**03/19/2021 NEWS AM**

**Les Misérables Flash Mob - Orlando Shakespeare Theater**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cn8PiqIXEjQ**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cn8PiqIXEjQ)

|  |
| --- |
| **"Freedom for supporters of the government only, for members of one party only -- no matter how big its membership may be -- is no freedom at all. Freedom is always freedom for the man who thinks differently." -- Rosa Luxemburg (1880-1919)** |

**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 22:4On the third day--Abraham lifteth up his eyes, and seeth the place from afar; 5and Abraham saith unto his young men, `Remain by yourselves here with the ass, and I and the youth go yonder and worship, and turn back unto you.' 6And Abraham taketh the wood of the burnt-offering, and placeth on Isaac his son, and he taketh in his hand the fire, and the knife; and they go on both of them together.**

**Smotrich says he opposes ‘LGBT culture,’ appears to liken gay marriage to incest**

***Meanwhile, Liberman denies anti-gay bias after allegations by businesswoman; Arab lawmakers come under fire for refusing to openly back legislation for LGBT rights***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:17 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/F210316OF108.jpg)

***Religious Zionism chairman Bezalel Smotrich speaks at the annual Jerusalem Conference on March 16, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)***

**Religious Zionism chairman Bezalel Smotrich said Thursday that he has “a problem with LGBT culture” and appeared to compare gay marriage to ince**st.

**Smotrich, who has a history of controversial statements on the issue, was asked in an Army Radio interview for his reaction to comments made by his far-right party’s No. 11 candidate, Eldad Rabinovich. Rabinovich had spoken out against the openly gay Public Security Minister Amir Ohana** (Likud) and said the Religious Zionism party would work to “restore naturalness” to Israeli society.

**The interview quickly turned hostile as Smotrich refused repeatedly to answer whether he views Ohana as “natur**al.” The **Religious Zionism leader said he respects Ohana as a human being and considers him a friend, but has a “debate over values” with him and the broader LGBT community**.

One of the Army Radio interviewers then called Smotrich and his party “racist” for refusing to grant equal rights to the community.

**“Yes, there are individual rights and those are important, but beyond that there are also values and public int**erests. There is also a social structure that can and should be debated,” he shot back. “You and your friends’ inability to demonstrate tolerance for my views — you are a thousand times more radical than me.”

**Smotrich then asked the interviewers whether the State of Israel would approve a marriage between a brother and a sister or between a mother and her son, apparently likening gay marriage to in**cest.

**When they both replied no, the Religious Zionism leader said this proves that they are “raci**st.”

Smotrich, who has served in the Knesset since 2015, rose to national prominence almost a decade earlier when he organized the “Beasts Parade” in protest of LGBT pride. He later apologized for his involvement.

He defended his inclusion of the Kahanist Otzma Yehudit party and the anti-LGBT Noam faction on his party slate, saying he had “demonstrated responsibility” on behalf of the right-wing bloc to make sure the votes of the most fringe elements in Israeli society don’t go to waste. Recent polls have indicated Religious Zionism would scrape above the electoral threshold to win four seats.

Responding on Twitter, Yesh Atid chair and Opposition Leader Yair Lapid called Smotrich’s statements “disgusting” and said they were “a dark reminder of what government Netanyahu [potentially] has — [Shas leader Aryeh] Deri, [UTJ No.2 Yaakov] Litzman, Smotrich, [Otzma Yehudit chair Itamar] Ben Gvir. Homophobic, racist, dark, full of hatred.”

A deputy minister in Netanyahu’s Likud party on Thursday rejected Smotrich’s comment on the LGBT community.  “I do not accept these statements. This is not the agenda of Likud,” said Yoav Kisch. **[If you wonder why Israel is having terrible trouble with government and today’s issues, the total abrogation of fundamental Biblical standards is the problem just as it is in the USA and the rest of the world. The scriptures are quite explicit concerning these kinds of activities and the section concerning these behaviors is actually read on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement and are mentioned as an affront to God. While the world keeps thumbing their nose collectively at The Creator you can expect the problems to continue to increase until HE puts an end to it, which would seem to be pretty soon. – rdb]**

***Anti-Netanyahu, but not anti anti-LGBT***

But it wasn’t just in the pro-Netanyahu bloc that candidates found themselves stumbling over questions related to LGBT rights.

**Yisrael Beytenu chairman Avigdor Liberman was asked during a Channel 12 interview Wednesday to respond to allegations made by businesswoman Nicol Raidman, who accused the leader of the right-wing secular party of being unable to sit in the same room with her gay frien**ds.

Rather than refuting the claim, Liberman said, “There are more serious things [to discuss]. We will address this whole story after the election.”

**Weighing in on the controversy, Labor chairwoman Merav Michaeli told Army Radio on Thursday, “All the leftists who are voting for Liberman because he is against the Haredim should take into account that he’s not a lib**eral.”

Later Wednesday, though, Liberman tweeted a clarification. “**Yisrael Beytenu is in favor of full equality for the LGBT community, including via a civil marriage and divorce law that we submitted twice in the outgoing Knesset**.”

Also facing pushback from LGBT activists on Wednesday was Joint List chairman Ayman Odeh. He was asked at a campaign event in Tel Aviv what his party would do to protect the rights of a group often marginalized in the Arab community.

Odeh noted that he opposes all anti-LGBT violence and that his Hadash faction within the Joint List voted in favor of legislation to bar gay conversion therapy, a move that drew heavy criticism in the Arab public.

“We have a value-based stance against discrimination of any kind. I was not elected to the Knesset to interfere in people’s private lives,” he said. **[So standing for Biblical truth is discrimination? – rdb]**

“At the same time, I ask that you understand us Arab citizens — this issue is very sensitive for us. Think of the Jewish public in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and I ask you to be practical, to read reality and know how to change reality from within rather from above. Now we need unity to fight tough struggles like violence and crime. Let us choose the unifying path and we will find a formula that respects human beings,” Odeh added. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/smotrich-says-he-opposes-lgbt-culture-appears-to-liken-gay-marriage-to-incest/> **The pit of humanity gets deeper and deeper. – rdb]**

**Netanyahu boosts far-right extremist in reelection bid**

***Desperate to make up for votes he'll likely lose to Saar and Bennett, PM formed a new alliance with far-right religious nationalists, who likely would provide Netanyahu with the needed seats to form government if they pass the threshold***

*AFP | Published: 03.18.21 , 16:49*

**Itamar Ben-Gvir has described a Jewish extremist who massacred 29 Palestinians as his "hero", but he could be elected to Knesset next week thanks partly to Prime Minister Benjamin** Netanyahu.

Ben-Gvir's political life has had many incarnations, including leader of the Jewish Power party and his current candidacy for the Religious Zionism alliance, which polls show could win four seats in Tuesday's election.



***Itamar Ben-Gvir (Photo: Hadar Yoavian)***

**But amid shifting alliances, key aspects of Ben-Gvir's ideology have remained constan**t.

**He was inspired by the late racist rabbi Meir Kahane, whose Kach movement wanted to expel Israeli Arabs from the coun**try.

Kahane was elected to parliament in 1984, but was disqualified from running again in 1988 due to his party's racism.

Kahane, assassinated in New York in 1990, provided ideological inspiration for Baruch Goldstein, who massacred 29 Palestinian worshippers in Hebron in 1994.

Ben-Gvir has on multiple occasions voiced admiration for Goldstein and hung a portrait of the mass-murderer in his home.

His Jewish Power party also backs Israel’s annexation of the entire West Bank, which is home to some 2.8 million Palestinians.

***‘Disgrace’***

Netanyahu is facing his fourth re-election battle in less than two years and polls show he could again struggle to secure a majority in the 120-seat parliament.

Seeking to make up a potential loss of seats to the New Hope party formed last year by prominent defectors from his Likud movement, Netanyahu helped orchestrate a new alliance of far-right religious nationalists.

**If this new bloc, Religious Zionism, crosses the minimum threshold required to sit in parliament, it would likely provide the pro-Netanyahu camp with four desperately needed additional s**eats.

**The prime minister has not denied that he helped broker the pact that saw Jewish Power join forces with National Union, led by Betzalel Smotrich, and the Noam p**arty.

Netanyahu has said that Ben-Gvir will not get a cabinet position in his government, but would be part of his "coalition."

**Opposition leader Yair Lapid of the centrist Yesh Atid said in a tweet last month that it was a "disgrace" Netanyahu was "trying to push" Jewish Power into parlia**ment.

Labour party leader Merav Michaeli has also criticized Ben-Gvir's political re-emergence, citing his incendiary conduct before the 1995 assassination of then prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.



***A campaign poster for the Arab-led Joint List says Netanyahu's covert support for Ben-Gvir and his far-right electoral alliance exposes his true colors***

***(Photo: AFP)***

**Weeks before Rabin was shot in Tel Aviv by a Jewish extremist opposed to the Oslo peace process, Ben-Gvir snatched the Cadillac badge from the late premier's** car.

"Like we reached this symbol, we can reach him too," Ben Gvir boasted at the time.

Michaeli, a Rabin disciple, said recently of Ben-Gvir: “The gun that killed Rabin and the vision of peace in 1995 has returned to assassinate Israeli democracy.”

***Passion to rule***

**Israeli political analyst Shmuel Rosner told AFP that Netanyahu's tacit boosting of Ben-Gvir is further evidence he has "a great passion to rule and (is) willing to do a lot to remain in p**ower." "He's less interested in etiquette and what people will say or think and more focused on the simple arithmetics of how to retain power. **[That comment should be obvious by the actions of the Israeli government concerning the covid issue and the vaccination debacle. – rdb]**

"If that means he has to push Ben-Gvir to parliament, that won't stop him," Rosner said.

In pursuing a seat in parliament, Ben-Gvir is seeking to follow another Kahane disciple Michael Ben-Ari, in parliament from 2009 to 2013, who was banned from the legislature by the Supreme Court over his racist and extremist views. **MORE -** <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/HkuGs6lN00>

**Up to 5,000 visitors at stadiums: Israel okays 4th stage of lockdown exit**

***Ministers approve the measure, which is set to take effect Friday and only 4 days before the elections; it includes fast COVID tests at entrances to businesses that operate on Green Pass basis; movie theaters to reopen for first time in a year***

*Moran Azulay , Adir Yanko | Published: 03.18.21 , 20:01*

**Israel on Thursday approved a fourth stage of its coronavirus lockdown exit, which includes the increase in the number of people allowed at social gatherings, with up to 5,000 visitors permitted at stad**iums.

**The country has already lifted the majority of the restrictions imposed during its third lockdown that began in December, including those on indoor dining, event halls and concerts,** which are now open to Green Pass holders who have received both vaccine shots or people who have recovered from COVID-19.

**Ministers approved the Health Ministry's outline in an online voting session**, with the measures set to take effect on Friday, just four days before the March 23 elections.

**According to the latest regulations, in a confined area with more than 5,000 seats, the number of people inside must not exceed 30% of its capacity and no more than 3,000 people overall. In a room with less than 5,000 seats, the number of people must not exceed 50% of** its capacity and no more than 1,000 people overall.

In an open area, with more than 10,000 seats, the number of people inside must not exceed 30% of its capacity and no more than 5,000 overall. In an area with more than 10,000 seats, the number of people inside must not exceed 50% of its capacity and no more than 3,000 overall.



***Hapoel Jerusalem fans at a soccer match operated on a Green Pass outline (Photo: Oren Aharoni )***

**In addition, fast coronavirus tests will be allowed to be carried out at entrances to businesses operating in accordance with the Green Pass outline in order to allow those who have not been vaccinated or recovered from the virus to e**nter. This applies to hotels, event halls and synagogues among others.

**Children, who are not allowed to be vaccinated at this stage, will be allowed to enter open-air pools and other attractions located in an open ar**ea.

From next week, it will also be possible to stage fairs inside malls or sporting facilities and resume sporting events that so far have not been permitted - all in accordance with the Green Pass outline.

New regulations also permit to stage events where the audience is allowed to stand or where food is being served. Such events in both confined and open spaces, allowed to operate at 50% of the facility's capacity. In confined spaces the number of visitors must not exceed 300, while in an open area the number of people must not surpass 500.

This will allow movie theaters to resume operations for the first time in a year. A week ago, cinema chains said they will not reopen "without the possibility to sell popcorn".

The measures will be in effect until 3.04.2021. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/Hya11GWEu>

**2 shot to death, 1 seriously wounded in central city of Qalansawe**

***4th person lightly hurt; shooting marks the 25th and 26th homicides in Arab community this year; fatalities identified as Leith Nasra, 19, and Muhammed Khatib, 20***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:35 amUpdated at 9:12 am*

**Two men were shot and killed in the central city of Qalansawe in the early hours of Friday. A further two people were also wounded in the incident — one was in serious condition** while the fourth was classified as lightly injured.

The fatalities were identified as Leith Nasra, 19, and Muhammad Khatib, the 20-year-old nephew of the director-general of the Qalansawe Municipality who was [shot](https://www.timesofisrael.com/director-of-qalansawe-municipality-sprayed-with-bullets-seriously-wounded/) and seriously wounded while sitting in his car earlier this month.

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| ***[Muhammad Khatib (R) Leith Nasra (L) who were killed in Qalansawe on March 19, 2021. (Courtesy)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/r1fUQnWVu_1_15_261_196_0_x-large-1.jpg)***  ***Muhammad Khatib (R) Leith Nasra (L) who were killed in Qalansawe on March 19, 2021. (Courtesy)*** | ***Police operate in Qalansawe following a deadly shooting that killed Leith Nasra on March 19, 2021. (Screenshot: Ynet)*** |

**However, the Kan public broadcaster said the two shooting events were not believed to be connected**.

According to reports, the attacker on Friday cut the electricity to the home the men were sitting in, entered, and began to open fire.

The Kan public broadcaster said the victims were known to police and an initial probe found the shooting was part of a dispute between criminals. Police have opened an investigation.

The victims were taken by Magen David Adom medics to Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva and to the Meir Medical Center in Kfar Saba, where medical personnel confirmed the deaths and treated the wounded.

“What did he do to get himself killed? We can’t continue to live like this. The writing was on the wall,” Nasra’s family members told Ynet.

The 26 Arabs who have died violently this year in Israel include 20 Arab Israeli citizens, four Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem, and two Palestinians from the West Bank. Three were shot by police, the Abraham Initiatives nonprofit said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/man-shot-to-death-2-seriously-wounded-in-central-city-of-qalansawe/>

**Exiled Abbas rival Mohammad Dahlan hints he could run for PA president**

***Longtime foe of PA president’s regime says it has turned Palestinians into ‘beggars’; claims Hamas, Fatah conspiring to allow Abbas to run unopposed in coming vote***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 5:01 pm*

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

***Mohammad Dahlan during a TV interview on March 18. 2021 (video screenshot)***

**Exiled Palestinian politician Mohammad Dahlan’s movement will run in the upcoming Palestinian elections, Dahlan told Saudi Al-Arabiya TV** on Wednesday night.

**“If the Palestinian people commit to giving us enough seats [in the legislature], we can make a commitment to changing the existing order,” Dahlan** said.

**Dahlan is widely seen as a possible contender to replace 84-year-old Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. A former Fatah chief and an ex-PA security minister, Dahlan was expelled from the West Bank** in 2011 following a bitter and bloody political dispute with the Ramallah government.

Dahlan, who rarely gives interviews, used his screen time on Wednesday night to lay into Abbas, whom he accused of “normalizing despair among Palestinians.”

“Abbas made three promises: to reform Fatah and strengthen it, to reform the Palestinian Authority, which he said at the time was corrupt… and to make an honorable peace [with Israel]. He didn’t do any of those three,” Dahlan said. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/exiled-abbas-rival-mohammad-dahlan-hints-he-could-run-for-pa-president/>

**Cars torched, wall daubed in Palestinian village in apparent hate crime attack**

***Vehicles set alight, wall graffitied in West Bank village of Beit Iksa, in attack referencing teen killed in police chase after allegedly throwing rocks at Palestinians***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 12:25 pm*

**A Palestinian village near Jerusalem was apparently vandalized overnight in a suspected hate crime attack, Hebrew media reports said Fri**day.

**Residents of Beit Iksa found two damaged vehicles and a Hebrew-language slogan graffitied on a nearby wa**ll, a spokesperson for the police said.

**The graffiti on the wall read “regards from Ahuvia,” with a Star of David next to i**t — a reference to 16-year-old settler Ahuvia Sandak who died in December during a police chase after allegedly throwing rocks at Palestinians.

Settler violence directed toward Palestinians has spiked in recent months following Sandak’s death.

Israel Police said they have opened an investigation into the apparent hate crime. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/cars-torched-wall-daubed-in-palestinian-village-in-apparent-hate-crime-attack/>

**Alongside Rivlin, France’s Macron says Iran must stop violating nuclear deal**

***IDF chief tells French president that Lebanon has been taken ‘captive’ by Hezbollah and that Israel has ‘thousands of targets picked out’ in case of need for retaliation***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 9:29 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/000_96A6XB.jpg)

***French President Emmanuel Macron speaks during a joint press conference with President Reuven Rivlin, after a working lunch, at the Elysee Palace in Paris, on March 18, 2021. (Ludovic MARIN / POOL / AFP)***

**Standing alongside President Reuven Rivlin, French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday urged Iran to stop aggravating the already grave crisis over its nuclear program by multiplying violations of the 2015 deal with world pow**ers.

**“Iran must stop worsening the nuclear situation that is already serious by accumulating violations of the Vienna accord**,” Macron said during a joint press conference at the Elysee Palace with Rivlin, currently on a European tour to discuss the Iranian threat.

**“Iran must make the expected gestures and behave in a responsible manner,” Macron** said.

Rivlin’s three-day trip to Germany, France, and Austria comes as the UN’s nuclear watchdog is working to save the 2015 agreement. Germany and France are both signatories to the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which gave Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear program.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/000_96A3CB-e1616074268669.jpg)

***French President Emmanuel Macron (R) and President Reuven Rivlin wave at the Elysee Palace in Paris on March 18, 2021. (Ludovic Marin/AFP)***

**After its withdrawal from the pact in 2018, the US reapplied strict sanctions on Iran, which responded by stepping away from its own commitments to the deal, in particular by ramping up uranium enrichment,** a key process in producing a nuclear weapon.

**The new administration of US President Joe Biden has said it is prepared to reenter the nuclear deal and start lifting sanctions against Iran if it returns to full compliance. But Tehran rejected that precondition, pressing on with increasing nuclear work in retaliation for the sanctions**.

**“France is fully mobilized for a relaunch of a credible process to find a solution to this crisis,” Macron said Thu**rsday. “This means returning to a control and supervision of the Iranian nuclear program while also integrating a control of Iran’s ballistic activity in the region.”

**Rivlin, who is traveling with IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kohavi, has underscored the threat from Iran’s nuclear program in his meetings with Austrian and German leader**s earlier in the week.

**Meeting with Macron after Rivlin, Kohavi told the French president that Lebanon has been taken “captive” by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah terror** group.

“Hezbollah today has hundreds of thousands of missiles and rockets located that are in the heart of civilian populations and are deliberately aimed at harming Israeli citizens. The IDF will do everything to prevent this,” Kohavi said to Macron, according to an Israel Defense Forces statement.

The IDF chief warned that Israel has thousands of targets picked out in Lebanon.

**“We won’t hesitate to attack forcefully,” Kohavi** said.

**He also said that Lebanon is responsible for what happens w**ithin its borders and will bear “full responsibility” for any Hezbollah attack on Israel. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/alongside-rivlin-frances-macron-says-iran-must-stop-violating-nuclear-deal/>

**Iran has not yet recovered from Nanatz explosion hit - exclusive**

***Despite the report, sources revealed to the Post that Iran is still far from a full recovery following the July 2 explosion at an above-ground structure at the Natanz facility.***

*By* [*YONAH JEREMY BOB*](https://www.jpost.com/author/yonah-jeremy-bob) *MARCH 18, 2021 22:00*



***Iranian missiles are seen at a new "missile city" of Iran's Revolutionary Guards naval unit at an undisclosed location in Iran, in this picture obtained on March 15, 2021. (photo credit: IRGC/WANA/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS)***

**Iran has yet to recover from a devastating explosion at its Natanz nuclear facility last July, sources have told The Jerusalem Post, undercutting IAEA reports this week that the Islamic Republic** [has made progress](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/iran-enriching-uranium-with-new-machine-at-underground-plant-iaea-662235) with advanced centrifuges for enriching uranium.

On Tuesday, Reuters disclosed an IAEA report which claimed that Iran has started enriching uranium at its new underground Natanz facility using advanced IR-4 centrifuges.

This could be highly significant because until now most of Tehran’s centrifuges were of the slower IR-1 model, with a smaller number of IR-2ms.

**The more advanced IR-4 centrifuges could shorten the timeline for breaking out to a nuclear weapon**, and having the machines underground could prevent or severely complicate the IDF’s ability to attack them in the future.

**Despite the report and these implications, sources revealed to the Post that Iran is still far from a full recovery** [**following the July 2**](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/fire-at-irans-natanz-nuclear-facility-caused-significant-damage-633975) **explosion at an above-ground structure at the Natanz facilit**y. The structure was the main site for assembling advanced centrifuges like the IR-4 and the IR-6.

The explosion [was attributed](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/goal-of-natanz-explosion-was-to-send-clear-message-to-iran-642512) to the Mossad. Sources emphasized that Israel’s activities to prevent Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon never end and that there is no site, old or new, which is safe.

At the time, Israeli defense officials and nuclear experts collectively said that the explosion would push the Islamic Republic’s advanced centrifuge program back by one-to-two years.

**Yet, more than eight months later, the IAEA report this week that Iran has begun feeding a cascade of 174 IR-4 centrifuges at Natanz with natural UF**6 – the form of uranium that is fed into centrifuges for enrichment – seemed to suggest a recovery.

**The IAEA report also suggested that a second cascade of IR-4 centrifuges would soon be installed at Nata**nz.

**However, these numbers not only pale in comparison to where Iran would have been at this point had the explosion not taken plac**e, but they are also much less advanced than the country was even back in July 2020, defense officials have indicated.

While given additional time, Iran may recover to the point it was at in July 2020.

Weeks after the Natanz facility was destroyed, Intelligence Minister Eli Cohen told the Post that Israel knows “everything that is happening in Iran.”

In addition, intelligence officials have indicated that the destruction of the old Natanz facility damaged the ayatollahs psychologically and could help deter them from crossing certain lines toward acquiring a nuclear capability that might cause them to fear triggering Israeli action.

**Regarding the psychological impact, the Post reported in September that the purpose of the attack was to send an unambiguous and public deterrent message that progress toward a nuclear weapon beyond certain red-lines** would not be tolerated.

Though **Tehran initially played down the Natanz and other explosions, within days satellite footage revealed that the impact was far more serious than the regime was** claiming.

On top of all of that, an underground facility creates logistical problems and slows down virtually all elements of nuclear progress, sources explained.

**Institute for Science and International Security President David Albright said that even if Iran had made a very partial recovery since July, it was significant that they still lacked the capacity to mass produce advanced cen**trifuges.

Albright said that the 164 IR-4 centrifuges reflected existing or possibly very limited additional production, but no real new production, which has not yet been restored.

He added that the destroyed above ground facility had taken six years to build from 2012-2018.

**Without mass production capacity, it was unclear whether Iran could meet its apparent self-declared deadline of operating 1,000 IR-6 advanced centrifuges by December 2021**, though some reports indicated that the deadline was in fact in March and passed last weekend. Albright, however, said that his team of Farsi translators had determined the deadline was still some nine months off.

**Still, former IAEA official and Stimson Center fellow Olli Heinonen urged caution. “The destruction of the above–ground facility has delayed particularly the IR-6 program, but Iran has likely key equipment for assembling centrifug**es. I do not feel that they lay all eggs in one basket when it comes to maintaining crucial manufacturing capabilities. An example of that is after 2004 the construction of Fordow paralleled work in Natanz.”

**Moreover, he warned that Iran has achieved “an important technical development at Fordow**. The installation of two cascades of IR-6 centrifuges to produce 20 % enriched uranium from uranium enriched up to 5% by IR-1 cascades, is a major technical achievement, if successful.”

“Such an arrangement removes an intermediate step, where 5 % enriched uranium is collected from one cascade unit to a cylinder and then taken to the next unit and fed to a cascade producing 20 % enriched uranium. It makes the process more efficient,” he said.

Moreover, Heinonen said that “Iranian engineers have collected indispensable experience and knowledge on IR-2 and to some degree on IR-4 centrifuges for further decisions,” which they can use in the future regardless of the general status of the nuclear program. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-has-not-yet-recovered-from-nanatz-explosion-hit-exclusive-662493>

**Iran to conduct initial testing of redesigned Arak nuclear reactor**

***Iranian nuclear agency says ‘cold test’ will be held to check fluid and support systems startup ahead of plant’s full commissioning later in the year***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:24 pm*

**Iran will “cold test” its revamped Arak nuclear reactor as a prelude to its full inauguration later in the year, the country’s Atomic Energy Organization said on Friday, according to a** [**Reuters**](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear/iran-says-to-cold-test-redesigned-arak-nuclear-reactor-idUSKBN2BB0K0) **report**.

**Cold testing of reactors usually includes the initial startup of fluid systems and support system**s. The nuclear agency spokesperson Behrouz Kamalvandi said it will take place sometime early in the Iranian new year, which begins Sunday, the report said.

While Iran had agreed to shut down the reactor at the Arak facility under the 2015 deal, Tehran says they have been working on redesigning it for medical and agricultural use.

**The plant was permitted to make some of the** [**heavy water**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-atomic-chief-says-modernization-work-on-heavy-water-reactor-progressing/) **used to help cool reactors, producing plutonium as a byproduct that can potentially be used in nuclear weap**ons.



***Spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Behrouz Kamalvandi speaks in a press briefing in Tehran, Iran, July 7, 2019. (Ebrahim Noroozi/AP)***

**The announcement of the tests came a day after French President Emmanuel Macron, standing alongside President Reuven Rivlin,** [**urged**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/alongside-rivlin-frances-macron-says-iran-must-stop-violating-nuclear-deal/) **Iran to stop aggravating the already grave crisis over its nuclear progra**m by multiplying violations of the 2015 deal with world powers.

**Iran has repeatedly takes steps to violate the agreement and t**urn up the heat on the US, including by enriching uranium past the accord’s limits and barring UN inspections of its nuclear facilities. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-to-conduct-initial-testing-of-redesigned-arak-nuclear-reactor/>

**'No to Islamic Republic of Iran' social media protest gains traction**

***Campaign calls for boycott of Iran’s ‘pseudo-democratic’ presidential election***

*By* [*BENJAMIN WEINTHAL*](https://www.jpost.com/author/benjamin-weinthal) *MARCH 18, 2021 23:22*

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***People wear green bands in support of the Iranian opposition movement during the funeral of Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri in the holy city of Qom (photo credit: REUTERS)***

**Iranian dissidents and Iranians living in the** [**Islamic Republic**](https://www.jpost.com/tags/islamic-republic) **are using the social media phrase “No to the Islamic Republic” to form greater connective tissue between their aspirations for a new socie**ty.

**“Launched in just the last few weeks with a plain but captivating slogan and graphic, the international 'No to the Islamic Republic!' (or 'N2IR') campaign is a call to any and all who oppose a regime that has left no Iranian family untouched by its evil,**“ wrote Mariam Memarsadeghi, an advocate for a democratic [Iran](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news), on the website of The Bulwark on Wednesday.

She added that the campaign embodies a “concerted people-power campaign for the peaceful overthrow of the Islamic Republic and transition to liberal democracy is a testament to the Iranians’ refusal to play by the rules of their oppressors any longer.”

The National Union for Democracy in Iran tweeted : "One of Iran’s most famous singers and national super star, Ebi, and his wife and partner @HamediMahshid  join the #No2IR campaign”

One of [#Iran](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Iran?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)’s most famous singers and national super star, Ebi, and his wife and partner [@HamediMahshid](https://twitter.com/HamediMahshid?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) join the [#No2IR](https://twitter.com/hashtag/No2IR?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) campaign.[#نه\_به\_جمهورى\_اسلامی](https://twitter.com/hashtag/%D9%86%D9%87_%D8%A8%D9%87_%D8%AC%D9%85%D9%87%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%89_%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%DB%8C?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) \_ [pic.twitter.com/08vjskb15Y](https://t.co/08vjskb15Y)

— National Union for Democracy in Iran (@NUFDIran) [March 18, 2021](https://twitter.com/NUFDIran/status/1372572218291589124?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Memarsadeghi, the cofounder of Tavaana, an E-Learning Institute for Iranian Civil Society, wrote that "An outgrowth of the campaign has been the call for a boycott of Iran’s next presidential election,** scheduled for June. Like many other despotic governments that make a show of pseudo-democracy, the Iranian regime counts on turnout.”

**She continued that "Having not seen a single promise of reform prove true, Iranians have come to understand that the ‘reformist’ politicians are guilty of some of the regime’s biggest lie**s, ineptitude, and corruption, and complicit in the Supreme Leader’s calls for killing.”

**The exiled Iranian prince Reza Pahlavi circulated a video message on Monday joining the “No to the Islamic Republic” and said the  “No to the Islamic Republic campaign is the connecting link between all the dissid**ents.”

According to the London-based Iran International website, “in the past few days it has turned into a new movement with social media users have posted images and videos of themselves holding placards reading ‘No to the Islamic Republic’ or attaching stickers and posters in public places, many in Iran.”

Reza Pahlavi said that there is “no Iranian family that has not paid a price, and this regime has killed a member of my family and some of my friends as well.”

The UAE-based outlet The National reported that “The Farsi language hashtag Na be joumhoriye Islami, (No to the Islamic Republic), has so far attracted the support and endorsement of thousands of Iranians in and outside the country, with the number increasing by the day.” <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/no-to-the-islamic-republic-spread-by-iranians-gains-traction-662491>

**Taliban denounce Biden's message, US may miss Afghanistan exit deadline**

***“The Biden administration has emphasized that it will abide by the agreement it [the US] signed with the Taliban last year, but it has also noted that the agreement is conditions-based."***

*By ARSHAD MEHMOOD / THE MEDIA LINE   MARCH 18, 2021 23:50*

**The** [**Taliban**](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/top-us-general-meets-taliban-in-qatar-652431) **denounced US President Joe Biden’s statement on Wednesday that it will be “tough” for American forces to withdraw from Afghanistan by May 1 as expected under the provisional peace agreement reached last year by the US and the Islamist move**ment.

For more stories from The Media Line go to [themedialine.org](https://themedialine.org/)

**“Could happen, but it is tough,” Biden said about meeting the deadline. “I’m in the process of making that decision now**.”

**“The United States will suffer serious consequences if it violates the Doha peace agreement,” the Taliban swiftly told The Media Line**.

**“Such an attempt will be considered deliberate sabotage of the peace agreement and would result in the destruction of peace effort**s,” Afghan Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi said from an undisclosed location.

**He reiterated the Taliban’s stance that “we have signed a peace agreement with the US administration, not with any specific personality,” in a reference to former President Donald Tru**mp.

**Ahmadi also strongly condemned a recent US Air Force strike on Taliban fighters in Kandahar** Province.

Earlier on Wednesday, Col. Sonny Leggett, the spokesman for the US Forces in Afghanistan, tweeted that “the US has conducted airstrikes within the last 48 hours targeting Taliban fighters actively attacking & maneuvering on Afghan Security Forces positions in Zharay, Spin Boldak & Kandahar Districts.”

**Ahmadi said, “The bombardment is a clear violation of the Doha agreement that cannot be justified on any gr**ounds.

**“We categorically warn the US administration that if such irresponsible airstrikes continue, then we also reserve the right to reciprocate the action**. The American shall be held responsible for all unfortunate consequences,” he added.

On February 29, 2020, the United States and the Taliban signed a provisional peace agreement in Doha, Qatar, under which the Islamist group pledged to not attack American troops stationed in Afghanistan, and the US was to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan within 14 months in exchange for counter terrorism guarantees.

