the court to order all plaintiffs and intervenors, regardless of their number (such as all 50 states), “to file joint papers or to be represented by a single attorney at oral argument,” **severely limiting the legal representation and due process rights of challengers**.
* **Establish a “Commission to Protect Democratic Institutions” that would threaten the independence of the judiciary.** H.R. 1 defines “democratic institutions” as those that are “essential to ensuring an independent judiciary, free and fair elections and the rule of law.” The commission would be given the authority to compel judges to testify and justify their legal decisions, **threatening their independent judgment and subjecting them to political pressure and harassment**.

<https://www.heritage.org/election-integrity/report/the-facts-about-hr-1-the-the-people-act-2021>

**Attempt to poison water supply deemed wakeup call to digital defenses**

***'Should be treated as a matter of national security'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published February 26, 2021 at 8:06pm* ***By Bonnie Kristian*** *Real Clear World*

**A recent**[**story from**](https://twitter.com/Bing_Chris/status/1358873543623274499)**Florida should direct policymakers’ attention to a glaring strategic problem in American def**ense. In the **city of Oldsmar, a small community in the Tampa metro area, an unknown hacker gained access to the chemical controls of the municipal water treatment system. Fortunately, an operator at the facility observed the breach in real time, watching as the intruder set the level of sodium hydroxide, commonly known as lye, to 100 times its normal level. The operator was able to immedia**tely undo the change, so no one was harmed.

**But what if that instant detection hadn’t happened**? As of this writing, nothing is known about the source of the attack. And it wasn’t “just 'Oh, we're putting a little bit of chlorine or a little bit of fluoride, or a little bit of something,'” [said](https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/08/us/oldsmar-florida-hack-water-poison/index.html) Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri.   
 “We're basically talking about lye that you are taking from 100 parts per million to 11,100."  
 **Florida Sen. Marco Rubio**[**says**](https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/1358909642185859077?s=20)**he’s calling in the FBI for assistance in investigating the incident, which he believes “should be treated as a matter of national security**.” Rubio is not wrong, but the federal government’s cybersecurity efforts are a strategic wreck. Protecting basic utilities from this sort of remote attack should be central to U.S. cybersecurity plans. Instead, our government spends nearly all its cybersecurity resources on offense. Rather than keeping key American infrastructure safe, Washington is off playing the digital highwayman.  
 The **extent of this imbalance can be communicated with a single statistic. As Reuters**[**reports**](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-security-hospitals-nsa-idUSKBN1882ZF%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**: “Across the U.S. federal government, fully 90 percent of all spending on cyber programs is dedicated to offensive efforts, including penetrating the computer systems of adversaries,** listening to communications and developing the means to disable or degrade infrastructure.” Nine dollars of every 10 spent on cybersecurity are put toward attacking other nations’ digital territory, instead of defending our own.  
 That **is not because our online space is already amply defended. On the contrary, Pentagon investigations between 2012 and 2017 “routinely found mission-critical cyber vulnerabilities in nearly all weapon systems** that were under development,” the Government Accountability Office [reports](https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/694913.pdf). These internal hackers, known as white-hat hackers, take over the weapons systems using relatively simple tools and techniques, according to the GAO, and were able to do so without detection.  
 If our **weapons systems are so inadequately guarded, how risky and numerous are our other vulnerabilities? Digital attacks don’t require the resources of more familiar tactics of war. This is their** exact appeal to poor, weak, fearful actors like North Korea, which a United Nations [report revealed](https://apnews.com/article/technology-global-trade-nuclear-weapons-north-korea-coronavirus-pandemic-19f536cac4a84780f54a3279ef707b33) last week is using virtual theft to fund its conventional and nuclear weapons development.Bottom of Form

Nor is Washington’s focus on digital offense justified because other nations do not pose a threat. Beyond North Korea, rival great powers such as Russia and China have repeatedly showed their interest in infiltrating U.S. government targets. December’s news of [a large-scale hack](https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/12/sweeping-hack-gives-biden-mandate-reorient-americas-cyber-strategy/170772/) of federal departments including Treasury, Commerce, and Homeland Security — which national security agencies think Moscow backed — is but the latest and most prominent example.  
**The reforms cyber policy needs**  
 **We don’t know yet whether the hacker in Oldsmar, Florida, was a foreign adversary. The perpetrator may have been an American. Regardless, this system should not have been accessible**. Had the increased lye levels gone undetected, thousands [could have been](https://twitter.com/Bing_Chris/status/1358874010344423425) poisoned. (Lye is caustic base, a main ingredient in drain cleaners.) This situation should be one more impetus to reform U.S. cybersecurity policy so it actually keeps Americans safe.  
 That **project has two primary tasks. First, we should curtail U.S. cyberattacks, which are conducted far too easily and recklessly, without adequate constitutional restraints**. The Trump administration [inappropriately loosened guidelines](https://www.newsweek.com/trumps-casual-approach-cyber-warfare-puts-national-security-risk-opinion-1519367) for American digital strikes, allowing spy agencies to attack foreign nations with little oversight and insufficient guard against harm to civilians. This displays an outdated view of cyberattacks that fails to comprehend their potential to fuel open conflict, including between nuclear powers.  
 Second, the **balance of federal cybersecurity resources should be inverted, with nine dollars in 10 apportioned**[**to defense**](https://www.newsweek.com/us-needs-cyber-strategy-designed-defense-opinion-1531601)**. That means hardening digital targets, as** the Cato Institute’s Brandon Valeriano and Benjamin Jensen detail in a [2019 analysis](https://www.cato.org/policy-analysis/myth-cyber-offense-case-restraint) on restraint in cyberwarfare. We need to reduce vulnerabilities and make hacking U.S. targets too difficult and resource-intensive to be worthwhile for our adversaries. For crucial utilities infrastructure like the Oldsmar water treatment facility, we should also weigh whether the advantages of internet connectivity are worth the growing risks. [Air-gapped systems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_gap_(networking)), though [not impregnable](https://www.mbtmag.com/best-practices/article/13246843/securing-industrial-control-systems-by-closing-the-air-gap-security-loophole), can be useful in guaranteeing the safety of life-sustaining utilities like water and power distribution, as well as other obvious targets like nuclear plants or dams. **MORE -**<https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/attempt-poison-water-supply-deemed-wakeup-call-digital-defenses/>

**Bill would allow individuals to sue government agencies**

***Authorities could lose 'qualified immunity' protection***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published February 27, 2021 at 6:31pm*

**Government agencies have significant protections against lawsuits by individuals for mistreatment, even if they intentionally violated the law. They are given a pass mostly under the legal concept of "qualified immunity," which provides they are protected unless a court "clearly established" in a previous case that the actions were unconstitutio**nal.

That might change.

**It's because the New Mexico House of Representatives recently voted 39-29 to let individuals sue government agencies for violating their rig**hts.

**The bill is the tip of the spear in a developing movement to call officials to account for their actions, according to the Institute** for Justice.

**"Qualified immunity is a failure as a matter of policy, as a matter of law, and as a matter of basic mora**lity," said Institute for Justice Attorney Keith Neely, who testified on behalf of the New Mexico plan.

"For too long, qualified immunity has denied victims a remedy for violations of their constitutional rights. We urge the Senate to seize this historic opportunity to end this injustice. Any police reform bill is only meaningful if it includes reform to qualified immunity," he said.

The bill comes from recommendations by the New Mexico Civil Rights Commission that followed IJ's model legislation closely.Bottom of Form

**The plan, HB4, "would create a new way to hold government agencies accountable in state court. If local or state government employees violate constitutional rights while working within the scope of employment, victims can sue their government employer for damages."**

Under the proposed law, individuals still would not have personal liability.

**"Under qualified immunity, government officials can only be held liable for violating someone’s rights if a court has previously ruled that it was 'clearly established' those precise actions were unconstitutional**," IJ said. "If no such decision exists — or it exists, but just in another jurisdiction — the officials are immune by default, even if they intentionally violated the law. Created by the Supreme Court in 1982, qualified immunity appears nowhere in the Constitution or in Section 1983, the federal statute that authorizes civil rights lawsuits against government agents."

But opposition to the practice has been building since the death of George Floyd last year.

Over the summer, Colorado became the first state to pass a law blocking qualified immunity from being used as a defense in court. However, unlike the Colorado bill, New Mexico’s legislation would apply to all government employees, not just law enforcement officers, IJ said. **MORE -** <https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/bill-allow-individuals-sue-government-agencies/>

**Commentary**

**The Khashoggi Passion Play**

*02/27/2021 Caroline Glick*

The Biden administration’s decision to publish the intel report on Jamal Khashoggi’s death in late 2018 was as predictable as it was destructive to U.S. national security and to the security and stability of the Middle East.  
 It was predictable for 2 reasons. First, this is Obama’s 3rd term. And in Obama’s 1st term he played a central role in overthrowing Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the anchor of the U.S.’s alliance system in the Sunni Arab world in favor of the Muslim Brotherhood, the ideological anchor of every Sunni terror group in the world.  
 Obama’s consistent policy for 8 years was to side with the jihadists. Obama’s anti-colonialist worldview bred his anti-Western sensibilities. He and his neo-Marxist advisors viewed the jihadists as the “authentic” voice of the Islamic world. They were favored because they were “revolutionary” and anti-Western. In every conflict that pitted either conservative Sunni leaders, Iranian anti-regime forces, or Israel against jihadists from Hamas to Hezbollah, to the Muslim Brotherhood and the Houthis, or Iran, Obama and his people supported the jihadists. For this reason, Obama admired both Turkish dictator Erdogan and the Qatari ruling family. Like him, they supported jihadists.  
 MBS and MBZ from the UAE were big problems for Obama, Robert Malley and their ilk. They appeared out of nowhere.  
 Young and vigorous, they seek to liberalize their conservative societies. They are deeply opposed to Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood. They are open to peace and cooperation with Israel. They support Israel in its campaigns against Hamas and Hezbollah. And they are certainly “authentic” Arab Muslims. When the UAE declared the Muslim Brotherhood, and Obama’s key supporters and ideological allies at CAIR terrorist organizations, Obama and his comrades were so angry they could barely put together a coherent sentence.  
 This brings us to Khashoggi. As Lee Smith [reported](https://thefederalist.com/2018/10/15/10-key-questions-khashoggi-affair-answer-buying-press-narrative/) after he was found dead in the Saudi consulate in Turkey, there were a lot of things about Khashoggi that made him a strange hero for Americans of any stripes. He was a Qatari [agent of influence](https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/news/articles/an-improvised-explosive-device). He was a former Saudi intelligence officer who sided with the Wahabist jihadists in the royal family who supported al Qaeda. He was friends with Osama bin Laden and mourned his death. The al Qaeda, ISIS, Iran and Hamas supporting Qatari regime was essentially writing his columns in the Washington Post.  
 Khashoggi’s receipt of a green card made no sense. His gig as a columnist at Jeff Bezos’s paper made no sense unless seen as an effort of Obama’s deep state friends, particularly former CIA director John Brennan, who opposed MBS from the outset. And then it made perfect sense. In other words, Khashoggi, a terror supporting Qatari agent against a modernizing, pro-American, anti-jihadist and pro-Israel Saudi Crown Prince was an important political warfare asset for Obama’s clique. His job was to discredit MBS and legitimize the terror-supporting Qataris while making pro-jihadist progressives feel good about themselves.  
 I’m not saying his murder was justified. I am saying he doesn’t deserve the tears of anyone who opposes jihadist terror and jihadist regimes, cares about human rights or wants to avoid a major war in the Middle East.  
 Whatever Khashoggi’s ties were with Obama’s clique during his lifetime may have been, the way they responded to his murder made clear what they hoped to do with his death. They wanted the old, bad Saudi Arabia back. They wanted the Muslim Brotherhood funding, al Qaeda-spawning Wahabists of Riyadh back. The Prince Bandars and Prince Turkis of the days of yore, not the guy that gave women drivers licenses.  
 They immediately set out lionizing Khashoggi as some sort of Nelson Mandela so that they could turn MBS into Hitler or whatever. As Smith reported in another [article](https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/israel-middle-east/articles/american-press-middle-east), Robert Malley, who is now in charge of Biden’s Iran policy, was the first pushing the line that in response to Khashoggi’s death, the U.S. should end its support/alliance with Saudi Arabia in retribution and side with the Iran-controlled Houthis against Saudi Arabia.  
 It was a testament to Donald Trump’s common sense and his political courage that he refused to bow to their pressure. And it was equally obvious back in 2018 that if a Democrat beat Trump in 2020, the next Democrat administration would resuscitate the Khashoggi affair to try to push MBS from power.  
 The worst thing that happened to the Obama nee Biden crowd were the Abraham Accords. This is why the first thing that Biden and his handlers did was bow out of the U.S. side of the deal by freezing the arms sales to the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The Abraham Accords put paid their false claims that the jihadists are the authentic voice of the Arab world. The popularity of the deals among the citizens of the Gulf and much of the wider Arab world – like Morocco and Sudan — made clear that Obama (Biden) and their ilk were basing U.S. Middle East policy on the propaganda being taught in Middle East Studies departments throughout the U.S. rather than on anything even vaguely resembling the reality of the region and the views of people who actually live here.  
 I don’t know if MBS will survive this blow or not. There is reason to fear that at the end of the day, the leaders of the UAE and of Saudi Arabia will decide they are better off making an arrangement with Iran supported by the U.S. than standing up for their sovereignty and their interests with Israel. And if they do, it will be a disaster of epic proportions. The danger of war will rise exponentially. Jihadists of the Sunni and Shiite varieties will be empowered as never before. And Israel will be in a pretty horrible position.  
 But in the midst of all of this, leave it to the fake human rights activists and real terror supporters and jihad sympathizers like Malley and his comrades in Obama’s new administration to pat themselves on the back for ushering in an “authentic” era in the Middle East. <https://carolineglick.com/the-khashoggi-passion-play/>   
  