According to the US Defense Department, there are now 2,500 American service members in Afghanistan, the fewest since operations began there in 2001. **MORE -** <https://www.jpost.com/international/taliban-denounce-bidens-message-us-may-miss-afghanistan-exit-deadline-662508> **“Bi-dumb” (aka the voice of Obamanation ) may totally mess this up and attempt to get us BACK into their ‘conflict. – rdb]**

**EU agency says AstraZeneca vaccine safe, paving way for resumption of shots**

***After several European countries suspend use, drug regulator says benefits of UK-developed inoculations outweigh risk of blood clots***

*By* [*Maria Cheng*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/maria-cheng/) *and* [*Frank Jordans*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/frank-jordans/) *Today, 8:38 pm*

**LONDON, United Kingdom (AP) — The European Union’s drug regulatory agency said Thursday that the AstraZeneca vaccine is not linked to an overall increase in the risk of blood clots and that the benefits of use outweigh the risks, paving the way for European countries to resume administering the sh**ots.

**Several European countries had suspended the use of the vaccine over the past week following reports of rare types of blood clots occurring in a small numb**er of the millions of people who had received the shot across the continent. **[It is highly unlikely that in less than one week the Eu or any other testing facility can reliably discern whether the problem is injection related or not. Since the injection stimulates a major allergic type reaction it could well have an effect on clotting. – rdb]**

**Germany, France and others had said they wanted to wait for the European Medicines Agency’s determination before deciding whether to resume using the vaccin**e.

“Our scientific position is that this vaccine is a safe and effective option to protect citizens against COVID-19,” said the head of the EMA, Emer Cooke.

She added: “If it were me, I would be vaccinated tomorrow.”

However, she said the agency “cannot rule out definitively a link” between the rare types of blood clots and the vaccine. The EMA recommended adding a description of these cases to the vaccine leaflets so health workers and patients would be aware.

Clots that form in the arms, legs or elsewhere can break free and travel to the heart, brain or lungs, causing strokes, heart attacks or other deadly blockages.

**While many countries have continued to use the AstraZeneca vaccine, there are concerns the debate could seriously undermine confidence in the shot**, which is key to efforts to vaccinate the world’s population, especially in poorer countries.

In Europe, where there is a choice of vaccines, the safety questions have complicated an already slow rollout across the 27-nation EU at a critical moment when infections are rising at an alarming rate again in many countries, in part because of mutant versions of the coronavirus. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/eu-agency-says-astrazeneca-vaccine-safe-paving-way-for-resumption-of-shots/>

**‘Nothing else explains it’: Norwegian scientists say AstraZeneca DID cause blood clots, as British & Dutch experts dismiss theory**

*18 Mar, 2021 19:47*

**Norwegian scientists have linked the AstraZeneca vaccine and blood clots – a condition seen in some people that led countries around the world to halt its use. But British and Dutch medics say there’s no evidence for such** a link.

*“The cause of our patients' condition has now been found***,” Pal Andre Holme, the head of a research group at the Oslo University Hospital,** [**told**](https://www.vg.no/nyheter/innenriks/i/QmwR1V/professor-om-mistenkte-vaksinebivirkninger-aarsaken-er-funnet) **Norway’s VG media outlet. He was referring to the cases of three health workers under the age of 50 who suffered from severe blood clotting after receiving** the AstraZeneca jab. One of the medics then died on Monday.

The **clotting in those patients was triggered by a very specific “strong immune response” likely caused as a result of the AstraZeneca jab, Holme explained**. In collaboration with the University Hospital of North Norway, Holme’s team detected specific antibodies that *“activate”* platelets and in some cases can lead to blood clots.

**Asked by VG if the vaccine was the “most likely” cause of this specific immune response, Holme said he believes “there is no other thing” in the history of the three individual patients wh**ich would generate such a response. None of the three patients had a history of similar health issues before, he said.

**I am pretty sure it is these antibodies that are the cause and I see no other reason than that it is the vaccine that triggers them.**

**The professor still admitted that such side effects are likely to be very rare since “we are talking about very specific antibodies.” Norway halted the use of the AstraZeneca jab in its vaccination campaign alongside m**any other European nations. Some 120,000 Norwegians already received the jabs produced by the British-Swedish company. According to Norwegian media, *“very few”* serious side effects were reported by those vaccinated to date.

Some Norwegians, however, were apparently ready to take their chances, deadly side-effects or not, in the name of saving humanity. Earlier this week, journalist Linn Wiik declared she would *“love to die”* from AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine if her sacrifice would help humanity to win the war against the virus.

**Norwegian scientists revealed the results of their analysis just as the British medical regulator, MHRA, said that it found no evidence that could prove the link between the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine and blood clo**tting.

*“This type of blood clot can occur naturally in people who have not been vaccinated, as well as in those suffering from COVID-19,”* the MHRA CEO, Dr. June Raine, said in a statement, adding that her agency’s *“thorough and careful review”* showed that blood clots in veins of affected persons are occurring just as often as they would *“in the absence of vaccination.”*

Separately, the Dutch Lareb Center tasked with studying the side effects of the AstraZeneca jab also reported that it *“has no evidence”* of a link between the vaccine and blood clotting. The center said it received *“a few dozen reports”* about thrombosis and pulmonary embolism associated with all vaccines, adding that *“reports so far give no reason to think that thrombosis is a side effect of corona vaccines.”*

Earlier, a group of nations in Europe and beyond, including Germany, France, Italy and Spain, among others, suspended the rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine amid reports of the potentially fatal blood clotting. Most recently, the Swedish Medical Products Agency said that a previously healthy woman died due to blood clotting a week after taking AstraZeneca’s Covid-19 jab.

The news also triggered the European drug regulator, EMA, to start its own review of all relevant cases. On Thursday, the agency said  it deemed the jab *“safe and effective,”* prompting several nations, including Italy, Cyprus and Ireland, to restart its use. <https://www.rt.com/news/518531-norway-astrazeneca-link-blood-clots/> **[So who would you rather believe? – rdb]**

**UK study: Brazilian COVID strain may be less resistant to vaccines than feared**

***Researchers from University of Oxford say non-peer-reviewed data suggests natural and vaccine-induced antibodies can neutralize variants, but at lower levels***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 4:52 pm*

**A research team from the University of Oxford announced Thursday that the AstraZeneca and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines against the coronavirus may provide more protection against the so-called Brazilian strain than was initially tho**ught.

The study has not yet been peer-reviewed and was carried out by the university involved in the development of the AstraZeneca shot.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/AP_21044055665816-e1616069898196.jpg)

***Maria Castro de Lima, 72, receives a dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine from a healthcare worker, while sitting on the porch of her home in the Recanto community, along the Purus River, in the Labrea municipality, Amazonas state, Brazil, Feb. 12, 2021. (AP Photo/Edmar Barros)***

The researchers found that the vaccines provide protection against the Brazilian P1 coronavirus variant that first became dominant in the Amazonian city of Manaus, as it may be less resistant to antibodies.

“These **data suggest that natural and vaccine-induced antibodies can still neutralize these variants, but at lower levels,”** the researchers said in a statement, according to Sky News. “Importantly, the P1 ‘Brazilian’ strain may be less resistant to these antibodies than first feared.”

**The study used blood samples from people who have natural antibodies after they were infected with the coronavirus, as well as those who have received the Pfizer-BioNTech or AstraZeneca va**ccines.

“The results suggest that P1 might be less resistant to vaccine and convalescent immune responses than B1351 [South Africa], and similar to B117 [UK],” Prof. Gavin Screaton, lead scientist on the study, told the Guardian.

“It found a nearly three-fold reduction in the level of virus neutralization by the antibodies generated by the Oxford and Pfizer vaccines for the [UK] and Brazil variants when compared to the original strain, and a nine-fold and 7.6-fold reduction respectively against the South Africa variant,” Screaton said.

Earlier this month, researchers on a study carried out by Pfizer-BioNTech and researchers from the University of Texas Medical Branch [said](https://www.timesofisrael.com/pfizer-vaccine-able-to-neutralize-brazilian-coronavirus-strain-study-finds/) the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is able to defeat the Brazilian strain.

They wrote that the vaccine was roughly as effective against the Brazilian strain as it is against another mutation that originated in Britain and is now the most prevalent strain in Israel, and “robust but lower” in dealing with a South African variant. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/uk-study-brazilian-covid-strain-may-be-less-resistant-to-vaccines-than-feared/>

**Teachers plot to discredit parents who oppose critical race theory**

***Orchestrated plan to 'expose these people publicly' revealed***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published March 18, 2021 at 2:56pm*

**A coalition of teachers and officials in Loudoun County, Virginia, are conspiring to expose parents in the school district who object to the teaching of critical race theor**y, [according to an investigation by the Daily Wire](https://www.dailywire.com/news/loudoun-teachers-target-parents-critical-race-theory-hacking).

**The 624-member group, called Anti-Racist Parents of Loudoun County, uses Facebook to organize and plot its actions against opponents of the controversial teachin**g.

Critical race theory, according to one definition, proposes that white people create differences between races to "maintain elite white interests."

**The coalition, the Daily Wire said, "compiled a lengthy list of parents suspected of disagreeing with school system actions, including its teaching of controversial racial concepts – with a stated purpose in part to 'infiltrate,' use 'hackers' to silence parents' communications,** and 'expose these people publicly.'"

The Daily Wire reported the sheriff’s criminal investigations division is reviewing the matter.

**The news outlet noted the county’s prosecutor, who was narrowly elected with the help of $845,000 from George Soros, appears to be a member of the Facebook gr**oup. **[The leftist ‘progressive’ (or make that regressive) groups are far more racist than anything that comes from the right or the white majority population. The only people who are judging everyone based on skin color are these evil twits. MLK would be mortified. – rdb]**

The Daily Wire reviewed "secret communications" by the parents being targeted and found no evidence of racism.

Participants in the campaign include a school board member, Beth Barts, 50. She wrote to the Facebook group March 12 that she hoped to “call out statements and actions that undermine our stated plan to end systemic racism."Bottom of Form

Another, a parent, Jen Durham, called for "volunteers to combat the anti CRT activities of the [Parents Against Critical Theory] folks."

**She proposed spreading "information (expose these people publicly, create online petitions, create counter-mailings)" and generating donations for** the cause.

Durham wrote on Facebook: "I’m losing any hope that remaining civil towards these people changes anything. Avoiding these people isn’t enough to stop the spread of their evil rhetoric."

Her request resulted in members of the Facebook group contributing names, home addresses, employers and spouse's names for dozens of parents.

Former teacher Hilary Hultman-Lee said "we'd like to compile a document of all known actors and supporters."

"Please comment below with legal names of these individuals, area of residence and or school board Rep known, known accounts on social media, and any other info that you feel is relevant," she wrote.

Andrea Weiskopf, another teacher, named a father who has criticized critical race theory.

One member had a Facebook profile image that said, "I don't argue with people who Harriet Tubman would have shot."

Officials in the office of Sheriff Mike Chapman have confirmed there is an investigation into the threats to hack websites. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/teachers-conspire-silence-parents-oppose-critical-race-theory/>

**Children's court judge arrested on child porn charges**

***Served as executive for group that runs Drag Queen Story Hour***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published March 18, 2021 at 1:51pm*

**A judge in Milwaukee County assigned to children's court has been charges with possessing child pornography, facing claims he uploaded 27 videos and images, including some from a county build**ing.

**Judge Brett Blomme also was the head of an organization that runs the local Drag Queen Story Hour for children**, [noted the Gateway Pundit.](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/03/breaking-former-president-drag-queen-story-hour-foundation-childrens-court-judge-charged-seven-counts-child-porn/)

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported](https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2021/03/16/milwaukee-judge-brett-blomme-arrested-child-pornography-charges/4721766001/) a 44-page search warrant said investigators alleged Blomme, using the name "dommasterbb," uploaded the videos and images of child porn, including two from government offices.

Blomme, 38, was taken into custody by agents of the state Division of Criminal Investigation after their investigation tracked uploads through the Kik messaging app.

Chief Judge Mary Triggiano declined to discuss the case.

" Due to the ongoing investigation and pending case, I am unable to comment," she explained in a statement obtained by the newspaper. "Judge Blomme’s court calendar will be covered by another judge as needed."

**Before his election to the post in 2020, Blomme was the head of the board of zoning appeals for Milwaukee, appointed to the post by Milwaukee Mayor Tom Bar**rett.

He was also the CEO and president of the Cream City Foundation, which provides grant money to LGBTQ groups in the Milwaukee area. Bottom of Form

The foundation runs the Drag Queen Story Hour in Milwaukee. The events in public libraries feature drag queens who read books to young children.

The Journal Sentinel described Blomme as a "longtime LGBTQ activist" who also managed "major gifts" at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

**He boasted, during his election campaign, of his "progressive" credentials, running against an incumbent appointed by conservative former Gov. Scott Walke**r.

**Blomme was released from jail on his signature and has been ordered to stay off social media and file-sharing services. He is not allowed near any children, except the two that he adopted with his husband**. **[Here we have a prime example of why these kinds of adoptions should not be allowed. – rdb]**

The Gateway Pundit noted the Cream City Foundation, as of early Thursday morning, had scrubbed all articles and mentions of him from its website. The links were still cached by Google’s search engine and his role remained on his LinkedIn page.

A LinkedIn profile described the judge as an officer for the foundation, stating he "has nearly 15 years of experience in philanthropy, community organizing, law and nonprofit management."

He left the foundation to become a judge last year.

The Journal Sentinel reported defense lawyer Christopher Van Wagner said during a court hearing that Child Protective Services was involved with the current placement of Blomme's two adopted children.

Blomme been suspended without pay from all judicial responsibilities by the state Supreme Court. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/childrens-court-judge-arrested-child-porn-charges/>

**21 states sue Biden for revoking Keystone Pipeline**

***'The power to regulate foreign and interstate commerce belongs to Congress'***

By [Art Moore](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) Published March 18, 2021 at 3:15pm

**Texas and Montana are leading a coalition of 21 states in a lawsuit filed Wednesday against President Biden over his decision to revoke a key permit for the Keystone XL oil pipelin**e.

**Represented by Republican attorneys general, the states contend Biden had no authority to revoke the cross-border permit, arguing that only Congress can regulate interstate and international comme**rce.

[**The complaint**](https://media.dojmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/TX-and-MT-v.-Biden-Complaint.pdf) **contends Biden's "arbitrary and capricious" decision could deprive states and local governments of millions of dollars in reve**nue.

Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen called Biden's executive order "an empty virtue signal to his wealthy coastal elite donors."

"The power to regulate foreign and interstate commerce belongs to Congress – not the president," he said. "This is another example of Joe Biden overstepping his constitutional role to the detriment of Montanans."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said his state and others are going after the Biden administration for "once again failing the American people, killing tens of thousands of high-paying jobs and making us more dependent on foreign energy."

**"This pipeline is one of the most significant, clean and reliable energy projects in a generation," he said. "And yet, in an irrational effort to appease far-left environmental radicals, Biden violated the Constitution and ki**lled it."

**Paxton said it will be only "the first battle of what will be a four-year war" against the administration in defense of the energy sector**.Bottom of Form

"And so, Mr. President," he said, "I'm sure I'll be saying this many, many times in the coming years, but we'll see you in court."

Biden claimed in his executive order that "leaving the Keystone XL pipeline permit in place would not be consistent with my Administration's economic and climate imperatives."

The killing of the 1,200-mile pipeline from Canada to the U.S. drew sharp criticism from union leaders for the loss of thousands of jobs. [WND reported](https://www.wnd.com/2021/01/union-leader-endorsed-biden-turns/) the president of the United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters, Mark McManus, complained that Biden gave in to the "voices of fringe activists."

McManus argued there's no issue with the environment, insisting that when "built with union labor by the men and women of the United Association, pipelines like Keystone XL remain the safest and most efficient modes of energy transportation in the world." Without the pipeline, the oil must be transported with trains that are subject to derailing.

Other critics of Biden's cancellation of the pipeline are Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin, who also argues the pipeline would be a safer way to transport oil than ships or trains.

*See Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's comment on the lawsuit:*

No one fights harder for Texas than I do. Biden’s unlawful policies are detrimental to our economy and our country ➡️ <https://t.co/4SpcfoNUmu> [#KeystonePipeline](https://twitter.com/hashtag/KeystonePipeline?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

I will not back down. [pic.twitter.com/YuWz91fezV](https://t.co/YuWz91fezV)

— Texas Attorney General (@TXAG) [March 17, 2021](https://twitter.com/TXAG/status/1372308894756827139)

[WND reported in February](https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/biden-kills-keystone-promotes-pipeline-taliban/) that after canceling the pipeline permit, President Biden's administration began negotiating a deal between the Taliban and one of the world's worst dictatorships for a trans-national pipeline.

[T he personal impact of Biden's order was captured in an interview](https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/thousands-oil-gas-workers-feel-betrayed-joe-biden/) with longtime oil and gas industry workers David and Kristina Dickerson.

"I feel pretty betrayed," David, a 31-year veteran of the industry, [said in a "Fox & Friends" interview.](https://www.foxnews.com/us/oil-gas-workers-keystone-xl-pipeline-ripped-out)

A Fox Business Network feature showed the impact of the loss of thousands of jobs on towns from Canada to Texas.

*See the FBN report:*

**Tim McMillan, chief executive of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, told Reuters that Biden's action "is killing thousands of Canadian and American jobs at a time when both economies badly need private investme**nt" and wiped out equity investment in the pipeline by Canadian indigenous groups. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/21-states-sue-biden-revoking-keystone-pipeline/>

**EXC: West Point Hosted Chair Of Top Chinese Influence Org, Ran Exchange Programs With CCP-Run Colleges.**

[*March 17, 2021*](https://thenationalpulse.com/exclusive/westpoint-collabs-with-cusef-ccp-universities/)[*Natalie Winters*](https://thenationalpulse.com/author/natalie-winters/)

***The United States Military Academy at West Point hosted the Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party’s top propaganda effort that seeks to “influence foreign governments and other actors to take actions or adopt positions supportive of Beijing’s preferred policies” as a speaker, The National Pulse can reveal.***

The United States Military Academy (USMA) has also partnered with state-run Chinese universities – including institutions accused of doubling as espionage and cyberattack training grounds and Xi Jinping’s alma mater – on exchange programs.

What’s more, West Point leadership has visited the China-based schools to call for increased collaboration, including a former superintendent “inviting national defense students at Peking University to attend the annual military training and competition at USMA.” **MORE -** <https://thenationalpulse.com/exclusive/westpoint-collabs-with-cusef-ccp-universities/> **[What are these idiots thinking of? This is unconscionable. – rdb]**

**Commentary:**

**Democrats Want to Free Criminals, Open Borders and Lock Up Guns**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*March 17, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/03/democrats-want-to-free-criminals-open.html)

Senator Schumer began his pitch for gun control by falsely [claiming](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/schumer-senate-vote-gun-background-checks) that, "hundreds of thousands -- maybe millions -- of people walking the streets today because we passed [the 1994 Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act] would be dead."

The country hit an all-time high of 24,703 murders three years before the Brady Bill and even assuming that number had held steady in all the years since, we would be nowhere close to Schumer’s millions. Senator Schumer’s false claim that he saved millions of lives with his mostly useless background checks is typical of the lies that drive Democrat gun control hysteria.  
 Then Schumer topped that howler with an even bigger howler when he argued that, “We didn't know there would be an internet, so we didn't prohibit internet sales without a background check." Not only did the internet exist at the time, but Schumer had voted for the bills that had helped fund the development of the internet. If only he had known what he was voting for.  
 “No more hopes and prayers, thoughts and prayers. A vote is what we need, a vote, not thoughts and prayers,” Schumer sneered. No one ever accused Schumer of wasting time on thoughts and prayers when there was a camera or a vote. But what we need isn’t a vote.  
 What we need is for Democrats to stop freeing criminals and then complaining about guns.  
 The USA Today network [unleashed](https://pjmedia.com/instapundit/437491/) stories of shootings surging across the country through its local papers. The stories blame the increase in shootings on unemployment, inequity, and gun sales, not on the push by Democrats and the media to free criminals to save them from the coronavirus and the racist inequity of locking up murderers, rapists, and robbers behind bars.  
 The vast majority of shootings are carried out by gang members and other criminals associated with organized crime. Indeed, one of the USA Today stories noted that in Washington D.C., wearing masks [had led to shootings](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/mass-shootings-surge-in-ohio-as-nation-faces-record-high/ar-BB1empCH) because gang members couldn’t recognize their enemies.  
 "Those context cues are not visible with masks, so you don’t know who’s up on you until they’re right there. In neighborhoods with a lack of safety, that sort of fear leads to a lot of people carrying guns,” a member of a black community group explained.  
 Maybe Schumer can introduce a bill banning masks instead of trying to ban guns.  
 In 18 days, [416 people were shot](https://chicago.suntimes.com/2021/1/8/22216223/chicago-gang-violence-factions-shootings-andrew-papachristos?_ga=2.119864526.797137967.1615417172-93220413.1615417172) in Chicago in two neighborhoods involving 6% of the city's gang factions. A sociology professor was able to predict the likelihood of who would be shot next by using data from previous arrests. But Chicago Democrats had banned that sort of predictive science in favor of screaming about inanimate object violence even though their own police data [shows](https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/mayor/Press%20Room/Press%20Releases/2017/October/GTR2017.pdf) that, “in 95 percent of cases where CPD was able to identify the possessor of the crime gun, that individual was not the original, lawful purchaser of the firearm.”  
 Obviously, what’s needed in Chicago is another background check bill from Chuck Schumer.  
 A Los Angeles Times board editorial from September 2020 described a mass shooting at an illegal marijuana farm as a "sign of the times" and blamed the "presence of guns".  
 It didn't occur to the Times that the presence of criminals and drugs might have had a little to do with the shooting spree. Guns don’t tend to transport themselves to mass shootings. As the Times’ own reporting documented, the killing of 7 people by multiple shooters while leaving behind a thousand pounds of pot valued in the millions was the work of organized crime.  
 The region, in the words of the Times, is "favored by drug traffickers" and offers "a pool of potential couriers, and the U.S.-Mexican border — across, over and beneath which drugs and the proceeds of their sale flow". If only there were some sort of barrier there: perhaps a wall.  
 Mexican drug cartels don’t have any difficulty getting their hands on guns or heavy firepower. In Mexico, cartel gunmen with machine guns mounted on trucks had defeated the Mexican army in a battle that lasted for hours. If only Mexico had its own Schumer and more background checks.  
 Mexico has only one gun store and gun owners are only allowed to sell their guns back to the government. Licenses are fantastically expensive and hard to come by. But somehow, in the gun control utopia south of the border, criminals have machine guns mounted on trucks without any background checks. And they’re carrying out mass shootings in an America without walls.  
 The bad Democrat habit of only paying attention to crime involving guns, and only then to argue for tighter gun control, would be bad enough in an ordinary year, but is especially cynical in a year when its elected officials championed defunding the police and setting the criminals loose.  
 In San Francisco, progressive Soros DA Chesa Boudin boasts of never having prosecuted a single case. His office has managed [to secure only](https://twitter.com/TheMarinaTimes/status/1370041327426015233) 16 convictions since he took office, two of them for burglary, 2 for sexual assault, and he tried and failed to secure a conviction for a gun felony. Meanwhile his office racked up zero homicide convictions for a city with 47 murders.  
 Pro-crime prosecutors like Boudin in San Francisco, George Gascon in Los Angeles, and Larry Krasner in Philly backed by big lefty donors like Soros are the wave of the Democrat future,  
 In Philly, Mayor Jim Kenney, a Democrat, [blasted](https://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2020/03/31/philadelphia-mayor-jim-kenney-calls-for-da-larry-krasner-to-prosecute-more-gun-cases-as-shootings-homicides-up-20/) Krasner, the Soros DA, for refusing to prosecute criminals who violate gun laws.  
 “We need more people who are carrying guns on the street illegally and carrying guns with a record to be segregated from the community because that’s the reason why our shooting spike has happened and that’s why our homicide spike has happened,” Kenney complained.  
 “There has to be teeth. There needs to be consequences," Commissioner Danielle Outlaw, a black woman who had been hounded out of her job in Portland by Antifa, complained.  
 What’s the point of passing gun laws that won’t be enforced anyway? Just like in Mexico, these laws won’t keep guns out of the hands of criminals, but will keep people from being able to defend themselves against the criminals. Schumer isn’t about to get on the wrong side of Soros, of Netflix CEO Reed Hastings, or other big lefty donors to pro-crime DAs who protect criminals.  
 Gun control stopped being anything other than an obscene farce once Democrats entirely threw out the idea of fighting crime. The Democrat plan is to free criminals, open up borders, and then pass gun regulations to stop the influx of gang members coming out of prison and across the border from being able to buy the guns with which they plan to shoot each other.  
 Unexpectedly, criminals have ways of illegally getting hold of the things that they’re officially not supposed to have. Some might even say that’s the essence of their criminal profession.  
 Gun control is coming from the same Democrats who insist that banning drugs won’t prevent people from buying them anyway, but believe that banning guns will get them off the street.  
 It hasn’t worked in Mexico or Mexifornia, but somehow it’s going to work in America.  
 Democrats want to pass gun laws they won’t enforce to stop the criminals they won’t arrest. And then they sneer at “thoughts and prayers” as ineffectual compared to their awesome bills.  
 If police are evil and prisons are awful, then what are the new gun laws meant to accomplish?  
 Pelosi and Schumer would be better off finding a church and synagogue that won’t cause them to burst into flames when they try to pass its threshold and try a few prayers instead.  
 And then they can abandon their flirtation with criminals and stand with their victims instead.  
 Gun violence didn’t surge or spike, depending on which media buzzword you go with, because guns were somehow more available in the plague year. There was no gun surplus in 2020. If anything firearms and ammunition became more expensive. But there was a surplus of criminals unleashed by Democrat officials and prosecutors in cities across America.  
 The vast majority of serious crimes are committed by career criminals who have not been previously caught or charged, or by repeat offenders who have been in and out of prison.  
 Increasing the supply of guns doesn’t significantly increase crime because there are only a limited number of criminals or potential criminals out there. That’s why Switzerland and Israel, or Colonial America, aren’t and weren’t picking bodies off every street corner the way that Chicago is. But when you increase the supply of criminals, then you naturally get a lot more crime.  
 Democrats increased the supply of criminals by opening up prisons and the border. They tried to defund the police and they stood with pro-crime rioters against their own police forces. Their elected officials decriminalized everything from theft to drugs while their prosecutors pled down crimes and then watched as the criminals walked away thanks to criminal justice reform. They eliminated bail or fundraised to bail out criminals and then watched while they went on killing.  
 Pelosi and Schumer shouldn’t be too quick to dismiss thoughts and prayers. Considering how many people have died, were beaten or raped by the criminals set loose to terrorize cities, their souls could use a lot of those thoughts and prayers. Even more than those of their victims.

*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/)*.*

*Click*[*here to subscribe*](http://sultanknish.blogspot.com/2005/03/blogging-hara.html)*to my articles.* <http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/03/democrats-want-to-free-criminals-open.html>

**And then…**

**Why is our military choosing new enemies?   
*By Victor Davis Hanson*** *Published March 18, 2021*The U.S. military has turned its wrath inward on Fox News host Tucker Carlson.  
 Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin expressed his "revulsion" after Carlson questioned the role of women in combat. Keeping women mostly out of combat had been the U.S. military's centuries-long orthodoxy until just a few years ago.  
 Pentagon spokesman John Kirby even compared Carlson to the communist Chinese military.  
 "What we absolutely won't do is take personnel advice from a talk show host or the Chinese military," Kirby said.  
 The Department of Defense website further boasted in a headline, "Press Secretary Smites Fox Host."  
 So what was the biblically smitten Carlson's crime?  
 He objected to the military's fixation on race and gender in high-profile appointments — and questioned whether standards were relaxed to permit women in combat units.  
 Carlson objected that the U.S. Capitol is currently militarized. More troops are on guard against purported American "insurrectionists" than are currently serving in war zones in Afghanistan. He noted that far too many defense secretaries — he singled out Austin — rotate between corporate defense contractor boards and billets.  
 Carlson's subtext is that too many of our retired top brass virtue-signal their wokeness while seeking to make a great deal of corporate money from their prior (and often future) government service and contacts.  
 Aside from the fact that the military usually does not use its top officials to react to journalists, the Pentagon should try to refute Carlson rather than comparing him to the hostile Chinese. The Pentagon might instead seek to reassure the public that no physical standards for combat troops have been lowered to accommodate front-line soldiers of any gender.  
 Spokesman Kirby also could attempt to reassure the public that defense secretaries and top-ranking Pentagon officials have not recently served on the boards of defense contractors before or after their tenures. He might contend that defense budgets are not soaring due in part to administrative bloat and social welfare costs.  
 The Pentagon might also try to explain the ubiquitous barbed wire and troop presence in Washington — the greatest militarization of the nation's capital since Confederate general Jubal Early marched on Washington in July 1864.  
 No one arrested in the Jan. 6 Capitol assault was found to have used a firearm. No ringleaders were discovered to have been planning a coup. The dangerous riot was more likely a one-time assault than an "armed insurrection."  
 Last summer, during the civil unrest agitated in part by antifa and Black Lives Matter, more than 280 retired military officials and diplomats signed a letter blasting the idea that Donald Trump might send in federal troops to restore calm. They claimed the mere idea "risks sullying the reputation of our men and women in uniform in the eyes of their fellow Americans and of the world."  
 Yet none of the signees voiced objections to the presence of some 30,000 National Guard troops in Washington, D.C.  
 The military has announced it is now conducting an internal probe to root out American soldiers suspected of harboring supposedly dangerous ideas.  
 What is going on?  
 One, the left now dotes on what it envisions will soon be a woke military. It believes the chain of command can green-light progressive social changes — from women in combat units to timely displays of massive force on the streets of Washington — without bureaucratic red tape or opposition from Congress.  
 Two, federal agencies in therapeutic fashion now often dilute their traditional missions to accommodate social-awareness agendas. As NASA director, Charles Bolden, a retired Marine Corps major general, sought to reset the space agency under then-President Barack Obama.  
 "Perhaps foremost, he [Obama] wanted me to find a way to reach out to the Muslim world and engage much more with dominantly Muslim nations to help them feel good about their historic contribution to science, math and engineering," Bolden said.  
 "Feel good" does not ensure that rockets reach outer space.  
 Three, there grows a new class rift between the rank-and-file military and the Pentagon's top current and retired brass.  
 Increasingly, some brass spend extended tenures inside the Pentagon or within the Beltway, attached to the White House or Congress. They master the contours of the military-industrial complex and profit from them upon retirement. Many acquiesce to now-orthodox progressive ideology, which is omnipresent among federal bureaucracies and much of Congress.  
 Whereas all administrations used to prioritize traditional military preparedness, leftist administrations now see the military as a tool for accelerating their progressive domestic changes. The elite members of the military adjust, given that careers and promotions are either enhanced or sidetracked accordingly.  
 As a result, many of our top brass are far more politicized than in the past, and can grow more ideologically distant from lower-ranking officers and enlisted personnel.  
 The extraordinary, thin-skinned Pentagon effort to lump Tucker Carlson in with foes such as the Chinese is an illustration of this larger — and increasingly dangerous — pathology. <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0321/hanson031821.php3>

**And…**

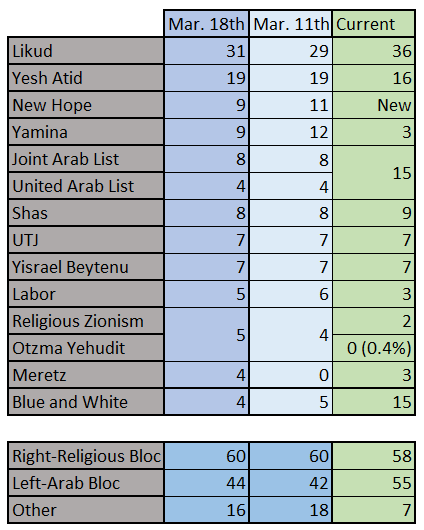
**H.R.1 – Is It Really "For the People"?  
*by*** [***Chris Farrell***](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Chris+Farrell) ***March 18, 2021 at 5:00 am***A lot has been written about H.R.1 -- the so-called "[For the People Act of 2021](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22hr1%22%5D%7D&r=1&s=1)." Former Vice President Mike Pence has [opined](https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/03/03/election-integrity-is-a-national-imperative/) on the bill. The Editorial Board of the *Wall Street Journal* sounded the [alarm](https://www.wsj.com/articles/pelosis-top-priority-consolidating-power-11610667245) back in January. The editors of National Review come right out and call it a "[partisan assault on American democracy](https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/03/h-r-1-is-a-partisan-assault-on-american-democracy/)."  
 H.R.1 purports to, "expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes." The Bill is 791 pages long.  
 Here are just a few of the more egregious federal power grabs in H.R.1 concocted against the 50 states that run elections under the U.S. Constitution:  
 Ban voter ID laws and allow ballot harvesting;  
 Expand Election Day to "election season" by mandating mail-in ballots be counted 10 days after the election would normally be over;  
 Automatic voter registration of people who apply for unemployment, Medicaid, Obamacare and college, or who are coming out of prison.  
 There is a lot more, and it gets worse. Substantially worse. There are First Amendment restrictions on political speech and on the support or opposition of a bill and/or a candidate. Remember: This is supposed to be "fortifying our democracy."  
 If you are interested in a "through the looking glass" [annotated analysis of H.R.1](https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/policy-solutions/annotated-guide-people-act-2021) -- then head over to the Brennan Center for Justice. They are happy to explain how those pesky constitutional rights can be whittled down to something more "fair" for everyone. For example, the Brennan Center analysis confidently assures readers about how H.R.1 "affirms Congress' power to protect the right to vote, regulate federal elections, and defend the democratic process in the United States." It seeks to airbrush Article I, Section 4 -- [The Elections Clause](https://encyclopedia.lexroll.com/encyclopedia/elections-clause/) -- from history and practice. The Clause directs and empowers states to determine the "Times, Places, and Manner" of congressional elections. H.R.1 would federally strangle the Elections Clause.  
 In order to find our way out, it is helpful to know how we got into this terrible predicament. The foundation for the madness of H.R.1 is legal positivism, a thesis, according to the [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/legal-positivism/), which states "that the existence and content of law depends on social facts and not on its merits."  
 H.R.1 is nearly 800 pages of meritless, militant, social engineering targeting the foundations of the U.S. Constitution, voting rights and political free speech -- all dressed-up as being "for the people."  
 Authoritarians -- socialists and communists of different stripes, geography and eras -- like to use legal positivism because it allows enormous latitude to design, implement and (especially) enforce whatever they dream up as the way things ought to be. What better way to design a worker's paradise? Or -- hypothetically, of course -- to make sure that a stolen election stays stolen, is never audited, and lays the groundwork for reproducible results for the next century?  
 It's neat and easy under legal positivism. Draft up a one-sided, detailed plan (loaded with outrageous schemes) of nearly 800 pages that NO ONE will read or understand. Ram it through the one-party legislature and have the same party's president sign it into law. Presto! -- cheating has become nice and "legal."  
 For readers who find this technique troubling, or wonder why it does not sound like the great tradition of debate and compromise described in our founding documents and political history, there is good reason. The United States was founded on a theory of [Natural Law](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/natural-law-theories/), which adheres to universal moral principles for ethical and legal norms of human conduct whether a particular government recognizes them or not -- that is, essentially, the antithesis of legal positivism. There are now generations of Americans who have never been exposed to these ideas.  
 The "mind wipe" of Americans for all that is authentic and real about the foundation of our country as a constitutional republic began through the education system. We allowed people like [Howard Zinn](https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/howard-zinns-debunking/) to dictate the historical framework for understanding who and what we are as Americans for millions of high schoolers and undergraduates. An intellectual diet of relativism, critical theory, deconstruction and subjectivity. That delegation of our educational standards was reckless, lazy and stupid. When you do not know any better, how can you act any better?  
 The co-opting and hollowing out of our education system is the main explanation for why and how we are wrestling with the loss of the Republic by legislative militancy, topped off with the Executive pen stroke.  
 This is terribly serious stuff and no one is telling you WHY you are losing. There is a lot of hand-wringing and outrage, and rightly so. But that nagging feeling tormenting you about why America seems to be slipping away -- and why everything you believed in is now being turned into a crime or a shaming social media joke -- well, no one is explaining that to you. Until now.  
 Now is the time to snap out of our Covid-induced somnolence and passivity. If President Joe Biden's election "victory" wasn't enough to get your attention -- then H.R.1 must be. Please let everyone influential know, clearly and politely, exactly what you think.  
 *Chris Farrell is a former counterintelligence case officer. For the past 20 years, he has served as the Director of Investigations & Research for Judicial Watch. The views expressed are the author's alone, and not necessarily those of Judicial Watch.* <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/17179/hr1-for-the-people>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Poll: Likud surges to 31 seats**

***Right-wing bloc one seat short of majority with 60 seats as Religious Zionist Party rises to 5 seats, tying with Labor.***

*David Rosenberg , Mar 18 , 2021 10:45 PM*

**With just five days to go until election day, a new poll shows the 24th Knesset deadlocked at 60-60.**

**The poll, conducted by Kantar, was broadcast by Kan Thursday night, and surveyed 1,406 respondents on Wednesday and Thursday**.

**If new elections were held today, the poll found, the right-wing – religious bloc would win 60 seats, compared to 44 for the left-wing** – Arab bloc, and 16 seats for right-of-center parties which have vowed not to sit with Prime Minister Netanyahu in a coalition government.

**The Likud gained two seats in the latest poll in compariso**n to the previous Kantar poll, which was released one week ago, rising to 31 seats. **[So how good were the polls in the 2016 US election? – rdb]**

**Yesh Atid held steady at 19 seats, while both Yamina and the New Hope party fell to nine seats eac**h.

The Joint Arab List received eight seats in the poll, with the United Arab List receiving four.

Among the haredi factions, Shas is projected to win eight seats, compared to seven for United Torah Judaism.

Yisrael Beytenu is also projected to win seven seats, the same number as in last week’s poll.

Labor fell from six seats to five, while Meretz rose from 0 to four. In last week’s poll, Meretz received 2.6% of the vote, below the 3.25% threshold.

Blue and White also received four seats, barely clearing the electoral threshold.

The Religious Zionist Party with Noam and Otzma Yehudit received five seats, up from four. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298796>

**Putin challenges Biden to live debate**

***Russian president calls on Joe Biden to hold online debate, after Biden called Putin 'a killer'.***

*Eitan Divinsky , Mar 18 , 2021 10:36 PM*

**RT reported that Russian President Putin challenged Joe Biden to an online debate a day after agreeing with an ABC News anchor that Putin was "a killer**."

“I would like to suggest to President Biden that we continue our discussion, but on the condition that we actually do it live, without any delays, directly in an open, live discussion,” Putin was quoted as telling Russia 24 TV.

Putin warned he "wouldn’t put this off for too long" and suggested Monday as a possible date.

Russia’s US ambassador has been recalled due to rising tensions between the two countries <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298795> **That would almost be worth watching for a great laugh. – rdb]**

**'Inquisition against the Jewish State at UN Human Rights Council'**

***Following UN Human Rights Council session, Wiesenthal Centre speaks out against 'inquisition' against Israel.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 19 , 2021 10:49 AM*

**The Wiesenthal Centre Director for International Relations and Observer to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Dr. Shimon Samuels, on Thursday sat through three excruciating hours of defamation of the State of I**srael.

Twenty-nine of the slanderous member-states were Muslim, including some Abraham Accords signatories: Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan and - an otherwise friend of Israel - Azerbaijan (speaking on behalf of the non-aligned members). These states committed a blood libel against the Jewish State.

**Only the United Arab Emirates made a more balanced statement**: “We wish to see two states at peace, Israel and Palestine side by side.”

After the High Commissioner for Human Rights introduction, the speaking order included the following Muslim states: Palestine, Syria, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Libya, Sudan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Senegal, Mauritania, Bangladesh, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Algeria, Lebanon, UAE, Oman, Djibouti, Tunisia, Yemen, Turkey.

The UNHRC presents, at each yearly session, “Item 7 - human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.” This item is an inquisition against Israel, since it singles it out as [the only country having its own “item.”](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/296485) **MORE -**<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298823>

**ICC gives Israel one month to seek deferral of probe**

***International Criminal Court gives Israel one month to prove it is carrying out its own investigations of "war crimes".***

*Elad Benari , Mar 19 , 2021 6:41 AM*

**The International Criminal Court (ICC) said on Thursday it has sent formal notices to Israel and the Palestinian Authority about its impending investigation into possible war crimes, giving them a month to seek deferral by proving they are carrying out their own investigations, The Associated Press report**ed.

The ICC prosecutor’s office confirmed in a written statement to *AP* that the letters were sent on March 9 to all of the court’s member states and those states that would normally exercise jurisdiction, including Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Israeli and PA officials declined to comment.

The ICC [officially announced](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297842) earlier this month its intention to launch a probe against Israel over alleged “war crimes” in PA-assigned areas of Judea and Samaria and in Gaza. **MORE -**<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298811>

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**Gad Elbaz - Hallelu**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIho_8kAG6A>

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| **It starts like a normal day**  **Can no longer distinguish**  **Why everyone is in a hurry**  **Tired but satisfied**  **Time is short and days go by**  **So why wait why worry**  **Go play day and night**  **Better to go crazy than that**  **The whole house of Israel already knows**  **Joy and rejoicing what an atmosphere**  **Takes a breath and thanks you**  **I will carry a cup of salvation and in the name of the Lord I will call**  **This is the Lord of all nations**  **In the presence of all the nations**  **This is the Lord of all nations**  **In the presence of all the nations** | **Light on the hills**  **Between the alleys**  **Sounds and melodies**  **Suddenly begins to discover**  **Sky of gold**  **Jerusalem Autumn morning**  **Something's happening now**  **It's not a coincidence or just a dream**  **We will change the world today**  **No one is going to go**  **Time is running out**  **In the clouds and there is no reason to go down**  **So why wait why worries**  **Go play days and nights**  **Better to go crazy than that**  **The whole house of Israel already knows**  **Joy and rejoicing what an atmosphere**  **Takes a breath and thanks you**  **I will carry a cup of salvation and in the name of the Lord I will call** | **This is the Lord of all nations**  **In the presence of all the nations**  **This is the Lord of all nations**  **In the presence of all the nations**  **For his mercy is upon us**  **And the truth of God to the world hallelujah**  **Thank God that is good**  **For his mercy endures forever**  **Thank God that is good**  **For his mercy endures forever**  **For his mercy is upon us**  **And the truth of God to the world hallelujah** |

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| **"Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us." -- Justice William O. Douglas (1898-1980), U. S. Supreme Court Justice** |

**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 22:1And it cometh to pass after these things that God hath tried Abraham, and saith unto him, `Abraham;' and he saith, `Here *am* I.' 2And He saith, `Take, I pray thee, thy son, thine only one, whom thou hast loved, even Isaac, and go for thyself unto the land of Moriah, and cause him to ascend there for a burnt-offering on one of the mountains of which I speak unto thee.' 3And Abraham riseth early in the morning, and saddleth his ass, and taketh two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and he cleaveth the wood of the burnt-offering, and riseth and goeth unto the place of which God hath spoken to him.**

**Emiratis said angry at Netanyahu for trying to use them in his election campaign**

***Facing backlash from UAE, Netanyahu denies he’ll visit Abu Dhabi before next week’s vote; premier has canceled trip to Gulf state several times***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:12 pm*

**The United Arab Emirates will not get involved in Israeli electioneering, an Emirati official said Wednesday, in pointed comments amid fresh speculation Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been seeking to visit the Gulf state ahead of next week’s electi**ons. **[Mercy! How could the UAE think that Bibi could do such a thing? Is it the fact that yesterday he put out another great blurb about more countries joining with Israel? – rdb]**

**The diplomatic dust-up appears to be the first public spat since relations** were forged last year between Abu Dhabi and Jerusalem. As the Emiratis voiced anger over the political implications of a possible Netanyahu visit, the premier denied Wednesday he would make the trip days before Israel’s national election. He called the idea “spin,” even as a Likud ministerial colleague said it was indeed a possibility. **[Just because an arab has a rag on his head doesn’t mean he is stupid and can’t discern probable motives. – rdb]**

Israel and the UAE established ties last year in a deal known as the Abraham Accords, a diplomatic coup for Netanyahu brokered by his staunch ally, former US president Donald Trump. Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco have since followed suit.

**Netanyahu, in power since 2009, has sought to burnish his credentials as Israel’s leading statesman as part of his reelection pitch ahead of March 23 po**lls.

**A UAE visit could have aided that effo**rt.

**“From the UAE’s perspective, the purpose of the Abrahamic Accords is to provide a robust strategic foundation to foster peace and prosperity with the State of Israel and in the wider regio**n,” tweeted Anwar Gargash, adviser to UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed.

**“The UAE will not be a part in any internal electioneering in Israel, now or ever,”** he said, without elaborating.

The **comments from Gargash, who until recently was the face of UAE diplomacy as its minister of state for foreign affairs, were unusually candid** for an Emirati official.

They came after Netanyahu last week [canceled](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-said-weighing-canceling-uae-trip-due-to-wifes-illness/) what would have been a historic visit to the UAE, citing a disagreement with Jordan over the premier crossing its airspace.

The trip to the UAE been planned for several months but postponed on numerous occasions, most recently in February. Netanyahu had originally been set to make the trip in November, then December, and then in January and February, but the pandemic, scheduling issues, and internal political crises led to repeated delays. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/emiratis-said-furious-at-netanyahu-for-trying-to-use-them-in-reelection-campaign/>

**Israeli soldiers begin early voting ahead of March 23 elections**

***Some IDF troops cast ballots to help speed up vote count, as many COVID-caused absentee ballots expected***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:18 pm*

**Israeli soldiers on Wednesday began casting their ballots ahead of the March 23 general election**s.

**Some 335 ballot boxes were stationed at military bases around the country for earlier voting, with polls open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Soldiers who chose to vote early could only do so Wednesd**ay.

**While most troops vote on election day, some soldiers voted early to help speed up ballot-counting, as military personnel use the “double envelope” system for absentee votes** that ensures their anonymity but is more time-consuming to count.

**Authorities expect a much higher rate of absentee votes this year because of the many Israelis in quarantine or hospitalized due to coronav**irus.

The early voting was held at the Central Elections Committee’s request, according to the Israel Defense Forces, which said 550 ballot boxes would be deployed at bases throughout Israel on election day.

**The start of voting in the military came after diplomats began filing their ballots last week, with the ambassador to New Zealand casting the first** vote.

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| ***[A soldier participates in early voting for the 24th Knesset at an IDF base, March 17, 2021 (IDF)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/whatsapp_image_2021-03-17_at_15.30.55.jpeg)***  ***A soldier participates in early voting for the 24th Knesset at an IDF base, March 17, 2021 (IDF)*** | ***Soldiers oversee early voting for the 24th Knesset on an IDF base, March 17, 2021 (IDF)*** |

**According to Israeli law, private citizens living abroad cannot vote unless they come to Israe**l, but exceptions are made for diplomats and their families.

The law against absentee voting caused controversy in recent weeks after Israel halted flights and barred international travelers due to the pandemic, stranding thousands of citizens abroad ahead of the election. The High Court of Justice ruled Wednesday that the restrictions on entry, which have since been slightly eased, [were unconstitutional](https://www.timesofisrael.com/high-court-annuls-daily-cap-on-number-of-citizens-allowed-to-return-to-israel/).

**The upcoming election is Israel’s second to take place under the shadow of the pandem**ic. The previous election, in March 2020, was held shortly after the coronavirus first reached the country, with several special polling stations serving the relatively few people who had then been suspected or confirmed to have contracted the virus or come in contact with confirmed carriers.

**Israel will fund special shuttles to polling stations for active COVID-19 patients during the upcoming vote, a top official said last week,** alongside further adaptations forced by the pandemic that will turn the election into the most expensive in the country’s history.

**Central Elections Committee (CEC) director Orly Adas also told reporters that dozens of buses will be converted into ballot stations** for people in quarantine and to lower crowding in certain polling stations.

**Adas added that the CEC was still devising a plan for how to count the ballots and verify the results, with the number of absentee ballots expected to be double the normal** amount.

The week-long Passover festival also poses a challenge, starting three days after the election. Adas said the goal is to complete the tally within two days.

The election is Israel’s fourth in under two years, amid an unprecedented political crisis that failed to produce a government after the first two votes in 2019 and yielded a short-lived unity government after the third. The vote is largely regarded as a referendum on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s leadership, including his handling of the coronavirus crisis and his trial on corruption charges. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-soldiers-begin-early-voting-ahead-of-march-23-elections/>

**Soldier who accidentally killed comrade charged with manslaughter**

***Staff Sgt. Yonatan Granot, 22, was shot in the head by a small munition normally used for riot dispersal; shooter aimlessly fired rifle toward a nearby hilltop, striking him***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 7:03 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/3141365-46.jpg)

***Staff Sgt. Yonatan Granot, killed by an apparent accidental discharge from another serviceman’s weapon on a base in the Jordan Valley (Courtesy)***

**An Israel Defense Forces soldier who accidentally shot and killed his comrade on a military base in the Jordan Valley last month was charged on Wednesday with reckless manslaught**er.

**The defendant, an officer on the base, shot 22-year-old Staff Sgt. Yonatan Granot of the Nahal Brigade on February 23. The bullet struck Granot in the head, critically injuring hi**m.

He was evacuated by helicopter to Jerusalem’s Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem for treatment and was pronounced dead three days later, on February 26.

**According to an indictment issued by military prosecutors, Granot was struck by a .22-caliber round for a Ruger rifle, a type of munition normally used for riot dispersa**l as it is considered less lethal than the larger caliber rounds typically used by the military.

לבית הדין הצבאי בקסטינה הוגש כתב אישום, במסגרתו מואשם לוחם מחטיבת הנח"ל בעבירה של המתה בקלות דעת. כתב האישום מתאר את הפעולות שעשה הלוחם בנשק, שהובילו לירי הקטלני שגרם למותו הטראגי של סמל-ראשון יונתן גרנות ז"ל. [@N12News](https://twitter.com/N12News?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

(בתמונה החייל עם סנגורו עו"ד רן כהן) [pic.twitter.com/KXrUtlUdFH](https://t.co/KXrUtlUdFH)

— אור רביד | Or Ravid (@OrRavid) [March 17, 2021](https://twitter.com/OrRavid/status/1372173046727983104?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Earlier that day, a number of soldiers had trained with the rifles. After they finished, they lay the rifles down in a line close to the base’s guard** post.

**According to military prosecutors, at around 10 p.m., the defendant, an officer at the base, picked up one of the rifles and looked through its scope, without checking to see whether or not it was** loaded.

“[The defendant] aimed the gun towards a hilltop within the camp… the defendant looked through the scope of the rifle and pulled the trigger,” prosecutors said.

The bullet killed Granot.

**As it was the second time in under a week that a soldier was shot on base,** the commander of the Israel Defense Forces’ Ground Forces halted all live-fire exercises until the military’s safety protocols are reviewed by all ground units, the military said at the time. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/soldier-who-accidentally-killed-comrade-charged-with-manslaughter/> **[This seems to be unusually careless for the IDF. In years past they were rigid about guns and their care. Perhaps as is happening in the USA where the Military is getting lax the same is occurring in Israel as well. – rdb]**

**Government said examining ways to curtail air travel despite court ruling**

***Virus czar slams High Court for striking down cap on number of Israelis permitted entry to country, warns it puts ‘the encouraging morbidity figures at risk’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:44 pm*

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| [Passengers walk in the arrivals hall at the Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv on March 8, 2021. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/Untitled-8-1.jpg)  ***Passengers walk in the arrivals hall at the Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv on March 8, 2021. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)*** | ***Coronavirus czar Nachman Ash at Ben Gurion Airport on March 1, 2021. (Tomer Neuberg/Flash90)*** |

**Israel’s national coronavirus czar criticized the High Court of Justice’s decision Wednesday to scrap restrictions on citizens entering the country, as the government was reportedly working to formulate new limitations on tra**vel.

**The ruling came less than a week before the March 23 elections and after nearly two months in which Israelis have been unable to freely return ho**me.

**Nachman Ash said the decision could allow “dangerous variants” of COVID-19 into the country,** undermining Israel’s recent gains in combating the pandemic.

“It is unfortunate that we are now putting the encouraging morbidity figures at risk. The High Court decision is likely to bring Israel closer to a high wave of morbidity,” he said in a statement. **[HUMMMM? Interesting way to put this. Does the state exist to protect the rights of individuals or the numbers on a piece of paper, particularly interesting when many of them may not be total accurate in the first place like those in the USA which are greatly inflated. – rdb]**

**Deputy Health Minister Yoav Kisch and Knesset Speaker Yariv Levin, both members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud party, also slammed the ruling**.

“The High Court is taking responsibility for the risk of mutations entering Israel. Good luck to us,” Kisch wrote on Twitter.

**Levin attacked the ruling in an interview Army Radio, decrying the fact that “judges come and say ‘We’ll endanger all your lives for a constitutional principle from a non-existent prin**ciple.’” **[Non-existant principle? What about a so called disease that has a 99.9+ % recovery rate – IF you will allow people to have HCQ and treat them early. This is beginning(?) to stink very bad. – rdb]**

But some health officials praised the High Court ruling.

**“The solution to the variant problem is tests and quarantine alongside enforcement, not a hermetic closu**re. I say this based on what other countries have done,” Lion Poles, a member of the Health Ministry’s pandemic team, told the Ynet news site.

**The head of the coronavirus ward at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem in Jerusalem also said he did not believe the restriction on entry was needed** and that travelers should be tested before boarding and upon landing.

“We don’t want to prohibit the entry of people but do it in accordance with… the [quarantine] guidelines,” Dror Mevorach was quoted as saying.

An anonymous Health Ministry official called the ruling “idiotic” and said the judges “stabbed us in the back.”

“Everyone’s an epidemiologist now,” the official fumed to the news site.

Another unnamed source told Channel 13 that the judges had “gone off the rails,” but Itamar Grotto, the former deputy director-general of the Health Ministry, told the network the ruling was appropriate.

According to Channel 12 news, government officials were weighing alternatives after the High Court ruled the restrictions must end Saturday, including raising the number of Israelis allowed to enter per day to 6,000-8,000.

**Officials have already held several meetings on the issue and the network said the government could approve new restrictions that apparently would pass muster with the cour**t. It said no official decision has been reached.

**Airlines also appeared set to increase flights to and from Israel after the High Court ordered the removal** of the daily cap of 3,000 Israelis permitted to enter the country each day.

United Airlines said it will resume regular service with 13 flights a week from Newark and San Francisco to Tel Aviv. Israeli airlines Israir, Arkia and El Al were also expected to announce the return of multiple routes, Hebrew media reports said.

**In the High Court ruling, the justices said the current cap of 3,000 returning citizens per day disproportionately violates civil rights due to its sweeping and extended nature and since the regulations weren’t imposed based on concrete data and informat**ion.

Chief Justice Esther Hayut and justices Neal Hendel and Yitzhak Amit said the limitations as a whole “violate the basic constitutional right to enter and exit Israel, and others rights at the core of the democratic fabric of life.”

They ruled that aggravating factors are the proximity to the March 23 elections, the duration in which the restrictions have been in place without respite, the fact that they were imposed without significant prior notice, and the lack of a clearly stated date for their end.

 **The court added that “the threat of the coronavirus and its different variants isn’t expected to disappear in the foreseeable future, despite the success of the vaccination drive.” It called for a better balance between minimizing the threat of new strains entering the country and violating basic rights**.

Israel’s land and air gateways have been largely closed since January 25, leaving thousands unable to return, in an effort to prevent the potential arrival of coronavirus variants immune to the current vaccines. The country last week eased restrictions on air travel to the country, enabling thousands of citizens to return home.

***Passengers arriving on a flight from Frankfurt are given electronic monitoring bracelets to ensure they don’t violate quarantine. at Ben Gurion Airport, March 1, 2021. (Tomer Neuberg/Flash90)***

**Also Wednesday, the Knesset gave final approval to a law bill requiring those returning to Israel to self-isolate at home with an electronic bracelet or other technological mean**s.

The proposal passed its first reading last week and was then approved by the Constitution, Law and Justice Committee.

The bracelet will be worn on either the wrist or the ankle and monitor the wearer’s location via Bluetooth and GPS, connected to a provided cellphone.

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

A previous law forcing returnees to stay in government-run quarantine hotels expired earlier this month, sending travelers home, where they are subject to police checks on their whereabouts. The punishment for violating the rules is a fine of NIS 5,000 ($1,500).

Travelers carrying documentation showing they have completed a two-shot virus vaccination or those who have recovered from the virus can skip quarantine, provided they take a virus test just before the flight and on arrival in the country, with both tests being negative. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/> **[The management and actions of the Israeli government with this issue is really a disgrace. It is so apparent that this was completely contrived to only allow one method of management because of INVOLUNTARITLY enlisting all the people of the land as guinea pigs for a trial of a treatment that is completely experimental and has a very questionable history which tried in experiments in the past. It is definitely against the Nuremburg documents. – rdb]**

**Internal Biden memo said to back 2-state solution along 1967 lines**

***Plans for ‘reset’ of PA ties include rollback of Trump policies legitimizing settlements, $15 million in COVID-related aid to Palestinians***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *17 March 2021, 9:28 pm*

**The Biden administration will reportedly push for a two-state solution based on the pre-1967 lines, with mutually agreed upon land swaps, reinstating US policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to more traditionally held positions than those of former president Donald Tru**mp.

**A** [**memo**](https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/the-americas/the-national-obtains-us-official-document-for-palestinian-reset-1.1186342) **titled “The US Palestinian Reset and the Path Forward,” which was revealed Wednesday to the Abu Dhabi-based The National, also showed that the Biden administration is planning on announcing a $15 milli**on aid package in coronavirus-related humanitarian assistance for the Palestinians as early as this month.

**Drafted by Deputy Assistant Secretary for Israeli and Palestinian Affairs Hady Amr, the memo also details plans to roll back various Trump policies that Washington believes made reaching a two-state solution** more difficult, such as US legitimization of the settlement enterprise.

**Amr recommends in the memo that the White House back a two-state framework “based on the 1967 line**s with mutually agreed land swaps and agreements on security and refugees.”

While behind closed doors, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has participated in peace negotiations based on the 1967 lines, publicly the formula is not very popular in Israel, particularly among the right wing, which is expected to further expand in the Knesset after next week’s election.

The memo discusses “rolling back certain steps by the prior administration that bring into question our commitment or pose real barriers to a two-state solution, such as country of origin labeling.”

The memo was referring to a last-minute policy change announced by Trump’s secretary of state Mike Pompeo, which requires all US exports from the settlements to be labeled as having been “made in Israel.”

Since 1995, US policy had required products made in the West Bank and Gaza to be labeled as such. That directive was republished in 2016 by the Obama administration, which warned that labeling goods as “made in Israel” could lead to fines. Prior to the Oslo Accords, however, all products manufactured in these areas were required to mention Israel in their label when exporting to the United States. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/internal-biden-memo-said-to-back-2-state-solution-aid-for-palestinians/>

**In breakthrough, Israelis grow hundreds of mouse embryos in artificial wombs**

***Scientists say groundbreaking method could lead to human gestation outside the womb; new insight into organ formation could spur other advances; fetuses have fully formed organs***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 6:02 pm*

**Israeli scientists have grown 250-cell embryos into mouse fetuses with fully formed organs using artificial wombs, in a development they say could pave the way for gestating humans outside the wom**b.

**“We have grown hundreds of mice in this way, in a method that has taken seven years to develop**, and I’m still captivated every time I see it,” stem cell biologist Prof. Jacob Hanna of the Weizmann Institute of Science told The Times of Israel.

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| ***[A mouse embryo grows in the artificial womb at the Weizmann Institute of Science (courtesy of the Weizmann Institute of Science)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/Screen-Shot-2021-03-17-at-17.04.30.png)***  ***A mouse embryo grows in the artificial womb at the Weizmann Institute of Science (courtesy of the Weizmann Institute of Science)*** | ***The Weizmann Institute of Science’s new artificial womb (courtesy of the Weizmann Institute of Science)*** |

**“This could be relevant to other mammals including humans, though we acknowledge that there are ethical issues related to growing humans** outside the body,” he said. **[Are the ethical issues only when they start applying it to humans? I guess it is OK to play god whenever you want to just for the fun of it. I certainly understand the desire to ‘improve things” with genetic manipulation but I am not always so sure that it is a smart thing to do. I am old enough and old fashioned enough to have the idea that when God created things he did it for HIM purpose the way HE wanted it. We really have a very poor idea of what the long term effects may be of all of our strange manipulations. – rdb]**

Hanna said that his research will advance understanding of organ formation in mammals — and could facilitate medical advances — as it allows unprecedented views of the process unfolding, unconstrained by the need to image the inside of the uterus.

His breakthrough was revealed on Wednesday in the peer-reviewed journal Nature.

**While scientists have been trying for decades to grow mammals outside the body, success has been limited to** either very early-stage embryos that are grown in a lab for a short period or fetuses that were removed from the womb once their organs are formed and then grown in a lab.

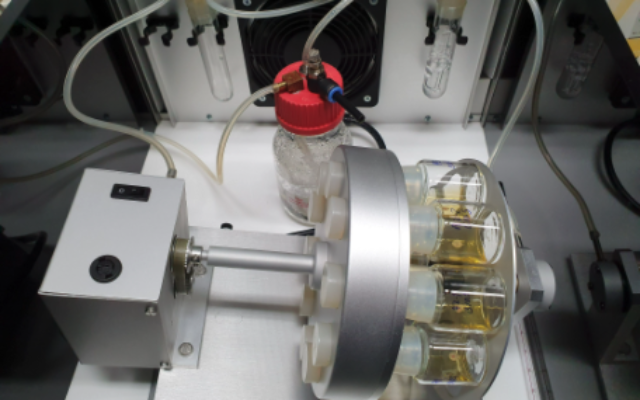
When the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia [created an artificial womb in 2017](https://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms15112) that successfully grew fetal lambs for over four weeks, the lambs already had their organs at the start of the experiment.



***Prof. Jacob Hanna (Courtesy)***

**But Hanna started with embryos consisting just of stem cells, and watched “with amazement” as the organs of the mice — animals that have a speedy gestation of just 19 days — grew in front of his** eyes.

“We took mouse embryos from the mother at day five of development, when they are just of 250 cells, and had them in the incubator from day five until day 11, by which point they had grown all their organs.

“By day 11 they make their own blood and have a beating heart, a fully developed brain. Anybody would look at them and say, ‘this is clearly a mouse fetus with all the characteristics of a mouse.’ It’s gone from being a ball of cells to being an advanced fetus.”

***Embryo bottles spin in the Weizmann Institute of Science’s artificial womb (courtesy of the Weizmann Institute of Science)***

The fetuses were healthy but died at 11 days, as this is currently the longest they can develop in the artificial womb and they can’t be transplanted back into a mice uterus. But Hanna hopes to develop his technology to take mice to full term.

**His method involves placing the embryos in a special liquid to nourish embryo cells in a laboratory dish** and getting them to float on the liquid. With this step, they succeeded in duplicating the first stage of embryonic development, in which the embryo grows tenfold.

“The key to our success is that we have developed this special incubator system in which each embryo is in a bottle with liquid, and the bottle is spinning to ensure it doesn’t attach to the side. The incubator creates all the right conditions for its development.