**HUMMMMM? Is this fellow a bit overboard? I am not so sure. You need to read and think carefully. - rdb]**

**Where Do We Go From Here? Part 4: Prepping For Tyranny***By* [*Steven Yates*](https://newswithviews.com/author/steveny/)*|February 27th, 2021***Prepping For Tyranny**  
 *“You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end — which you can never afford to lose — with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.” —*VADM James B. Stockdale, UNS  
 [*Author’s Disclaimer:* the content in this article is for informational purposes only. Neither the author nor *NewsWithViews.com* advocates the breaking of any law. Consult an attorney you trust if you have questions about taking up any of the projects described below. Be sure your attorney is a trusted Patriot as well as knowledgeable in what the law allows.]  
 Parts [1](https://newswithviews.com/where-do-we-go-from-here-part-1/), [2](https://newswithviews.com/where-do-we-go-from-here-part-2/), and [3](https://newswithviews.com/where-do-we-go-from-here-part-3/).  
 Living overseas, information comes my way. I doubt living overseas has anything to do with it. Most of the same information can be had by Americans at home. It’s just that few seek it out. It often presents a quite different picture of the former Land of the Free than you’ll get from domestic Corporate Media.  
 Take for instance the whopper that a man in a cave in Afghanistan orchestrated, all by himself, the 9/11 attacks. This is the approved narrative in U.S. media, government, and academia. Anything else is a “conspiracy theory” (as if the whopper is more than a *different*“conspiracy theory”). I’ve met numerous non-Americans who are *sure* the whopper is false. They figured out *long ago* that powerful actors both in and outside the borders of the Empire were involved in planning and executing the attacks, that there were warnings aplenty (because you *can’t* hide something that big!), and that the U.S. Establishment pointedly ignored them because it was *counting* on the attacks to occur.  
 That is to say, the Big Club was willing to sacrifice over 3,000 innocent lives, plus the lives of first responders who are now dead from “mysterious ailments” traceable to their breathing poisonous dust from the collapsed towers.  
 The Establishment does not care about human lives. It’s useful always to remember this. Again, to its minions, we peasants are the moral equivalent of cattle.  
 *Cui bono?* Who was the primary beneficiary of those attacks? Answer: the Establishment (via the Patriot Act and its successors) and its war machine which soon launched wars the real purpose of which was control over Middle Eastern oil. For the cattle, Corporate Media fostered the narrative that Saddam Hussein, who (with his country under destructive sanctions for 13 years was dragging his feet) was an “evil tyrant” who needed removal; hence the catastrophic Iraq War. Catastrophic for common people, that is, Iraqis worse than Americans. Not for Halliburton which made billions from the rebuilding (one of the handful of intelligent leftist authors, Naomi Klein, coined the phrase *disaster capitalism* for this sort of thing).  
 The Establishment would have invaded Iran by now, but Iran is a much bigger target, allied with Russia and China. The Big Club may be evil, but its minions are not stupid. They knew good and well they’d not succeed at their primary objective (gaining control over Iranian oil) without starting a world war.  
***As a general rule,those who either have power or want power do what they can get away with: no more, and no less.***  
 And as the nineteenth century African-American philosopher and abolitionist Frederick Douglass observed back in 1857:  
 *“Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.”* -West India Emancipation Speech, Delivered at Canandaigua, New York (Aug. 4, 1857)  
 That hasn’t changed. But today’s powerful rationalize their acts with mind-paralyzing narratives, based either on fear (of “terrorism,” or today, of Captain Covid) or the promise of free lunches for anyone gullible enough to believe their BS.  
 ***We’ll keep you safe and secure your health if you give us more power!***   
 This is the official narrative of official narratives!  
 The world of 2020-21 is vastly different than that of 2001-03. To put it mildly!  
 Were another 9/11 to happen *now*, the Biden-Harris Regime would not wait six *weeks* for a Patriot Act II. It might not even wait six *days*.  
 It might not take an actual event, moreover. Not after “1/6”! Not with all those white supremacists still running around who supported Trump, believe the election was stolen, and marched into the Capitol that day!  
 That’s another BS narrative, but I don’t think the newly empowered Establishment figureheads care two figs what’s true and what isn’t (the basic concept of ‘BS’ since philosopher Harry Frankfurt’s [neat little tract on the subject](https://www.bookdepository.com/On-Bullshit-Harry-G-Frankfurt/9780691122946?ref=grid-view&qid=1613998419445&sr=1-1))!  
 *The information presently coming my way* — I am not free to reveal its origin on a publicly accessible site — is another peek at what is being thought about elsewhere in the world, and a warning. *You saw it here first (probably).*  
 Russian intelligence is watching the unfolding scene in the District of Corruption. They’ve been watching since the janky election—not with an eye to *doing* anything, just planning for a world without U.S. leadership. For only American center-left liberals and naïve EU bureaucrats think the mentally vacant Joe Biden could lead a choir rehearsal, much less America, much less the world.  
 International audiences watched an inauguration more resembling the anointing of the supreme leader of a military dictatorship than a democracy (this last is a *myth*, as I noted in Part 3). Thousands of troops surrounded the Biden-Harris coronation, with tens of thousands more in the vicinity.  
 Many remain, and the plan is for them to be there at least through early March. Rumors are circulating of an “event” at the Capitol March 4. Neither I nor anyone else *knows* anything will happen, of course. There’s been enough advanced publicity to spook the planners: obviously, if anything happens it will have ***false flag*** written all over it.  
 My source’s query: be that as it may, is something spectacularly nasty being planned behind the scenes? Something much bigger than another disruptive protest?  
 Another 9/11, perchance? Another orchestrated mass shooting, with some poor mind-controlled (because drug-addled) schlep set up to take the fall?  
 Or a cyber attack resulting in Internet outages, other telecommunications disruptions, and an emergency that could be blamed on “white supremacists” and used to justify Homeland Security led lockdowns of the sort we know the Establishment will do because they did it in Boston (remember the Boston Marathon Bombing?).  
 Speaking of lockdowns, those continue courtesy of Captain Covid — or what we are told is Captain Covid (who is mutating, as viruses do) — pending Big Pharma’s vaccines. Or what we are told are vaccines. Among the people refusing the mare healthcare workers who don’t trust the official narrative any further than they can throw it (*the vaccine is proven safe and effective, with nolong-term side effects*). Many are discounting stories by “experts” of how Covid seems to have *vanquished* the flu this year as laughable.  Millions will likely refuse something even Big Pharma concedes is experimental.  
 Amidst “vaccine hesitancy” and continued skepticism about the legitimacy of Sleepy Joe’s presidency, I wouldn’t put it past the Big Club to have something very unpleasant planned as a last resort. Something able to serve as a pretext for breaking out their full artillery.  
 What you will see, in that case, is a three-way power grab between Big Tech / Big Pharma, Big Government, and the Cult of Woke, aimed at Trump supporters but actually at *anyone* questioning approved narratives, and that includes those progressives smart enough to know that Sleepy Joe is not one of them.  
***Conservatives need to be prepared, and there is no more time to waste!***   
 They can do much preparation where they are, although many eventually will want to separate physically and congregate in off-the-radar locations — if they can find land that [Bill Gates has not bought](https://www.sgtreport.com/2021/01/bill-gates-is-buying-up-american-farmland-but-why/). Living off the grid may be possible although doing so may take one into a legal gray area.  
 In Parts 2 and 3 I discussed strategies for psychological and economic independence from the Establishment. There are things autonomous communities have that non autonomous communities do not have. Enumerated more specifically:  
 (1) Autonomous communities can grow, cultivate, and store their own food, and prepare clean water. Communities unable to do this will have to bring in food and water from outside, and so will never be autonomous, period. The alternative is to have six months to a year’s worth of non perishables stored.  
 (2) They have people able to make soap and supply other hygienic necessities (toilet paper, etc.). Again, the alternative is a large minimum supply until a few people develop these skills.  
 (3) Such communities have among them doctors and nurses able to respond effectively to medical emergencies, or just treat common ailments. Given their experiences over the past year, I would think enough doctors and other medical professionals would be questioning Establishment narratives and asking where they can sign up. Each such community should have at least one doctor able to deliver babies, at least one dentist, and at least one veterinarian, all with assistants.  
 (4) Such communities have craftsmen/women, people who can run generators in cold weather, others able to wire houses safely and keep lights on, repair equipment, make and repair clothing including for harsh weather conditions (the use of *hemp* has enormous possibilities since hemp fiber is very durable and clothing made from it does *not* readily wear out). All will need to apprentice others in these skills.  
 (5) Autonomous communities will have teachers for children, and other ideas and information people, whether for education about nutrition (e.g.), history including how we got in this mess — object lessons in the need for checks on the powerful. I would include in this category pastors or priests or other men and women who serve God and can maintain the community’s moral compass.  Such communities will need writers of newsletters able to keep people informed. These folks will not put out fake news or feel-good BS. Nor, above all, will they want to proselytize to the world! (Their work, it should go without saying, will be *offline*.)  
 (6) Finally, such communities will need people skilled with firearms, able to defend the community’s boundaries or borders, if established. They will have sought out skilled Veterans, perhaps with enough experience of the District of Criminals’ foreign wars and their destructive aftermath to have lost whatever loyalty they might have had to the Empire. They will need to patrol borders because to the extent it *succeeds*, their community will have enemies. Corporate Media will demonize them as white supremacists, white nationalists, or white separatists (even though these communities may have numerous minority-group members in their midst — another illustration how the Establishment couldn’t care less about the truth).  
 Also, as the U.S. continues to unravel infra structurally, socially, and economically, refugees may want to enter. Leaders will then have difficult decisions to make. Obviously they cannot let in everyone who wants in, for the same reasons the U.S. as a whole cannot sustain unlimited immigration. Do they admit *some*, risking that a few may be moles or agents sent by one of their enemies? Or do they close their borders to all outsiders? If they have been threatened in Corporate Media or actually experienced physical, Antifa-style attacks, this might be the safest route?  
 When necessary (and it will be), some will need to conduct reconnaissance missions to keep track of what is going on outside. If the U.S. really does unravel, this could be as dangerous as recon would be in any foreign nation during wartime.  
 (7) Undoubtedly I’ve not thought of everything. Readers should feel free to print this list and add to it.  
 Sadly, few people take action until it’s too late. Conservatives should be networking within their communities *now*, identifying where they stand and who can do what. They should buy from one another instead of from Walmart and Amazon. If a restaurant is owned by a conservative Patriot, patronize it. The same with other small businesses, those that have survived the lockdowns.  
 In this scenario, ***the future is local and hands-on*.** Small business is presently on life support. This was the probably an intent of the “plan-demic.” Only a conscious and assertive localism will revive it (forget about “stimulus” handouts that won’t pay a month’s mortgage and utilities). Don’t forget barter as an option, should cash be in short supply — as it might be before this is over (in Part 5 we will look at scenarios involving a dollar collapse, etc.).  
 Many of these strategies *might* mean refusing and resisting federal lockdown mandates (if lifted they *will* return). There is abundant evidence that lockdowns cause more health problems than they solve—mental as well as physical. One of their primary purposes is to keep us peasants isolated, frustrated if not scared, and unsure of ourselves amidst unpredictably changing rules.  
 We know, too,that Biden-Harris are coming after guns, and it may not take a false flag. How prepared are you? Is the Second Amendment ink on a page, or can you be prepared to defend your right of gun ownership with a threat of deadly force if need be? You’re your community have skilled Veterans willing to take action? Suppose surgical strikes by SWAT Teams are prepping to take out your leadership. What then?  
 The bottom line: *if conservatives allow themselves to be disarmed, they can forget about everything I’ve written here, as it presumes — as did our Founders — that in a world hostile to freedom, freedom won’t last long unless there is a threat of deadly force to back it up.*   
***So what happens should the Establishment crack down and tyranny comes full force?***  
 Given the lateness of the hour (and it is probably at least 11:56 pm!), have I said that there might not be much time?!  
 Should the District of Coercion declare martial law on whatever pretext, calling out Homeland Security and with plenty of regional and state-level enforcers “private” as well as “public,” fighting back would be tantamount to suicide. You will wish you had expatriated, by whatever means necessary,as some of us did. But the clock will have struck midnight!  
 You could be taken into custody, made the equivalent of a prisoner of war, and *tortured* for information. Not all torture, by the way, involves inflicting pain; you could be put in [solitary](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/almost-addicted/201801/solitary-confinement-torture-pure-and-simple) in a cell the size of a parking space under bright, fluorescent lights that burn for 24 hours. If Constitutional government is suspended, no lawyer will come rescue you. Days could turn into weeks, weeks into months, months into years. (Most reading this know that the U.S. already has a larger prison population than China. [Our present system is arguably rotten to the core.](https://www.unz.com/freed/slightly-woozier-thoughts-on-the-impossibility-of-justice/) Under martial law it would be magnitudes worse.)  
 Read Viktor E. Frankl’s *Man’s Search For Meaning*, or James Stockdale’s much shorter *Courage Under Fire* or *The Stoic Warrior’s Trial*. I would add these books/PDFs to my library if they aren’t there now. They are invaluable guides on how to survive and remain sane in extreme situations. These in addition to Abigail Adams, *Ready for Anything: The Ultimate No BS Survival Manual for Ordinary People*, Tess Pennington’s classic *The Prepper’s Blueprint*, and Sun Tzu’s *The Art of War*.  
***Could things really get this bad???***  
 I don’t know. There’s the old saw about hoping for the best while preparing for the worst. Look at it like this. The Establishment has surely figured out that neither Biden-won skeptics nor lockdown skeptics nor Covid vaccine skeptics are going away. [The lawfare is flying](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-dominion/voting-machine-company-sues-my-pillow-and-its-pro-trump-chief-over-election-claims-idUSKBN2AM1LT), and it is not shutting up the first. Big Tech deplatforming has not shut up the second or third, as there are now numerous sites that do not censor and their size and numbers are growing. There are places (mainland Europe is one) where [pushback against lockdowns](https://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2021/02/16/is-a-revolutionary-movement-developing-in-europe/) puts our side of the Atlantic to shame.  
 Behind closed doors are surely fevered discussions over how far America’s “deplorables” can be pushed.  
 An email I received a few weeks ago contended—not unreasonably, as we will see in Part 5—that the globalists behind the Establishment are the ones who are scared. They are running out of time, and they know it. For one thing, more people than ever before know about them and what they’ve done to the world; the disagreements are over details. For another, circumstances outside their control are forcing them to act.  
 We have three options: submission to encroaching tyranny, armed revolt, and arms-backed separation. I assume the first isn’t an option for anyone who’s read this far. The second is extremely dangerous, as I’ve argued, and *might be avoidable* for reasons we’ll look at in Part 5. That leaves the third. Conservatives need to be preparing, forming alliances, starting or supporting small businesses for each other, and planning communities able to separate both politically and economically.  
 Increasingly, we live in a world where those fascinated with power and an urge to remake the world in their image of Utopia feel free to do as they please. They don’t bother to hide it. (Is Klaus Schwab’s [proposed Covid-based Great Reset](https://www.amazon.com/COVID-19-Great-Reset-Klaus-Schwab/dp/2940631123/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Covid-19+Great+Reset&qid=1614024977&s=books&sr=1-1) hidden from you?) Those who seek *liberty* must learn to do the same thing, when and where they can. But they would do well to separate as quietly as possible, at least for now.  
 Steven Yates’s next book *What Should Philosophy Do? A Theory* will be published this year by Wipf and Stock. <https://newswithviews.com/where-do-we-go-from-here-part-4-prepping-for-tyranny/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Poll: Likud wins 28 Knesset seats, anti-Netanyahu bloc wins 62 seats**

***'Poll of Polls' shows Religious Zionism party consistently passing electoral threshold, while DM Benny Gantz's party continues to waver above and below the threshold.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Feb 27 , 2021 10:12 PM*

**The "Poll of Polls" from The Madad and Kan News predicted that the bloc opposing Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would win 62 Knesset seats, while the pro-Netanyahu bloc would win just 47 se**ats.

**The poll, published Saturday night, shows the Likud party continues to lead with 28 Knesset seats, followed by Yesh Atid as a distant second with 18 seats. Gideon Sa'ar's New Hope party wins 14 seats, while Yamina wins 1**1.

The Joint Arab List is projected to win nine Knesset seats, followed by Sephardic-haredi Shas with eight. Ashkenazic-haredi United Torah Judaism (UTJ) and Yisrael Beytenu are expected to win seven Knesset seats each. Labor would receive six Knesset seats, and [three parties](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297432): Meretz, Religious Zionism, and Blue and White, would receive four seats each.

The Ra'am party, which split off from the Joint Arab List, is not expected to pass the threshold. **MORE -** <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297605>

**New Zealand's largest city enters week-long lockdown after patient diagnosed with COVID-19**

***Coronavirus case of unknown origin diagnosed in Auckland, New Zealand, sending city into lockdown.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Feb 27 , 2021 7:30 PM*

**New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden on Saturday announced that Auckland would begin a seven-day lockdown on Sunday morning, following the discovery of a new case of coronavirus o**f unknown origin. **[NOTICE THIS A NEW CASE A = 1 For that you lock and entire city? How about case tracking????? – rdb]**

With nearly two million residents, Auckland is New Zealand's largest city.

The new infection is being sequenced, health officials said.

The patient developed symptoms on Tuesday and is believed to have been infectious since Sunday, they added. During that time, he visited several public venues.

"Based on this, we are in the unfortunate but necessary position to protect Aucklanders again," Arden said. She added that under the new Level 3 lockdown, people will only be allowed to leave home for essential shopping and work, and that restrictions in the rest of the country would tighten to Level 2, limiting public gatherings. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297594>

**Satellite footage shows aftermath of US strikes in Syria**

***Image published by space technology company shows buildings destroyed by US air strikes targeting pro-Iranian militias in Syria.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Feb 28 , 2021 4:13 AM*



***Iraq-Syria border after US air strikes on February 26, 2021 Maxar Technologies/Handout via REUTERS***

**Satellite footage released by Maxar Technologies show the extent of the damage caused by** [**US air strikes**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297549) **on targets belonging to Iranian-backed militias on Thursday nig**ht.

**CNN reported that seven 500-pound bombs were used in the attacks which targeted a compound used by two Iranian-affiliated Iraqi militias,** Kata'ib Hezbollah and Kata'ib Sayyid Al-Shuhada.

The before-and-after satellite images released by the space technology company show vividly just how much destruction those bombs wrought.

A "before" image shows a compound, just over a third of a kilometer (about 370 yards) from the Iraqi border, containing around a dozen buildings of various sizes. In an "after" image, almost all the buildings have been destroyed, and the dirt in and around the compound blackened by the blasts.

The Pentagon said the strikes were retaliation for [a rocket attack in Iraq](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/296885) earlier this month that killed one civilian contractor and wounded a US service member and other coalition troops.

A Pentagon spokesman said the US air strikes "destroyed multiple facilities at a border control point used by a number of Iranian- backed militant groups."

**The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 17 members of the pro-Iranian militia were killed in the US air strike**. The head of the Observatory told *AFP* that "the attack destroyed at least three ammunition trucks and there were many dead."

Speaking to reporters after the strike, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said, "I'm confident in the target that we went after, we know what we hit.” **MORE -**<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297613>

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**02/27/2021 NEWS AM**

**קובי פרץ וחיים ישראל - ה' כל יכול Kobi Peretz & Haim Israel**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWy3680tY-I>



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| **"When government will expropriate any wealth that people create, the present value of future output can actually be less than the value of the country's tangible resources. The power of predatory government to destroy wealth is truly awesome."**  **-- Arnold Kling (1954-) American economist, scholar, and blogger** |

**Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!**

**That is the only hope for this nation!**

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for TR – abnormal Mammogram having double biopsy – Positive for cancer**  **Pray for ZH - having trouble with PTSD**  **Pray for LAC – recurrent cancer getting treatment**  **Pray for Ella – emotionally disturbed abused child and brother with ? heart problem**  **Pray for JN – Neuro disease**  **Pray for MS – Job issues and change**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for Felicia – post op problems – continuing**  **Pray for SH and family – lady’s husband passed away and she is in Nursing home. Not doing well.**  **Pray for MP – Very complex problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

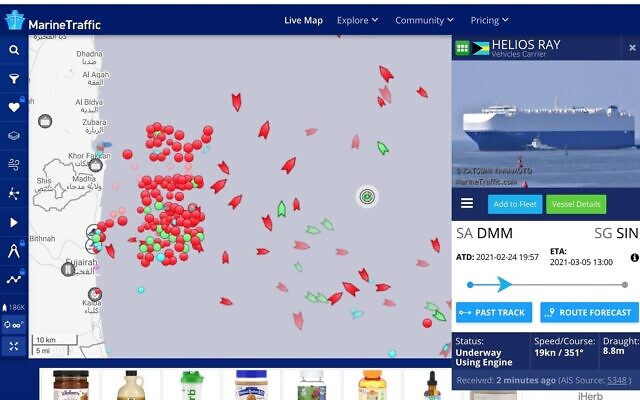
**Genesis 19:27And Abraham riseth early in the morning, unto the place where he hath stood *before* the face of Jehovah; 28and he looketh on the face of Sodom and Gomorrah, and on all the face of the land of the circuit, and seeth, and lo, the smoke of the land went up as smoke of the furnace. 29And it cometh to pass, in God's destroying the cities of the circuit, that God remembereth Abraham, and sendeth Lot out of the midst of the overthrow in the overthrowing of the cities in which Lot dwelt.**

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| **ETBPF has a new venue called Discord. It is a private web site where we are posting news and the daily news posting and you can respond with posts if you want. This ‘app’ can be used almost like facebook and twitter but without the intervention. We are just starting it and a bit slow to learn how to use it but it helps keep us off the Big Guys. It is a freebee and private. We have set levels of access to make sure only real responsible people are able to access. You can look at and join by going to:** [**https://discord.gg/4576x47ezN**](https://discord.gg/4576x47ezN) |

**Explosion hits Israeli-owned cargo ship in Gulf of Oman, no injuries**

***Maritime intelligence firm says blast likely stemmed from ‘asymmetric activity by Iranian military’; ship identified as MV Helios Ray owned by Israeli shipping magnate Rami Ungar***

*By* [*Jon Gambrell*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jon-gambrell/) *and* [*Isabel Debre*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/isabel-debre/) *Today, 4:44 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/Screen-Shot-2021-02-26-at-21.21.13-e1614367408264.jpg)

The Helios Ray, which was sailing from Saudi Arabia to Singapore, shown (in a white circle, center-right) on the Marine Traffic website's live shipping tracker soon after it was hit in the Gulf of Oman, February 26, 2021 (MarineTraffic.com screenshot)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An explosion struck an Israeli-owned cargo ship sailing out of the Middle East on Friday, an unexplained blast renewing concerns about ship security amid escalating tensions between the US and Iran.

The crew and vessel were safe, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, which is run by the British navy. The explosion forced the vessel to head to the nearest port.

A Maritime intelligence firm and Hebrew media reports, citing unnamed Israeli officials, said Iran was likely behind the attack.

The site of the blast, the Gulf of Oman, saw a series of explosions in 2019 that the US Navy blamed on Iran against the backdrop of steeply rising threats between former US President Donald Trump and Iranian leaders. Tehran denied the accusations, which came after Trump abandoned Tehran’s 2015 nuclear deal with world powers and reimposed harsh sanctions on the country.

In recent weeks, as the administration of Joe Biden looks to re-engage with Iran, Tehran has escalated its breaches of the nuclear accord to create leverage over Washington. The deal saw Tehran agree to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of crippling sanctions.

Iran also has blamed Israel for a recent series of attacks, including a mysterious explosion last summer that destroyed an advanced centrifuge assembly plant at its Natanz nuclear facility and the killing of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a top Iranian scientist who founded the Islamic Republic’s military nuclear program two decades ago.

Dryad Global, a maritime intelligence firm, identified the stricken vessel as the MV Helios Ray, a Bahaman-flagged roll-on, roll-off vehicle cargo ship. A United Nations ship database identified the vessel’s owners as a Tel Aviv-based firm called Ray Shipping Ltd.

Ray Shipping confirmed that one of its vessels carrying a “Bahamas flag” was damaged “when an explosion was heard in the Persian Gulf near the Straits of Hormuz.”

 “The ship has 28 crew members. No one was hurt. The engine room was not damaged. It is on its way to the port of Dubai to fix everything necessary,” the company told the Times of Israel.

Damage is seen in the Israeli-owned ship that hit by an explosion in the Gulf of Oman on February 26, 2021. (Screen capture/Channel 13)

Satellite-tracking data from website MarineTraffic.com showed the Helios Ray had been nearly entering the Arabian Sea around 0600 GMT Friday before it suddenly turned around and began heading back toward the Strait of Hormuz. It still listed Singapore as its destination on its tracker.

Capt. Ranjith Raja of the data firm Refinitiv told the AP that the Israeli-owned vessel had left the Persian Gulf Thursday bound for Singapore. On Friday at 0230 GMT, the vessel stopped for at least 9 hours east of a main Omani port before making a 360-degree turn and sailing toward Dubai, likely for damage assessment and repairs, he said.

The vessel came loaded with cargo from Europe. It discharged vehicles at several ports in the region, Raja added, including in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, with its last port of call at Dammam.

An explosion struck an Israeli-owned cargo ship sailing in the Gulf of Oman Friday. The crew and vessel were safe. The explosion forced the vessel, reported to be the Helios Ray, to head to the nearest port. [pic.twitter.com/vT7IZkKegq](https://t.co/vT7IZkKegq)

— Emanuel (Mannie) Fabian (@manniefabian) [February 26, 2021](https://twitter.com/manniefabian/status/1365309335698608129?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Abraham Ungar, 74, who goes by “Rami,” is the founder of Ray Shipping Ltd., and is known as one of the richest men in Israel. He made his fortune in shipping and construction. Hebrew media reported that Ungar is close to Mossad chief Yossi Cohen.

Ungar said he did not know exactly what had hit the vessel, which had several holes, but it was most likely “missiles or a mine placed on the bow.”

“Israeli authorities will investigate this together with me,” he told the Ynet news site. “I don’t think this deliberately targeted an Israeli-owned ship, that has not happened to me before.”

Ungar said it was most likely linked to previous attacks on shipping in the area. “I think it is part of the game between Iran and the US, that’s why they are hitting Western ships.”

According to the Nikola Y. Vaptsarov Naval Academy, where Ungar provides support and maritime training, he owns dozens of car-carrying ships and employs thousands of engineers.

The US Navy’s Bahrain-based 5th Fleet was “aware and monitoring” the situation, Cmdr. Rebecca Rebarich told the AP. She declined to immediately comment further.

While details of the explosion remained unclear, two American defense officials told the AP that the ship had sustained two holes on its port side and two holes on its starboard side just above the waterline in the blast. The officials said it remained unclear what caused the holes. They spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss unreleased information on the incidents. MORE -<https://www.timesofisrael.com/explosion-hits-israeli-owned-cargo-ship-in-gulf-of-oman-no-injuries/> [Does anyone smell the potential of a war in the near future. US hits targets in Syria (probably Iranian after Iran backed group hits US targets in Iraq and then PROBABLY Iran hits Israeli shipping vessel all in the last few days. HUMMM? – rdb]

**MK among 35 hurt as cops fire rubber bullets, stun grenades at Arab protest**

**Police say they were responding to violent riot, but demonstrators accuse officers of using excessive force; Umm al-Fahm mayor and MK Yousef Jabareen among wounded**

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:03 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/WhatsApp-Image-2021-02-26-at-6.28.07-AM.jpeg)

Police disperse a protest against violence in Arab communities, in Umm al-Fahm on February 26, 2021. (Israel Police)

At least 35 demonstrators, including an Arab mayor and a parliamentarian, were wounded following clashes with police at a protest against the spread of organized crime in the Arab Israeli city of Umm al-Fahm on Friday.

Police fired rubber-coated bullets, tear gas, stun grenades and water cannons as they clashed with hundreds of demonstrators in Umm al-Fahm, who were protesting law enforcement’s alleged unwillingness to fight a rising tide of violence in Arab cities and towns. [HUMMMM? We want you to fight and stop violence in our cities so we are going to riot and cause violence in our cities until you stop the violence from the people we don’t like?? Makes perfect sense – NOT! – rdb]

Arab Israeli officials accused police of racist behavior and using excessive force to deal with the protests. Video from the scene also showed police violently beating and kicking protestors as they lay on the ground.

Umm al-Fahm residents have been holding weekly demonstrations against violence and organized crime for nearly a month and a half. Since the beginning of 2021, 21 Arabs have died violently inside Israel.

Medics said at least 35 protesters were injured at Friday’s protest, including Joint List MK Yousef Jabareen. Jabareen was hit in the back with a rubber bullet during the protest; the parliamentarian was rushed to a local hospital and was released later in the evening.

Umm al-Fahm mayor Samir Subhi Mahameed, who accompanied Jabareen, was also struck by officers and received medical treatment.

Another man was in serious condition after apparently being struck in the head with a stun grenade. The victim, an Umm al-Fahm resident identified solely by his first name, Muhannad, was taken to the Rambam hospital in Haifa for emergency treatment.

At least 11 of the protesters were hospitalized, while the rest were treated at the scene.

עוד תיעוד קשה בו שוטרים ומסתערבים, תוקפים חבר מועצת העיר אום אל פחם כשהוא על הרצפה. [pic.twitter.com/XCyWvOuwjP](https://t.co/XCyWvOuwjP)

— |فرات نصار|פוראת נסאר|FURAT NASSAR (@nassar\_furat) [February 26, 2021](https://twitter.com/nassar_furat/status/1365304467030171651?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Police said eight officers were lightly hurt and said police were responding to demonstrators hurling stones at them.

“Despite repeated attempts during the week to reach understandings with the protest leaders, including the mayor, we did not receive their cooperation, which led to a violent riot from which civilians and police were injured,” Israel Police said in a statement.

According to police, officers had responded to a violent riot during which protesters attempted to block the entrance to Umm al-Fahm as well as an adjacent highway. Four people were arrested at the scene for involvement in violent disturbances.