“What made this possible is the seven-year journey which has seen us develop the liquid, which really gives the embryo all the nutrients, hormones and sugars they need, and the incubator, a custom-made electronic device which controls gas concentration, pressure and temperature.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-major-breakthrough-artificial-israeli-womb-turns-250-cells-into-mouse-fetus/>

**Palestinian Authority receives 61,440 vaccine doses through WHO program**

***Allocated through UN-backed COVAX initiative for poor countries, the vaccines arrive in Ramallah via Israel’s Ben Gurion Airport***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 1:24 pmUpdated at 1:48 pm*

**Around 61,440 doses of coronavirus vaccine earmarked for the Palestinian Authority reached Ramallah on Wednesday after arriving in Ben Gurion airport earlier the same** day.

**“The delivery of the vaccines is now making its way to the Beitunia Crossing, facilitated by the Unit for Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), a**nd will be handed over to representatives of the PA,” an Israeli Defense Ministry official said.

**An AFP journalist confirmed the doses’ subsequent arrival in Ramalla**h.

**Ramallah is receiving the doses through COVAX, a global vaccine program for poor and middle-income countries backed by the World Health Organization**. The program aims to provide enough free doses to immunize up to 20 percent of a participating country’s population; around 90 countries have signed up for the program.

**The Palestinian Authority said that vaccination would begin on Sunday, primarily for those aged over 75**, cancer patients and medical personnel.

Around 37,440 of the vaccines that arrived on Wednesday were Pfizer vaccines, while the remaining 24,000 were AstraZeneca vaccines, said a spokesperson for the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The UN agency plays a key role in vaccinating Palestinians, especially in the Gaza Strip.

Vaccine doses from [#COVAX](https://twitter.com/hashtag/COVAX?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) arrived today, ahead of Palestine MoH’s official launch of its National Vaccine Deployment Plan this Sunday. 61,440 vaccine doses for both [#Gaza](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Gaza?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) and [#WestBank](https://twitter.com/hashtag/WestBank?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw). [#PlayYourRole](https://twitter.com/hashtag/PlayYourRole?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw), protect others – [#GetVaccinated](https://twitter.com/hashtag/GetVaccinated?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/vrbKcunkHE](https://t.co/vrbKcunkHE)

— UNICEF Palestine (@UNICEFpalestine) [March 17, 2021](https://twitter.com/UNICEFpalestine/status/1372110664093798402?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Some 20,000 doses from the shipment was to be sent to Gaza later in the day,** the Israeli Defense Ministry official said.

**COVAX intends to eventually provide about 400,000 AstraZeneca shots to the Palestinian**s, according to UNICEF. The vaccine has become controversial in recent days due to suspected side effects; in a few rare cases, some of those vaccinated developed blood clots.

**While it is still unclear whether the clots are connected to the vaccine, several European countries have decided to** [**suspend their use of the AstraZeneca shots**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/major-european-nations-suspend-use-of-astrazeneca-vaccine-over-blood-clot-fears/) **in their vaccine campaign. Pa**lestinian health officials indicated that they would also follow such a policy.

**“We will hold onto the AstraZeneca doses until there is a scientific opinion on the matter** by the World Health Organization,” PA Health Minister Mai al-Kaila told Voice of Palestine Radio on Wednesday.

Israel has surged ahead in immunizing its population, but Palestinians have yet to see a public vaccination campaign.

Health officials in Gaza have also received around 60,000 Russian Sputnik V vaccines funded by the United Arab Emirates. They have also received around 2,000 Sputnik doses from the Palestinian Authority.

**Israel has also begun vaccinating Palestinians who work in Israel**, sending medical teams to operate at checkpoints and industrial zones in the West Bank. According to the Israeli military body that handles Palestinian civil affairs, over 90,000 Palestinian workers have received one dose of a coronavirus vaccine.

**The Palestinian Authority has independently contracted with several providers — including AstraZeneca, Russia and China — to acquire doses, but very few have arriv**ed.

Palestinian Authority officials have repeatedly set public deadlines for the vaccines’ arrival, only to see them fall through. Late January, early February, mid-February, and early March were all named as potential arrival dates for major vaccine shipments, but none came to fruition.

**Before Wednesday’s shipment, the PA had only received about 12,000 vaccines: 2,000 Moderna vaccines from Israel and 10,000 doses of the Russian Sputnik V vaccin**e. Around 2,000 of those were sent to Gaza, with another 200 sent to Jordan, according to the PA Health Ministry.

The remaining 9,800 vaccines were allocated to the West Bank, the Health Ministry said. But accusations of nepotism and corruption have dogged their distribution, with a substantial number of shots reportedly going to those close to government officials rather than to healthcare workers. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-authority-set-to-receive-61440-vaccine-doses-through-who-program/> [**With several million people in the “PA” and Hamas groups they will have to cough up a whole lot more of the Jab if the WHO goal of having everyone vaccinated. – rdb]**

**Abbas rival Dahlan says president failed Palestinians**

***Speaking to Al-Arabiya, the exiled former Abbas ally, Gaza strongman accuses Fatah of silencing opponents, citing expulsion of Arafat's nephew; did not announce his candidacy for upcoming elections***

*AFP | Published: 03.17.21 , 20:46*

**Mohammed Dahlan, a former top Palestinian official exiled in the United Arab Emirates, branded his rival president Mahmoud Abbas a failed leader in an interview Wednesday ahead of Palestinian ele**ctions. **Speaking to Saudi Arabia's Al-Arabiya channel, the Gaza-born Dahlan did not announce his candidacy to replace Abbas but voiced his commitment towards the "governing of the Palestinian people**".



*Former Fatah Security Chief Mohammed Dahlan (Photo: Reuters)*

**"Under Abbas's reign, divisions grew stronger and living conditions became deplorable," Dahlan told the channel in an interview conducted in Abu Dha**bi, where he is a security adviser to UAE strongman Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

**Abbas, who took power following the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, "failed to do what he promised"**, Dahlan said.

**"All (Abbas) cares about is staying in power, tormenting his oppo**nents and silencing those with opposing views," Dahlan said.

**He cited the decision by Fatah, Abbas's movement that controls the Palestinian Authority, to expel Arafat's nephew Nasser al-Kidwa, after he announced plans to challenge Abbas in the upcomin**g vote.

**The Palestinians have called legislative elections for May 22 and a presidential vote on July 31**, their first elections in 15 years.

Abbas and Dahlan were allies when Palestinians last went to the polls.

Dahlan had been Fatah's security chief in Gaza but after the coastal enclave fell to Hamas Islamists in 2007 their relationship fractured.

**Convicted of corruption by a Palestinian court, Dahlan moved to UAE a decade ago but has sought to raise his profile in the Palestinian territories in recent** months.

 He has personally overseen the delivery of the Russian-made Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine into the Gaza Strip, describing them as a gift from UAE.

**He said his goal is to respond to the desires of the Palestinian people for chan**ge.

***A truck loaded with Russian-made Sputnik V doses from the UAE arrives in the Gaza Strip via the Rafah crossing with Egypt (Photo: AFP)***

"Nobody will stop me, even if it is someone important," he told Al-Arabiya.

"I don't mind being controversial. What matters to me is work, success and the governing of the Palestinian people."

The 85-year-old Abbas has not indicated whether he intends to run again.

Fatah, which controls the West Bank, and Hamas are long-term rivals but have reached an agreement to hold elections in both Palestinian territories. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/SJtJjpkEu>

**ISIS in Mozambique 'beheading' children, reports say**

***"One mother told the agency she had had to watch as her 12-year-old son was killed in this way close to where she was hiding with her other children."***

*By* [*SETH J. FRANTZMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/seth-j-frantzman) *MARCH 17, 2021 14:59*



***ISIS fighter beheading boy, 16, in Syria (photo credit: ARAB MEDIA)***

**ISIS-linked extremists are reportedly beheading children in** [**Mozambique**](https://www.jpost.com/tags/mozambique)**, the BBC claimed on Wednesda**y.

**The global jihadist movement has largely been defeated in the Middle East, but the genocidal Islamist extremism that it once sought to bring to Iraq and Syria is now being carried out in areas in Africa. For many years, various groups linked to Al Qaeda or Islamist extremists percolated across the Sahel and in Somalia. They have now spread down to Mozambique and its Cabo Delgado region**.

**When claims of ISIS extremists infiltrating and taking root in Mozambique first appeared years ago, some scoffed at the notion.** This was the same narrative that cast doubt on Boko Haram in Nigeria. In 2012 an article at *The New York Times* claimed that there was no proof that a “well-organized, ideologically coherent terrorist group called Boko Haram even exists.”

**But exist it did – and within two years it was not only murdering thousands but was kidnapping women and children, much as ISIS did in Iraq. S**oon it had pledged allegiance to ISIS.

**Experts across the Sahel and Central Africa, most of them European, tend to see the conflicts as linked to economic or “tribal” issues** and try to deny that religion plays a role. This is because of the usual tendency to turn ISIS-linked groups into “militants” or “insurgents,” despite methods like beheading and targeting of religious non-Muslim minorities that are more similar to the methods of the Nazis than insurgencies.

**It now appears that the ISIS-linked group in Mozambique, called “Al-Shabab” like a similarly named group in Somalia, is involved in the beheadings of childre**n. Aid agency “Save the Children” has said that the beheadings have taken place, the BBC reported Wednesday.

**“One mother told the agency she had had to watch as her 12-year-old son was killed in this way close to where she was hiding with her other children. More than 2,500 people have been killed and 700,000 have fled their homes** since an Islamist insurgency began in 2017,” the reports say.

The reports do not say why people are being beheaded. [Boko Haram](https://www.jpost.com/tags/boko-haram) has targeted Christians and also Muslims in mosques in its campaign. ISIS also slaughtered Sunni Muslim Bedouin tribes and massacred Shi’ites before it turned its attention to ethnically-cleansing Christians and genociding Yazidis.

**The overall context of the beheadings may be hidden by organizations and media that have an interest in not wanting the conflict to be perceived as “religious,” because of the need to pretend it is largely just economics that drives the brutality. The use of beheading tends to be a religious motif of Islamist groups, a stylized method of killing “infidels**.”

THE BBC notes that the United Nations special rapporteur on extra-judicial executions described the militants' actions as "cruel beyond words." The narrative of others is that ISIS has “exploited” a local “insurgency.” As the BBC notes: “Some analysts believe the insurgency's roots lay in socio-economic grievances, with many locals complaining that they have benefited little from the province's ruby and gas industries.” **[This entire concept is just heinous. These critters are simply demonic and agents of the Satan. – rdb]**

**It is unclear why beheading children would help economic “grievance**s.” However, in Iraq in 2014 we were also told that ISIS was genociding poor minorities because ISIS members, many of them from wealthy countries in Europe, were “disenfranchised.” For instance, one leader of a “human rights” group in the West noted on June 11, 2014, that ISIS in Iraq had “reportedly tried not to alienate local population” and accused the Iraqi government of "sectarian repression."

**ISIS drove millions from their homes, systematically executed thousands of Yazidis and kidnapped and sold into slavery Yazidi women and children. It was unclear how committing** genocide is not an act of alienating local people.

As with Mozambique, lack of information about the true beliefs of ISIS members and their world view and tactics led to false reports about what they were doing. It is not clear if the full details about what is happening in Cabo Delgado will reveal a conflict that could impact the wider region, or whether the beheadings and murders will remain confined to the area. A relatively weak security infrastructure has led to reports that military contractors or “mercenaries” are being hired to fight the extremists.

**In February, an Italian ambassador was killed in an unrelated conflict in the Congo. France is involved in a wide-ranging battle against extremists in the Sahel**. This week armed men murdered 58 people in Niger, in another atrocity that went largely unnoticed.

Reports at *The New York Times* and Vice say that South African and American “mercenaries” are involved. Some claim these fighters are also committing abuses. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic and other reasons that lead countries not to care about what happens in swaths of Africa, the conflict may continue until it threatens a regional capital. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/isis-in-mozambique-beheading-children-reports-say-662293>

**Russia recalls US envoy after Biden calls Putin a ‘killer’**

***Moscow says it wants to avoid an ‘irreversible deterioration’ in relations, accuses Washington of having driven ties ‘into a dead end in recent years’***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 8:35 pm*

MOSCOW **— Russia said Wednesday it had summoned its Washington ambassador to Moscow for consultations on its ties with the United States, but stressed it wanted to prevent an “irreversible deterioration” in relations**.

**The announcement from the Russian foreign ministry came after US President Joe Biden said Russia would “pay a price” for meddling in US elections and he agreed with the assessment that his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin is a “kille**r.”

**“The Russian ambassador in Washington, Anatoly Antonov, has been invited to come to Moscow for consultations conducted with the aim of analyzing what should be done and where to go in the context of ties with the United** States,” Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

Zakharova said the most important thing for Moscow was to determine how to mend Russian-US ties “that have essentially been driven by Washington into a dead end in recent years.”

**She said Russia was interested in preventing the bilateral relations’ “irreversible deteriorati**on if Americans understand the risks associated with it.”

**The foreign ministry did not reference Biden’s remarks on Putin, but said Moscow wanted to analyze the results** of Biden’s first 100 days in office.

In an interview with ABC News broadcast on Wednesday, Biden was asked about a declassified US intelligence report that said Putin tried to harm his candidacy in the November 2020 election and promote that of his rival Donald Trump.

“He will pay a price,” the 78-year-old Biden said.

Asked if he thought Putin, who has been accused of poisoning political opponents, is a “killer,” Biden said: “I do.”

The statement marked a stark contrast with Trump’s steadfast refusal to say anything negative about the Russian president.

Also on Wednesday, the US government announced that it would expand the export restrictions imposed on Russia earlier this month as punishment for the poisoning of jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

The new measures, effective Thursday, prevent export to Russia of more items controlled for national security reasons, including some technology, software and parts, the Commerce Department said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/russia-recalls-us-envoy-after-biden-calls-putin-a-killer/> **[Sleepy Joes seems to be stepping in a number of cow pies since he stole office. – rdb]**

**Families sending children alone across border due to Biden policy**

[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/immigrant-caravan.jpg)***More than 13,000 unaccompanied minors in custody***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published March 17, 2021 at 3:08pm*

***Immigrants from Central America making their way to the U.S. border (Screenshot CNN)***

**Central American families whose asylum claims have been rejected are exploiting Biden administration rules, sending their children alone across the border because unaccompanied minors won't be turned aw**ay.

**A person familiar with discussions at the Department of Homeland Security, confirming an NBC News report, said the loophole is putting the children at risk**, [the Washington Examiner reported](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/children-alone-cross-border-response-to-biden-policies).

**Last month, 8,000 of the more than 18,000 family units that illegally came across the border were sent bac**k, according to federal data.

**In January, the Biden administration chose not to return unaccompanied children f**rom the border as the Trump administration had done.

***13,000 children in custody***

[CBS News reported](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-migrant-children-border-patrol-custody/), **citing sources, that more than 13,000 unaccompanied migrant children are now in U.S. custody**.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, who has refused to call the surge a "crisis," acknowledged Tuesday that more migrants are crossing the border than at any time in the last 20 years.

**He called the the situation "difficu**lt."Bottom of Form

"We are expelling most single adults and families. We are not expelling unaccompanied children," Mayorkas said in a statement.

**The unaccompanied minors are being held an average of 120 hours in Border Patrol facilities**, which is far longer than the 72 hours allowed by law, CBS reported.

Reporter Mireya Villarreal spoke to a 10-year-old Honduran boy who was walking alone. The boy said he had traveled to the Texas border without any family.

*See the CBS News report:*

***‘Gag order’***

**The Biden administration is restricting the information Border Patrol agents and sector chiefs can share with the media**, [according to four current and two former Customs and Border Protection officials who spoke with NBC News](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/biden-administration-limits-what-border-patrol-can-share-media-about-n1261133).

**The officials said colleagues refer to the restriction as a "gag order." NBC News said requests for access to, or photo**s from, inside overcrowded border processing facilities holding unaccompanied migrant children have been denied.

**The network noted that at the height of the Trump administration’s child separation policy in June 2018, officials allowed media to tour facilities where the children were hel**d.

***‘Immediately surge to the border***

**In a Democratic primary debate in September 2019 focused on immigration, Biden said that under the Obama-Biden administration "we didn't lock people up in** cages."

Biden said that if elected, he would "make sure that we immediately surge to the border all those people who are seeking asylum."

"They deserve to be heard. That's who we are. We're a nation that says if you want to flee, and you're fleeing opression, you should come."

He also said he would also reverse a Trump policy that barred domestic abuse as justification for granting asylum.

Asylum seekers must establish that they fear persecution in their home country and prove they would be persecuted on the basis of at least one of five protected grounds: race, religion, nationality, political opinion or social group. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/families-sending-children-alone-across-border-due-biden-policy/> [**Anyone who believes much in the way of political rhetoric, particularly when it comes from a demon-rat is foolish and undiscerning. – rdb]**

**Court: State official violated law with ballot-counting instructions**

***Michigan secretary of state ordered counters to assume signatures were valid***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published March 17, 2021 at 11:15am*

**A judge in Michigan has ruled a Democratic state official violated state law by ordering during the 2020 vote count that clerks must assume a signature on an absentee ballot is va**lid.

**The ruling Monday changed no election results but it bolstered  the complaints filed by President Trump's campaign and his allies in battleground states that officials opened the door to fraud by violating safeguards in state election l**aws.

**Many cases argued that the U.S. Constitution grants sole authority to state legislatures to establish election la**ws.

**In the Michigan case, Judge Christopher Murray of the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled that Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson broke state** law.

**The state requires that absentee voters sign an application for the ballot** and then sign the return envelope before mailing the ballot.

Signatures that do not "agree sufficiently" are "to be rejected," the law states.

[Constitutional scholar Jonathan Turley noted](https://jonathanturley.org/2021/03/17/court-rules-michigan-secretary-of-state-broke-state-law-on-absentee-ballot-guidelines-before-2020-election/comment-page-1/) the case centered on "a core issue raised by the Trump campaign in its election challenges." Bottom of Form

The Michigan court found, Turley explained, that the instructions on the signature-matching requirements amounted to a "rule" and were subject to the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act, which Benson ignored.

**She ordered that "clerks should presume that a voter's application or envelope signature is his or her genuine signature," even though there may be "an apparent mism**atch."

Benson even offered "hypothetical explanations for why signatures on absent voter ballot applications and absent voter ballots might not be an exact match," the judge wrote.

**The judge pointed out that the instructions apparently still are in effect for future election**s.

The state had contended that the case was moot because the election was over. Officials also argued that Benson could change the instructions.

**But the judge said, "Those issues concern the validity of guidance that is still in effect … or an audit … that, according to the plain text … may be requested after the election has occur**red."

**And the judge explained, "Nowhere in this state's election law has the legislature indicated that signatures are to be presumed valid, nor did the legislature require that signatures a**re to be accepted so long as there are any redeeming qualities in the application or return envelope signature as compared with the signature on file.

"Here, defendant issued a mandatory directive and required local election officials to apply a presumption of validity to all signatures on absent voter ballot applications and on absent voter ballots. The presumptions if found nowhere in statute."

Absent compliance, the "'rule' is invalid," the judge said.

**A reader of Turley's website, Steve Witherspoon, asked: "How many of President Trump's claims about election irregularities, illegal activities of election officials, and fraud have been proven correct n**ow?" <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/court-state-official-violated-law-ballot-counting-instructions/>

**Judge inclined to allow review of some Georgia ballots**

***Fraud alleged in state's 2020 presidential vote***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published March 17, 2021 at 11:27am*

**A Georgia judge said Monday he is inclined to unseal absentee ballots in Fulton County to allow a government watchdog to investigate allegations of voting fraud in the November 2020 el**ection.

[The Atlanta Journal Constitution reported](https://www.ajc.com/politics/election/judge-may-unseal-fulton-absentee-ballots-for-fraud-investigation/3IPZKDO3BJGRRGVFTEW4MLLAKQ/) the **lawsuit filed in Fulton County Superior Court alleges fraudulent ballots were cast in the 2020 election and other irregularities occurred in the  vote count at State Farm Arena in Atlanta**.

**Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger's office investigated the claims and dismissed them. But at a hearing Monday, Henry County Superior Court Judge Brian Amero said he's inclined to order a review by experts hired by voting-integrity advocate Garland Favorit**o.

The judge asked for a plan to maintain the security of the ballots, which by state law are under seal with county officials.

**"We want to do this in such a way that dispels rumors and disinformation and sheds ligh**t," the judge said.

**The Atlanta paper said the case "is part of a wave of lawsuits that have alleged fraud or misconduct in the November presidential election. Some sought to overturn Joe Biden’s win in Georgia,** while others sought to change election rules for the January U.S. Senate runoffs."

**Recently, government watchdog Judicial Watch sued Raffensperger, alleging his office violated the Georgia Open Records A**ct.

**Raffensperger's actions have been questioned because he reached a 2020 lawsuit settlement that eased the requirements for accepting absentee ballo**ts.

**Lawsuits in six battleground states challenged similar moves by state election officials, arguing the Constitution grants state legislatures the sole authority to es**tablish election laws.

The Favorito case seeks to resolve allegations county workers fabricated ballots and counted others multiple times.

**The case cites a video showing workers at State Farm Arena counting ballots from suitcases they pulled from under a table after poll watchers left, as well as sworn statements from witnes**ses.

The Journal Constitution said election observers were suspicious of ballots that appeared to be counterfeit.

The ballots "were printed on a different stock of paper than regular ballots, appeared to have been printed instead of marked by ink in a voter’s hand or were not creased, indicating they had not been placed in an absentee ballot envelope and mailed."

A spokesman for the secretary of state's office said the witnesses "don't understand what they're saying. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/judge-inclined-allow-review-georgia-ballots/>

**Exclusive — Sen. Joni Ernst: U.S. Funded Wuhan Institute of Virology Coronavirus Research with NIH Grants**

[Robert Kraychik](https://www.breitbart.com/author/robert-kraychik/)17 Mar 20211,199

**Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) told Breitbart News on Wednesday that the federal government provided funding to the Wuhan Institute of Virology for researching bat coronavir**uses.

**“Through our research and some great researchers out there working in various levels of the press, they have discovered that through the NIH, we did have grant dollars that went to the Wuhan Institute of Virology,” Ernst said in an interview with Breitbart News Editor-in-Chief Alex Marlow on SiriusXM’s *Breitbart News Daily*.**

**She continued, “This project that they had at Wuhan was being subsidized by U.S. taxpayers … I am going to the Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General to investigate and get to the bottom of this. I also have a bill which would require every project from all of our federal agencies that are supported with federal funds to include a price tag with the cost so that it is easily found by taxpayers.”**

**LISTEN**:

**“So yes, we have actually subsidized research at the Wuhan lab** — how scary — and for a number of years we actually had U.S. diplomats that were warning us about the dangers associated with this lab, and yet we were subsidizing it,” Ernst stated.

Marlow identified the Wuhan virology lab as a possible origin of the novel coronavirus outbreak.

“We don’t really know whether or not the the lab is [connected] to the virus, because China destroyed all this evidence,” Marlow remarked.

Ernst replied, “We can’t connect the dots. We haven’t been able to do that for certain, but the implication is out there, and regardless of the coronavirus, we do know that our dollars were pouring into communist China to support [this] research being done at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. How disappointing that we are sending our dollars to communist China when we should be using those dollars right here in our own country to do our own research with our own resources. … It is truly an outrage. I don’t care if it’s ten cents; it’s still an outrage whatever the number.”

The National Institute of Health (NIH) [sent](https://dailycaller.com/2021/03/15/ecohealth-stevens-amendment-complaint-wuhan-lab/) at least $600,000 to China’s state-run virology laboratory in Wuhan via EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), a left-wing nonprofit based in New York City that [alleges](https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/?s=climate) a link between “climate change” and pandemics. EcoHealth Alliance failed to disclose the money it sent to the Chinese government’s Wuhan laboratory came from an NIH grant, the Daily Caller reported.

Virtually all of EcoHealth’s revenue comes from government contracts and grants. <https://www.breitbart.com/health/2021/03/17/exclusive-sen-joni-ernst-us-funded-wuhan-institute-virology-coronavirus-research-nih-grants/> **[As a matter of interest the citizen reporters have investigated and found this out months ago. – rdb]**

**Commentary:**

**All I Want Is Government Out Of My Face***By* [*Ron Ewart*](https://newswithviews.com/author/ronewart/)*|March 17th, 2021* ***“I believe the American people have a genuine and justifiable fear of government intrusion in what they instinctively know is going to be an ever more intrusive world.”*** —*Joe Biden, when he wasn’t president of the United States*  
 ***“If the right to privacy means anything, it is the right of the individual, married or single, to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion.”*** —*William J. Brennan, Jr., a liberal U. S. Supreme Court associate justice (1956 to 1990)*  
 Neither the Joe Biden of yesterday, or what is left of Joe’s addled brain today, knew just how prophetic he was about an intrusive world.  Government intrusion into our lives has exploded since Biden made the comment years ago.  
 Nor did the liberal William J. Brennan, Jr. of the U. S. Supreme Court really believe in the statement he made.  Both men were and are the personification of government intrusion.  
 As the current president of the United States Joe Biden’s actions have been massive intrusions in the lives of every American.  Killing private sector jobs, to creating a humanitarian crisis on our southern border, to interfering in gender differences for insane purposes, to creating a false racial narrative and instituting race indoctrination, to changing voting laws in violation of the Constitution and whatever else he did by executive fiat, Joe Biden poked his finger into the eye of every single American constituency group in his first few days of his presidency.  Many of his first orders and decisions are direct violations of his oath of office and border on outright treason, ample evidence of high crimes and misdemeanors rising to the level of impeachment.  
 Liberal U. S. Supreme Court associate justice William J. Brennan was a staunch opponent of the death penalty, supporter of abortion rights, and joined the majority on the court in landmark rulings on both issues in Furman v. Georgia (1972) on the death penalty and Rove v. Wade (1973) on abortion.  The suffering of the victims of death row inmates and the cost to society to maintain the inmates for life, were a second and third priority to Brennan.   The lives of millions of terminated babies were also not a consideration.  Both of Brennan’s decisions were a major intrusion into American lives.  
 This is just one political individual and one judicial individual that believe and act as if they were Gods of morality, racial and discrimination referees, immigration psychologists, health care professionals, mother’s milk to the poor and down trodden *(with other people’s money)* and the final arbiters and deciders of appropriate human behavior.  In their minds, they know what is best for all of us and they mean to shove their brand of morality down our proverbial throats based on the words of over-educated socialist idiots.  They are the ultimate, in-your-face intruders of the people’s rights and free choice, as are most politicians and bureaucrats of contemporary America.  They are the purveyors of government tyranny, enforced slavery and human bondage.  
 These politicians are the antithesis of the Jeffersonian ideology of “***a wise and frugal government which shall restrain men from injuring one another but which would otherwise ‘*leave them alone*’ to regulate their own affairs.***”  Whatever happened to “***leave them alone***?”  
 Sadly, in their lust for power over the people, politicians of every color and stripe, think it is their duty and responsibility to “rule” over the masses based on their own set of warped principles and distorted biases without regard to constitutional mandates.  In way too many cases those principles and biases are in direct conflict with the Supreme Law of the Land and the foundation of liberty.  
 What these politicians forget is, that most people are trustworthy and honest and just want to be left alone to live out their lives in peace and whatever prosperity they can muster, while raising and educating one or more offspring.  **The last thing they want is the giant nose of an intrusive government knocking on their front door; turning their children’s education into socialist and radical environmental indoctrination; usurping their property rights with strangling regulations; initiating military strikes or going to war without provocation; allow hordes of illegal aliens to invade our country; forcing vaccinations upon them by government edict; confiscate their guns or otherwise ‘infringe’ upon the 2nd Amendment with legislation; stealing their money with usurious taxes; taking over their health care to be run by liberal government bureaucrats; regulating every aspect of their lives; disturbing their sanctity and tranquility; or invading their bedrooms.  And we don’t want to be “bought off” for our votes with money borrowed from the public treasury that is hopelessly bankrupt.**  
 What most Americans do want is for government to efficiently handle the duties of government like managing the public’s money as a fiduciary, enforcing the law and reducing crime with adequate and properly trained law enforcement, forcefully controlling our borders, maintaining the nation’s infrastructure, conducting foreign policy in the interest of a sovereign America, caring for America’s veterans and defending Americans against all enemies, foreign or domestic.  Most freedom-loving Americans also want government to be constrained by the enumerated powers contained in the U. S. Constitution, a duty that politicians are want to criminally ignore the moment they set foot in the House of Horrors known as the U. S. Congress.  The recent passage of the $1.9 Trillion stimulus bill was anything but the managing of the public’s money as a fiduciary.  
 Instead, this is what government has done to the American people in the last 100 years under Progressivism as described in a heart-felt response to our last article, “[***No-No-No!  Your Rights Come From Government, Not God***](https://newswithviews.com/no-no-no-your-rights-come-from-government-not-god/)” from a Nebraska lady.  She conveys the hopelessness that so many Americans feel right now about how we are being governed and we are headed as a nation.  She wrote: ***“Your article sends chills down my spine over and over.  I agree with every single thing you stated.  I too have written my Nebraska reps and got canned responses, never addressing the real problems we are facing.  They just tell me what wonderful things they are doing for Nebraska*** *(agriculture, schools, infrastructure, and tours of Nebraskans who visit Washington)****.   I do not know what to do about it.  I believe it is way too late.  If anyone tries to stand up and stop it now, it will have to be through civil war…and this war will NOT be just the North vs. the South.   It will be liberal vs. conservative, Christians vs. Atheists, straight vs. gay, republicans vs. democrats, blacks vs. whites, and then throw in a mix of Antifa, BLM, MS-13, REAL white supremacists, Muslims and even rich vs. poor.  This will be horrific.  I feel like it is too late and all I can do is weep for my grandchildren and pray.”***  
 Her lament is what millions of Americans are feeling right now and illustrates how government and special interests have divided Americans up into opposing groups who compete with each other for the spoils of government instead of being united as Americans in liberty, self-reliance, independence and individual responsibility.  
 George Washington is purported to have said***: “ Government is not reason, it is not eloquence — it is force.  Like fire it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master; never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action.”***  
 We shall add to Washington’s quote with, “***To turn one’s back on government is to invite one’s own enslavement***.”  And boy have we been turning our backs on government.  The result was totally predictable.  
 Nevertheless, those in government should be wary of too much control over the masses, especially in America.  We’ve known freedom like no other nation on earth and will eventually fight to the death to preserve it.  The Second Amendment and a heavily armed population give us the means to defend those freedoms.  People who want to be left alone but are intruded upon by a vicious enemy like a tyrannical government, can and will become the fiercest of all fighters with nothing to lose when they take up arms.  
 We shall close with an anonymous quote that personifies the “***Man Who Wants To Be Left Alone***” and wants “***government out of his face***.”  This prophetic and timely quote was provided to us by one of our Virginia readers.  
 “The most terrifying force of death comes from the hands of ‘Men Who Wanted To Left Alone.’   They try, so very hard, to mind their own business and provide for themselves and those they love.  They resist every impulse to fight back knowing the force and permanent change of life that will come from it.  They know that the moment they fight back, their lives as they have lived them, are over.  The moment ‘The Men Who Wanted To Be Left Alone’ are forced to fight back, it is a small form of suicide.  They are literally killing off who they used to be … which is why, when forced to take up violence, these ‘Men Who Want To Be Left Alone’ fight with unholy vengeance against those who murdered their former lives.  They fight with raw hate, and a drive that cannot be fathomed by those who are merely play-acting at politics and terror.  True terror will arrive at the left’s front door and they will cry, scream and beg for mercy but it will fall on the deaf ears of the ‘Man Who Just Wants To Be Left Alone.’”  
 The socialist Democrats, who are dead set on enslaving the rest of us, would be wise to heed this warning from the “***Man Who Wants To Be Left Alone***.”  One day those socialist Democrats will push too hard or go too far and the ***shot heard ‘round the world*** will pierce the silence of a human population and arrogant leaders that have grown deaf to the cries of free people everywhere, as they utter the immortal, ferocious, determined scream of “***let my people go***.”   From the moment that scream leaves their lips, they will “***fight with raw hate and unholy vengeance against those who murdered their former lives.***”  We are indeed dangerously close to that time. <https://newswithviews.com/all-i-want-is-government-out-of-my-face/>