כך החל המשטרה בדיכוי המאחה השקטה נגד האלימות באום אלפחם.שימוש במכתזית והתזה ישירה של מי בואש,ירי רימוני הלם וגז מדמיע,שימוש באלימות נגד עצורים [pic.twitter.com/mpJZaIEDYR](https://t.co/mpJZaIEDYR)

— sami abed alhamid سامي عبد الحميد (@samiaah10) [February 26, 2021](https://twitter.com/samiaah10/status/1365298072293679108?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Mahameed denied police were attacked, saying protests were peaceful until officers began using force to disperse the crowd.

“The ones who started it were the police, without any provocation on our part,” Mahameed told The Times of Israel.

“There was a silent prayer. The preacher gave a Friday sermon telling worshipers not to behave violently. Then young activists starting marching with 21 coffins — symbolizing the 21 victims this year in Arab society. Without any provocation, police started spraying water at the protesters and hurling stun grenades and firing rubber bullets,” Mahameed recalled.

Footage from the scene shows officers shoving him after a commander pointed in his direction.

“Then I heard the station commander tell his forces, ‘I do not want to see anyone here,’ and told his officers to attack me specifically. That’s when they beat my head,” the mayor said.

Mahameed acknowledged that some Umm al-Fahm residents had thrown stones at police, but maintained that police had provoked the confrontation. Before the police began to forcefully disperse the crowd, he said, the demonstration had been entirely peaceful.

“As for communicating with us and working to establish calm? There has been nothing of the kind. Today, they began pummeling the young protesters immediately,” Mahameed claimed.

שוטר הודף באלימות את סמיר מחאמיד ראש עיריית אום אלפחם ומפיל אותו ארצה.בהמשך הועבר לקבלת טיפול רפואי בבחת חולים העמק בעפולה [pic.twitter.com/PJXFcLrU6U](https://t.co/PJXFcLrU6U)

— sami abed alhamid سامي عبد الحميد (@samiaah10) [February 26, 2021](https://twitter.com/samiaah10/status/1365308452554346502?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

In another clip, officers are seen clearing a main square using police shields, with one of the cops shoving to the ground an unsuspecting older woman who was facing the other direction as another officer lunged at Jabareen.

שוטר מכה באמצעות מגן שהחזיק בידו צעירה ללא שום סיבה מוצדקת שנראית לעיין שהיתה עם איפוד זוהר ששימש את הסדרנים במחאה נגד האלימות באום אלפחם [pic.twitter.com/URZsjoPgNG](https://t.co/URZsjoPgNG)

— sami abed alhamid سامي عبد الحميد (@samiaah10) [February 26, 2021](https://twitter.com/samiaah10/status/1365287117644046336?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

“The brutal and racist police attacked non-violent protesters who were simply demanding personal security in the face of the crime in Umm al-Fahm,” said Jabareen, adding that an officer struck him in the back with a stun grenade resulting in injuries that required hospitalization. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/35-hurt-as-cops-use-rubber-bullets-stun-grenades-against-arab-israeli-protest/> [Sounds a bit like two kits fighting. Both are screaming “he started it!” – rdb]

**Israel under night curfew again to curb Purim festivities amid fresh virus fears**

***Dozens of gatherings take place both indoors and outdoors, with health officials concerned crowds will lead to new spike in infections that could delay reopening economy***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:25 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/F210226MA24.jpg)

People wearing costumes celebrate the jewish holiday of Purim at Habima Square in Tel Aviv on February 26, 2021. (Miriam Alster/Flash90)

The second of three nighttime curfews went into effect across the entire country Friday evening as police struggled to clamp down on dozens of Purim parties that drew mass crowds and risked driving yet another spike in coronavirus infections, which the holiday-time restrictions had been designed to prevent.

Despite the nightly curfew and repeated calls on people to celebrate in a responsible manner, the were dozens of mass parties across the country.

Video from Tel Aviv’s Kerem HaTeimanim neighborhood surrounding the Carmel Market showed hundreds of revelers, many not wearing masks, dancing and drinking in the streets.

Police officers on loudspeakers urged participants to disperse before they began issuing fines.

Similar parties were expected to take place across the country on Friday night despite the curfew.

But revelers seemed unconcerned.

“I’m vaccinated, young and wearing a mask,” one participant told Channel 12, when asked why he wasn’t afraid of getting the virus.

Police said officers have and would continue to issue fines, but called on the public to avoid such gatherings. Law enforcement was also concerned about “tisch” gatherings slated to take place Saturday night throughout Haredi communities, which have been virus hotspots all year, with many repeatedly flaunting government guidelines.

Health officials told Hebrew media that the scenes of parties over the Purim holiday on Thursday night and Friday — and which is held on Sunday night and Monday in Jerusalem — were deeply concerning and have them worrying whether they will lead to another wave of infections that could lead to the delay in the economy’s reopening.

The next stage of restriction-easing is slated to take place on March 7 and include the reopening of restaurants for seating. But if case numbers remain high and the healthcare system is once again overwhelmed, reopening plans will have to be delayed, health officials said.

The 8:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. curfew is part of a broader list of restrictions that have been in place since Thursday evening and will last until Sunday morning. Only essential businesses may open during those overnight hours. Under the curfew rules, Israelis are barred from traveling more than a kilometer. Bans on parties and hosting guests at home are also in effect during the curfew.



People wearing costumes celebrate the Jewish holiday of Purim in Jerusalem on February 26, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)

Police on Thursday night dispersed over 100 Purim parties and events around the country that saw dozens or hundreds of people congregate against health regulations and in violation of a nationwide curfew.

Holiday celebrations were broken up in Jerusalem, Beit Shemesh, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Ashdod, Rehovot, among other locations, officials said. Dozens of people were arrested or detained. Fines were handed out to both participants and organizers of events.

Police said Friday morning that some 2,500 fines had been handed out on the first night of the curfew for violations.

Law enforcement has deployed checkpoints in 24 locations around the country to enforce the curfew, and hundreds of police cars patrol the roads.

Health Minister Yuli Edelstein tweeted Friday morning: “I am appealing to the handful of people who can harm us all: Stop. Leave the parties until after the coronavirus. Forego the *tisches* (Hassidic parties) this time. The religious edict of merriment during the [Purim] holiday must not come at the expense of the public.” [Minister Edelstein. It has been over a year and you are still carping at people to stop until the virus is gone. Perhaps you might undergo some serious self reflection and come to the understanding that something seems very fishy. The fact that there were few if any ‘normal’ flu patients and that the numbers of dead are not that much more than a normal winter bad flu spell???? Those might be relevant statistics to peruse so they you can finally figure out what is going on. – rdb]

חגגו קרוב לשעה עד שהגיעה המשטרה: תיעוד ממסיבת בית בכרם התימנים בתל אביב[@daniel\_elazar](https://twitter.com/daniel_elazar?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/M1m8j1CVi9](https://t.co/M1m8j1CVi9)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [February 26, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1365371715564503040?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Government ministers are expected to halt public transportation to Jerusalem on Saturday night and Sunday to prevent revelers from traveling to the city for Shushan Purim celebrations — a final day of the holiday traditionally celebrated in walled cities such as Jerusalem and Safed.

Edelstein on Thursday warned of possible restrictions over Passover if celebratory gatherings are held during Purim. [I would almost put money on the fact that the control fanatics will probably have restrictions on Passover like they have on every holiday in Israel. – rdb]

“If there are mass violations and infections, then on Passover we’ll all sit at home,” he told Kan public radio.

Following festive gatherings during Purim last year, which came at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a jump in coronavirus cases in Israel.

Purim is usually marked with costume parties as well as large communal meals and drinking, in events bringing together family and friends. Since the start of the outbreak in the country last year, the government has occasionally ordered curfews, specifically during major holidays, in an effort to prevent gatherings and an inevitable spread of the virus.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-under-night-curfew-again-to-curb-purim-festivities-amid-fresh-virus-fears/>

**Israeli vaccine refuseniks fear exclusion as economy reopens**

***With over half of citizenry having received at least first vaccine, country opens up 'green pass' holders who had both doses; several activities deemed off-limits to unvaccinated, angering those who cannot get jab for health reasons or refuse as matter of principle***

*Reuters | Published: 02.26.21 , 13:54*

Israel has led the world in COVID-19 vaccinations. Now it faces another challenge that other countries will have to grapple with: how to balance public health and the rights of the unvaccinated.

Its decisions will affect every walk of life - from schools to work, and culture to worship.



***Culture returns as Israeli singer Nurit Galron holds a concert in Tel Aviv for people who are fully vaccinated against coronavirus or have recovered from COVID, Feb. 24, 2021***

***(Photo: AFP)***

Half of Israelis have received at least their first shot, and the country began reopening its economy this week after a year of lockdowns and remote working.

But several activities have been deemed off-limits to the unvaccinated, angering those who cannot get the jab for health reasons, or refuse it as a matter of principle.

Some employers already plan to ban unvaccinated workers from the office, which rights groups fear could cost them their jobs. Unions have suggested workarounds, such as COVID-19 tests every 72 hours.

"I'm already at peace with the fact that I won't be invited to certain events or allowed into areas of entertainment," said Hila Bar, a business owner who is skeptical of medical science and does not plan to get vaccinated. "So I won't go," she said. "And I won't patronize certain businesses either - not because I don't want to, but they do not want my business."

Israel, where the vaccine rollout is fast but not mandatory, is a world leader in inoculations. Other countries are likely to scrutinize its early experience to see how it addresses mostly unanswered questions about balancing individual rights with obligations to public health.

"Whoever does not get vaccinated will be left behind," Health Minister Yuli Edelstein warned in recent weeks.

Edelstein has made clear that newly introduced perks for the vaccinated - including access to theatres, gyms, and resort areas along the Dead Sea - are incentives to get inoculated.

But some advocates and employers are concerned that the Knesset has not passed any new laws regulating workers' return to offices or offering protections for the unvaccinated, saying it will force employers to devise their own rules.



French nuns living in Israel queue with other foreign residents to receive the coronavirus vaccine in Tel Aviv as the city expanded its rollout (Photo: AFP)

Early discussions around guidelines and legislation point to employers, authorities and courts putting public health concerns before individuals' demands.

Intel's Mobileye unit, in Jerusalem, says unvaccinated workers will not be allowed to come to the office as of April 4, but can work from home if their assignment allows.

The company estimates around 10% of its 1,500 employees will not get vaccinated. If they must come to the office, they will need to provide a negative PCR test taken within the prior 48 hours.

“It is our responsibility to make our offices a safe place – the greater good of our employees and their families trumps any other consideration,” Chief Executive Amnon Shashua wrote to employees in an email seen by Reuters.

***Civil rights***

A landmark study released on Wednesday showed the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine being used in Israel cut symptomatic cases among Israeli recipients by 94%.

But some officials privately estimate that 10% of Israelis over 16 - around 650,000 people - do not intend to get vaccinated.

Even asking employees to share their vaccine status could violate medical privacy rights, some advocates say, with potential ramifications for civil liberties that may eventually be challenged in Israeli courts.

"The question is how do we reopen the market, the economy, and life, without harming people that cannot or would not get vaccinated," said Sharon Abraham-Weiss, executive director of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI).

"It's the vulnerable people, those that are not unionized, or temp [workers] or others who would bear the burden," she said, while calling for legislation.

Business leaders have also called for new laws. The Health Ministry did not comment when asked if legislation offering job protection to the unvaccinated was being drawn up.

Some large trade groups have begun drafting policy guidelines for members, including the Manufacturers Association of Israel, which represents 1,800 companies employing almost half a million workers.

The group's members are "not chasing people in the street to stick some syringes in their shoulders and force them to vaccinate," though they are doing everything they can to encourage it, the group's president, Ron Tomer, said.

But according to a legal opinion commissioned by the group and reviewed by Reuters, members may ask employees if they were vaccinated as a "safety measure" to prevent infecting others rather than as a request for personal medical information.

Employers should take reasonable steps to allow unvaccinated staff to work from home or in separate bubbles, but those who cannot do so can be sent on unpaid leave, or, as a last resort, fired, the opinion says.

"If you don't want to take the injection, it's OK ... the employee [has a right] to protect his privacy. But on the other side there are rights of the public, the employers, the clients - the people that we give services [to]," said the opinion's author, prominent employment attorney Nachum Feinberg.

Offering a potential workaround, Israel's largest labor union, Histadrut, suggested that unvaccinated workers who cannot work at home present negative coronavirus tests to their employers every 72 hours. [This is absolutely insane. This problem is not of that magnitude if you would actually carefully evaluate your relative statistics from the past. This is fear mongering and inciting terror in the worst way.– rdb]

***'Matter of public health'***

Israel on Sunday launched a "Green Pass" system granting certain privileges to citizens who have had both doses of the vaccine or have recovered from COVID-19.

In one of its first real-life applications, only those carrying a government-validated certificate were allowed to attend a small open-air concert in Tel Aviv this week.

And Knesset on Wednesday [passed a law](https://www.ynetnews.com/article/r1tS9T7zd) allowing the Health Ministry to give municipalities the names of residents who have not had a shot, in order to encourage them to do so.

ACRI has opposed the legislation, arguing it violates privacy rights.

The law faculty at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem argued in a position paper that regulating vaccination "is a matter of public health, and not a private medical issue."

Existing Israeli laws grant the Health Ministry the legal authority to impose restrictions on the unvaccinated, and even to obligate vaccination in certain cases, the position paper says.

"Those who fulfil their obligation to vaccinate should not be asked to bear the cost of others choosing not to," said David Enoch, a professor in the philosophy of law at Hebrew University. <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/Sy2Qg4LGu>

**‘Netanyahu resorts to bigoted lies’: Iran says Israeli PM seeks to demonize it**

***Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh claims Jewish state’s leader is ‘angry at losing his dupe in the White House’ and conjuring ‘racist Iranophobia’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 2:56 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/000_93J7C2-e1613994888159.jpg)

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh gestures during a press conference in Tehran on February 22, 2021 (ATTA KENARE / AFP)

The Iranian foreign ministry lashed out at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Wednesday for drawing attention to Iran’s alleged nuclear ambitions, claiming that he “resorts to bigoted lies.”

“Angry at losing his dupe in the White House, Netanyahu resorts to bigoted lies to conjure racist Iranophobia,” foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh wrote on his Twitter account.

“It must really hurt that his anti-Iran plots have come to naught yet again,” Khatibzadeh said, adding, “from saving Jews to opposing occupation, Iran has always fought oppressors. History doesn’t lie.”

He may have been referring to pre-revolutionary Iran hosting Jewish refugees during World War II.

Angry at losing his dupe in the WH, Netanyahu resorts to bigoted lies to conjure racist Iranophobia.