**More Children 14 and Under Are Murdered Than Die of COVID-19**[*Terry Jeffrey*](https://townhall.com/columnists/terryjeffrey/) *Posted: Mar 17, 2021 12:01 A* American children 14 years and younger are more likely to be murdered than to die because of COVID-19, according to data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
 On Jan. 12, the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics published its final report on the death data for the United States in 2018.  
 It revealed that an evil, long-standing trend was continuing in this country. In 2018, according to Table 6 in the report, 269 American children who were less than 1 year old died as victims of homicide.  
 The same table showed that 353 children between the ages of 1 and 4 in 2018 also died as victims of homicide, as did 289 children between the ages of 5 and 14.  
 In the 365 days of 2018, a total of 911 children who would never reach their fifteenth birthday were murdered in this country.  
 Had the major television networks and newspapers been inclined to treat this pandemic of child murder as a major story, they could have led with it every day -- telling the stories of the young and innocent victims, revealing the facts about those who murdered them, and following the actions of the law enforcement officers and prosecutors responsible for bringing those murderers to justice.  
 These 911 murdered children were not some abstract statistic. They were human beings -- at the beginning of their lives.  
 On Feb. 29, 2020, the CDC reported the first COVID-19 death in the United States. More than a year has passed since then. How many American children have died from this disease?  
 As of March 10, according to the latest data published by the CDC, COVID-19 has tragically taken the lives of 507,227 people in the United States. Of these, 216 have been 17 or younger.  
 This is a disease that has inflicted its greatest toll on older people. Among Americans 65 and older, according to the CDC, 410,192 had died of COVID-19 as of March 10. Their tragic deaths accounted for 80.8% of the nation's total as of that date.  
 As more Americans get vaccinated, this nation will defeat the COVID-19 pandemic -- and Americans should be profoundly grateful to the scientists and medical professionals who have made this possible.  
 But will we defeat the murder pandemic that kills more children than COVID-19?  
 In the 22 years from 1997 through 2018, according to the numbers published in the CDC's annual death reports, 22,405 American children under the age of 15 have died as victims of a homicide. That is an average of more than 1,000 per year.  
 Of the 22,405 children 14 and under who were murdered over the past 22 years, 6,802 were under 1 year of age; 8,234 were between 1 and 4 years of age; and 7,369 were between 5 and 14 years of age.  
 The 911 children 14 and under who were murdered in the most recent year on record (2018) is more than four times the 216 children 17 and under who died from COVID-19 in the past year.  
 Americans, according to the CDC, saw an increasing life expectancy in 2018. "Life expectancy for the total population," said its report, "increased 0.1 year from 78.6 in 2017 to 78.7 in 2018."  
 Why was this the case? It was because America was defeating some deadly diseases and injuries and -- for some age groups -- diminishing homicides.  
 "The increase in life expectancy at birth for the total population in 2018 was mainly due to decreases in mortality from cancer, unintentional injuries, chronic lower respiratory diseases, heart disease and homicide," said the CDC report.  
 But as homicide has declined as a cause of death for the total population, it has remained a leading cause of death for younger people -- including preschool children.  
 "Assault (homicide), the 16th leading cause of death in 2018, dropped from among the 15 leading causes of death in 2010," said the CDC report. "In 2018, the age-adjusted rate for homicide decreased 4.8%, but homicide remains a major issue for some age groups.  
 "Homicide," explained the CDC report, "was among the 15 leading causes of death in 2018 for age groups under 1 year (13th), 1-4 (3rd), 5-14 (5th), 15-24 (3rd), 25-34 (3rd), 35-44 (5th), and 45-54 (12th)."  
 The fact that homicide is a leading cause of death for young Americans, including newborn babies and toddlers, is not a medical crisis. It is a moral crisis.  
 Manifestly -- and horrifically -- respect for innocent life, which sits at the foundation of freedom itself, has eroded in this country.  
 This nation took drastic -- and sometimes excessive -- measures to curtail the COVID-19 pandemic.  
 Now, as much as ever, we need political and cultural leaders who will act rationally and morally to protect innocent lives, not destroy them -- and inspire others to do the same. <https://townhall.com/columnists/terryjeffrey/2021/03/17/more-children-14-and-under-are-murdered-than-die-of-covid19-n2586370>   
   
**Big Tech Censorship Is a Big Deal: We Need a Smarter Framework for Protecting Free Speech**[*Timothy Head*](https://townhall.com/columnists/timothyhead/) *Posted: Mar 16, 2021 10:30 AM* The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees free speech to all private citizens. But as conservatives have had to learn the hard way, our First Amendment protections are not safe in the era of Big Tech.  
 Recently, we’ve witnessed unprecedented efforts on the part of Big Tech monopolies to coordinate the censorship of conservative political views. Just recently, Amazon Web Services, Google, and Apple conspired to boot the conservative-friendly social media app [Parler](https://mailtrack.io/trace/link/d0ed3cfebc19401c9fbde46ab15256e9e0346078?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnbc.com%2F2021%2F01%2F16%2Fhow-parler-deplatforming-shows-power-of-cloud-providers.html&userId=3913254&signature=0495b1d339999597) off the web. And every day, more stories emerge of conservatives and Christians who find their social media accounts suspended, banned or otherwise censored for voicing their views.  
 If these trends continue, it won’t matter that we have the First Amendment at all; conservatives and Christians will still find it impossible to voice their opinions online and in the media. We need a change, and we need to hold Big Tech accountable.  
 America was founded to be a safe haven for free speech and religious liberty. Many, if not most, of the original colonists were fleeing religious and political persecution at home. In response, the Founding Fathers built our country from the ground up to protect people from persecution for expressing different viewpoints or practicing their religion peaceably.  
 Today, Americans still enjoy greater freedoms than almost any other country in the world, and our Constitution protects every citizen from censorship by state actors. But those same constitutional protections don’t safeguard speech from Big Tech.  
 For years now, Big Tech companies have grown [ever more left-leaning](https://mailtrack.io/trace/link/1da1eeb9aa2263414a23cca308196306ff3a80b1?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffloridaffc.com%2Fbig-tech-and-the-radical-left%2F&userId=3913254&signature=8f7574c8366b6516). While these companies have a legal right to decide what speech is published on their platforms, they’re increasingly abusing that right to advance a partisan political agenda. Mainstream media sites, alongside many [leftist politicians](https://mailtrack.io/trace/link/cbc438c997dd8a9138d3c39fe0d7e2cd1cbd2065?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.foxnews.com%2Fpolitics%2Focasio-cortez-critics-twitter-facebook&userId=3913254&signature=bf1a89084a3494f5), treat censorship by Big Tech as an essential instrument in the fight to [protect American democracy](https://mailtrack.io/trace/link/4705ca504d5f1ba7fe3dd8d9265c140f50850228?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftechcrunch.com%2F2020%2F06%2F10%2Fsocial-media-platforms-must-protect-democracy-even-from-the-president%2F%3Fguccounter%3D1%26guce_referrer%3DaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8%26guce_referrer_sig%3DAQAAADTe83baDa9ZnpRoDxk2tkC4UhMWv7eyP6THp8VH2Z5oD1_qMT4Zi6fweQHMy&userId=3913254&signature=cf92143cb3755a04). In reality, Big Tech censorship means silencing, distorting, and suppressing ordinary American viewpoints for no other reason than political gain.  
 I have firsthand experience of how misguided and inappropriate Big Tech censorship can be. For months, my daughter had her own Pinterest account. She used that account to create informative pins with inspiring Bible verses, and even utilized Pinterest to organize an online Bible study. But Pinterest banned her, on the specious grounds that her posts contained “violent language.”  
 I can personally attest that all my daughter posted was Biblical language. It frankly doesn’t matter whether Pinterest has the legal right to moderate content on its own platform; this kind of one-sided and politically charged censorship of straightforwardly Christian views should be intolerable to all of us in America. When just a handful of companies can decide what views count as appropriate or inappropriate in the public sphere, we’re no longer living up to the vision our founders had for this country.  
 Luckily, a few politicians are taking action to protect free speech. Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida has put forward [new laws to prevent unbridled tech censorship](https://mailtrack.io/trace/link/ad83cfa86fb28d6f786a338e3e897f42963785b4?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.lifenews.com%2F2021%2F02%2F03%2Fflorida-gov-ron-desantis-proposes-new-laws-to-combat-big-tech-censorship%2F&userId=3913254&signature=dc9c79260de92112), and there is a [bill in Texas](https://mailtrack.io/trace/link/b59afe0bf201773d21c41224303010d90fd4394c?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.texastribune.org%2F2019%2F04%2F23%2Ftexas-senate-bill-lets-state-sue-social-media-companies%2F&userId=3913254&signature=43e1d8d260700ed4) that would give citizens a legal right to petition for declaratory relief if their online accounts are unfairly suspended.  
 We need more politicians to step up to the task and tackle censorship head-on. And we need conservatives and Christians across the country to advocate for their right to speak their minds, discuss their views and share their faith.  
 Political tensions are high in America today. We can’t afford to let private tech monopolies conspire to make politically motivated decisions about what is or is not allowable speech. There may not be an easy fix for the situation we’re in. But the time is now to fight for a better, smarter framework for moderating speech. Inaction or silence might cost us our freedom. <https://townhall.com/columnists/timothyhead/2021/03/16/big-tech-censorship-is-a-big-deal-we-need-a-smarter-framework-for-protecting-free-speech-n2586320>

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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**

**PA digs tunnel into Israeli territory**

***Defense establishment aware of PA activity to take over Har Hebron area but has done nothing about digging of illegal tunnel.***

***Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 17 , 2021 6:00 PM***

**המנהרה שחפרו הפלסטינים בשטח הישראלי** **צילום:**לביא קופיאצקי

**A tunnel has been dug at the initiative of the Palestinian Authority near the Israeli communities of Telem and Adora on Mount Heb**ron.

**Arutz Sheva has received information showing that the defense establishment has been aware of the construction of the tunnel but has done nothing about it to date. The PA has told Israel that it had dug a water canal that would assist in the agricultural work carried out by Arab residents in the area**.

**The area where the tunnel was dug is under Israeli jurisdiction, but the PA has been attempting to take over land** in the area through various means, including paving roads, planting seedlings in rocky territory to lay claim to the land, and even building structures within the municipal boundaries of the Telem and Adora communities.

**The defense minister's office refused to comment on the matter, and the defense ministry referred Arutz Sheva to the Civil Administration,** which stated: "The cases described are known to law enforcement officials. Enforcement activities against them will be carried out in accordance with our authority and procedures, as well as subject to priorities and operational considerations."

**Security sources stated that enforcement operations had already been carried out to remove 500 trees that had been planted illegally and also to demolish buildings which had been illegally erected** in Tarkumiya.

**A security source we spoke to expressed great concern about the tunnel.** According to him, there is no doubt that the tunnel is not meant to be a water canal and that its size suggests a different purpose.

Yochai Damari, head of the Mount Hebron Regional Council, said: "This is a scandal and a blatant lack of governance. The Palestinians are building on state territory and Area C that were designated for Israeli construction as if there is no law and no justice. We are making every effort to monitor and report the illegal activity, but with the support of the European Union, the PA continues to proceed. It cannot be that the residents of Har Hebron are suffocated and the State of Israel just stands aside. I call on the Minister of Defense to use the security forces and the Civil Administration to put an unequivocal end to this issue." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298699> **How can the people in Israel possibly have any confidence in their government or their military if they simply ignore illegal situations and do nothing. Oftentimes the lack of action is due to their reticence at “causing a fuss” with the “PA” but that simply is not satisfactory. You give an inch they take a mile. – rdb]**

**App touted by government as public health measure sees only four percent usage**

***Upon its release, the Canadian government declared that the COVID Alert app would be a game changer in the fight against COVID-19.***

***Dan Verbin , Mar 17 , 2021 7:11 PM***

**Upon its release, the Canadian government declared that the COVID Alert app would be a game changer in the fight against COVID-**19.

**However, recently released statistics conclude that widespread incorrect use of the app has meant that it has had little effect, Global News re**ported.

**The public health report highlights the fact that only 3.8 percent of 535,000 Canadians testing positive for the virus used the app to let others know they might have been exposed.** In other words, 96.2 percent of those who tested positive failed to use the app or could not use it properly. **[I guess this is the ‘app version’ of the scarlet letter? The issue is if the use of masks and the use of the Jab are all they are supposed to be then it really should not matter. Obviously those issues ARE NOT valid and the people in charge know not of which they speak much of the time. – rdb]**

COVID **Alert app was launched in July** but was not immediately activated by all provinces and territories.

“When we’re only seeing a small percentage, in this case under 10 percent, under five percent, of the population using these apps, they’re essentially completely useless,” said infectious disease specialist Dr. Craig Jenne in an interview with Global News. **MORE -** <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298701>

**European Union to implement coronavirus passport for free travel within EU**

***The EU announced on Wednesday a "Digital Green Certificate" that would grant access to EU citizens to freely travel across the bloc.***

*Dan Verbin , Mar 17 , 2021 8:40 PM*

**The European Union announced on Wednesday a "Digital Green Certificate" that would grant access to EU citizens to freely travel across the bloc**. The move comes as nations worldwide discuss how best to deal with the issue of closed borders while the pandemic rages across the planet. **[OH joy! The control freaks are spreading the stupidity far and wide. – rdb]**

**The Digital Green Certificate will provide digital proof that a person has either been vaccinated against COVID, received a negative test result or recovered from the virus**. **The passport will take the form of a digital mark or a paper document with a unique QR code containing a digital signature to protect against forgery**. The passport will be free, safe, secure and valid in all EU countries, said the European Commission.

**"When travelling, every EU citizen or third-country national legally staying or residing in the EU, who holds a Digital Green Certificate, should be exempted from free movement restrictions** in the same way as citizens from the visited Member State," said the commission. "If a Member State continues to require holders of a Digital Green Certificate to quarantine or test, it must notify the Commission and all other Member States and justify this decision."

The commission stated that the infrastructure needed to set up the certificates will be in place by summer. It is also working with the World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure the passports are compliant with passports from other parts of the world.

The system is a temporary measure and will be in place until the pandemic is declared over by the WHO, said the commission. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298709> **[WHO will likely NEVER declare the pandemic over because they are funded greatly by Gates who is making a mint off of this because he owns great pieces of stock in the ‘vaccine’ manufacturing companies. The rich get richer and the poor (and middle class) get poorer and lock up or suffocated with a rag on their face. – rdb]**

**Russia demands apology for Joe Biden's 'killer' statement**

***Russia demanding apology for US Pres. Biden's claim that Russian Pres. Putin is a 'killer,' senior Russian lawmaker says.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 18 , 2021 12:54 PM*

Russia is demanding the United States apologize for calling Russian President Vladimir Putin a "killer," *Reuters* quoted a senior Russian lawmaker as saying Thursday.

On Wednesday, in an *ABC News* interview, US President Joe Biden [called Putin a "killer,"](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298690) saying that he is not sure that Putin even has a "soul."

In the interview, Biden said he believes Putin interfered in US elections, adding that "the price he's going to pay, you’ll see shortly."

In a response later that day, Putin [recalled his ambassador](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298707) to Washington.

*Reuters* noted that the Kremline is likely to issue an official response later on Thursday. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298743>

**North Korean diplomat: US overtures are a 'cheap trick'**

***Top North Korean diplomat: We have only heard lunatic theory from the new US administration.***

*Elad Benari , Mar 18 , 2021 5:32 AM*

**A top North Korean diplomat said on Wednesday that the United States had recently tried to initiate contact with Pyongyang, but blasted the attempts as a “cheap trick” that would never be answered until Washington drops ho**stile policies, *Reuters* reported.

**Choe Son Hui, first vice minister of foreign affairs for North Korea, said the attempts at contact were made by sending e-mails and telephone messages via various routes, i**ncluding by a third country.

**Choe said North Korea had already made clear it would not talk while the United States maintains hostile policies such as military drills and sanction**s, and that the attempts at contact were a “cheap trick” for gaining time and building up public opinion.

“What has been heard from the US since the emergence of the new regime is only lunatic theory of ‘threat from North Korea’ and groundless rhetoric about ‘complete denuclearization,’” she said, according to *Reuters*.

Her comments confirm last week’s reports that [North Korea has not responded](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298420) to behind-the-scenes diplomatic outreach since mid-February by President Joe Biden’s new administration.

**Kim Yo Jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un,** [**later warned**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298560) **the US administration against “causing a stink” if it wants p**eace.

Former US President Donald Trump tried to reached an agreement with North Korea while in office. Kim and Trump met [in Hanoi in 2019](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/259705) for a summit that left nuclear talks at a standstill.

The pair had met three times since June 2018 but made little progress towards denuclearization.

Since those talks broke down, North Korea [has conducted](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/272438) several tests of ballistic missiles. **MORE -**

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298728>

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**03/17/2021 NEWS AM**

**רוניוס - הכלה מאיסטנבול İstanbullu Gelin**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MhRQUYIRuc**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MhRQUYIRuc)

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| **"Liberty is meaningless where the right to utter one’s thoughts and opinions has ceased to exist. That, of all rights, is the dread of tyrants. It is the right which they first of all strike down." -- Frederick Douglass [Frederick Baily] (1818-1895), escaped slave, Abolitionist, author, editor of the North Star and later the New National Era** |

**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 21:33 and *Abraham* planteth a tamarisk in Beer-Sheba, and preacheth there in the name of Jehovah, God age-during; 34and Abraham sojourneth in the land of the Philistines many days.**

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| **The morning laugh (kind of) if it were not so true!**  **I Wear My Face Mask in the Car**  <https://www.bitchute.com/video/uYOBX4AfD3vN/> |

**Alleged Israeli airstrikes said to hit targets near Damascus airport**

***Syrian state media reports attack near capital, weeks after previous incident in same area; observer says strikes hit ammunition stores belonging to Iranian militias***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 11:38 pm*

Israel carried out airstrikes in Syria late Tuesday night, Syrian state media reported, in the latest in a series of raids attributed to the Jewish state.

The state-run SANA news agency said Syrian air defenses had engaged Israeli missiles near the capital Damascus.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

“Our air defenses intercepted the attack and shot down most of” the missiles, SANA cited a military source as saying. Defense analysts routinely dismiss such claims by the Syrian regime as empty boasts.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the airstrikes targeted two ammunition depots belonging to Iranian militias fighting on the side of the Assad government just a few kilometers from the Damascus airport south of the capital.

The Israel Defense Forces did not comment on the late-night strikes, in accordance with its policy to neither confirm nor deny its operations in Syria, save for those launched in retaliation for an attack from Israel’s northern neighbor.

Late last month, Syrian state media [reported Israeli airstrikes](https://www.timesofisrael.com/syria-reports-israeli-airstrikes-in-damascus-area/) near Damascus. Israeli media said the targets were linked to Iran. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/alleged-israeli-airstrikes-said-to-hit-targets-near-damascus/>

**Iran now using advanced new centrifuges to enrich uranium at Natanz plant**

***Leaked atomic watchdog report says Iran has installed 174 highly advanced IR-4 machines at underground site in further violation of nuclear deal, and plans on installing more***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *Today, 1:50 am*

Iran has begun using the highly advanced new IR-4 centrifuge to enrich uranium at its Natanz plant in a further breach of its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, the [Reuters news agency reported](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-iaea/iran-enriching-uranium-with-new-advanced-machine-type-at-underground-plant-iaea-idUSKBN2B82ZH) Tuesday, citing a UN atomic watchdog document.

Washington pulled out of the JCPOA (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) unilaterally in 2018 under then-president Donald Trump, but President Joe Biden has indicated that the US would be willing to rejoin.

Iran has been steadily violating the restrictions of the deal, including on the amount of enriched uranium it can stockpile and the purity to which it can enrich it. Tehran’s moves have been calculated to put pressure on the other nations in the deal — Russia, China, France, Germany and Britain — to do more to offset crippling sanctions reimposed under Trump, but they also bring Iran potentially closer to the bomb.

Last year, Iran began enriching uranium in its underground Natanz plant with a second cascade, or cluster, of IR-2m centrifuges. The deal only lets it enrich there with first-generation IR-1 machines.

Now, the Iranians have also started using the IR-4 centrifuge, the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a report to members obtained by Reuters.

“On 15 March 2021, the Agency verified that Iran began feeding the cascade of 174 IR-4 centrifuges already installed at FEP with natural UF6,” the IAEA said, referring to uranium hexafluoride, the form in which uranium is fed into centrifuges for enrichment.

The report said Iran also planned to install a second cascade of IR-4 centrifuges.

The IR-4 and IR-2 models are believed to have an enrichment output at least four times greater than the IR-1.

“In summary, as of 15 March 2021, Iran was using 5,060 IR-1 centrifuges installed in 30 cascades, 522 IR-2m centrifuges installed in three cascades and 174 IR-4 centrifuges installed in one cascade, to enrich natural UF6 up to 5% U-235 at FEP,” the IAEA report said, referring to the fissile purity of uranium. MORE -

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-now-using-advanced-new-centrifuge-to-enrich-uranium-at-natanz-plant/>

**In Germany, Rivlin says he trusts Europe will ‘stand by us’ against ICC probe**

***President tells his German counterpart that Iran using ‘nuclear blackmail’ to have sanctions removed; IDF chief: ‘We do everything’ to avoid harming innocents***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:59 pmUpdated at 9:54 pm*

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| [President Reuven Rivlin (L) and his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier meet in Berlin on March 16, 2021. (Amos Ben Gershom/GPO)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/GPOABG_4-e1615913152846.jpg)  President Reuven Rivlin (L) and his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier meet in Berlin on March 16, 2021. (Amos Ben Gershom/GPO) | Seated from left to right: IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi, President Reuven and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, in Berlin on March 16, 2021. (Amos Ben Gershom/GPO) |

President Reuven Rivlin on Tuesday met in Berlin with his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier, kicking off a European tour aimed at underscoring the threat from Iran’s nuclear program and rallying opposition to the International Criminal Court’s decision to probe alleged war crimes by Israel and Palestinian terror groups.

During their meeting, Rivlin thanked Steinmeier for “his commitment to further deepening relations between the countries” and Germany’s commitment to Israel’s security. He called the ICC probe of Israel a “scandalous” decision and thanked Germany for opposing the investigation.

ICC chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda announced earlier this month that she was opening an investigation into actions committed by Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem since 2014. The Palestinians have already said they will cooperate with the probe by the Hague-based court. Israel has yet to decide how it will respond but the decision to open an investigation has been condemned by top Israeli officials.

“We are proud of our soldiers, our sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters. They protect us from our enemies and we will protect them from this decision,” the president said, according to a statement from his office.

He said Palestinian efforts to litigate the conflict would not help resolve it.

“We cannot expect that confidence-building measures and improvement in our relations when one side is advocating criminal investigations of the other side’s civilians in a foreign court,” Rivlin said.

He also addressed the ICC decision during a joint press conference he gave with Steinmeier.

“We trust that our European friends will stand by us in the important fight on the misuse of the International Criminal Court against our soldiers and civilians,” he said.

IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi, who accompanied Rivlin on the trip, said Israeli soldiers “do everything” to avoid harming innocent civilians.

“The fundamental difference between us and our enemies is that while we do everything we can to prevent harming innocent civilians, our enemies do everything they can to harm our civilians, who are entirely innocent. We are in a new era of warfare, which is highly complex, and the ICC must adapt itself to the new reality,” Kohavi was quoted as saying during the meeting.

He also told Steinmeier, “your soldiers could face the same problems in other parts of the world, and so your support now is very important for us.”

Turning to Iran, Rivlin accused the Islamic Republic of using “nuclear blackmail” to achieve a removal of sanctions.

“The international community must stand together, speaking out strongly and without compromise against Iran’s nuclear plan and its support for terrorist groups that threaten Israel and the stability of the region,” he said during the press conference.

Steinmeier, meanwhile, called Israel’s recent normalization deals with Arab countries “nothing less than historic” while noting Israeli concerns over Iran’s nuclear and missile programs.

“The previous American administration’s policy did not, we believe, support positive developments and we hope that we can bring about change in the future with the new administration and our European neighbors,” the German president said.

He also congratulated Rivlin on the “speed” and “efficiency” of Israel’s COVID-19 vaccination drive and said Germany “can learn a great deal from it.”

Rivlin and Kohavi met later with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, with the president warning him against a return to the 2015 deal limiting Iran’s nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. They also discussed strengthening bilateral ties and Germany’s “markedly improved voting record” at international organizations, according to a statement from the President’s Residence.

“Your true friendship for us is expressed not only in words, but also in deeds,” Rivlin was quoted as telling Maas.

Following his visit to Germany, Rivlin was scheduled to travel to Austria and France to meet with their respective presidents.

The three-day trip comes as the UN’s nuclear watchdog is working to save the agreement between world powers and Iran that has unraveled ever since former US president Donald Trump pulled out of it in 2018. Germany and France are both signatories to the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which gave Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs to its nuclear program. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-germany-rivlin-says-he-trusts-europe-will-stand-by-us-against-icc-probe/>

**UAE calls off Netanyahu trip, says won’t get involved in 'Israeli electioneering’**

***Netanyahu had been working on an Abu Dhabi visit and meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for Thursday.***

*By* [*LAHAV HARKOV*](https://www.jpost.com/author/lahav-harkov) *MARCH 17, 2021 13:11*

The United Arab Emirates rejected attempts by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to squeeze in his first trip to the Gulf state before next week’s election.

Netanyahu had been [working on a visit](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/is-netanyahu-bound-for-the-uae-this-week-662201) to Abu Dhabi and a meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Thursday, a week after his planned trip was [postponed](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/netanyahu-flight-to-uae-canceled-jordan-blocks-flight-from-its-airspace-661663) for the first time.

Former UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash, who left the role last month, tweeted on Wednesday: “From the UAE’s perspective, the purpose of the Abrahamic Accords is to provide a robust strategic foundation to foster peace and prosperity with the State of Israel and in the wider region. The UAE will not be a part in any internal electioneering in Israel, now or ever.”

From the UAE’s perspective, the purpose of the Abrahamic Accords is to provide a robust strategic foundation to foster peace and prosperity with the State of Israel and in the wider region. The UAE will not be a part in any internal electioneering in Israel, now or ever.

— د. أنور قرقاش (@AnwarGargash) [March 17, 2021](https://twitter.com/AnwarGargash/status/1372135281982246915?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Gargash’s statement was unusually candid for someone close to the decision-making in Abu Dhabi.

Netanyahu denied that a trip had been planned for this week, telling Radio Galey Israel: "I'm not going to Abu Dhabi before the election. It's spin. I don't know who spread it." MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/netanyahu-trip-is-off-uae-wont-get-involved-in-israeli-electioneering-662283>

**Green Police open criminal probe into state-owned pipeline over benzene leak**

***Environmental Protection Ministry says secretive Europe Asia Pipeline Company allegedly violated several laws, after initial investigation into Ashkelon toxic event***

*By* [*Sue Surkes*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/sue-surkes/) *Today, 3:09 pm*

The Environmental Protection Ministry announced Monday that it had opened a criminal investigation into a fuel leak late last year from a tank owned by the state-owned Europe Asia Pipeline Company Ltd.

The investigation comes as the EAPC is set to significantly expand its activities, amid concerns over the secretive firm’s safety record, six years after it caused what has been called the worst environmental disaster in Israel’s history.

The ministry’s oversight and enforcement arm, called the Green Police, will probe suspicions that the company violated laws on hazard prevention, possession of dangerous substances and company registration, the latter by allegedly breaching its business license, according to an announcement.

In November, dozens of residents living in and around the southern coastal city of Ashkelon complained of [foul odors](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/state-owned-pipeline-faces-scrutiny-over-benzene-emissions/).

The Environmental Protection Ministry discovered that the smell came from a combination of fuel and rainwater on the roof of a container that had leaked on the site of a factory owned by the EAPC close to the city.

Monitoring stations near the site showed significant increases in short-term concentrations of the pollutant benzene, leading the government to urge nearby residents to close their windows and avoid strenuous outdoor activity.

The hazard was only remedied after a day, when the ministry issued an order for the EAPC to take care of it.

A subsequent hearing with company managers led by the ministry’s southern district director, Baruch Weber, revealed that the leak had violated the Prevention of Hazards Law and that in addition, the EAPC was not fully complying with the terms of its business license. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/green-police-open-criminal-probe-into-state-owned-pipeline-over-benzene-leak/>

**Israel has spent $788m on vaccines, could double sum — Health Ministry**

***Knesset Finance Committee hears previously undisclosed sum, also approves $598 million for other aspects of COVID-19 response***

*By* [*Stuart Winer*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/stuart-winer/) *Today, 2:42 pm*

Israel has spent NIS 2.6 billion ($788 million) so far on coronavirus vaccines and expects to pay a similar amount for more doses in the future, the Health Ministry said Tuesday.

The information, which has not been publicized previously, was revealed after Knesset Finance Committee chairman MK Moshe Gafni asked the ministry to provide the figures.

A Health Ministry representative told the panel that the country has paid NIS 2.6 billion to various vaccine manufacturers and that another NIS 2.5 billion has been allocated to pay for more units in the future.

Gafni, of the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism party, praised the ongoing vaccine campaign, saying Israel “is ahead of all the countries in the world, thank goodness. We are glad that the vaccines work and that it is possible to begin a return to normal.”

Israel has bought some 15 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine, and the committee heard that some will not be used. Last month, Israel suspended shipments of surplus coronavirus vaccines to a group of friendly nations as authorities examine whether it was within Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s authority to order the move.

Previous reports have indicated Israel has paid $23.5 per Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine dose, while the new sum appeared to indicate the cost has been much higher. The reason for the discrepancy wasn’t immediately clear.

The Knesset Finance Committee also approved the transfer of NIS 1.973 billion ($598 million) to the Health Ministry to fund other aspects of the pandemic response.

The lion’s share of NIS 1.349 billion is to fund the continuation of virus tests, epidemiological investigations and quarantines, some of which are at state-operated facilities.

A further NIS 264 million is for the country’s health maintenance organizations, which are bearing the brunt of handling the virus response, the committee said in a statement. It is intended to pay for patients’ medical treatment, the operation of call centers, testing, psychological support, and the provision of at-home services to the elderly and other populations.



Finance Committee Chairman Moshe Gafni (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)

Vaccine prices reported by the Washington Post and the BBC in December indicate Israel paid significantly more for the Pfizer vaccine than either the US or the European Union.

In January, the Kan public broadcaster reported that Israel was paying the Pfizer-BioNtech and Moderna pharmaceutical companies $47 per person for each two-dose vaccine.

Since then Israel has ordered millions more vaccine doses, primarily from Pfizer, which produces the two-dose inoculation the country is using for its national immunization drive.

The sum meant the average price for each dose of vaccine from both companies is about $23.50, higher than the amount that Pfizer had initially said the shots would cost, according to the report. The higher price is because Israel has pushed to buy large numbers of the vaccines and to have them delivered quickly to keep the vaccination drive in high gear.

The Washington Post reported at the time that the US was paying Pfizer-BioNTech $19.50 per dose while the 27-country EU bloc was paying $14.76. It cited Moderna vaccine prices as $15 per dose for the US and $18 per dose for the EU.

The figures were based on EU prices that were tweeted — and then deleted — by a Belgian government official as well as calculations from Bernstein Research, an analysis and investment firm.

The BBC reported a day earlier that Pfizer was marketing its vaccines to countries at a price range of $10.65 to $21 per dose, while Moderna’s range was $25 to $37 per dose.

Israel was late joining the line for the Pfizer vaccine behind the US, Canada and Japan. Netanyahu has repeatedly touted his personal efforts as a major reason Israel was able to secure large quantities of coronavirus vaccines so quickly.

Kan reported that the total cost to the economy for every two days of a total national lockdown was about NIS 1 billion. Israel has in the past few weeks rolled back most of the restrictions applied during its third national lockdown since the pandemic began.

The government has set a goal to vaccinate the entire population aged 16 and up by the end of April.