It must really hurt that his anti-[#Iran](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Iran?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) plots have come to naught yet again.

From saving Jews to opposing occupation, Iran has always fought oppressors. History doesn't lie.

— Saeed Khatibzadeh (@SKhatibzadeh) [February 24, 2021](https://twitter.com/SKhatibzadeh/status/1364600434896367618?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

In further comments reported by the semi-official Fars news agency, Khatibzadeh claimed Netanyahu is “irked by the failure of his plots against Iran and is now seeking in vain to demonize the country.”

Netanyahu on Thursday said he had told US President Joe Biden that he will do whatever it takes to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran, regardless of whether Washington reenters the nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic.

“I told him, with or without an agreement, my obligation as the prime minister of Israel, as the prime minister of the Jewish state, is to prevent a recurrence of the terrible things that have been done to our people,” he said in an interview with Channel 13.

“There is a regime whose flagship goal is to destroy us. I will do everything I can, everything in my power, to prevent it from attaining nuclear weapons,” he said.

The Biden administration is seeking to reenter the 2015 nuclear deal limiting Iran’s nuclear program, which former president Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the US from in 2018. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-resorts-to-bigoted-lies-iran-says-israeli-pm-seeks-to-demonize-it/>

**Declassified US report says Saudi crown prince ‘approved’ murder of Khashoggi**

**Intel report on journalist’s killing published on Biden’s orders a day after first phone call between president and Saudi King Salman; could complicate ties between US and key ally**

By [Sebastian Smith](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/sebastian-smith/) Today, 8:42 pm

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A US intelligence report made public Friday said that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman — a key figure in the US-Saudi relationship — “approved” the gruesome murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The prince, who is de facto ruler of Saudi Arabia and due to take over from the ailing King Salman, “approved an operation in Istanbul, Turkey to capture or kill Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi,” the report said.

The intelligence report said that given Prince Mohammed’s influence, it was “highly unlikely” that the 2018 murder could have taken place without his green light. The killing also fit a pattern of “the Crown Prince’s support for using violent measures to silence dissidents abroad.”

Khashoggi, a critic of Prince Mohammed who wrote for The Washington Post and was a US resident, was lured to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018, then killed and cut into pieces.

Washington is widely expected to impose new sanctions on Saudis seen as connected to the prince — although not directly against Prince Mohammed himself. He has broadly accepted Saudi Arabia’s responsibility but denies any personal involvement. [anyone in Washington DC that starts slinging stones at leaders in other countries for ‘unethical’ or “unjust’ behavior needs to do a whole lot of self examination before they throw the stones because there is no government any more crooked or unethical as the one that is currently seated in DC. – rdb]

US President Joe Biden ordered a declassified version of the report — first completed under his predecessor Donald Trump — to be released as part of a reset in which Washington is distancing itself from Prince Mohammed.

This comes on the heels of a first phone call between Biden and King Salman late Thursday, when the White House made clear that Biden had no intention of speaking to the 35-year-old crown prince.

The White House said that Biden and the 85-year-old king emphasized the countries’ security ties and “the US commitment to help Saudi Arabia defend its territory as it faces attacks from Iranian-aligned groups.”

However, in a shift from the Trump era, Biden also “affirmed the importance the United States places on universal human rights and the rule of law.” [HUMAN RIGHTS? How about the right to have honest and actual vote counting? How about the rights of those people who had businesses destroyed by the leftist terrorists who were incited by those currently in power? What a bunch of BS hypocrites these critters are? What about the number of DC and Hollywood vermin that are involved with Epstein and child trafficking and sex abuse? – rdb] <https://www.timesofisrael.com/declassified-us-report-implicates-saudi-crown-prince-in-khashoggi-killing/> There is more here but it is the typical media whitewash of the trash of politics. – rdb]

**Black History Month: Amazon stops streaming Clarence Thomas film**

***Comes as opponents attack wife over his dissent in 2020 election case***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published February 26, 2021 at 7:43pm*

It's Black History Month, but a highly acclaimed PBS documentary on the only African-American on the U.S. Supreme Court – and only the second ever – no longer is streaming on Amazon Prime.

["Created Equal: Clarence Thomas in His Own Words"](https://www.justicethomasmovie.com/) is available on other sites, but not Amazon, which [states on the page for the movie](https://www.amazon.com/Created-Equal-Clarence-Thomas-Words/dp/B08HG18S7B) that "the video is currently unavalaible to watch in your location."

On Monday, Thomas issued a scathing dissenting opinion in which he criticized the Supreme Court for refusing to hear two pivotal Pennsylvania cases challenging the counting of ballots in the 2020 election. [The Blaze reported](https://www.theblaze.com/news/opponents-attack-wife-of-clarence-thomas-over-election-case-dissent) some Democrats have implied that Thomas' wife Ginni, a prominent conservative political activist who has supported President Trump, influenced his dissent. Some have demanded that Ginni Thomas be investigated to determine if she played any role in the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

While the Thomas film is no longer available, Amazon Prime has an Amplify Black Voices page that features a "curated collection of titles to honor Black History Month across four weekly themes (Black Love, Black Joy, Black History Makers, and Black Girl Magic)," [reports Breitbart News](https://www.breitbart.com/entertainment/2021/02/25/paoletta-amazon-prime-cancels-justice-clarence-thomas-documentary-during-black-history-month/),

Amazon Prime also is streaming two docudramas and two documentaries on the first black Supreme Court justice, liberal icon Thurgood Marshall. There are even two films on Anita Hill, who accused Thomas during his confirmation hearing of sexual harassment.

Breitbart note the DVD of "Created Equal" is still available for purchase on Amazon and is No. 38 of all documentaries on that site. In contrast, the documentary on liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is not even in the top 100 but is still streaming on Amazon Prime.

"Created Equal," which was broadcast on PBS last April, has a 99% audience approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes. On Amazon, the film has a 4.9 rating out of 5 from viewers, with 1,243 ratings.

The film was praised by Washington Post columnist Kathleen Parker as "a marvel of filmmaking" in which "two hours pass so quickly."Bottom of Form

"At the end of a screening I recently attended, there weren't many dry eyes in the room," she said.

Parker, a Pulitzer Prize winner, called Thomas "an American hero."

Thomas was born in 1948 in deep poverty in segregated Georgia. His parents had almost no education, and his father left the family before he was 2. MORE <https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/4895809/> This is pathetic and simply disgusting. Amazon and the rest of these cancel culture pieces of trash need to flushed down the toilet into the fires of hell. – rdb]

**Carter Center asked to explain events that 'promote Chinese propaganda'**

***Program held in cooperation with Communist Party's 'United Front'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published February 24, 2021 at 8:17pm*

Four House Republicans are asking the the Carter Center in Atlanta to explain why it held events that "seem to promote Chinese Communist Party propaganda."

One of the events at the center established by former President Jimmy Carter was held in cooperation with the United Front Work Department of the Chinese Communist Party, which was described by Mao Zedong as a "magic weapon" to ensure communism's victory over democracy, [the Washington Free Beacon reported.](https://freebeacon.com/national-security/congressional-republicans-slam-carter-centers-china-ties/)

Rep. Jody Hice, R-Ga., and three other Georgia Republicans pointed out in a letter to Carter Center CEO Paige Alexander tht the United Front is "an organization which is deeply hostile to any idea contrary to Communism."

"We are deeply troubled that the United Front continues to be given a platform to spread its propaganda in the United States," they wrote.

Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., and Rep. Jim Banks, R-Ind., recently introduced legislation that would limit the United Front and other CCP-linked influence groups in the United States.

"The Chinese Communist Party expands its disinformation campaign each day," Cotton said in an interview with the Free Beacon. "The United Front Work Department is just another venue for the CCP to spread its propaganda and to co-opt foreign groups to toe the CCP line. We must put an end to their tactics."

Hice said the Chinese Communist Party "will do anything possible to manipulate world opinion by pushing their misleading propaganda and aggressive disinformation."

"This is even happening in our backyard," Hice said.

The lawmakers warn of "disinformation campaigns" being conducted by Chinese propagandists in the United States.

"It was for this reason that former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on December 4th, 2020 took the historic step of imposing sanctions on individuals associated with United Front Work Department activities," the letter said.

"We were greatly dismayed that on January 3rd of this year the Carter Center in Georgia, co-hosted an event with the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament which is an organization affiliated with the United Front of the Chinese Communist Party," the lawmakers said.

"Last week, again, the Carter Center hosted an event promoting the argument that the CCP and its American enablers are advancing with American business leaders that the only path to future prosperity for their companies is through harmonious US-China relations."

That event was sponsored by the China Research Center, which is linked to China's controversial Confucius Institute.

"We are deeply troubled that the United Front continues to be given a platform to spread its propaganda in the United States," they said.

The Free Beacon reported the China-United States Exchange Foundation, a nonprofit group backed by the United Front, has channeled millions of dollars to prominent American think tanks such as the Brookings Institution, Center for American Progress and the Atlantic Council. MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/carter-center-asked-explain-events-seem-promote-chinese-propaganda/> More communist trash from the leftists both past and present. – rdb]

**CPAC crowd boos when being told to follow mask rules**

***'We need to comply with the laws of this county we are in'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published February 26, 2021 at 1:32pm By* ***Mary Rose Corkery*** *Daily Caller News Foundation*

A crowd at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) booed when they were told to follow mask protocols, video footage from Friday showed.

CPAC Deputy Director Carly Patrick referred to Executive Director at the American Conservative Union and [CPAC](https://dailycaller.com/2021/02/22/cpac-removes-speaker-anti-semetic-young-pharaoh/) Dan Schneider’s comment, saying they want to obey the hotel’s rules, according to a video Vox Journalist Aaron Rupar [tweeted](https://twitter.com/atrupar/status/1365319804425502720).

“So please, everyone when you’re in the ballroom, when you’re seated, you should still be wearing a mask. So if everyone can go ahead, work on that. I know, I know, it’s it’s not the most fun,” Patrick said, eliciting boos from the crowd during the video Rupar tweeted.

Schneider said, “But I also want to mention one thing and I know this might sound a little bit like a downer, but we also believe in property rights,” during the video Rupar tweeted.

“And this is a private hotel and we believe in the rule of law so we need to comply with the laws of this county we are in. But a private hotel just like your house gets to set its own rules. Carly, our CPAC director,” Schneider said in the video Rupar tweeted.

CPAC hosts get heckled after announcing they must comply with the private venue’s mask rules, calling it “a downer” and “not the most fun.” [pic.twitter.com/dbuhPuzbFu](https://t.co/dbuhPuzbFu)

— The Recount (@therecount) [February 26, 2021](https://twitter.com/therecount/status/1365320188728606726)

CPAC officials have to remind attendees to please, for the love of God, comply with the hotel’s rules and wear a mask. Unhappy people in the audience yell “freedom!” [pic.twitter.com/hvoTPLKQ9J](https://t.co/hvoTPLKQ9J)

— Aaron Rupar (@atrupar) [February 26, 2021](https://twitter.com/atrupar/status/1365319804425502720)

Everyone attending [CPAC](https://dailycaller.com/2021/02/20/donald-trump-cpac-speech-2021-joe-biden-republican-party-immigration/) is anticipated to follow “professional standards and applicable laws,” [according](https://cpac.conservative.org/faq/) to FAQ from [CPAC](https://dailycaller.com/2021/02/25/cancel-culture-rep-kevin-mccarthy-responds-liz-cheney-donald-trump-cpac/) 2021. Masks are mandatory, with some exceptions, inside the Hyatt Regency Orlando in accordance with Florida’s Orange County executive order and the Hyatt’s face mask requirement.

“You have the right, you have the right to set the own rules in your own house and we’re borrowing somebody else’s house, so we need to comply with their rules,” Schneider said during the video, occasionally getting interrupted by the crowd. “So thank you all for putting on your masks, I wear a mask when I’m in the halls and we’re going to comply with their rules.”

Masks are mandatory in the hotel’s lobby, public meeting places, break rooms and meeting ballrooms when people aren’t sitting and socially distancing “or when not presenting in a session and socially distanced,” according to CPAC’s FAQ. People not eating or drinking at bars and restaurants have to wear a mask and when outside and at the gym.

Anyone attending CPAC not wearing a mask is going to be asked to use one and anyone attending CPAC will be given a mask if they don’t have one, the FAQ said.

“Guests who are not willing to comply with this face coverings mandate may either stay in their guestroom throughout their visit or they will be asked to leave the hotel property,” the FAQ said. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/cpac-crowd-boos-told-follow-mask-rules/>

**Ron DeSantis to CPAC: No going back to 'failed' GOP establishment**

***Governor welcomes conference to Florida's 'oasis of freedom'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published February 26, 2021 at 2:13pm*

The fact that the annual Conservative Political Action Conference can take place in-person this year is a testament to the leadership of Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who after absorbing the counsel of prominent epidemiologists, weighed the costs and benefits for the people of his state, and largely kept it open for business, worship and education amid the coronavirus pandemic.

While previous CPACs have been held in a suburb of the nation's capital, DeSantis opened the 48th CPAC convention on Friday in Orlando, Florida, welcoming participants to "our oasis of freedom."

"We are an oasis of freedom in a nation that's suffering in many parts of the country from the yoke of oppressive lockdowns," he said. "We look around our country and in far too many places we see schools closed, businesses shuttered and lives destroyed."

In his speech, DeSantis also emphasized his state's leadership in election integrity, combating Big Tech censorship and carving a new path for the party that leaves behind the "failed Republican establishment of yesteryear."

DeSantis said Florida is leading in "protecting our vulnerable residents, saving the economy and safeguarding the freedom of our people."

"In Florida, schools are open, every Floridian has a right to earn a living and all businesses have a right to operate," he said.

"We are stronger as a state and much happier as a people because of this leadership."Bottom of Form

He pointed out that Florida has much lower COVID mortality than the national average, and the rate is lower than 27 other states. The unemployment rate is lower than the national average, even though tourism isn't fully restored.

"Florida got it right, and the lockdown states got it wrong," DeSantis said.

Last September, as [WND reported](https://www.wnd.com/2020/09/florida-governor-hosts-expert-panel-that-condemns-lockdowns/), DeSantis held a virtual roundtable discussion with medical and health scientists from Harvard and Stanford who contended lockdowns were making the pandemic worse.

In his introduction of DeSantis, CPAC host Matt Schlapp noted that the state where the conference usually is held, Maryland, "decided to cancel us because they said this was unsafe." As the leadership of the American Conservative Union, which Schlapp chairs, considered possible alternatives -- looking at Tennessee, Texas and Georgia -- they settled on Florida.