So far, Israel has given at least the first vaccine shot to 5,200,395 people, of whom 4,291,116 have also had the second, according to Health Ministry figures released Tuesday.

Aside from what it has spent on vaccines and the pandemic response, Israel has also allocated NIS 100 billion ($30 billion) for an economic rescue package to deal with the financial crisis caused by the virus outbreak. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-has-spent-788m-on-vaccines-could-double-that-in-future-health-ministry/> [That will an interesting goal for the government because there are a significant number of people including healthcare providers who simply don’t want it and it seems are refusing it. – rdb]

**Russia pushing Israel to approve its Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine**

***Ynet learns that Kremlin made repeated requests to Jerusalem following massively successful Israeli campaign to vaccinate its adult population; FM Ashkenazi heads to Moscow for meeting with counterpart Sergey Lavrov***

*Itamar Eichner | Published: 03.16.21 , 13:09*

Russia is pressuring Israel to authorize the use of its Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine alongside those of Moderna and Pfizer, Ynet has learned.

The Russian push for Israel to embrace the Sputnik vaccine is apparently due to Israel's massively successful vaccination drive, with Moscow making repeated requests on the issue.

Meanwhile Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi was traveling to Moscow on Tuesday for a meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

Israel last month agreed to pay $1.5 million to provide the Sputnik vaccine to Syria as part of a Russian-mediated agreement to secure the release of an Israeli woman was being held by the Syrian regime after illegally crossing the border from Israel. The woman has since been charged with entering an enemy state.

Russia was the first to release a COVID-19 vaccine last August, but the Sputnik V was met with some suspicion over safety and efficacy around the world and even inside Russia itself.

The Russian government then launched an international campaign to promote its vaccine as a safe and sought-after solution to the pandemic.

Six months after its release, there is greater demand for the Sputnik with vaccine-hungry countries clamoring to buy it.

Much of the interest was created as the Western-made vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna became in short supply and after the British medical journal The Lancet [published a report early in February](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00191-4/fulltext) that the Russian jab was 91% effective.

The Foreign Ministry in Moscow has claimed that 50 governments, including the Palestinian Authority, have already authorized the use of the vaccine. Israel has also said it would facilitate the transfer of the Sputnik V to the PA.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/HkMs1lRmd>

**Israeli study: Babies born to vaccinated moms have COVID-fighting antibodies**

***All 40 infants in Jerusalem research have antibodies, suggesting they are born with immunity to coronavirus, according to Hadassah doctors***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 10:43 pm*

When pregnant women get COVID vaccines, their babies are born with ready-made COVID-fighting antibodies, Israeli doctors have found.

A team at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem checked blood from the umbilical cords of 40 newborns, which is the same as the baby’s blood, and found that all had a strong supply of antibodies — just like their mothers who had been vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech shots.

Believed to be the largest study of its kind, the researchers believe that the find vindicates health officials’ call to pregnant women to get vaccinated against the coronavirus. And with the world constantly looking to Israel for new data on the impact of vaccines, the finding is likely to have strong international resonance. [What about those in which the vaccine has lead to miscarriages? – rdb]

“This is an important finding that is reassuring, suggesting that vaccinated mothers pass COVID-19 protection to their babies before they are born,” Prof. Dana Wolf, head of Hadassah’s virology department, told The Times of Israel.

“It underscores the importance of vaccinating pregnant women, and the benefits of doing so.”

The babies in the study were born to mothers spanning a range of ages, who had all received their second vaccine shot at least a week earlier.

Wolf noted that initially, health authorities did not recommend pregnant women receive the vaccine, but recently the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, Israel’s Ministry of Health and others supported immunizing pregnant women. She said her study offers further vindication of this decision.

 Partial results from the research — covering half of the babies examined — have been [posted online in an early version of the study, that is not yet peer-reviewed.](https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.03.11.21253352v1) The findings come on the heels of [another Israeli study](https://www.timesofisrael.com/small-israeli-study-finds-virus-antibodies-in-breastmilk-of-vaccinated-mothers/) that suggests that vaccinated mothers pass antibodies to their newborns through breast milk. [Why to vaccinate children when they are minimally effected by the viral illness and most kids don’t even know that they have it. – rdb]

***Prof. Dana Wolf, head of Hadassah Medical Center’s virology department (courtesy of Hadassah)***

“In our study, we found immunoglobulin G antibodies that are active against the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, which basically block the entry of the virus to cells. This follows research which suggests that great milk has another type of antibodies, Immunoglobulin A,” said Wolf.

She said that the research has not established with certainty that the antibodies deliver protection against infection, but she strongly believes they will. There is, she noted, no information on how long the babies will retain their antibodies, or any protection they may provide.

Wolf conducted her research with colleagues from Hadassah’s obstetrics and gynecology department, including Amihai Rottenstreich and Shay Potrat. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-study-babies-born-to-vaccinated-moms-have-covid-fighting-antibodies/> [the mad push to Jab anyone and everyone continues in Israel. – rdb]

**Israel's serious virus caseload drops under 600 for 1st time since December's end**

***According to Health Ministry data, 586 Israelis hospitalized in serious condition with coronavirus and 208 of them were connected to ventilators, 905 new virus cases detected in previous 24 hours***

*Yaron Druckman | Published: 03.16.21 , 21:26*

For the first time since the end of December, the number of serious COVID-19 patients in Israel dropped under 600, the Health Ministry reported Tuesday evening.

According to ministry data, 586 Israelis were hospitalized in serious condition with coronavirus and 208 of them were connected to ventilators for respiratory assistance.

Out of some 40,000 coronavirus tests conducted in the previous 24 hours, 2.3% came back positive which accounts for 905 new cases.

The national COVID-19 death toll has reached 6,047 fatalities since the outbreak of the pandemic in Israel, with 272 Israelis succumbing to the disease since the beginning of March.

Also on Tuesday, 8,500 more Israelis have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine since midnight and more than 32,000 others got the second booster shot. In total, more than 55% of Israelis were vaccinated with the first dose of the vaccine and 46.5% also received the second shot. MORE -<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/SJJ47t07u>

**Israel detects isolated cases of new virus variant, health officials say**

***Health Ministry says 2 cases of Nigerian strain have been detected, while the ministry's DG earlier claimed the Brazil variant has also entered the country, a statement he later retracted but claimed vaccines might be less effective on new cases***

*Adir Yanko, Alexandra Lukash | Published: 03.17.21 , 13:21*

A few isolated cases of new foreign strains of coronavirus have been detected in Israel, health officials said on Wednesday.

The Health Ministry said two cases of the B1.525 Nigerian variant of COVID-19 have been located, but in both instances the chain of infection was cut and those infected were prevented from having contact with anyone else.

The ministry's statement came shortly after its Director General Prof. Hezi Levi told Ynet TV the Brazil variant has been discovered in the country. The ministry emphasized that so far there has been no official discovery of the Brazilian strain in the country.

Prof. Levi said he was worried about the import of foreign strains since the current coronavirus vaccines appear to be less effective against them.

"The number [of new strains in Israel] is miniscule, really one or two, but the South African variant already makes up 1% [of all cases] and it worries us, because the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are less effective against it compared to the protection they provide against the British strain. Therefore, precaution must still be taken." MORE -<https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/Hk7NjIyE00>

**3 tiny Israeli satellites to orbit earth on just 1 gram of fuel a day**

***Chief engineer says he’s excited to blast off Jewish state’s cutting-edge tech from Kazakhstan, to where Stalin banished his father, grandparents ‘just because they were rich Jews’***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 8:26 pm*

Israeli scientists are preparing to launch a trio of tiny satellites that will hurtle around earth every 90 minutes, using a total of just 1 gram of fuel per day.

The shoebox-sized nanosatellites will leave Earth from Kazakhstan aboard a Russian rocket at midday local time on Saturday, and will be launched from the rocket four hours later, 50 kilometers above the surface of the earth, for a three-year orbit.

The mastermind behind the operation is Pini Gurfil, an aerospace engineer whose father and grandparents were banished from Russia to Kazakhstan “just because they were rich Jews.” The Israeli-born professor, whose father immigrated to Israel in 1973, told The Times of Israel that launching his innovation from Kazakhstan feels like closure of the traumatic ordeal endured by his family, which ultimately killed his grandmother.

 Israel has already staked a place in the growing field of nanosatellites with several single-satellite launches, [including one last month.](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-made-nanosatellite-released-into-earth-orbit/) Gurfil’s team hopes the ambitious three-satellite plan will further bolster Israel’s standing in the global push toward tiny satellites.

Nanosatellites built at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, inside the boxes from which they will be ejected in to orbit (courtesy of the Technion)

The satellites are being launched to test whether a series of small satellites, instead of a single large satellite, can be used to monitor signals from emergency locator beacons used by ships, planes, explorers and hikers. If it is possible, researchers say, it could pave the way for much cheaper monitoring of these systems.

 “This is a significant step forward for Israeli space research and technology,” said Gurfil, one of the Technion’s top space experts. “This opens new possibilities for locator beacons, and for the miniaturization of satellites which is an important focus internationally, and seen as a disruptive innovation.”

The trio of satellites will be kept in perfect formation, less than 250 kilometers apart, thanks to minute on-board navigators.

Engineers with one of the new nanosatellites built at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology (courtesy of the Technion)

A specially built fuel system, developed at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology along with the rest of the tech onboard, will allow each satellite to complete its mission on 400 grams of krypton, the gas often used to fill fluorescent light bulbs. This averages 133 grams of fuel per year, or 0.37 grams per satellite per day.

The Technion team expects that having three separate satellites located relatively close to one another, each following the location of beacons, will deliver high-accuracy readings. It will be testing the theory with its “low-cost” $9 million satellite trio, funded by the Adelis Foundation and the Israeli Space Agency, which has been in development for almost 10 years.

Gurfil said that it will be an emotional occasion. “It has taken so long to develop these satellites, especially the tiny fuel system, and this is the first launch of three satellites together by Israel, so all of this is meaningful,” he commented. “But it’s also significant on another level.

“The rocket carrying the satellites will launch from Kazakhstan. Some 80 years ago my father and his parents were deported from the USSR by Stalin to Kazakhstan — like others — just because they were rich Jews. MORE -<https://www.timesofisrael.com/3-tiny-israeli-satellites-to-orbit-earth-on-just-1-gram-of-fuel-a-day/>

**Dead Sea scroll discovery brings tantalizing prospect of more yet to be found**

***With another 20 promising caves to be excavated — and 25% more of the Judean Desert still to be surveyed — stunning finds in Cave of Horror unlikely to be the last***

*By* [*Amanda Borschel-Dan*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/amanda-borschel-dan/) *Today, 5:26 pm*

On a day that saw the Israel Antiquities Authority [unveil the first Bible scroll fragments found in decades](https://www.timesofisrael.com/bible-scroll-fragments-among-dazzling-artifacts-found-in-dead-sea-cave-of-horror/) and numerous other dazzling artifacts from the “Cave of Horror” above the Dead Sea  — including a huge 10,500-year-old complete woven basket, the oldest in the world — perhaps the most extraordinary news is that there are another 20 promising caves, holding untold potential treasures, that have yet to be excavated.

That means the dozens of fragments shown to the public on Tuesday could mark the beginning of an exciting new era of discovery, 60 years after the last major scroll finds.

Since 2017, the IAA has spearheaded an ambitious survey of some 500 caves in the Judean Desert in an unprecedentedly wide-ranging and physically daring operation involving rappelling down rockfaces and setting up work camps on sheer cliffs.

The operation’s stated goal is, for once, to be one step ahead of the antiquities looters who comb these caves, where the original caches of Dead Sea Scrolls — thousands of pieces of varied ancient scripture and writings dating from circa 400 BCE to 300 CE — were found by Bedouin shepherds starting in 1946.

In the operation to date, Amir Ganor, the head of the IAA’s anti-theft unit, told a buzzing media event in the IAA’s Jerusalem office, most of the 600-plus Judean Desert caves have been mapped using drone technology and hi-tech mapping. That work, he said, has revealed 20 caves “with the potential for good artifacts” that will hopefully be carefully excavated in phase two of the project. And another 25 percent of the desert still needs to be surveyed in the first phase.

The operation is being undertaken by the IAA in cooperation with the Staff Officer of the Archaeology Department of the Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria (COGAT), and has been funded in part by the Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage. Each body allocated about a third of the entire project budget from its institutions.

The inter-office cooperation is key to the success of the operation: About half of the Judean Desert, including the original source of most of the Dead Sea Scrolls at Qumran, is located in the West Bank beyond the Green Line, where the IAA does not have jurisdiction. But the COGAT archaeologists have been seamlessly enfolded into the teams, said Ganor, enabling work in the entire Judean Desert.

“Now we know what’s happening in 500 caves, what’s worth saving, what’s worth inspecting further, what to leave,” said Ganor. The team is using a mix of hi-tech surveillance methods to monitor the promising caves, he said, without delving into exactly what.

***Ahead of the looters***

Perhaps more importantly, Ganor emphasized, this is the first time in his 25 years in the IAA’s anti-theft unit that Israel is beating the looters. For the past several years since the IAA’s intensive work began in the Judean Desert, he said, there have been no looters there at all. “They saw that we’re strong and investing people and money, and they stay away,” he said.

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| Access to most of the caves required highly skilled rappelling down sheer cliffs, dangling between heaven and earth. (Ofer Sion, Israel Antiquities Authority) | The moment when the Book of the Twelve Minor Prophets scroll was discovered in Muraba‘at Cave. Ofer Sion is front and center. (Highlight Films, courtesy of the Israel Antiquities Authority) |

“For 60 years Israel lost, and now, finally, we’re the winners; we’re getting there before the looters,” said Ganor. Every artifact that his team uncovers is a pure win, he said, and prevents “the theft of our heritage and the destruction of human history.”

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/22.Scroll-Parchment-as-founf-in-the-Horror-Cave.-Ofer-Sion-Israel-Antiquities-Authority.jpg) Ganor, a large man who stands several heads above this reporter, was one of the three IAA upper management members rappelling down cliffs and crouching inside cramped caves to discover the overlooked treasure.

Dr. Ofer Sion, 60, led a team into the well-named “Cave of Horror,” some 80 meters below the cliff face, where some 40 skeletons of Bar Kochba rebels were discovered during earlier excavations in the 1950s and early 1960s led by Yochanan Aharoni.

Sion, the head of the IAA’s surveys program, is no stranger to either the Judean Desert or rappelling — he taught it in 1984-86 at Ein Gedi, just to the north, on the shores of the Dead Sea. In all, Sion joked, he’s spent over 40 years wandering around in the desert.

Sections of the Book of the Twelve Minor Prophets scroll discovered in the Judean Desert expedition as they were found. (Ofer Sion, Israel Antiquities Authority)

Initially, said Sion, who spoke to the media wearing a jaunty wool hat, he’d been unsure there would be much left to find in the cave, since it had already been excavated by a master. However, he said, as he lowered himself down to its lip, he spotted a leather sandal and two coins and realized it still had much to offer.

***Once in 100 years***

In the 1950s, explained Sion, Aharoni excavated according to the practices of the time, with the technology of the era. During the new team’s three weeks in the cave, much of what they did was uncover “overlooked” items — scroll fragments, coins, and even a mummified child from 6,000 years ago.

Sion said that the discovery of some 80 scroll fragments — some of them so tiny that they barely have letters attached — was possible only thanks to the tedious work of dry sifting the earth Aharoni left behind.

“This is a once in a 100 years find,” he said of the latest scroll fragments. And it almost didn’t happen at all. Only the sharp eyes of the archaeobotanist on the team, accustomed to seeing minuscule seeds and pollen, discerned the letters amidst the dust.

“You’ve got dust everywhere, in your glasses, in your face, and the scroll fragments are the color of stone. Only the archaeobotanist saw the tiny words. It was amazing,” he said.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/7.Rappeling-at-the-desert.-Photo-Eitan-Kein-Israel-Antiquities-Authority.jpg) Subsequently, said Sion, the two members of the team tasked with manning the metal detectors — technology unavailable to Aharoni, who thus overlooked a cache of Bar Kochba coins — came up to him with a handful of something folded, what “looked like garbage” at first glance, he said. They had turned up the first of several clumps of scroll fragments.

“We archaeologists, we’re a little crazy,” said Sion. Every day he’d gamely rappelled down to the cave and climbed his way back up. “When I had the scroll fragments in my bag, I went up in about a minute.”

In this widespread operation, not every member of the team was a seasoned archaeologist like Ganor and Sion — or even an archaeologist at all. Twentysomething Rotem Raz came to the project with a geology and surveying background, plus plenty of rappelling experience.

Rappelling to the Cave of Horror. (Eitan Klein, Israel Antiquities Authority)

Raz was tasked preliminarily with surveying the caves using drones, physically getting himself to the cave openings, and then prepping the cliffs for the archaeologists at promising caves, including bringing down their equipment. Part of that preparation included drilling in anchors for the rappelling ropes and metal handles, all of which were removed post-excavation, Raz said.

He collected vast amounts of data during the field operation, “which gives a more complete picture,” geologist Raz said, and research is ongoing.

Assuming additional funding is allocated, the sky is potentially the limit for the next phase of the operation.

“We’re the only ones able to do this, and now. We’re out there, and for once, beating the looters,” stressed Dr. Joe Uziel, head of the Dead Sea Scrolls unit. The work will require continued inter-departmental and inter-ministerial cooperation, and, of course, more funding. But time is of the essence and the clock is ticking, he said.

“If we had gotten to the Cave of the Horror two weeks later,” he said he feared, “we would have seen the scroll fragments selling online. The basket would have been on the market — or destroyed entirely.”

“It’s not about religious texts,” emphasized Uziel. “It’s about cultural heritage.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/dead-sea-scroll-discovery-brings-tantalizing-prospect-of-more-yet-to-be-found/> [This is a truly magnificent find and a true archeological treasure. This will again begin a long process of sorting through scraps of parchment and trying to isolate and identify every tiny bit of test. The because of the dead sea scrolls is they verify the consistency of the scriptures from thousands of years ago up to today. – rdb]

**In first, Iron Dome intercepts rockets, drones at once**

***Aerial defense system successfully completes series of trials, testing ability to intercept multiple threats at same time and sending message to Iran after series of attacks on Saudi targets using UAVs and cruise missiles***

*Associated Press | Published: 03.16.21 , 17:42*

The Defense Ministry on Tuesday announced it has completed an upgrade of the country's Iron Dome rocket defense system to cope with an additional array of aerial threats.

The Iron Dome was developed by Israel’s Rafael Advanced Defense Systems to intercept short-range unguided rockets and has shot down some 2,500 incoming projectiles fired from the Gaza Strip since it was deployed a decade ago.

In a statement, the ministry's head of missile defense, Moshe Patel, said the Iron Dome has completed a series of tests that included successful interceptions of rocket and missile salvos as well as simultaneous interceptions of multiple unmanned aerial vehicles.

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| סדרת ניסויים מתקדמת במערכת הנשק "כיפת ברזל"  A series of advanced trials of the Iron Dome weapon system (Photo: The Defense Minister) | סדרת ניסויים מתקדמת במערכת הנשק "כיפת ברזל"  Iron Dome intercepts multiple targets during trials (Photo: Defense Ministry) |

The campaign, along with two recent Iron Dome flight tests, “demonstrated a significant upgrade of the system’s technological capabilities,” the Defense Ministry stated.

“The new version of the Iron Dome system will be delivered to the IAF and the Navy for operational use and will strengthen Israel’s multi-tier missile defense capabilities,” the ministry said.

 “In the face of emerging and rapidly changing threats, these new capabilities provide the political echelon and defense establishment with the operational flexibility that is critical to our national security,” Defense Minister Benny Gantz said of the results.

The Iron Dome is part of Israel's multilayered aerial defense system, ranging from systems capable of intercepting rockets fired from short range up to striking long-range missiles outside of the atmosphere.

They provide a defense against a wide array of ballistic projectiles, with eyes on the Iranian ballistic threat and those presented by the Hezbollah terror organization from Lebanon and Hamas and Islamic Jihad from the Gaza Strip.

A series of advanced trials of the Iron Dome weapon system (Photo: Defense Ministry)

Iran has recently demonstrated such attack capacities in several strikes on targets in Saudi Arabia.

Patel said the new Iron Dome system would be deployed by the Israel Air Force and Navy in the near future.

In 2018, the Iron Dome system was voted Israel’s top innovation of all time in honor of the country’s 70th Independence Day celebrations. <https://www.ynetnews.com/business/article/SyWh1SCmO>

**Palestinian factions pledge ‘transparent’ election without violent intimidation**

**Fatah, Hamas and dozen other groups sign on to ‘honor code’ governing upcoming vote, which includes ban on brandishing weapons at rallies**

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 11:06 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/edd27080-2aae-4083-85a1-7c8b74de069f.jpg)

***Palestinian faction leaders gather to discuss holding Palestinian national elections, in Cairo on February 8, 2021 (WAFA)***

Fourteen different Palestinian factions on Tuesday signed an agreement to abide by an electoral “honor code” in the upcoming Palestinian elections, following negotiations in Cairo.

“We are keen on conducting the electoral process in all its stages with transparency and integrity,” the Palestinian factions said in a statement.

The Palestinian factions, which included the rival Fatah and Hamas movements, pledged not to incite “religious, sectarian, tribal, regional, familial or racial sentiments” and to refrain from violent intimidation. [I’ll believe it when I see it happen. – rdb]

The agreement, as circulated in Palestinian media, also contained a clause forbidding open displays of weaponry at rallies. Gunmen can occasionally be seen at Palestinian political gatherings, as many of the main parties have armed wings.

“An agreement was reached on everything that could constitute an obstacle to the electoral process,” senior Palestinian official Ahmad al-Majdalani said in a statement on Tuesday night.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decree in mid-January ordering three successive rounds of Palestinian national elections. Nonetheless, observers remain skeptical that the Palestinian vote will come to pass, as fear and mistrust between rival Palestinian factions have torpedoed several previous election pushes. MORE - [*https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-factions-pledge-transparent-election-without-violent-intimidation/*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-factions-pledge-transparent-election-without-violent-intimidation/)

**Iran’s defense minister says country must ready for nuclear, chemical attacks**

***Amir Hatami warns ‘enemies of humanity’ will use any means to achieve war goals, including biological warfare***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *Today, 6:08 pm*

Iran’s defense minister said on Tuesday that the country must be ready to defend itself against nuclear, biological and chemical attacks. [That is only if they start one first. – rdb]

“We should be prepared to defend our nation against all threats and whatever the enemy may one day use as an offensive tool, including chemical, nuclear and biological weapons,” said Iran’s Defense Minister Amir Hatami, according to the semi-official [Fars news agency](https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/13991226000455/DM-Iran-Ready-fr-Bilgical-Chemical-Nclear-Defense).

Hatami said the “enemies of humanity” were prepared to use all means to achieve their military goals.

Iran’s defense ministry “had adopted all the necessary measures against all threats,” he said.

His statements came on the anniversary of a 1987 mustard gas attack by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein against Iraqi Kurds, Fars said. He had previously used the chemical weapon against Iranian Kurds.

Hatami’s statements came as tensions climb in the Middle East, with the US and Iran jockeying for position ahead of expected nuclear negotiations.

Last week, Hatami that his country would [give a devastating response](https://www.timesofisrael.com/if-israel-attacks-well-raze-tel-aviv-and-haifa-warns-iranian-defense-minister/) to any Israeli attack, and that the Jewish state was aware of the peril, according to Iranian media reports. [That devastating attach would probably come from Lebanon and Hezbollah which is their proxy. – rdb]

A series of incidents at sea have also turned up the heat, including an explosion on an Israel-owned tanker in the Persian Gulf last month, an alleged attack on an Iranian ship and a report that said Israel [targeted a series of Iranian ships](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-officials-say-israel-attacked-ships-carrying-iranian-oil-to-syria-report/) headed to Syria.

Iran’s foreign ministry on Monday [blamed Israel](https://www.timesofisrael.com/blaming-israel-for-cargo-ship-blast-iran-warns-it-has-right-to-respond/) for the blast on the Iranian ship last week and said Iran had the right to respond.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Monday [urged the United States](https://www.timesofisrael.com/zarif-urges-us-return-to-nuke-deal-before-onset-of-irans-lame-duck-government/) to quickly rejoin the 2015 agreement limiting Iran’s nuclear ambitions, warning that the Islamic Republic’s upcoming elections could stymie progress in any talks. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/irans-defense-minister-says-country-must-ready-for-nuclear-chemical-attacks/>

**Hidden-camera stunner: Facebook exec says social giant needs to be broken up**

***'I work for a company that is doing a lot of damage in the world'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published March 16, 2021 at 11:47am*

A Facebook executive says his company has too much power, and it needs to be broken up to reduce the damage it is inflicting.

The comments by Benny Thomas, Facebook's global planning lead, were captured in a [hidden-camera interview by Project Veritas](https://www.projectveritas.com/news/king-zuck-facebook-global-planning-lead-reveals-need-for-government/).

"No king in the history of the world has been the ruler of 2 billion people, but Mark Zuckerberg is," he said.

"You should not have power over 2 billion people. I just think that's wrong."

Thomas said he works for a company "that is doing a lot of damage in the world."

"It's doing a lot of good, but it's doing a lot of damage," he said.

"I would break up Facebook, which means I would make less money probably – but I don't care. Like that's what needs to be done. Instagram, Facebook Messenger, Oculus, WhatsApp -- they all need to be separate companies. It's too much power when they’re all one together," he said.

Thomas acknowledged there is bias built into the company's software.Bottom of Form

"There's always built-in [algorithmic] bias. ... Guess what? Human beings wrote that code," he said. "We’re re-looking at the algorithms, but it's such a massive and complicated thing that it takes time to fix it. Honestly, I think we need to bite the bullet and do it quicker, but you lose a lot of money as well if you do that."

His predicted a dire future.

"AI [Artificial Intelligence] is essentially evolving to become like human intelligence. Then, it’s going to go beyond human intelligence and at that point, humans are expendable," he said.

But he was happy with his work on the 2020 election.

"One of the things I worked on, which made me happy, was a voter registration drive. ... This is the kind of thing that you can only do with a company that has the sheer scale and reach of Facebook. We set ourselves a goal of registering four million new people and we went over that target."

He said Facebook-owned platforms such as Instagram, Oculus and WhatsApp "need to be separate companies" because it's "too much power when they're all one together."

"I would break it up and I would remove Zuck as the CEO," he said.

Thomas noted that Zuckerberg owns a controlling stake in the company.

"So, you can't do it the usual way that you do it in corporate, which is the board can just fire you, right? The board can’t do that to Zuck. The board can’t do that to Larry Page and Sergey Brin [Google] because they own too much of the company. They're too powerful. So, these are not companies anymore. These are countries," he said.

James O'Keefe established Project Veritas in 2011 as a non-profit journalism enterprise to expose "corruption, dishonesty, self-dealing, waste, fraud, and other misconduct in both public and private institutions to achieve a more ethical and transparent society."

A previous Project Veritas videos investigation documented Zuckerberg's opposition to President Trump and his hope that he can work with Joe Biden.

"The president [Trump] intends to use his remaining time in office to undermine the peaceful and lawful transition of power," Zuckerberg said before Biden's inauguration.

He accused Trump of subverting the nation's interests: "It's so important that our political leaders lead by example, make sure we put the nation first here, and what we've seen is that the president has been doing the opposite of that."

But when Biden launched into a record-setting series of executive actions to undo Trump's policies, Zuckerberg said: "I think that these were all important and positive steps. And I am looking forward to opportunities where Facebook is going to be able to work together with this new administration on some of their top priorities starting with the COVID response."

Zuckerberg said Biden, on his first day, "issued a number of executive orders on areas that we as a company really care quite deeply about and have for some time."

" Areas like immigration, preserving DACA, ending restrictions on travel from Muslim-majority countries, as well as other executive orders on climate and advancing racial justice and equity. I think these were all important and positive steps," he said. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/hidden-camera-stunner-facebook-exec-says-social-giant-needs-broken/> [Zuck is in alliance (and agreement) with Gates and Klaus Schwab and Soros and their progressive trolls to micromanage the world and get the numbers down to a workable controllable number. – rdb]

**Top filmmakers dropping bomb on major Biden scandal**

[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/my-son-hunter.jpg)***Makers of 'Gosnell' to reveal 'direct connection to president'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published March 16, 2021 at 8:22pm*

The Irish-born filmmaking couple [Phelim McAleer and Ann McElhinny](https://unreportedstorysociety.com/) have employed the medium of film to spotlight big stories and trends that establishment media either ignore or slant.

Their scripts typically rely on transcripts of sworn witness testimony, such as in the anti-abortion feature ["Gosnell: The Trial Of America's Biggest Serial Killer"](http://gosnellmovie.com/) and the recent "[ObamaGate: The Movie,"](https://obamagatethemovie.com/) on the Trump-Russia collusion probe.

Now, in "My Son Hunter," they will take on the censored story of "Biden family corruption" as revealed in the abandoned laptop of Hunter Biden.

[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/mcaleer.jpg)Irish filmmaker Phelim McAleer

They plan to raise $2.5 million in a [crowdfunding campaign](https://mysonhunter.com/) within the next 60 days "to create the new film that will expose the truth behind Hunter Biden’s scandals and their direct connection to President Joe Biden."

[***See the site for "Son of Hunter"***](https://mysonhunter.com/)

Much of the film, they said, will be set in Ukraine and will center on Hunter Bidens' controversial business dealings.

During the election campaign last fall, the couple countered the spin on the Trump-Russia collusion story with ["ObamaGate."](https://obamagatethemovie.com/)  Teaming with the Washington watchdog Judicial Watch, the "Hamilton"-style 70-minute film derives its script word-for-word from the wealth of texts, emails, memos and witness transcripts collected in the many Trump-Russia investigations. The movie can be [viewed at no cost via YouTube](https://obamagatethemovie.com/).Bottom of Form

"The media and big tech covered up the bombshell report by the New York Post that showed the depth of corruption in the Biden family," McAleer said in a news release Monday.

"The truth deserves to be told, and it needs to be seen by as many people as possible," he said.

McAleer said an "entertaining and enjoyable movie is the best way to tell the story of the Biden family’s corruption and to ensure as many people are educated about this as possible."

"If the media won’t do their jobs, we’ll do it for them," he said.

McElhinney described the story as "Austin Powers meets King Lear, with a dash of 'House of Cards.'"

"The story is so compelling that viewers on both sides of the aisle will find it incredibly entertaining," she said.

The couple said actors have yet to be announced. But Laurence Fox, known for his roles in "Victoria" and "Becoming Jane," told The Telegraph of London he has been approached and is considering playing the role of Hunter Biden.

*See the couple's announcement of the film:*

Fox, who is from a well-known British acting family, last year founded the Reclaim Party in the United Kingdom [to "reclaim" British values from politicians, who he says have "lost touch with the people."](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/sep/27/laurence-fox-launching-political-party-to-reclaim-british-values)

Prior to producing documentaries for the BBC and other networks, McAleer was a foreign correspondent for the Financial Times and for The Economist in Eastern Europe. Before that, he covered Ireland for the Sunday Times of London. He began his career covering the Northern Ireland for The Irish News in Belfast.

The couple's book "Gosnell: The Untold Story of America’s Most Prolific Serial Killer" was an Amazon and New York Times bestseller. Other notable works are the films "FrackNation, Not Evil Just Wrong," "Mine Your Own Business, "The Search for Tristan's Mum" and "Return to Sender. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/top-filmmakers-dropping-bomb-major-biden-scandal/> [Hallelujah! Maybe the truth will get out. – rdb]

**Democratic senator on hot mic confessing plan to bypass GOP again**

**Plotting to pass trillions more in spending with simple-majority vote**

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published March 16, 2021 at 6:17pm*

Joe Biden used some of the little time he spent on the campaign trail in 2020 promising he would be a bipartisan president. Repeatedly he vowed to work with Republicans, and several congressional leaders made similar promises.

But for anyone who hasn't noticed Biden has shown no interest in compromise, a democratic senator now has confirmed the party intends to impose it's will on America

Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., was caught on a hot microphone telling Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg that the budget reconciliation process -- which requires only a simple majority vote -- "likely" would be required to pass trillions of dollars in infrastructure spending through Congress.