[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/desantis-cpac-speech.jpg)"Some of your colleagues get Emmys for acting," Schlapp said to DeSantis, referring to New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo. "We're happy to be in a state that has a governor that deserves the People's Choice award."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks at CPAC 2021 on Feb. 26, 2021 (Video screenshot)

***No more hanging chads***

DeSantis touted Florida's leadership on election integrity, noting the recovery from the stigma of the infamous "hanging chad" election of 2000.

Among his first actions when taking office in 2019 was removing the supervisors of elections in Broward and Palm Beach counties.

[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/desantis-cpac-wide.jpg) "Then when COVID hit, I rejected pressure to make hasty and ill-conceived changes to our election administration like mass mailing of unsolicited ballots," he said.

The result was that by midnight on Nov. 3, Florida had counted, tabulated and reported 11 million votes.

Now, DeSantis said, Florida is leading on banning all forms of ballot harvesting and third-party political groups such as those [funded by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg](https://www.wnd.com/2020/12/4878072/) "from interfering in the administration of our elections."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks at CPAC on Feb. 26, 2021 (Video screenshot)

***Resisting the 'oligarchs of Silicon Valley'***

He also noted Florida's leadership in confronting censorship and "holding Big Tech accountable."

DeSantis expects the state legislature to pass next month "the most ambitious reforms yet proposed for combating political censorship and deplatforming, for preventing Big Tech from interfering in our elections and for safeguarding the privacy of your personal data."

"In Florida, we are not going to let the terms of the debate be set by the oligarchs in Silicon Valley," he said.

As [WND reported](https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/florida-gov-ron-desantis-crashes-big-techs-power/) the bill empowers citizens to take legal action and grants authority to the Florida attorney general to sue tech companies that violate the state’s Unfair and Deceptive Practices Act.

***No going back to ‘failed’ GOP establishment***

Looking at the big picture, DeSantis said that "what's true in Florida is true for conservatives across the nation."

"We cannot, we will not, go back to the days of the failed Republican establishment of yesteryear," he said.

DeSantis said the Republican Party's grassroots base rejects "open borders, "weakness in the face of the threat posed by China" and "military adventurism."

The battles ahead, the governor continued, beginning to choke up, will "be made more difficult without one of the greatest field generals, my friend, Rush Limbaugh."

"Rush displayed the courage of his convictions, time and time again," he said after noting that he ordered flags in the state to fly at half-staff on Wednesday in Limbaugh's honor. "Rush was one of the first to fight and win against cancel culture. Rush showed that fighting the left requires strength and that conservatism devoid of backbone is doomed to fail."

He said Limbaugh "showed us" that at this moment in history, "standing for the right things comes at a cost."

"You will be attacked, you will be smeared," DeSantis said, "and you will even be canceled by the major organs of the political left."

The Florida governor said that "anyone can spout conservative rhetoric" and "have academic debates about conservative policy." "And I'm not saying you don't do any of that," he said. "But the question is, when the klieg lights get hot, when the left comes after you, will you stay strong, or will you fold?"

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/ron-desantis-cpac-no-going-back-failed-gop-establishment/>

**Twitter flagged CPAC website as 'unsafe'**

***Warned users of possibly 'violent or misleading content'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published February 25, 2021 at 5:21pm*

Just as the popular Conservative Political Action Conference was preparing to begin, Twitter flagged the CPAC website as "unsafe."

The notice on Wednesday warned Twitter users the site could contain "violent or misleading content that could lead to real-world harm."

The flag was removed, and a Twitter official [told PJMedia](https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/victoria-taft/2021/02/24/what-twitter-flags-cpac-posts-as-unsafe-hours-before-the-annual-meeting-n1428099) the CPAC link "was marked unsafe in error."

Many Twitter users were skeptical, however.

The Left proves why [@CPAC](https://twitter.com/CPAC) worries about cancel culture. [pic.twitter.com/oiLhwC2ho0](https://t.co/oiLhwC2ho0)

— Victoria Taft – Parler, Minds, Facebook, 5VTShow (@VictoriaTaft) [February 24, 2021](https://twitter.com/VictoriaTaft/status/1364702476218163205)

Twitter is blocking links to CPAC's website, <https://t.co/ov8zGwWc2y>, That slope sure got slippery quick! [pic.twitter.com/pBHp6ZGgQu](https://t.co/pBHp6ZGgQu)

— Mark Dice (@MarkDice) [February 24, 2021](https://twitter.com/MarkDice/status/1364685144150274048)

Is Twitter trying to torpedo CPAC? Bottom of Form

Try going to <https://t.co/UOYpvZrjsD> & you get a truly bizarre warning from Twitter that includes a claim that there could be “violent or misleading content that could lead to real-world harm.”[#CPAC2021](https://twitter.com/hashtag/CPAC2021?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) starts tomorrow, with a speech by former President Donald Trump on Sunday. [pic.twitter.com/TQnuhaUzar](https://t.co/TQnuhaUzar)

— (((Jason Rantz))) on KTTH Radio (@jasonrantz) [February 24, 2021](https://twitter.com/jasonrantz/status/1364692758057807877)

PJMedia noted the left has [accused CPAC of featuring "white nationalists"](https://www.bendthearc.us/meet_the_11_biggest_white_nationalists_speaking_at_cpac_this_year) for some time, and Twitter now apparently is adopting the false narrative.

The meetings are scheduled to begin Thursday and run through Sunday. President Trump is scheduled to speak Sunday.

The Twitter notice warned of:

* malicious links that could steal personal information or harm electronic devices
* spammy links that mislead people or disrupt their experience
* violent or misleading content that could lead to real-world harm
* certain categories of content that, if posted directly on Twitter, are a violation of the Twitter Rules.

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/twitter-flagged-cpac-website-unsafe/> Really The Donald has to get back in so we can remove the social media cabal for good and he needs to get it replaced by something more reliable. – rdb]

**Does the United States Really Have 500,000 COVID Deaths So Far?**

*by* [*Annalisa Pesek*](https://thenewamerican.com/contributor/annalisa-pesek/) *February 26, 2021*

Did COVID-19 really cause more than [500,000](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2021/02/22/covid-news-masks-variants-vaccine-winter-storm/4534724001/) deaths in the United States in less than a year? Evidence says that is unlikely, but government data is so convoluted, it’s difficult to tell.

If the United States has indeed experienced a half million excess deaths because of COVID-19, data should make this plain, as governments have kept meticulous records of total deaths for decades and so we should see the country’s death rate substantially rise.

Data sourced from the [United Nations — World Population Prospects](https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/USA/united-states/death-rate) does illustrate a continuous climb in U.S. mortality rates over the past several years, from 2019 (8.782) to 2020 (8.880) to 2021 (8.977), but there’s a catch. The United States has seen consistent increases in the overall mortality rate since [2012](https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/USA/united-states/death-rate). Prior to that time, back to 1950, the country’s death rate either dropped or held fairly level, largely owing to large numbers of youths and increased hygiene. However, the country’s increasing population and large elderly cohort have combined to reverse that trend.

Another source, [USA Facts](https://usafacts.org/articles/preliminary-us-death-statistics-more-deaths-in-2020-than-2019-coronavirus-age-flu/), “a nonpartisan, not-for-profit civic initiative without a political agenda,” makes the half million number even more suspect. In a January 2021 [report](https://usafacts.org/articles/preliminary-us-death-statistics-more-deaths-in-2020-than-2019-coronavirus-age-flu/), the organization stated that “3,187,086 people died from all causes between January 1 and December 26, 2020.” In 2019, “2,852,609” people died, so that’s 334,477 additional deaths in 2020 possibly owing to coronavirus, a number that would increase by the tens of thousands in January-February 2021. Still that’s nowhere near a half million excess deaths.

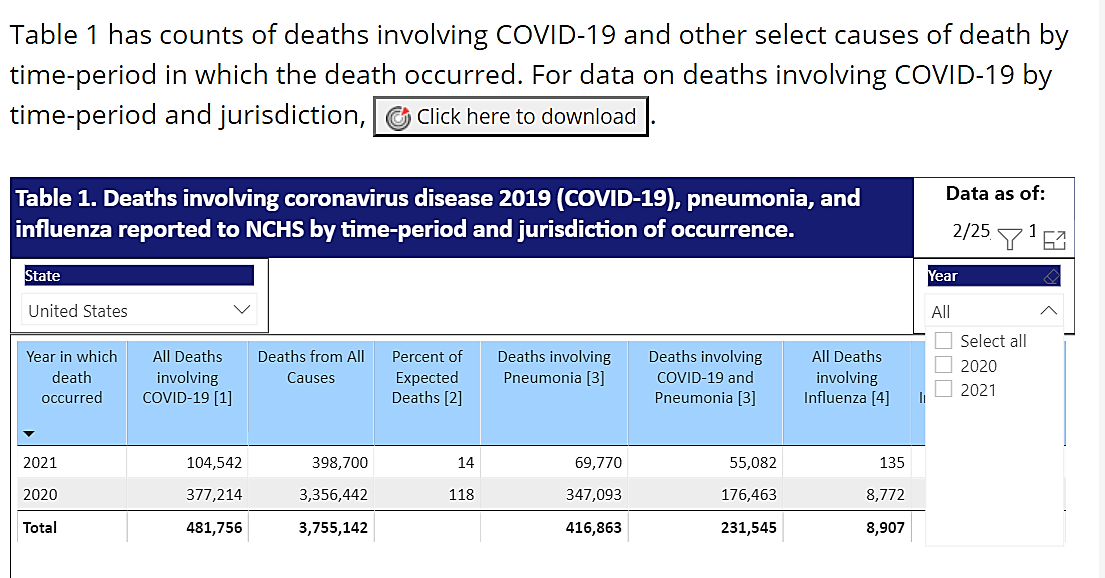
And there’s a further problem, this study did not account for the increased 2020 U.S. population, which would have shown an estimated [0.59 percent](https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/USA/united-states/population) growth, or roughly two million people, potentially skewing the number of 334,477 much lower.

Also making the COVID-19 death count problematic is that while COVID-19 deaths were increasing through the country, caused by a viral respiratory illness, the CDC would have us believe that flu deaths, also caused by a viral respiratory illness, virtually ceased to exist this year.

Note in the table below that only an estimated 135 people have died of the flu so far this year, while a whopping 55,082 have succumbed to fatalities involving the virus and pneumonia. In a typical flu season, between 30,000 and 60,000 Americans are believed to die from the flu. A WebMD article from 2005 entitled [“What is a pandemic?”](https://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/features/what-is-pandemic#1) noted that in that year “flu reached epidemic levels in the U.S. for 10 weeks in a row during the 2004-2005 season. Records kept by the CDC show that during the week ending March 5, 2005, 8.9% of all deaths reported in 122 U.S. cities were due to [influenza](https://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/video/avoid-colds-flu) and pneumonia (a common complication of the flu).”

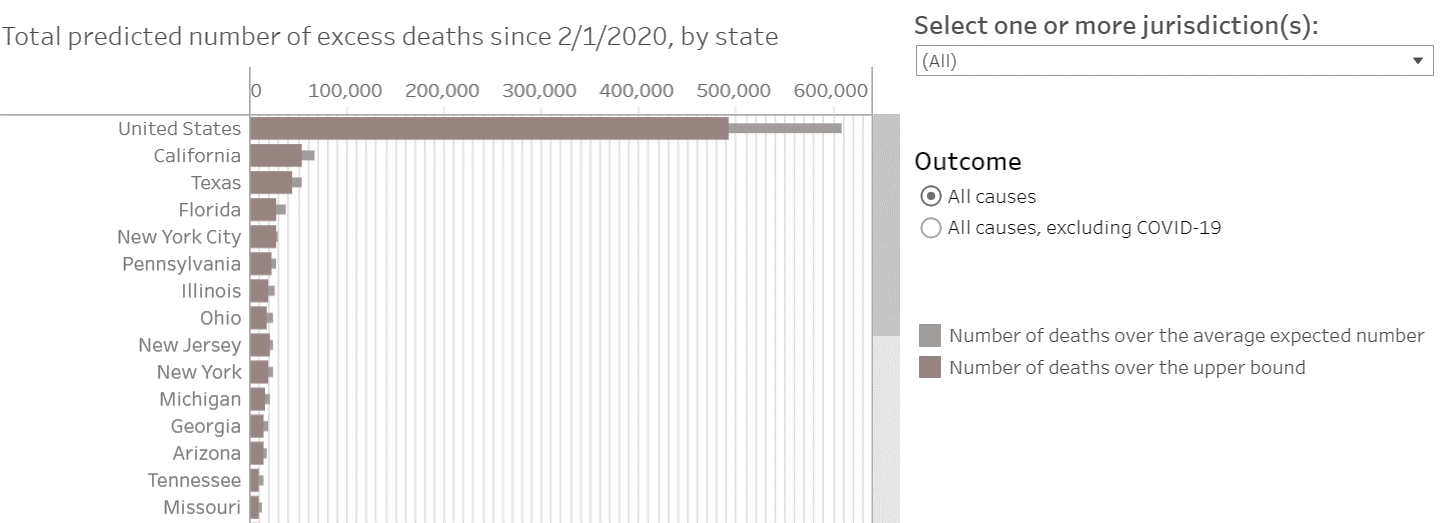
Are we really to believe that flu is nearly non-existent this year, or should we conclude that flu deaths are being added to COVID-19 deaths?

For insight into how these numbers came to be, this might be a good point to investigate how hospitals are expected to [report coronavirus data](https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20200827/hospitals-must-report-covid-data-or-be-penalized#2).