That process already was used for the American Rescue Plan, which was supposed to be a COVID-19 relief bill. It ended up, however, designating only a tiny fraction of its $1.9 trillion to COVID relief.

Billions were handed out to Democratic-run cities that have mismangaged budgets, to abortionists and even to federal workers who are being given a $20,000-plus option to stay home with their kids.

[Fox News reported](https://www.foxnews.com/us/democratic-senator-caught-on-hot-mic-telling-buttigieg-budget-reconciliation-on-table-for-infrastructure) Cardin was caught on a C-SPAN microphone at an event Monday saying Democrats "most likely have to use reconciliation" for their plan.

"Ultimately, it's going to be put together similar to how the American Rescue Plan was put together. ... Most likely, we're going to have to use reconciliation."

Sen. Ben Cardin, as heard on a C-SPAN mic, tells Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg that Democrats will “most likely have to use reconciliation” on an infrastructure package as they did with the Covid relief bill.

“The Republicans will be with you to a point, and then—“ [pic.twitter.com/d4Pc49WlIl](https://t.co/d4Pc49WlIl)

— Sahil Kapur (@sahilkapur) [March 15, 2021](https://twitter.com/sahilkapur/status/1371532210814214145)

Cardin said, "The Republicans will be with you to a point, and then."

The [The Gateway Pundit blog noted](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/03/watch-dem-senator-caught-hot-mic-admitting-democrats-will-ram-trillions-new-spending-without-gop-support/) not one Republican in the Senate or the House voted for "the pork-filled bill that is really a power grab for the Democrats, teachers unions, minority interests and will funnel tens of thousands of dollars to federal workers."

Democrats now are preparing a new economic package that would cost from $2 to $4 trillion dollars. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/democratic-senator-hot-mic-confessing-plan-bypass-gop/> Bankrupt the country and then the WEC can reset the entire world economy the way they want and create a worldwide communist state. – rdb]

**At least 8 killed as shooter targets Asian massage parlors in Atlanta**

***21-year-old man, identified as Robert Aaron Long, taken into custody in southwest Georgia hours later after a manhunt***

*By* [*Kate Brumback*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/kate-brumback/) *Today, 4:14 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/AP21076058856100.jpg)

Authorities investigate a fatal shooting at a massage parlor, late Tuesday, March 16, 2021, in Woodstock, Ga. Officials say 21-year-old Robert Aaron Long, of Woodstock, Georgia, has been captured hours after multiple people were killed in shootings at three Atlanta-area massage parlors. (AP Photo/Mike Stewart)

ATLANTA (AP) — Shootings at two massage parlors in Atlanta and one in the suburbs Tuesday evening left eight people dead, many of them women of Asian descent, authorities said. A 21-year-old man suspected in the shootings was taken into custody in southwest Georgia hours later after a manhunt, police said.

The attacks began around 5 p.m., when five people were shot at Youngs Asian Massage Parlor in a strip mall near a rural area in Acworth, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Atlanta, Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office spokesman Capt. Jay Baker said. Two people died at the scene and three were transported to a hospital where two of them also died, Baker said.

Authorities were not immediately releasing the gender or race of the victims, Baker said. No one was arrested at the scene.

Around 5:50 p.m., police in the Buckhead neighborhood of Atlanta, responding to a call of a robbery in progress, found three women dead from apparent gunshot wounds at Gold Spa in northeast Atlanta. While they were at that scene, they learned of a call reporting shots fired at another spa across the street, Aromatherapy Spa, and found a woman who appeared to have been shot dead inside the business.

“It appears that they may be Asian,” Atlanta Police Chief Rodney Bryant said.

The killings came amid a recent wave of attacks against Asian Americans that coincided with the spread of the coronavirus across the United States. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/at-least-8-killed-as-shooter-targets-asian-massage-parlors-in-atlanta/>

**Commentary:**

**The Human Need To Feel Important -- and How Government Squelches It**[*Dennis Prager*](https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/) *Posted: Mar 16, 2021 12:01 AM* If one were to draw up a list of human needs, food and shelter would be at the top.  
 With great respect to Freudians, sex would not be No. 2.  
 The need for meaning would be second only to the need for food.  
 That meaning is more important to happiness than sex is easily shown. A great many people go long periods without sex, and while many of them miss it, if they have meaning in their lives, they can lead quite happy and fulfilling lives. On the other hand, few people who have regular sex but lack meaning are happy or fulfilled.  
 Third on the list of human needs is the need to feel important. This need is much less often cited than the need for food, sex and meaning. But it is so important that a case could be made that it is tied for No. 2 with the need for meaning.  
 The infamous "midlife crisis" is a crisis of importance: "I thought I would be much more important at this stage in life than I am." That mostly afflicts men -- just as feeling less important after one's children have left home afflicts mothers more than fathers.  
 Among the many psycho-social crises afflicting Americans is a crisis of importance. Fewer Americans feel important than did Americans in the past.  
 Why? What has happened?  
 What has happened is a steep decline in the number of institutions that gave people a feeling of importance.  
 Given that work is generally regarded as one of the most ubiquitous providers of purpose, and that, prior to the COVID-19 lockdown, more Americans were working than ever before, one would think that more Americans than ever before felt important.  
 It has not turned out that way. For many, work has not provided the sense of importance people expected it to, let alone fulfilled the other great need: for meaning. This is especially true for women, but first, we will address men.  
 Work used to provide many men with a sense of importance. It is simply a fact that being the breadwinner for a family means one is important. However, since the 1970s and the rise of feminism, women have not only become breadwinners, but they have increasingly become the primary breadwinner within a marriage and for a family. That has helped couples financially, but it has also deprived a great many men of their sense of importance. When regarded by a wife and children as important, husbands/fathers felt important. Progressive America mocks the 1950s TV series "Father Knows Best." But when wives and children believed that, men felt important because they were. The price for this, according to feminism, was paid by women, who didn't receive the accolades of breadwinning. And they set about changing it.  
 However, contrary to the expectations of the well-educated, women becoming breadwinners has not provided most women with a sense of importance, and certainly not meaning in life. Contrary to what feminism, colleges, high schools, progressive parents and the mass media have claimed for decades, men and women do not have the same natures. Just as sex with many partners does not provide most women with the same satisfaction it provides men, most work does not provide women with the same sense of importance or meaning it provides men. For many women, being the breadwinner is financially beneficial but not especially satisfying. Most women would still like their man to be the primary breadwinner. That's why very wealthy women so often marry even wealthier men. It is built into female nature.  
 Moreover, throughout history, work was rarely seen as a primary provider of importance or meaning -- for either sex. Work was little more than a necessity, and the vast majority of people would have happily abandoned their often back-breaking, drudgery-inducing work if they could afford to.  
 For the most part, people sought -- and found -- importance and meaning *outside* of work. This was especially true in America, where "associations" provided both importance and meaning.  
 Nongovernmental associations, as Alexis de Tocqueville noted in his brilliant analysis of American life in the early 19th century, was the key to Americans' success and happiness. These included, first and foremost, religious associations and religion in general. Most religious people feel important -- to God, to their community, to their family. My father was the president of our synagogue, and my mother was active in the synagogue's "sisterhood." Though both worked full time, those roles provided them with immense meaning and sense of importance.  
 Add to that: Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions clubs; book clubs; the Masons; bowling leagues; coaching Little League; volunteer charitable work; teaching Bible in Sunday school. These provided people with a sense of importance.  
 The key to all these associations was their being independent of government. As government has grown, nearly all these associations have shrunk. Therefore, we have a rule: The more government intrudes in people's lives, the less important most people feel -- unless they work for the government.  
 Yet, to progressives, government is, or should be, almost everything in people's lives. It should take care of as many people as possible. However, at a massive price: The more one relies on the government, the more one will inevitably lack a sense of importance.  
 This ideal was announced at the 2012 Democratic Party Convention, when the narrator of a specially-created Barack Obama campaign-theme video asserted, "Government is the only thing that we all belong to." The DNC also showed a fictional storybook ad titled "The Life of Julia." It portrayed a woman from childhood to old age, wholly dependent on the government. Despite her having a child, there was not a man anywhere in the story, nor, apparently, was there a man in her life. The result? More and more American women have come to rely on the government, not on a husband. The results have been calamitous.  
 President Joe Biden repeated this theme last week: "Put trust and faith in our government," he pleaded with Americans. One could accurately say that we are replacing America's motto, "In God We Trust," with, "In Government We Trust."  
 The bigger the government, the fewer the institutions in which people can feel important. Therefore, given the deep human need to feel important, people will look elsewhere for their importance -- like fighting systemic racism, heteronormativity, capitalism, patriarchy and transphobia. And, most of all, global warming -- because you cannot feel more important than when you believe you are saving the world. <https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/2021/03/16/the-human-need-to-feel-important--and-how-government-squelches-it-n2586305>

**Exec of #MeToo Group That Covered for Biden’s Sex Abuse Heads His Council to Protect Women**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*March 15, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/03/exec-of-metoo-group-that-covered-for.html)

When Hollywood wanted to divert attention from its sexual abuse of women, it created Time’s Up and staffed it with political hacks from the Obama administration.

Time’s Up was [built as a rival](https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/268994/how-hollywood-killed-metoo-daniel-greenfield) to the decentralized social media #MeToo movement. Replacing social media outrage driven by random people with a formal organization funded by Hollywood capital and controlled by the Democrat non-profit sector could prevent another Weinstein mess.  
 Despite being backed by Hollywood millionaires, the organization’s legal defense fund launched what became the largest fundraiser on GoFundMe: totaling almost $25 million. But critics [pointed out](https://nypost.com/2020/11/28/star-studded-times-up-charities-spent-big-on-salaries-not-victims/) that Time’s Up’s money was mostly going to salaries, rather than to victims.  
 There was even more outrage when Time’s Up Now co-sponsored a retreat at a spa filled with agents from CAA: a powerful talent agency backing Time’s Up [which had been accused](https://deadline.com/2017/12/caa-apologizes-to-anyone-let-down-1202220778/) of covering up Weinstein's crimes. Rose McGowan, a key #MeToo figure, [tweeted](https://boundingintocomics.com/2020/12/03/rose-mcgowan-says-times-up-organization-is-front-for-human-traffickers-calls-out-hollywood-actresses-like-brie-larson-natalie-portman-marisa-tomei-who-support-it/), “Times Up A vile PR stunt, a front for evil CAA & other human traffickers like Weinstein.”  
 In 2019, Lisa Borders, the CEO of Time's Up, was [forced to resign](https://www.frontpagemag.com/point/2019/02/head-hollywood-metoo-group-resigns-after-sons-daniel-greenfield/) when her son, a formerly homeless yoga instructor, was accused of groping one of his clients during a "healing" session. Borders explained that she was resigning because she wanted to defend her son, but still got paid $591,000 for half a year’s work as part of a “severance agreement” with the group.  
 Borders was replaced by Tina Tchen, Michelle Obama’s former chief of staff, who spent 2020 tanking what was left of the little credibility that the Obama/Hollywood front group still had.  
 Oprah Winfrey had helped launch #TimesUp with a Golden Globes speech declaring, “Their time is up” and she also hosted an interview with Time’s Up leaders on CBS: whose former CEO, Les Moonves, had been [TV’s own version of Harvey Weinstein](https://archives.frontpagemag.com/fpm/clinton-sexual-predator-who-made-murphy-brown-daniel-greenfield/). The Time's Up celebs that Oprah interviewed, Shonda Rimes, and Natalie Portman, had not been assaulted by Harvey Weinstein. Or anyone. (McGowan also rightly blasted Portman's theatrics.)  
 But when a documentary about the women alleging that they had been raped by Russell Simmons, a celebrity hip-hop producer who was [also a pal](https://www.showbiz411.com/2020/07/03/disgraced-defjam-records-founder-russell-simmons-backs-louis-farrakhan-doubles-down-on-pariah-status-after-rape-accusations) of racist Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, was close to release, Oprah Winfrey pulled out, under pressure from Simmons.  
 Time’s Up not only [joined Oprah](https://www.vulture.com/2020/06/russell-simmons-accusers-documentary-times-up.html) in refusing to support the victims, but [allegedly started](https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/features/time-s-up-didnt-step-up-1296938) a whispering campaign to sabotage the documentary. A Hollywood Reporter [investigation](https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/features/time-s-up-didnt-step-up-1296938) tied together Tina Chen and the role of former Obama consoligere Valerie Jarrett, and noted that, “$2.9 million of Time's Up gross receipts in 2018 came from three undisclosed donors.”  
 But the complete collapse of Time’s Up came when Tara Reade accused Joe Biden of sexual assault. Reade had initially reached out to people at Time's Up only to be told that the organization legally couldn't support her because Biden was a political candidate. President Trump was also a political candidate, but that hadn’t stopped Time’s Up from attacking him.  
 The same organization that recently put out a statement by Tina Tchen headlined, “Donald Trump Must Be Removed From Office”, claimed that it couldn’t speak out against Biden for legal reasons. The legal reasons were a joke, but the political ones were there for everyone to see.  
 Tchen managed [to praise Biden](https://freebeacon.com/democrats/times-up-ceo-praises-biden-after-declining-to-aid-accuser-tara-reade/) for having the right response to the allegations. This wasn’t surprising as Time’s Up was populated by former Obama people, and in a glaring conflict of interest, its public relations were being handled by Biden advisor Anita Dunn. Beyond being Biden’s “decision-making authority”, Dunn had also [provided advice](https://lawandcrime.com/high-profile/joe-biden-accuser-says-times-up-betrayed-her-in-that-hallway-he-was-a-man-assaulting-a-woman/) to Harvey Weinstein.  
 “I actually cried a little because I felt really betrayed,” Reade had said. “They never told me that their public relations was run by Anita Dunn. I found out in real-time reading Ryan’s article. I gave them so much personal information and they say they didn’t give it to Biden. But come on. They said they had firewalls or something.”  
 Time’s Up said lots of things. But then it did very different things.  
 The Chief Strategy and Policy Officer for Time’s Up, Jennifer Klein, [maxed out](https://dailycaller.com/2020/05/21/times-up-operative-donation-fec-joe-biden/) her donations to Biden. Klein, a former Obama and Clinton vet, has now been appointed by Biden as the co-chair of Biden’s new White House Gender Policy Council, alongside Julissa Reynoso, Jill Biden’s Chief of Staff, an Obama ambassador, and a Paul and Daisy Soros Fellow.  
 The White House Gender Policy Council is tasked in Biden’s executive order with, among a multitude of other things, combatting “sexual harassment”. The Council is expected to throw out policies by former Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos that protected the due process rights of students who had been accused of sexual misconduct on college campuses.  
 Had Biden faced the same lack of due process as the average college student, he would have been immediately found guilty. But Time’s Up insisted that there was no organization that existed to try Biden. Instead it would be up to the voters to pass judgement on his “character”. That was a convenient rationalization for refusing to stand with the women accusing Biden.  
 Now Klein, who was donating to the abuser, will head up Biden’s program to protect women. Except of course those women who might decide to come forward and accuse her boss.  
 Time’s Up had always existed to silence actual victims on behalf of influential Democrats. It was a partnership between Hollywood and Obama operatives. Rolling executives of Time’s Up into Biden programs just makes the arrangement public.  
 Klein combined her time at Time’s Up with serving as co-chair of the Women and Families Policy Committee for the campaign of an accused sexual abuser. Now the Biden campaign elevated her campaign role to an administration role. And, in an interview with Ms. Magazine, Tina Tchen touted Klein as “an expert on both domestic and global gender issues”.  
 “The policy of this administration is that every individual, every student is entitled to a fair education — free of sexual violence — and that all involved have access to a fair process,” Klein argued.  
 Fair process and due process are not the same thing. A due process protects the rights of the accused while a fair process is in the eye of the beholder. Equity dispenses with due process and replaces it with bias that is only ‘fair’ if you believe that society is fundamentally unfair.  
 Of course we already know the outcome.  
 Tina Tchen had already tweeted that due process rules for accused abusers on campus are wrong and the National Women's Law Center, which administers the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund, had sued to stop student accusers from being cross-examined after an accusation.  
 The Biden administration will move to ban cross-examination of campus accusers, but when Reade accused Biden of sexual assault, she was cross-examined and then smeared in the media, while Biden was hardly ever asked about any of the allegations of sexual misconduct.  
 That’s the ‘fair’ standard of Time’s Up in action.  
 Accuse a random student and you have the right to be believed without being cross-examined, but if you accuse Biden, you have the right to be cross-examined without ever being believed.  
 Believe Reade or don’t, Biden’s inappropriate conduct with women has been captured on video. It’s not hard to find photos and video clips of him inappropriately touching women and girls. That might be one reason he chose to rename the White House Council on Women and Girls that Tina Tchen had headed for Obama to the White House Gender Policy Council headed by Klein.  
 The existence of women and girls is routinely denied by lefties who insist on using euphemisms like “menustrators” (She the People), “chest-feeders” (NHS), and “people with vaginas” (Planned Parenthood) and by Biden, one of whose first moves was to effectively eliminate women’s sports. Now women have also been erased from the Council on Women and Girls.  
 And who better to oversee this on behalf of a sexual abuser than a senior figure in an organization that exists to insulate powerful Democrats from the women accusing them.

*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/2021/03/exec-of-metoo-group-that-covered-for.html>

**Given Biden’s Immigration Policy When Do We Begin Challenging Administration Officials in Restaurants?**[*Brad Slager*](https://townhall.com/columnists/bradslager/) *Posted: Mar 16, 2021 12:01 AM* It was all the rage a few years back. News outlets salivated at the videos and reports of citizens creating public disruptions in dining establishments when they would loudly -- sometimes physically -- disrupt Trump administration figures. The justification for this was the accused human rights abuses taking place with regards to the immigration policies being enforced, leading to accusations of kids being placed in cages, the creation of baby jails, and concentration camps for minors.   
 The emotion was that anyone who was permitting these ‘atrocities’ should not be permitted to dine out in comfort. They should be challenged, and people were encouraged to get in their faces. Well, here we are in 2021 and the country is[facing a crisis at the border](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/juliorosas/2021/03/10/even-cnn-is-not-buying-the-biden-administrations-spin-about-the-ongoing-crisis-at-the-border-n2586066), and regardless of how desperately Press Secretary Jen Psaki wants to cloak it in euphemisms, this is a major problem [of Joe Biden’s own doing](https://townhall.com/columnists/bradslager/2021/03/11/white-house-press-behave-like-neutered-hamsters-in-letting-jen-psaki-spin-the-border-crisis-n2586107). Currently [Biden has more children detained at the border](https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/08/politics/children-us-border-patrol/index.html)than seen during the peak of the avowed 2019 *crisis*.   
 But note the severe swing in tone seen in the press. Or, to be completely accurate, that tone not seen in the press. Where are the declarations of inhumane treatment and human rights abuses? They are non-existent. Under President Trump we all heard the wails of accusations that he was engaged in tearing children from the arms of parents. The truth; well over 90% of those children were arriving here unaccompanied. That is a designation the press today goes out of their way to note when reporting on Biden’s maneuvers at the border -- [yet he is also still engaged in separations as well](https://chicago.suntimes.com/2021/3/6/22316972/migrant-children-temporarily-separated-from-relatives-under-biden-administration).  
 Along with [breaking his pledge](https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2021-02-01/hundreds-deported-under-biden-including-witness-to-massacre) to not deport anyone during his first 100 days the president has reversed course on demonizing Trump’s immigrant housing policies, reopening those accursed holding facilities at a fast clip and resorting to the very standards that the media declared inhumane. NPR details the children being subjected[to the same harsh conditions](https://www.npr.org/2021/03/11/976170463/children-spend-days-in-crude-facilities-as-u-s-border-resources-overwhelmed-agai) which had the general public, at the guidance of a hyperbolic media, gnashing their teeth in outrage.  
 *Many children can't even get transferred to more hospitable shelters that can have bunk beds, video games, classrooms, medical facilities and ball fields because those are already at 94% capacity. That backlog explains why kids are staying on average 107 hours in the sprawling and sometimes jail-like Border Patrol facilities — longer than the 72 hours allowed by law.*  
 So a question: Where are those howling harridans in the media calling for us to accost Democrats as they are dining out at *Johnnie Palmer*, or *The Occidental Grill*? [Stories came out](https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/25/politics/ted-cruz-heckled-restaurant-brett-kavanaugh/index.html)of politicians [being challenged at meals](https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/amberjamieson/steve-king-glass-water) and conservative pundits [getting water thrown on them](https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2018/05/23/tomi-lahren-fox-news-minneapolis-bar-incident/). During this period was when Sarah Huckabee Sanders [had her family chased off](https://time.com/5320482/sarah-huckabee-sanders-virginia-restaurant/) by the proprietors of one establishment. ([This move was repeated](https://twitter.com/PressSec45/status/1010536237457924096?s=20) with Sanders’ replacement, Kayleigh McEnany.) These episodes, and others, were not only covered dutifully by the press but they lacked anything approaching condemnation.   
 More than a tacit approval, there were calls going out for people to expand on this level of intolerance in public. At *The Guardian* [Jessica Valenti outwardly encouraged people to continue](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jun/25/trump-sarah-huckabee-sanders-civility) with this practice, and she gave all the needed justification. ‘’*When it comes to kids in cages, you’re not just accountable for your actions from 9 to 5,’’* was her justification for confronting politicos nibbling on portabellas.   
 *But when you’re talking about the kind of human rights violations the*[*Trump administration*](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/trump-administration) *has unabashedly enacted and defended, there is no public/private line worth honoring...If you’re responsible for the jailing of Latino toddlers, you do not have the right to enjoy Mexican food free from protest. If you are defending internment camps where children are leaving with bedbug bites, lice and irreparable emotional trauma, you don’t get to have a fun dinner out without servers and restaurant owners taking umbrage.*  
 Now then, where is that same umbrage seen today? Joe Biden has provoked a renewed crisis and is fostering children in a manner as egregious as that alleged of Trump, if not worse. He had provoked this inhumane treatment in less than 50 days in office, a clear sign that he wanted this result. He is not only deserving of harsh condemnation but his staff, and administration workers are worthy of the public scorn.   
 It is just another facet reflected in the double-standard that has long existed with this issue. Policies put in place by the Obama administration never earned much notice until Donald Trump carried them forward. Facilities opened ahead of his arrival became intolerable hellscapes when Trump took over. Now that Biden is continuing the policies, and possibly expanding upon them, it is also time to carry on the tradition of gustatory confrontations.  
 Unless, as suspected, it is all a convenience of partisan morality. As Valenti explains, this is all about ‘’*community members sending a clear message about what they’re willing to tolerate, and what none of us should have to*.’’ It is becoming evident that the left and the press are willing to tolerate what they previously called inhumanities, so long as it is a Democrat who is enforcing those policies. <https://townhall.com/columnists/bradslager/2021/03/16/given-bidens-immigration-policy-when-do-we-begin-challenging-administration-officials-in-restaurants-n2586284>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Israeli tech can diagnose COVID-19 through the eye**

***Innovative device can differentiate between healthy people and coronavirus patients with a 40 40-second retinal scan.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 16 , 2021 10:25 PM*

An innovative device developed in Israel manages to differentiate between coronavirus patients and healthy people, through a retinal scan that lasts 40 seconds, Channel 13 News reported.

Professor Guy Kleinman, director of the ophthalmology department at Wolfson Medical Center, explained that "the coronavirus is in a lot of fluid in the body, and it is also in tears - but it is difficult for us to diagnose it."

This first-of-its-kind imaging device developed by the 'Edom' company, which, like a kind of MRI scan of the eye, divides the eye into thin layers until suspicious molecules can be identified in them - even the fatty shell that coats the coronavirus. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298627>

**Israel's next president to be decided in coalition talks?**

***'PM Netanyahu will offer to support candidate in exchange for pardon,' political source claims to Arutz Sheva.***

*Hezki Baruch , Mar 17 , 2021 1:07 PM*

Sources in the political echelon have told Arutz Sheva that the identity of Israel's next president may determined during coalition agreements following the March 25 election.

"If Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu does not have the 61 Knesset seats which guarantee him immunity, he is liable to turn to the candidates for presidency and offer them his bloc's support in exchange for a pardon," the source claimed.

"In order to ensure that the bloc will vote for the candidate Netanyahu prefers, Netanyahu will demand from the parties as part of the coalition deal that they vote with the coalition in the elections for president, or, to be exact, according to Netanyahu's stance and in accordance with the 'deal' he made with the candidate who promised him a pardon."

The elections for Israel's 11th president will be held on a date to be determined by the next Knesset, sometime between April and June 2021. Israel's current president, Reuven Rivlin, will end his term on July 5, 2021.

One likely candidate for the position of president is Jewish Agency head Yitzhak Herzog, who enjoys support from Arabs, haredim, and the Left, and is currently working with right-wing politicians as well in order to ensure he has the support of the majority.

Singer Yehoram Gaon and Israel Prize winner [Miriam Peretz](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297370) are also expected to run for the position. Peretz's run is supported by the chairs of both Yamina and Yesh Atid, as well as by large portions of the Likud. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298666> [I think this explains a great many of Bibi’s actions for the past couple years. It’s all about a “get out of Jail free” card – rdb]

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**03/16/2021 NEWS AM**

**Adagio - Johann Sebastian Bach**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ywL\_zokELE**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ywL_zokELE)

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| **"You and I are told we must choose between a left or right, but I suggest there is no such thing as a left or right. There is only an up or down. Up to man's age-old dream -- the maximum of individual freedom consistent with order -- or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism. Regardless of their sincerity, their humanitarian motives, those who would sacrifice freedom for security have embarked on this downward path. Plutarch warned, 'The real destroyer of the liberties of the people is he who spreads among them bounties, donations and benefits.'" -- Ronald Reagan (1911-2004) 40th US President** |

**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 21:29And Abimelech saith unto Abraham, `What *are* they--these seven lambs which thou hast set by themselves?' 30And he saith, `For--the seven lambs thou dost accept from my hand, so that it becometh a witness for me that I have digged this well;' 31therefore hath he called that place `Beer-Sheba,' for there have both of them sworn. 32And they make a covenant in Beer-Sheba, and Abimelech riseth--Phichol also, head of his host--and they turn back unto the land of the Philistines;**

**IDF troops shoot two suspected of firebombing West Bank settlement**

***Attackers threw Molotov cocktails at homes Beit El, military says***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 2:47 am*

**Israeli troops shot two people who threw firebombs at homes in the West Bank settlement of Beit El on Monday night, the military said**.

**Israel Defense Forces soldiers spotted three suspects tossing the firebombs and fired at them, hitting two**, the IDF said in a statement.

The **incident followed several violent incidents** in the West Bank a week ago.

A Palestinian man [tried to stab](https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-tries-to-stab-soldier-during-west-bank-raid-is-shot-army-says/) an Israeli soldier during an overnight operation in the West Bank village of Tubas and was shot by another soldier last Monday.

The **soldier was lightly wounded in the exchange but succeeded in pushing** his attacker back, allowing his commander to open fire, shooting and injuring the assailant.

The incident occurred while the soldiers were trying to carry out an arrest. The army did not clarify if the suspect was a target in that operation.

Later that day, [a Palestinian woman was arrested](https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-woman-nabbed-in-outpost-settlers-say-she-tried-to-stab-woman/) after she entered an illegal agricultural outpost in the central West Bank and allegedly tried to stab the wife of the farm owner, the military said.

Residents of the outpost subdued the Palestinian woman, without seriously injuring her, and handed her over to IDF troops who arrived at the scene.

That night, Israeli troops shot two Palestinian teenagers who were [suspected of throwing firebombs](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-troops-shoot-two-palestinian-teens-suspected-of-firebombing-cars/) at cars along a central West Bank highway. According to Palestinian media, one of the two 17-year-old suspects was seriously injured, while the second sustained light wounds. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-troops-shoot-two-suspected-of-firebombing-west-bank-settlement/>

**Netanyahu, Bennett tussle over prospect of coalition with Lapid**

***After PM calls on Yamina head to vow not to form power-sharing government with Yesh Atid, Bennett mocks him, saying his promises are like hitting Waze’s ‘I’m not the driver’ button***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 7:04 pm*

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Yamina party chairman Naftali Bennett traded barbs on Monday as the two right-wing party leaders competed for a similar pool of voters, with eight days remaining before the el**ection.

**Netanyahu called on Bennett to pledge not to join a government with opposition leader and Yesh Atid party chief Yair Lapid after the March 23 electi**on.

**While Bennett has not ruled out sitting in a coalition with the center-left Lapid, he has vowed not to allow the Yesh Atid chairman to be prime minister in such a coalition. Netanyahu has for weeks maintained that Bennett will nonetheless agree to serve under Yesh Atid in** a power-sharing government in which the Yamina chair will be premier for half a term, arguing that this scenario would be the only one that would allow Bennett to fulfill his stated aspiration of replacing Netanyahu as prime minister.

**“I am making a commitment to establish a broad right-wing coalition without a [premiership] rotation and certainly without Yair Lapid,” Netanyahu said in a video shared on his Twitter account. “Now it’s your turn**, Naftali Bennett: Commit to a government without Lapid in any role and without a rotation. Commit.”

**Bennett responded by mocking Netanyahu’s own questionable record of keeping election promis**es as well as his many left-wing political bedfellows over the years.

**“So I must say,” he said later Monday at a conference organized by the right-wing Besheva newspaper. “Hearing the word commitment from Netanyahu is a bit like making [former Health Ministry director and vocal coronavirus skeptic] Yoram Lass the face of the campaign against the coro**navirus.



***Yamina chairman Naftali Bennett attends a conference of the Israeli Manufacturer’s Association in Tel Aviv, on March 15, 2021. (Miriam Alster/Flash90)***

**“It’s like pressing the ‘I’m not the driver’ button on Waze [in order to use the app while driving],” Bennett continued. “This is the same Netanyahu who said, ‘I will abide by the rotation deal [with Benny Gantz] and there won’t be any tricks or shticks,’ when he broke the agreement before even finishing his sentence**.”

**“This is the same Netanyahu who swore he would evacuate Khan al-Ahmar, and today it is already a small cit**y,” Bennett said, referring to the West Bank Bedouin hamlet, which the High Court of Justice ruled in 2018 could be demolished due to its lack of permits. It has not, however, grown in any significant matter since the prime minister vowed to flatten the village in 2019.

**Polls show that Netanyahu will ultimately need Yamina in order to form the hard-right government** he has been promoting during the ongoing election campaign. However, many surveys have indicated that even with Bennett, the two Haredi parties of Shas and United Torah Judaism, and the far-right Religious Zionism party, Netanyahu might not have the 61 seats necessary to form a coalition. If he does, most analysts have concluded that Bennett will agree to forgo his aspirations to be prime minister and serve under Netanyahu as a senior partner.

**However, if the pro-Netanyahu bloc does not have enough seats, Bennett will be in a position to possibly demand the premiership, though he’ll likely need a double-digit number of seats. Yamina has passed Gideon Sa’ar’s New Hope to gain third place in the polls with 11-14 seats, but he still trails Yesh Atid (18-20) and Likud (28-30) signifi**cantly.

**A scenario in which neither the pro- nor anti-Netanyahu bloc is large enough to form a coalition on its own has been predicted in many surveys,** including a Sunday Channel 13 [poll](https://www.timesofisrael.com/poll-blocs-split-58-58-raam-could-be-tie-breaker/), which forecasted a 58-58 split. In this case, the Islamist Ra’am party — which like Yamina has refrained from ruling out either coalition type — could find itself as kingmaker with just four seats.

**Ra’am’s affiliation to the broader Islamic and Palestinian movements would likely make it difficult for chairman Mansour Abbas to hand Netanyahu the premiership,** despite his insistence in recent months that he’s willing to cooperate with any coalition that is prepared to advance reforms that benefit the Arab Israeli minority.