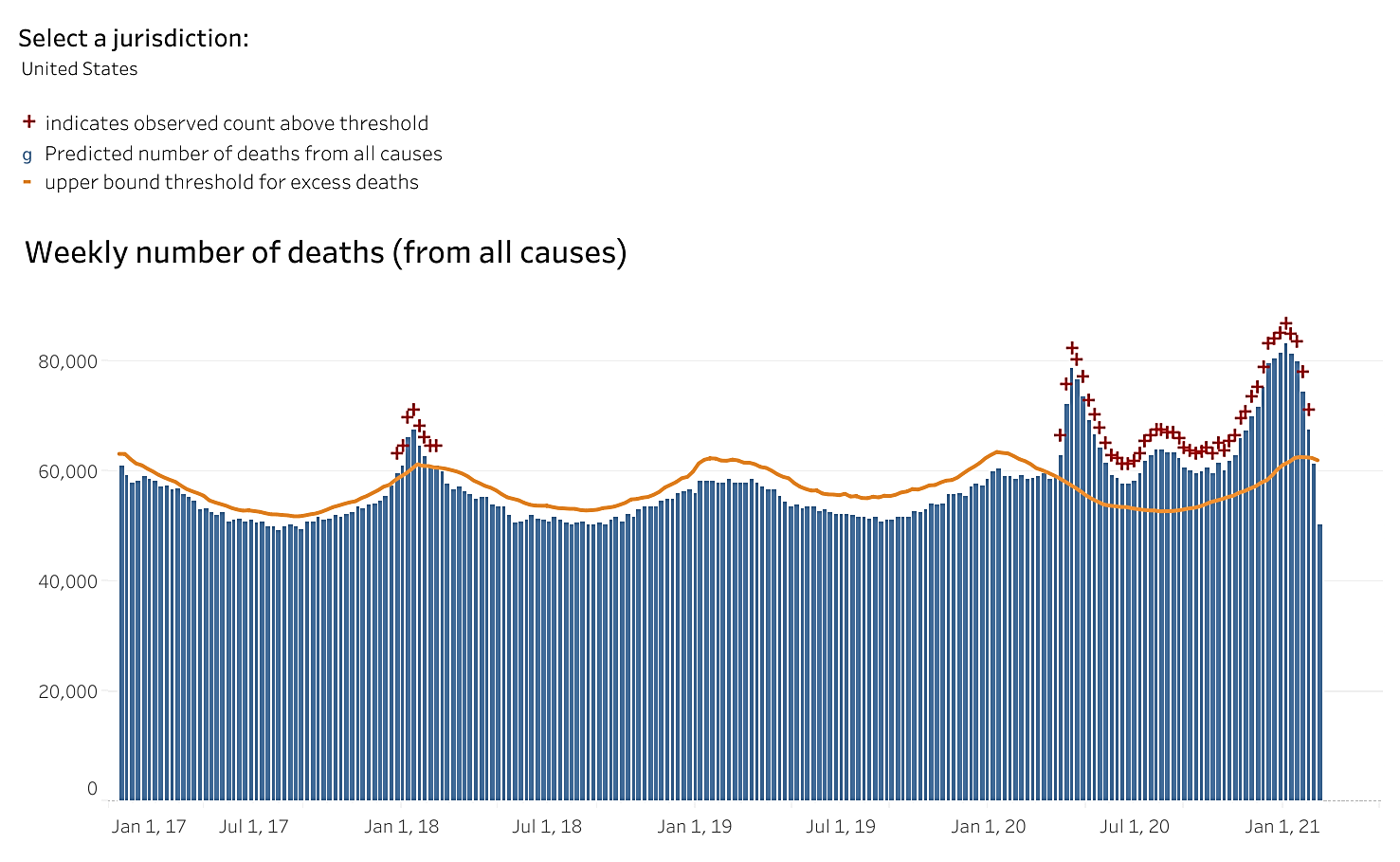


There’s much reason to believe that the COVID-19 death count is greatly exaggerated, but one could hardly tell that by examining government data.

Attempts to navigate government data on the topic of excess deaths — i.e., “the number of deaths exceeding the normal average total of deaths in recent years” — unfortunately results in only skewed numbers and convoluted medical jargon cascading down page after page of the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid19/excess_deaths.htm) website. Different definitions and varying estimates of both excess deaths and excess deaths related to COVID-19, presented side-by-side, make it nearly impossible to decipher an accurate correlation between overall year-by-year fatality rates and virus lethality cause and effect. Then there’s “predicted excess deaths,” for which information for years prior to 2020 remains a complete mystery. See the CDC graph below.



Another [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid19/excess_deaths.htm) graph of purported “excess deaths” shows that from February 2020 to July 2020, there were “areas [in the United States] experiencing statistically significantly higher than normal mortality,” yet the mortality data remains incomplete, with “completeness varying by jurisdiction” (e.g., “Data for New York excludes New York City”). Thus, the “bigger picture” of the statistics for increased overall U.S. deaths over time is, at this stage, unachievable.



Further down the CDC page is this incomprehensible explanation: “The estimates of excess deaths reported here [i.e., the graph above] may not be due to COVID-19, either directly or indirectly. The pandemic may have changed mortality patterns for other causes of death.” Yet the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid19/excess_deaths.htm) only includes examples of “other causes” as “health care shortages due to COVID-19.” No mention of “other causes” owing to lockdowns, school closures, depression, fear of being alone in a hospital, etc.

Thirteen interactive “dashboards” with different graphics aim to provide answers to these changing patterns through reports of “predicted and reported” death counts, organized by categories such as race, age group, cause of death, and jurisdiction.

Is your mind reeling yet? It’s heady stuff. What does it all mean?

Yes, the virus is real, but again, there’s almost no chance that more than 500,000 Americans died from this illness. And the CDC and mainstream media are working very hard to keep information about excess deaths and deaths with [comorbidities](https://thenewamerican.com/americas-delusion-500000-plus-covid-19-deaths/) inaccessible, misleading, and confusing.

Once upon a time, science was trusted to prove or disprove hypotheses via critical thinking based on sound methodology. Yet today, as commentator Dennis Prager noted in his recent [column](https://dennisprager.com/column/how-many-americans-has-the-american-medical-establishment-killed/), “We have learned that ‘follow the science’ and ‘follow the scientists’ are not the same thing. We have followed the latter off a cliff.”

Trying to pick up the pieces and survive, frightened Americans are thus willing to accept media site “death tickers” with no clear or truthful explanation for the incredible increase in “virus” fatalities. Concerned citizens can’t turn to government sources for the facts either. Big Tech and Big Government have joined forces in this misinformation campaign.

The biased/corrupt mainstream media and tech companies such as Google, Facebook, and Twitter, champion experts such as Dr. Anthony Fauci, while dismissing trusted infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists who advocate alternative research into fatality rates.

Because of information suppression, most people haven’t even heard of resources such as the [Great Barrington Declaration](https://gbdeclaration.org/), which explains about the great harms that current COVID-19 procedures are causing, including much higher fatality rates. The declaration was signed by 340,000 doctors and other informed people, originally created by “three scientists who are not outliers or cranks, but professors at Oxford, Harvard, and Stanford,” [to quote](https://spectator.us/life/great-barrington-declaration/) writer Toby Young.

That the CDC, mainstream media, and social media would make information surrounding the actual mortality count of the COVID-19 virus so confounding and deceptive is nothing short of a sinister assault on the American people. <https://thenewamerican.com/does-the-united-states-really-have-500000-covid-deaths-so-far/> [This is a wonderful example of looking at the totality of the problem statistics and making excellent good sense out of them. People need to throw their masks in the garbage (they don’t work) forget their distancing and get back to living a life. We have all been duped. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**Senator With Illegal Alien Child Molester Intern Introduces Biden’s Illegal Alien Amnesty**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*February 25, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/02/senator-with-illegal-alien-child.html)

"We have 11 million undocumented people living, working and raising families in our communities without legal status," Senator Robert Menendez argued, introducing the Biden illegal alien amnesty bill that he had sponsored. "These are good and decent people."  
 Menendez, who was tried for, among other things, allegedly taking bribes to help his millionaire Dominican donor obtain visas for his model ‘girlfriends’, knows a lot about immigration.  
 He also knows quite a bit about the goodness and decency of illegal aliens.

Menendez’s office was caught employing an illegal alien intern who was also a registered sex offender. The intern, Luis Abrahan Sanchez Zavaleta, had come from Peru on a tourist visa which had expired. Luis proved his goodness and decency by molesting an [8-year-old boy](https://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/senate-intern-arrested-robert-menendez-086218).  
 The South American child molester however was an unpaid intern because there are some jobs, like interning for Senator Menendez, that even American child molesters won’t do.  
 Luis had repeatedly sexually assaulted an 8-year-old boy. He was [charged](https://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/senate-intern-arrested-robert-menendez-086218) with "aggravated sexual assault" which under the state criminal code [involve](https://sites.rowan.edu/diversity-equity-inclusion/departments/osec/_docs/titleix_docs/nj-state-criminal-codes.pdf)s "an act of sexual penetration." Since this was New Jersey, a state run by Democrats and the mob, the Menendez intern only received two years probation and was not turned over to ICE until after he tried to apply for Obama’s DACA illegal alien amnesty.  
 When ICE finally got wind of it and was ready to send the illegal alien child molester back to Peru, its New Jersey agents were told to stand down by the Obama officials running immigration in Washington D.C. because Menedez [was up for reelection](https://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/senate-intern-arrested-robert-menendez-086218) in two weeks and the Democrats wanted to avoid an arrest that risked “garnering significant congressional and media interest”  
 Obama officials denied everything and Senator Menendez borrowed Obama’s favorite line, claiming that he had only heard that his office had an illegal alien child molester from the news.  
 But Menendez whined that employing an illegal alien child molester made amnesty more urgent.  
 "It does speak volumes about why we need comprehensive immigration reform," Senator Menendez had [argued](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2012/12/12/menendez-senate-intern-illegal-immigrant/1764637/). "I can't know who is here to pursue the American dream versus who is here to do it damage if I cannot get people to come forth out of the shadows."  
 The shadows being those of his own office which failed to check the sex offender registry. We can deport illegal alien child molesters without offering amnesty to millions of illegals.  
 Now, Senator Menendez has introduced the illegal alien amnesty bill championed by the Biden administration which would provide amnesty for at least 11 million or as many as 22 million illegal aliens and ensure a rapid pathway to legal status for DACA applicants like Luis.  
 Menendez has always been passionate about immigration. He was so passionate about it that he ended up being indicted on 8 counts of bribery, for, among other things, helping a millionaire Dominican immigrant donor in his sixties get visas for his twenty-something model “girlfriends”.  
 According to [the indictment](http://i2.cdn.turner.com/cnn/2015/images/04/02/menendez_melgen_indictment.pdf), Senator Menedez got “access to an exclusive Dominican resort” and the “use of a Carribean villa”, not to mention $750,000 in cash to Democrats. Then there was a trip to Paris for Menendez with a “woman with whom he had a personal relationship”.  
 Senator Menendez also "used his position as a United States Senator” to “influence the visa proceedings” for his donor’s “foreign girlfriends", according to the indictment. These girlfriends allegedly included Juliana Lopes Leite, an actress and model from Brazil, on whose behalf Menendez's senior policy advisor told the State Department that he wanted to "advocate unconditionally" and "encourage careful consideration" of her visa application.  
 While she came to America on a student visa, Menendez met her as his donor's girlfriend.  
 Then [there was](https://www.politico.com/states/new-jersey/story/2017/09/12/adviser-criticized-menendez-for-work-to-secure-visas-114432) Rosiell Polanco Suero, a Dominican model, who, along with her sister, wanted to come to America. Menendez's office sent an email to the Consul General in the Dominican Republic urging him to approve their visas. When their applications were turned down, Menendez applied the screws and the sisters got a call telling them to come in for a second hearing.  
 “Subj: Two people from the D.R. who wanted visas to visit Dr. Melgen got them. In my view this is only due to the fact that R.M. intervened,” read an email sent to Daniel O’Brien, Menendez’s chief of staff. O’Brien had formerly worked as the chief of staff for Senator Joe Biden.  
 Finally, there was Svitlana Buchyk, a Urkranian model and actress living in Spain on whose behalf Menendez wrote another letter.  
 You’ve gotta give Senator Menedez credit for caring about model immigrants.  
 “Certain elements of the FBI and of our state cannot stand, or even worse, accept that the Latino kid from Union City and Hudson County could grow up to be a United States senator and be honest,” the New Jersey senator declared, blaming his legal misfortunes on racism.  
 After spending over $5 million on his legal defense, Menendez’s trial ended in a hung jury and he’s now the public face of Biden’s amnesty push while lecturing us about the goodness and decency of illegal aliens. If we won’t agree, then like the FBI and the investigators who put him on trial, we’re also racists who hate a “Latino kid” who has spent 47 years “working” in politics.  
 Just like Joe Biden.  
 It’s no wonder that Biden picked another member of the “47 Years in Politics” club to be the public face of his campaign to kill American jobs and eliminate any hope for the future.  
 Unlike the Latin American and Ukranian “models” eager to come to America and party with Senator Menendez’s donor three times their age, his illegal alien advocacy wouldn’t just harm the domestic prostitution industry, but would steal the jobs and dreams of millions of Americans.  
 It would also boost domestic crime and potentially enable child molesters like his former intern.  
 What does it say about the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021, Biden’s illegal alien amnesty bill, that it was introduced by Senator Menendez, who had stood trial on bribery charges, and in the House by Rep. Linda Sanchez, [whose husband](https://www.rollcall.com/2018/11/08/rep-linda-sanchezs-husband-indicted-for-theft-of-federal-funds/) had [been indicted](https://archives.frontpagemag.com/fpm/crooks-and-communists-fight-lead-house-democratic-daniel-greenfield/) over the alleged theft of taxpayer funds?  
 "I am the daughter of immigrant parents from Mexico. They came to this country and they work hard and they sacrificed every day to provide for me and my brothers and sisters," Rep. Linda Sanchez claimed. "Their story is like the story of so many others."  
 Like so many others, Rep. Linda Sanchez, and her sister, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, who had run for office by telling her bigoted voters that, “the Vietnamese and the Republicans are… trying to take this seat”, built careers in politics. Linda, who represents a district in California, married the chair of the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Corporation who was [lobbying her colleague](https://archives.frontpagemag.com/fpm/crooks-and-communists-fight-lead-house-democratic-daniel-greenfield/).  
 Linda’s husband allegedly took $800,000 from CMEEC and spent it on trips to the Kentucky Derby and a flight for Linda to Key West, Florida. Sanchez claimed that her Kentucky Derby trip had been okayed by the House Ethics Committee. It’s a story like so many others.  
 It’s hard to think of two worse rotten hacks to be the public face for Biden’s illegal alien amnesty.  
 Biden’s illegal alien amnesty will sail through the House, but faces challenges in the Senate. Its champion there will be a politician who was tried for bribery involving abuse of the immigration system and whose child molesting illegal alien intern had been protected from ICE.  
 Senator Menendez is the perfect man for the job because he’s the epitome of abusing the immigration system. And somewhere in New Jersey are the parents of a boy abused by his intern, an illegal alien who should have been deported long before he could commit his crime.  
 How many more little boys will be abused by the beneficiaries of Biden’s illegal alien amnesty?

*D*[*aniel Greenfield*](http://sultanknish.blogspot.com/)*is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's*[*Front Page Magazine*](https://www.frontpagemag.com/)*.* <http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/02/senator-with-illegal-alien-child.html>

[Sorry folks but this stinks to high heaven. – rdb]

And then…

**We Need a Dose of McCarthyism**

*By* [*Cliff Kincaid*](https://newswithviews.com/author/cliff/)*|February 26th, 2021* Rather than less McCarthyism, we need more. The Communists are taking over and most Republicans are pretending it’s not happening. Let’s hope that former President Trump, [speaking](https://cpac.conservative.org/agenda/) at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) this weekend, outlines how he will take back the presidency from the Deep State.  
 Consider that China Joe Biden’s new Ambassador to the United Nations gave a paid [speech](https://www.cruz.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=5597) to a Chinese Communist propaganda center praising China and was confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 78-21 (with one Senator not voting).  
 To make matters worse, a prominent law professor has given [testimony](http://www.usasurvival.org/uploads/1/2/6/3/126369300/witness_testimony_turley_cat_2021.02.24.pdf) attacking the specter of McCarthyism poisoning our political debate. Jonathan Turley actually confused Joe with Eugene,declaring, “Outside of wartime crackdowns, our struggle to protect free speech hit another low during the Cold War and ‘Red Scare.’” He explained“the most visible abuses occurred in the hearings on ‘Un-American Activities’ with figures like Senator Eugene McCarthy. The work of these committees was replicated in a myriad of federal and state laws barring rights and privileges to suspected Communists.”  
 Not only did Turley confuse Eugene, a peacenik Senator, with Joe, he failed to identify one innocent person whose life was destroyed by McCarthy. What’s more, McCarthy had nothing to do with the House Un-American Activities Committee.  
 Turley’s purpose was to claim that left-wing crackdowns on free speech by conservativesis a modern-form of McCarthyism. Like Glenn Beck, he called this the new “Red Scare.”  
 But judging by the Senate Republicans rubber-stamping the nomination of Linda Thomas-Greenfield as Ambassador to the U.N., we could use another real Red Scare. We need a real Joe McCarthy investigating how the Chinese Communists are influencing our political parties and the various “Confucius Institutes” on college campuses around the country. That’s where Thomas-Greenfield gave her [speech](http://www.usasurvival.org/uploads/1/2/6/3/126369300/greenfield_speech.pdf) about China’s humanitarian efforts in Africa.  
 Ridding the country of communists and fellow travelers was Joe McCarthy’s mission.  I wish he had done a better job but he ran into interference from the Deep State, most notably the CIA. McCarthy was preparing to investigate the CIA when he went into Bethesda Naval Hospital for knee surgery and died from hepatitis. The J.C. Hawkins book, [*Betrayal at Bethesda*](https://www.amazon.com/Betrayal-Bethesda-II-Origins-Modern/dp/B087FL764C), explains the curious sequence of events.  
 One of the most important challenges we face is to educate the American people about how communism came to America. On the game show “Jeopardy,” on Wednesday night, one answer (contestants are given answers and then have to provide a question with the relevant facts) was, “In 1947 screenwriter Dalton Trumbo, part of this numerical ‘Hollywood’ group, was subpoenaed by the House Un-American Activities Committee.” The answer, in the form of a question, provided by one contestant was, “What was the Hollywood Five?” That was wrong. It was the Hollywood Ten, and all of them were communists inserting pro-communist messages into Hollywood films.  
 Allan H. Ryskind, author of the book, [*Hollywood Traitors*](https://www.amazon.com/Hollywood-Traitors-Blacklisted-Screenwriters-Agents/dp/1621572064), points out that while the myth is that Trumbo and all other members of the Hollywood Ten were innocent victims of a McCarthyite “blacklist,” Trumbo was in fact a Soviet/Nazi agent of influence in Hollywood. Even today, basic knowledge of this period in America is sorely lacking. But the facts help explain why American institutions, including the media and intelligence agencies, can be so infiltrated that the public at large can’t remember the nature of the communist threat and how it is working today right in front of our eyes.  
 Hence, when a popular TV personality such as Glenn Beck or a professor like Jonathan Turley completely distorts the meaning of McCarthyism, we are set back enormously about what the “Red Scare” really was and why we should be scared — terrified — today.  
 The confirmation hearing of Merrick Garland as Attorney General was a golden opportunity to identity real communists, since he was implicated in the approval of a judicial decision that dropped charges under President Obama against a communist terrorist by the name of Elizabeth Anna Duke. Duke was a member of the May 19th Communist Organization, a spin-off from the Weather Underground, and linked to associates of Barack Obama.  
 It was a perfect case to ask Garland about, since he promised to prosecute the “terrorists” who entered the U.S. Capitol on January 6 and be tough on terrorists in general.  
 Paul Kamenar, counsel to the National Legal and Policy Center, told me on [America’s Survival TV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fChMjeph75g) that he has been trying to get Republican Senators to raise the issue.  
 But Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and former Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr (who presided over the cover-up surrounding the death of Clinton White House lawyer Vincent Foster) endorsed Garland.  
 The Duke case demonstrates beyond doubt that Garland is a fixer for the Democratic Party. This explains why Obama nominated him for the Supreme Court. He is now being asked to fix (through sabotage or generous plea deals) the ongoing investigations of the Obama/Biden role in the Russia hoax conspiracy and Hunter Biden’s dealings with China.  
 The irony is that while the most serious charges against Duke have been dropped, she is still [on the FBI web site](https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/dt/elizabeth-anna-duke) as a Most Wanted terrorist. She is supposedly still wanted for the following: “Unlawful Possession of United States Identification; Conspiracy; Unlawful Storage of Explosives; Unlawful Possession of Firearms and Destructive Devices; Storage and Concealment of Stolen Explosives; Unlawful Possession of Five or More False Identification Documents; Possession of Counterfeit Social Security Cards; Aiding and Abetting; Unlawful Possession of Document-Making Implement.”  
 The charges relating to identity theft suggest a possible connection to Obama, who used a stolen Social Security number (SSN) when he ran for president.  
 Since the Justice Department has never pursued that matter, I suggest Jack Cashill’s book, [*Unmasking Obama: The Fight to Tell the True Story of a Failed Presidency*](https://www.amazon.com/Unmasking-Obama-Fight-Failed-Presidency-ebook/dp/B08BT4NW2S/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Cashill&qid=1596729786&s=books&sr=1-1). His book has a whole section on how Obama had been using an anomalous and fraudulent SSN. Cashill explains the story of identity theft behind Obama’s rise to power and how even the left-wing “fact-checkers” couldn’t dispute the evidence of fraud.  
 My [review](http://www.usasurvival.org/blog/cashills-unmasking-obama-book-is-a-warning) of Cashill’s book noted, “People were fooled by Obama, his lies, agents and apologists, but they eventually came to understand there was something sinister, even un-American, in the Obama presidency.” People now understand there is something sinister in the Biden presidency and how he and his puppet masters in China came to power.  
 The deceptions continue, as evidenced in Garland’s handling of the Duke case.  
 Since legal votes and legal identification cards don’t seem to matter much anymore, perhaps the fraudulent nature of Obama’s background and identity may not matter much, either, except to those interested in how our government has been stolen.And that kind of fraud goes beyond Obama’s personal story to America’s fate as a nation.  
 What is Trump going to say and do about it? Millions want to know. <https://newswithviews.com/we-need-a-dose-of-mccarthyism/>   
   
**They Used to Call it Freedom***By* [*J.B. Williams*](https://newswithviews.com/author/jbwilliams/)*|February 26th, 2021* The 2020 coup d’état in the very divided United States, threatens freedom and liberty all over the world.  
 Trump’s “America first” policy was 100% appropriate and necessary for the United States and the hope of freedom all over the globe. But it meant death for the global communist [One World Order](https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/world-government-summit) folks, to include the [U.S. Military industrial complex](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/10-former-defense-secretaries-military-peaceful-transfer-of-power/2021/01/03/2a23d52e-4c4d-11eb-a9f4-0e668b9772ba_story.html), the war for profit crowd, and that’s why every possible weapon was used to steal the United States, not from Trump, but from the American people.  
 There were no 2020 U.S. elections. There was only a kabuki theater version of elections in the U.S. in 2020. A pretend virtual election wherein the outcome was determined long before election day, and the scenes played out on TV screens as the world looked on, created a false impression of a legitimate election process, even as more than 10,000 Americans rushed to offer sworn testimony of massive fraud in numerous states.  
 Twice now, the U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear any evidence at all. Sure, the global news outlets report it this way – “[*Supreme Court finds no evidence of election fraud*](https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-donald-trump-pennsylvania-elections-us-supreme-court-5cc6aee8c328c7bb1d423244b979bcec)” – when in fact, they simply refused to allow any evidence to be presented at all. They denied more than 80 million Americans their day in court, and scrapped any semblance of due process of law. They made sure that no thinking American would ever look to elections as a means of solving anything, ever again.  
 It’s no secret why the court failed so miserably to keep its’ oath to the American people. If you allow evidence to be presented in court, you will have to rule on that evidence.  
 If you are forced to find that the evidence is real and credible, then you will have to rule that the entire 2020 election process was rotten with massive fraud and that means, you will have to declare the election results “null and void.” At least six of the nine members of the court lack the decency, honor, and courage to do that, or the job they took a solemn oath to do, and they should all be forced to resign.  
 [Even the most loyal liberals in the USA](https://youtu.be/6V33Op4UHPI) are beginning to figure out that they too, now live in a lawless penal colony run by anti-American globalists rapidly moving the nation to totalitarian rule by an unelected criminal regime, that intends to finish off our Constitutional Republic and usher in a global Marxist dictatorship.  
 The warning signs were screaming everywhere, as we headed into the 2020 election cycle. Bright flashing lights nearly blinded the nation, as a flood of advance warnings of massive fraud circulated daily headlines and consumed so much space on [social media](https://apnews.com/article/can-social-media-ban-trump-explained-a4a02aca8341a844c011d4e165d8d61b) that the big media giants had to terminate millions of accounts in their criminal effort to bury the truth before, during, and after the elections.  
 Unlike the hundreds of violent and destructive riots by left-wing groups throughout 2020, the Trump rally in D.C. full of flag waving Americans was classified an “insurrection” by the criminals in power, marking the sudden final death of **1st Amendment** Rights in the USA.  
 Next comes the open all-out assault on **2nd Amendment** Rights, as the unlawful Biden/Harris regime ramp up their gun-grab agenda only hours after their fake inauguration. The **4th Amendment** is wiped out by the courts granting everyone access to all of your personal information, including all of Trump’s past tax returns (or yours), not to mention the Biden/Harris effort to make it “legal” for law enforcement and military personnel to enter your home to seize your guns and ammo for no reason whatsoever.  
 **The 5th Amendment** is gone, because you are now deemed guilty unless you can prove beyond any doubt that you’re innocent, even if you are President of the United States.No matter how many times they charge you will the same crimes after acquittal,your prior tweets will be your only testimony.  
 **Amendment 6**, nope, no right to any trial and certainly not by a jury of your peers. You have the right to be convicted by the news media, confirmed by Snopes, and sentenced by The Southern Poverty Law Center now. **Amendment 7**, why have a jury when a judge can rule against you on their own, based on their political leanings. Facts…Like the facts the Supreme Court refuses to allow in its court?  
 **Amendment 8?** I don’t know about you, but $1000 fine with no trial for refusing to wear a mask seems pretty excessive and unlawful to me. **Amendments IX and X**… ask any modern-day lawyer and they will tell you that those were killed at the end of the Civil War.  
 **Yes, we used to call it freedom**, but now it’s called “right-wing extremism” and everyone who still believes in it, is an “insurrectionist.” And the band plays on, as the Titanic sinks.  
 Frankly, we deserve what we get…because we allowed it on our watch. But our kids and future generations will look back at us with utter disdain for what we did to them and so will the world, who once revered the USA not only for our grit and courage to demand our own freedom, but for freedom around the world for all mankind.  
 We used to call it freedom, but now, we are no better than every failed attempt at freedom that came before us. We learned nothing from their horror story…. Ignoring history dooms all of us to repeat it! <https://newswithviews.com/they-used-to-call-it-freedom/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Professor at Canadian university laments 'Israeli influence'**

***B’nai Brith Canada calls on Carleton University to condemn anti-Semitism and speak out against professor who alleged Jewish money was corrupting the institution.***

*Elad Benari, Canada , Feb 26 , 2021 11:12 PM*

B’nai Brith Canada on Friday called on Carleton University, located in Ottawa, to publicly condemn anti-Semitism and speak out after one of its professors alleged that Jewish money was corrupting the institution, while casting aspersions on its Centre for Jewish Studies.

In a February 10 online event hosted by “Carleton University Students for Scholars at Risk,” Nahla Abdo, a panelist and professor of sociology, lamented supposed Israeli influence at the University.

“Money works – I wish we had money. We could have donated a lot of money and buildings. Israeli… you know, you have tons of buildings, everywhere, actually named after donors. That is not a strategy that Palestinians can do. They are not there, in that world. So they can continue to be victims of that,” she said, according to a release from B’nai Brith Canada.

Abdo also disparaged the Jewish Studies Centre at Carleton as “basically Israel studies, not really too much Jewish studies.” In fact, noted B’nai Brith Canada, of the seven Jewish studies courses offered at Carleton in 2020-2021, only one is concerned primarily with Israel. She went on to accuse the Centre of exposing students to “Israeli culture, most of which is stolen from the Palestinians.” [Obviously this sociologist has no knowledge of Judaism and its actual relation to the land as is outlined in the Torah of Moses. That is most unfortunate because the Islamic group professes to also read and understand and abide by the Torah but that is not and has never really been the case. Most have absolutely no knowledge of the scriptures, just a perversion of it. – rdb]

At a later stage of the event, Abdo walked back her anti-Semitic remarks “about the money term,” noting that “it is often used as a stereotype of the Jewish People.” This prompted an interjection from Sheryl Nestel, a member of the steering committee of the “Independent Jewish Voices” fringe group, who remarked while laughing: “Let me say it. Let me say Jews and money. I can do it.”

Professor Abdo also made a host of baseless allegations against Israel during the event, accusing it of committing genocide against Palestinians, using “genocidal tactics” against Arab Jews and bringing in Ethiopian Jews “as cheap labor power.”

According to B’nai Brith, these remarks came as part of what was intended as a discussion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Anti-Semitism. The government of Canada [formally adopted](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/265102) IHRA definition of anti-Semitism in 2019 as part of its anti-racism strategy.

The Canadian province of Ontario [adopted the IHRA definition](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/289995) this past October, becoming the first Canadian province to do so. The IHRA definition has been adopted by a host of countries, including Albania, [Germany](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/235805), [Britain](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/221580), Austria, [Romania](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/230401), [the Czech Republic](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/258225), [Bulgaria](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/236939), [France](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/272657), [Cyprus](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/273377) and [Argentina](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/281555).

“We have had a productive discussion of Feb. 10's unfortunate language with Carleton’s President," said Michael Mostyn, Chief Executive Officer of B’nai Brith Canada.

"The Scholars at Risk initiative is endorsed by the University. Professor Abdo’s remarks to the Scholars at Risk students group, if not called out, will be perceived as carrying the university’s imprimatur. This should be rejected. We appreciate President Bacon’s reaffirmation that the University stands very strongly against anti-Semitism and against racism of any kind,” he added. MORE - <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297589> [Change a leopards spots? Probably not. – rdb]

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