**Moreover, Netanyahu has vowed not to cooperate in any fashion with Ra’am in order to form a governmen**t. However, his potential coalition’s most radical member, Itamar Ben Gvir from the Religious Zionism party, told the Besheva conference on Monday that “if Mansour Abbas says tomorrow ‘I change my mind, I think killing a baby because she is Jewish is wrong’ – then we can have a conversation about him supporting the government from the outside.”

Abbas has never said that he supports killing Jewish babies and he threatened to file a libel suit against Ben Gvir. Moreover, the Ra’am chair vowed not to back any government that includes Ben Gvir of the Kahanist Otzma Yehudit faction.

**Likud on Monday reiterated that it won’t form a coalition that relies on Ra’a**m.

**Unlike Bennett, Sa’ar has vowed not to serve under Netanyahu in any circumstanc**e. He claims that his strong stance on the matter has led the premier to send Likud activists to New Hope’s campaign events to assault the party’s supporters.

**Netanyahu told the national religious Kipa news site Monday, “I condemn all violence against all candidates, and especially against irrelevant candidates like Gideon Sa’a**r.”

**Sa’ar shot back at Netanyahu in a statement, wondering why, if New Hope was so “irrelevant,” Likud was “sending” activists to beat up New Ho**pe supporters.

 Sa’ar, a former Likud party stalwart, on Saturday night accused Netanyahu supporters of disrupting a party event by throwing objects at participants, including stones and eggs. One person was injured.

***Head of the New Hope party Gideon Saar attends a conference of the Israeli Manufacturer’s Association in Tel Aviv, on March 15, 2021. (Miriam Alster/Flash90)***

**He shared a video that showed people carrying Likud flags arguing with his supporters and calling him a traitor, apparently outside the me**eting.

**A day later, another New Hope candidate, Ofer Berkovitch, was violently confronted by Likud activis**ts as he campaigned in the capital’s Mahane Yehuda market.

“Netanyahu has completely lost it. Bibi, I’m not afraid of you! In another ten days, I’ll replace you,” Sa’ar wrote Saturday on Facebook, referring to the premier by his nickname.

Sa’ar did not provide evidence demonstrating that the Likud activists had received a directive from above.

The New Hope chairman also called out Bennett on Monday, telling a media conference that the Yamina chairman was making a mistake by avoiding a pledge not to serve under Netanyahu.

“It is a great pity that he has not yet done that because it means that the next Netanyahu government can be formed with the help of right-wing votes,” Sa’ar said.

Yamina and New Hope are believed to be fighting over similar sectors of right-wing voters disappointed by Netanyahu. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-bennett-tussle-over-prospect-of-coalition-with-lapid/> **[This is a real circus and has some of the dirtiest mudslinging I ever remember in an Israeli election. – rdb]**

**Herd immunity in Israel possible with 7M vaccinated, virus czar says**

***Prof. Nachman Ash tells Ynet he estimates all restrictions will be lifted by the summer; adds that no additional restrictions are expected ahead of Passover; says officials are discussing minimize the scope of coronavirus testing***

*Adir Yanko, Alexandra Lukash | Published: 03.15.21 , 15:09*

**Coronavirus czar said Monday that Israel could reach a herd immunity when at least seven million Israelis are vaccinated against coronavirus. In an interview with Ynet, Prof. Nachman Ash said that all remaining restrictions on movement could be lifted by the summer if the current infection trend continues**. **[Does that mean the green passport will be dropped? I doubt it. – rdb]**

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***Coronavirus czar Prof. Nachman Ash (Photo: Hadar Yoavian)***

Prof. Ash said that no additional restrictions are expected to be imposed ahead of the upcoming Jewish holiday of Passover. "Festivities this year will be safer due to the high number of inoculated. People will be able to celebrate with their families – up to 20 people indoors and 50 outdoors."

**He admitted that wearing face masks during holiday meals would be "unpractical," but warned that people should still take precaution**s. "If a family member feels unwell before the holiday, he should go get tested, but everybody else should be fine," he said.

**Prof. Ash said Israel might start vaccinating children before the FDA approval and will make a decision on the matter once Pfizer's trials are complete**d, which he added are set to end in a month or two. **[the idea that you need to vaccinate children is crazy. This dude may be a professor but I am not sure of what. Has he read the studies on children and transmission (which is negligible!)? – rdb]**

The professor added that at this point officials are not planning increasing the number of people who can enter sporting events, restaurants and clubs, saying more data is needed to make the decision.

"It is currently not on the table, but it will definitely be mulled over later on, we just want to be cautious and make sure the current exit plan works, especially in facilities intended for Green Pass holders. I have heard reports these places are not adhering to protocol and that is a problem. We will see what the results are, but there are no plans as of now to increase capacities," he said.

**He said, however, that an outline is being drafted to allow Israelis to fly abroad, but added the variables such as quarantine and new COVID variants are complicating the decision-making pr**ocess.



***Travelers at Ben Gurion Airport (Photo: AFP)***

**"As long as we do not have a solution for enforcing quarantine [for travelers], which we are working on, it will be very difficult to open the airport any further**," he said.

"If we'll have enough electric tracking devices, more people will be able to go on a vacation abroad. I hope that by the summer we will be able to fly again. It also depends on bilateral entry agreements, which we will be able to discuss once infection rate drops further globally." **[More insanity. – rdb]**

**Ash also confirmed that officials are discussing minimize the scope of coronavirus testing across the cou**ntry.

**"About 20% of those who arrive at testing facilities are vaccinated, which I do not think is justified," he said. "We are thinking of a mechanism where [those who wish to get tested] are referred to take a test not by a personal physician and but still through their HMO. We still do not know when we are going to d**o this." **[Did that 20% come because they felt sick? Why did they want the test. If they felt sick and ended up with a positive their either the Jab is not effective or the test is not. If it is the PCR that is understandable if it is an antibody test for active covid then the Jab is useless. – rdb]**

Prof. Ash also said he had spoked with Health Ministry Director General Prof. Hezi Levi, who told his he is not planning to quit his post - as some sources claimed earlier. However, he said that if the position will open in the future, he might consider taking it. <https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/HyzfL6nX00>

**Senior health official says risk of new variants entering country remains main challenge**

***Dr. Sharon Alory-Preis says Israel operates nationwide laboratory apparatus to carry out genetic sequencing to spot new variants before spreading, calls on public to act responsibly despite encouraging decline in morbidity***

*Adir Yanko | Published: 03.15.21 , 21:24*

**Head of Public Health Services in the Health Ministry Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis on Monday said she was concerned that new coronavirus variants could enter Israel through the Ben Gurion Inte**rnational Airport.

"We know the vaccines are effective against the British [coronavirus] variant but there is also the South African mutation against which the shots are less effective," Alroy-Preis said in a press conference. "We must make sure that variants do not enter the country."

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| ***מודאגים מכניסה של וריאנטים בעיקר דרך נתב"ג***  ***Head of Public Health Services in the Health Ministry Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis (Photo: Nadav Eves, GPO)*** | ***חוזרים בטיסת החילוץ***  ***An Israeli woman arrives from abroad at the Ben Gurion International Airport (Photo: Moti Kimchi)*** |

**The government on Sunday cleared flights from all destinations to land in Israel but still limited the number of arrivals to 3,000 per** day.

The **senior health official said that variants that could spread in the community could infect the country's unvaccinated population, including children**, and also those who had gotten the vaccine, but their efficacy may have been compromised.

"We have a nationwide laboratory apparatus to carry out genetic sequencing because we want to be prepared. This is our greatest challenge," she said.

She **said that there was no available information regarding the length of time vaccines will remain effective**, telling reporters that the ministry will decide when and in what manner additional shots would be required as further data mounts.

"We can now have weddings and other events if they are held in accordance with health regulations. Green pass holders can participate safely, and those tested and found negative for the virus can do so as well," she said. "I hope that as of next week we will have quick tests, and there is no reason to hold weddings in violation of directives. We don't want weddings to end in funerals."

Alroy-Preis said there were still some virus hotspots across the country where vaccination rates remained low, especially in the Arab sector.

**"We are trying to encourage more people to get their jabs. That i**s the way to reduce morbidity and ensure Ramadan would be celebrated safely next month," she said.

Schools remain a challenge for health professionals as Alroy-Preis stressed that students will continue learning in small groups, also known as "capsules."



***Elementary schools students in class after Israel's third lockdown restrictions were lifted in February (Photo: Amit Huver)***

**"Only older students in the 11th and 12th grade can study in full classes because they had been vaccinated," she said, ad**d that the ministry was preparing a plan that would allow more children into classrooms ahead of the next school year.

"I call on all Israelis over the age of 16 that have not yet received their coronavirus vaccines to get them. Because vaccines do not provide 100% efficacy, we must still use face masks and maintain social distancing. We are also lifting health restrictions in a gradual manner," she said

The health official also said that as of last Monday, Israel had administered the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to over Palestinian laborers holding permits to work in the country.

Responding to reports that Israel will allow arrivals from abroad to get vaccinated against the pathogen at the airport, she said that service will only be available to members of one of the country's healthcare providers in order to prevent vaccine tourism. <https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/SJd1IGa700>

**Israel okays flights from all destinations, coronavirus passenger cap stays**

***Under the current airport regulations, valid until March 20, flights could be authorized only from a limited set of cities, including New York, Paris and Frankfurt.***

*By* [*ROSSELLA TERCATIN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/rossella-tercatin) *MARCH 15, 2021 20:46*

**Starting Tuesday, flights to Israel will be allowed from all destinations. The government made the decision during a late-night meeting on Sunda**y.

**Despite effectively opening Israel to the world, the limit of 3,000 passengers entering the country per day will rema**in.

Under the current airport regulations, valid until March 20, flights could be authorized only from a limited set of cities, including New York, Paris and Frankfurt. The change is expected to facilitate the return of Israelis abroad who wish to vote in the upcoming March 23 [election](https://www.jpost.com/tags/elections).

The ministers also considered increasing the cap on daily returnees. They decided not to due to the opposition of healthcare officials.

**Under the new rules, the Health Ministry retains the authority of canceling a specific flight if it is believed to endanger public hea**lth.

**The cabinet also voted to allow youth movements to organize outdoor day trips and approved an update to the “traffic light” program,** which evaluates infection levels in cities and is used to determine whether schools can open. Fewer than 15% of localities are still labeled as orange or red, and only in the latter do children learn remotely.

Data released by the Health Ministry on Monday gave encouraging signs that the trend in Israel remains positive. The R rate, which measures how many people each [coronavirus patient](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/coronavirus-only-8-percent-of-hospitalized-cases-received-both-pfizer-vaccines-662003) infects on average, continued to decline and stood at 0.76, the lowest in weeks.

**Some 1,377 new cases of the novel coronavirus were reported on Sunda**y, about 1,000 less than the previous Sunday, the Health Ministry reported. On Sundays, the number of tests administered is consistently lower than on other weekdays, and the significance of comparing them is limited. **[Define a case? – rdb]**

Of those infected, 603 patients were in serious condition and 217 were on ventilators. **[Is that of all cases or the newly “diagnosed cases”? ]**Both numbers remained in line with the previous updates. The death toll rose overnight on Sunday to 6,029, with 21 people passing away in 24 hours, marking a slight uptick compared with the past few days, when the most people who succumbed to the virus daily did not exceed 18.

Some 100,000 vaccination shots were administered on Sunday, similar to previous weekdays. About 5.18 million Israelis have received at least one jab of the coronavirus vaccine, including 4.25 million who have received both shots.

According to Public Health Services head Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis, the entrance of new variants into the country could put a damper on the positive trends.

“The UK variant is dominant in Israel, but the vaccine is effective against it,” she said during a press briefing. “We also have the South African variant that only constitutes 1%, but the vaccine is less effective against it. We are afraid of new variants stronger than the vaccine entering the country from all directions, but especially through the airport.”

The Health Ministry is checking the level of antibodies in those who have been vaccinated to determine when another shot would be needed, as well as whether the variants will require another vaccination campaign, Alroy-Preis said. <https://www.jpost.com/health-science/coronavirus-govt-okays-flights-to-israel-from-all-destinations-passenger-cap-stays-662039>

**As Pandemic eased, Tel Aviv hospital closes last COVID-19 ward**

***As more restrictions imposed to slow the spread of coronavirus are lifted Israelis profit from a successful vaccine drive which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says will have covered the entire adult population by April and senior health official says will include children 12-year old and up this summer***

*TPS | Published: 03.15.21 , 17:36*

**Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv announced Monday that it has closed its last active ward treating Coronavirus patients, following the current decline of the pandemic in Israe**l.

**The last 18 Corona patients hospitalized in Ichilov, the main hospital complex serving Tel Aviv and its metropolitan area, were moved to a designated compoun**d.

In another ease of the COVID-19 related restrictions in Israel, the Cabinet approved on Sunday night field trips for youth movements in open areas and overnight field trips for grades 11 and 12 and post-secondary boarding schools in which at least 90% of pupils have been vaccinated. **MORE -** <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/HJbiwkpmd>

**Iran releases footage of Revolutionary Guards 'missile city' base**

***Paramilitary group boasts rows of missiles in a depot with cement walls, says bolstered missile capability of its navy while not providing any details on location nor how many missiles are stored there***

*News Agencies | Published: 03.15.21 , 17:22*

**Iran released images and film footage on Monday of what it said was a new base armed of its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard Corps with cruise and ballistic missiles and "electronic warfare" equipment, the country's state TV reported**.

**The report described the base as a "missile city" and showed rows of what looked like missiles in a depot with cement walls.** It did not give any details on its location nor how many missiles are stored there.

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| ***בסיס טילים של משמרות המהפכה איראן***  ***A Revolutionary Guard Corps missile base in Iran***  ***(Photo: EPA)*** | ***איראן שיגור טילים בליסטיים טיל תרגיל***  ***Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps launches underground ballistic missiles as part of an exercise***  ***(Photo: EPA)*** |

**Alireza Tangsiri, the head of the elite Revolutionary Guards' naval unit, told state TV the base had equipment to detect enemy sign**als.

**The report said the base's "electronic warfare equipment" included radar, monitoring, simulation and disruption system**s.

**"What we see today is a small section of the great and expansive missile capability of Revolutionary Guards**' naval forces," Guards commander Major general Hossein Salami said in the broadcast.

**Last July, the Guard launched underground ballistic missiles as part of an exercise involving a mock-up American aircraft carrier i**n the Strait of Hormuz, highlighting its network of subterranean missile sites.

Since 2011, Iran has boasted of underground facilities across the country as well as along the southern coast near the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Iran claims to have missiles that can travel 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles), placing much of the Middle East, including Israel, within range.

The U.S. and its Western allies see Iran's missile program as a threat, along with the country's nuclear program -- particularly after Tehran gradually breached its commitments to the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, following the Trump administration's withdrawal from the deal in 2018.

Since Iran's bloody 1980s war with Iraq, which saw both nations fire missiles on cities, Iran has developed its ballistic missile program as a deterrent, especially as a UN arms embargo prevents it from buying high-tech weapons systems. The underground tunnels help protect those weapons, including liquid-fueled missiles that can only be fueled for short periods of time. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/HkOYzgTmO> **[So is there anyone who doesn’t realize that Iran has every intention of creating a nuclear devise and expanding their missile capability to deliver it wherever they want it? For a country that is financially (or perhaps I should say “was financially” able to maintain itself because of boycotts (prior to “Bi-dumb” that is, they certainly had enough funds to build a very respectable missile offensive. – rdb]**

**Turkey prepares to clash with Israel, Greece and EU over East Med**

***Turkey’s goal is to break up Israel’s relations. It has also sought to entire Egypt with claims of reconciliation in the last month.***

*By* [*SETH J. FRANTZMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/seth-j-frantzman) *MARCH 16, 2021 01:42*

**Turkey has sent a diplomatic note to Greece and Israel claiming that it must seek “its permission before assuming work on a proposed undersea power cable in eastern Mediterranean waters,” according to reports which emerged in Turkey on Monday n**ight.

**This comes days after Israel ended a naval drill with Cyprus, Greece and France. Turkey signed a deal with the embattled government in Tripoli in 2019 and has been threatening Greece and Cyprus claims at sea over** the last year.

**In April 2020 and December 2020 Turkey claimed it wanted to reconcile with Israe**l, seeking to entice Israel away from an emerging partnership with Greece.

Turkey’s pro-government media even sought to send maps to Israel, claiming it could sign a maritime deal with Israel that would wipe Cyprus' claims off the map.

Instead, Israel and Cyprus have amicable ties and a maritime boundary that they agree on. Israel is getting new Sa’ar 6 ships to defend its EEZ at sea and its gas platforms.

In addition, Israel signed a deal with Greece and Cyprus for an East Med pipeline last summer and is part of a gas forum with Greece, Cyprus, Egypt and other states.   
 Turkey’s goal is to break up Israel’s relations. It has also sought to entire Egypt with claims of reconciliation in the last month.   
 Egypt has said Turkey must make changes to get back into normalization. Turkey hosts Hamas and other terrorists and threatens Egypt and Israel.     
 “In a diplomatic note sent to the two countries' embassies and the EU delegation on Monday, Ankara said the three must seek its permission before conducting any work on Turkey's continental shelf, according to diplomatic sources,” Turkey’s media says.   
 Turkey is angry that Cyprus, Israel and Greece “last week signed an initial agreement on laying the world's longest undersea power cable linking their electricity grids.”   
 Turkey’s latest claim is that the 1,200-kilometre (745-mile) EuroAsia Interconnector's projected plans show it passing through Turkey's continental shelf, Turkish media reports.     
 Turkey wants to use this threat hanging over claims regarding the cable to blackmail Israel, it appears. To show how it will use this, the government in Turkey gave its marching orders to state media and pro-government media.   
 Turkey has arrested, jailed or forced into exile all critical journalists so its media reflects the government stance. Daily Sabah, TRT and Anadolu rushed to print the government claims about the continental shelf and the “note” Turkey is sending.   
 Turkey’s new note shows its real face compared to the claims of reconciliation last year. Turkey has also slammed Kosovo for opening relations with Israel and Turkey has tried to sabotage the new Abraham Accords with the UAE and Bahrain.   
 Turkey is also angry that Sudan and Israel are now making peace. These are setbacks for Ankara which backs Hamas and has tried to isolate Israel over the last decade.   
 Turkey and Israel once had good relations, twenty years ago. Since then however, Recep Tayyip Erdogan came to power and become increasingly authoritarian and Turkey has become a leading opponent of Israel. It even compared Israel to Nazi Germany in comments at the UN in 2019.   
 Now, Turkey finds itself isolated in the region. Its only friends are Qatar, Hamas and the weak Libyan government, as well as some extremists in northern Syria known more for ethnic cleansing and working as mercenaries for Ankara than accomplishing much.   
 Ankara wants to put on a new face, speaking with Russia and Qatar about Syria recently and also having its leader Erdogan pen an op-ed in Bloomberg. However, it has managed to alienate France and many other countries.   
 The US may work with Turkey on hosting a Taliban peace conference. Turkey appears to prefer Russia and Iran to working with the West and US. Even NATO appears to now be concerned about Turkey’s crackdown on democracy and its drift toward Russia and China.    
 By setting up a challenge to Greece and Israel, Turkey may be preparing the way for increased tensions down the road with Cyprus and Egypt and France. These countries, along with the UAE and Saudi Arabia appear to have increased shared interests.   
 In addition the US and India, as well as other Quad countries want to work closer with France, and France and India both want to work with the UAE.   
 This means an underwater cable or gas pipeline may be symbolic of larger changing dynamics. Ankara, for instance, is nonplussed that Saudi Arabia is also working with Greece.  <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/turkey-prepares-to-clash-with-israel-greece-and-eu-over-east-med-662124> **[Turkey is ratting the swords and beating the drums. Things need to be watched very carefully. Read the prophets – Togarmah? – rdb]**

**Italy prosecutors seize batch of AstraZeneca vaccine after death of man**

*Mon, March 15, 2021, 9:20 AM·1 min read*

**ROME (Reuters) - Prosecutors in the northern Italian region of Piedmont said on Monday they had seized a batch of 393,600 shots of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine following the death of a man hours after he had received a jab. The move represents another blow to the image of the AstraZeneca vaccine in Italy and will further hinder the government's anti-coronavirus inoculation campaign.**

**On Sunday Piedmont's regional government suspended use of the batch, ABV5811, after Sandro Tognatti, a 57-year-old music teacher, fell ill and died in circumstances that have not yet been cla**rified.

Magistrates in Sicily ordered the seizure of a separate batch of AstraZeneca vaccine last week following the sudden deaths of two men who had recently been inoculated.

The Italian government has said there was no evidence of a connection between the deaths and the jabs and has allowed the AstraZeneca vaccine to continue to be administered.

**By contrast, Ireland, Denmark, Norway and Iceland have all suspended use of the vaccine following blot-clotting issues, some of them fatal, in people who had us**ed it.

Tognatti had his shot on Saturday afternoon, his wife told Italian newspapers. He developed a high temperature during the night and felt ill again on Sunday morning. An ambulance was called, but he died shortly afterwards.

"It is therefore important to ensure that continued administration of the drug throughout the country does not lead to further consequences (harmful or fatal) ... until we are completely sure that (Tognatti's) death cannot be attributed to the above-mentioned inoculation," prosecutor Teresa Angela Camelio said in a statement.

*(Reporting by Emilio Parodi and Angelo Amante, writing by Gavin Jones and Crispian Balmer; editing by Philippa Fletcher)* <https://news.yahoo.com/italy-prosecutors-seize-batch-astrazeneca-142045253.html>

**Major European nations suspend use of AstraZeneca vaccine over blood clot fears**

***Germany, France, and Italy become latest EU nations to announce temporary ban; European Medicines Agency tries to allay concerns, saying no known health risks***

*By* [*Frank Jordans*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/frank-jordans/) *and* [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) *Today, 7:51 pm*

**BERLIN (AP) — Germany, France, and Italy on Monday became the latest countries to suspend the use of AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine over reports of dangerous blood clots in** some recipients, though the company, European regulators and the World Health Organization have said there is no evidence that the shot is to blame.

**Germany’s health minister said the decision was taken on the advice of the country’s vaccine regulator, the Paul Ehrlich Institute, which called for further investigati**on into seven reported cases of clots in the brains of people who had been vaccinated.

“Today’s decision is a purely precautionary measure,” Jens Spahn said.

**French President Emmanuel Macron said his country would likewise suspend shots a**t least until Tuesday afternoon, when the European Union’s drug regulatory agency will weigh in on the vaccine. He said France hopes to resume using the formula soon.

Italy’s medicines regulator also announced a precautionary, temporary ban.

**AstraZeneca said on its website that there have been 37 reports of blood clots out of more than 17 million** people vaccinated in the 27-country European Union and Britain. The drugmaker said there is no evidence that the vaccine carries an increased risk of clots.

In fact, it said the incidence of clots is much lower than would be expected to occur naturally in a general population of this size and is similar to that of other licensed COVID-19 vaccines.

The European Medicines Agency and the World Health Organization have also said that the data does not suggest the vaccine caused the clots and that people should continue to be immunized.

The AstraZeneca shot has become a key tool in European countries’ efforts to vaccinate their citizens against COVID-19. But Pfizer’s and Moderna’s vaccines are also used on the continent, and Johnson & Johnson’s one-shot vaccine has been authorized, though not yet delivered.

In the US, which relies on the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, AstraZeneca is expected to apply any day now for authorization.

Blood clots can travel through the body and cause heart attacks, strokes, and deadly blockages in the lungs. AstraZeneca reported 15 cases of deep vein thrombosis, or a type of clot that often develops in the legs, and 22 instances of pulmonary embolisms, or clots in the lungs.

**Denmark last week became the first country to temporarily halt the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine** in recent days to investigate. It said one person developed clots and died 10 days after receiving at least one dose. The other countries include Ireland, Thailand, the Netherlands, Norway, Iceland, Congo, and Bulgaria. **MORE -**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/major-european-nations-suspend-use-of-astrazeneca-vaccine-over-blood-clot-fears/>

**10 arrested, over 140 tickets given as thousands protest in Montreal against pandemic public health measures**

[*Adam Kovac*](https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/more/bios/adam-kovac-1.3231638) *CTV News Montreal Digital Reporter Published Saturday, March 13, 2021 3:54PM EST*

MONTREAL **-- Ten people were arrested and 144 tickets were given out during a large protest in Montreal against Quebec's pandemic public health measures on Saturday** afternoon.

The assembled crowd numbered in the thousands for the protest, which was the largest held since the pandemic began.

Charges for those arrested include obstructing a police officer, assault of a police weapon and posession of a weapon.

Police said many people in the crowd were not wearing masks, a violation of the province's rules aimed at curbing the spread of COVID-19.

SPVM spokesperson Manuel Couture added that there were many families in the crowd who were not seeking confrontation with police, but that "there (were) a few small groups who confronted police and do not respect public health measures."

The crowd first gathered at 12:30 p.m. near the intersection of McGill College Ave. and Sherbrooke, near the Montreal office of Premier Francois Legault.

**Beryl Wajsman, editor of The Suburban, was among those given a ticket. He said he had spoken to one police officer about where was permitted to stand as a member of the media and was led to a cement block near the premier's office, but two other officers soon came over and grabbed him, accusing him of not wearing a m**ask.

**"I said 'I don't have to wear a mask, your colleague put me here a minute ago, I'm 20 feet from the demonstration, there isn't anybody around me and I have chronic bronchitis, I have a dispensation from wearing a mask,**'" he said.

Wajsman accused Montreal police officers of "thuggery," and he plans to protest the $1,500 ticket in court.

The march ended at the same spot where it began at 5:30 p.m. After it had mostly dwindled down to around 100 people, police said there was a small confrontation where a group threw objects at police and were then met with pepper spray.

**Quebec has seen several protests against public health regulations over the course of the pandemic**. Last week, demonstrations were held in Montreal and Quebec to call for a return of organized sports. Days later, the provincial government said some indoor sports activities would be permitted to resume on March 26.

Other protests have called for houses of worship to be named essential services, condemned the province's curfew or singled out the province's mask regulations. **MORE -**  <https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/10-arrested-over-140-tickets-given-as-thousands-protest-in-montreal-against-pandemic-public-health-measures-1.5346328>

**Merkel's party faces punishment over pandemic in state votes**

*by Reuters Sunday, 14 March 2021 16:20 GMT*

**BERLIN, March 14 (Reuters) - German voters looked set to punish the ruling Christian Democrats in two regional elections on Sunday for a long coronavirus lockdown and face mask procurement scandal, denting their prospects of retaining power later this y**ear.

**Turnout in both states was lower than in the last election by early afternoon, in part due to a large number of postal votes, said officials.** Results are due at 6 pm (1700 GMT).

Chancellor Angela Merkel, in power since 2005, is not seeking re-election in September and her Christian Democratic Union (CDU) is already missing the "Merkel bonus" she has brought them with four consecutive national election victories.

The CDU went into Sunday's polling in the southwestern auto hub of Baden-Wuerttemberg and the neighbouring wine-growing region of Rhineland-Palatinate **with its poll numbers sliding, exacerbated by the face mask corruption scanda**l.

**Support for the CDU at the national level slid to 31% this week, its lowest for almost a yea**r, according to an opinion poll conducted by Kantar for the Bild am Sonntag newspaper, although the next strongest party, the Greens, was stuck on 19%.

**While Merkel's government won plaudits last year for initially getting the coronavirus under control, it has faced mounting criticism due to the slow pace of vaccinations and a long lockdown as a third wave of infections gathers** pace. In the once-safe CDU region of Baden-Wuerttemberg, the party risks being replaced as junior coalition partner to the Greens by the Social Democrats (SPD) and liberal Free Democrats.

In Rhineland-Palatinate, where such a "traffic light" coalition of party colours already governs, the CDU was leading in opinion polls as recently as late February but has now slipped behind the left-leaning SPD.

**CDU leaders fear that if a traffic light alliance ousts them from government in Baden-Wuerttemberg, then such a tie-up could gain credibility at September's federal vote** - and could leave the party in opposition at national level.

**Its image has been tarnished by the face mask scandal, which has seen conservative lawmakers quit over allegations they received payments for arranging procurement de**als.

Sunday's elections will also have ramifications within the conservative bloc of the CDU and its Bavaria sister party, which together run the federal government in coalition with the SPD. **MORE -**<https://news.trust.org/item/20210314151701-fhqxf/> **[It appears that the public is beginning to wake up and become fed up with a lot of the garbage going on with the plan-demic. A year of enforced obedience with no real exchange of information that is credible has taken its toll. Many I believe are beginning to realize that the experts aren’t all that expert and much of this is simply pure politic. – rdb]**

**Frontline Health Care Workers Are Biggest COVID Vaccine Skeptics**

*Posted By:* [*Lawrence Solomon via The Epoch Times*](https://www.theepochtimes.com/the-biggest-covid-19-vaccine-skeptics-frontline-health-care-workers_3724145.html?utm_source=newsnoe&utm_medium=email&email=wisdomskr@eaglefiremail.com&utm_campaign=breaking-2021-03-13-2) *March 14, 2021*

**Please Share This Story!**

*Front line health care workers see the effects of vaccines on patients every day, and that is why such a high percentage are shunning the injections. One study shows 51% are unconvinced that the vaccine is worth it. The public should take concern. ⁃ TN Editor*

What do frontline health care workers and first responders know about COVID-19 vaccines that politicians and their public health advisers don’t?

**According to a**[**January analysis by Gallup**](https://news.gallup.com/poll/328688/front-line-workers-no-keener-others-vaccine.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_content=morelink&utm_campaign=syndication)**, 51 percent of health care workers and first responders polled in December were unconvinced of the merits of getting vaccinated, even if the vaccine “was free, available, FDA approved and 90**% effective.”

**Gallup found these results especially concerning since those at highest risk of exposure to COVID-19—the professionals required to meet America’s health, safety, and critical economic needs whom the National Academies of Engineering, Science and Medicine define as “Tier 1A workers”—were the likeliest to refuse**[**vaccination**](https://www.theepochtimes.com/t-vaccination)**(34 perce**nt).

The frontline workers proved to be as defiant as Gallup’s survey of their intentions anticipated. In California, over half of Tehama County’s hospital workers at St. Elizabeth Community Hospital, an estimated 50 percent of frontline workers in Riverside County, and 20 percent to 40 percent in L.A. County refused the vaccine, according to a report in the [Los Angeles Times](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-12-31/healthcare-workers-refuse-covid-19-vaccine-access).

**In Georgia, according to an estimate in the**[**Atlanta Journal-Constitution**](https://www.ajc.com/news/coronavirus/even-after-witnessing-covids-toll-many-georgia-health-workers-balk-at-vaccine/IZC36LRY6FCMTPNZSPC47JABMM/)**, only 30 percent of health care workers have been inoculated. In Ohio, Gov.**[**Mike DeWine**](https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/politics/government/2020/12/30/gov-mike-dewine-give-final-scheduled-covid-19-briefing-wednesday/4056984001/)**reported that 60 percent of nursing-home workers refused the vaccine**. In Texas, the [Texas Tribune](https://www.texastribune.org/2021/02/08/coronavirus-texas-home-health-vaccine/) reported in February that home-health and assisted-living agencies may not be able to service their clients because so many caregivers are refusing to be vaccinated. A [CDC survey](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7005e2.htm#F2_down) of skilled-nursing facilities published in early February found that fewer than 40 percent of staff took at least one dose of a [COVID-19 vaccine](https://www.theepochtimes.com/t-covid-19-vaccine).

**Outside the United States, frontline workers are likewise skeptical. On March 2,**[**Reuters**](https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-france-vaccines/on-the-covid-19-frontline-but-half-of-french-care-home-workers-dont-trust-vaccine-idUSL5N2KZ6I2)**reported that at most half of the nursing staff in Switzerland’s medical sector, only 30 percent of the staff at German**y’s BeneVit Group care-home operator, and about half of the health workers in French care homes were willing to be vaccinated.

[PBS on the same day reported](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/widespread-skepticism-and-misinformation-hamper-indias-vaccine-rollout) that since **“India started administering the second vaccine dose two weeks ago, half of the frontline workers and nearly 40 percent of health care workers have not shown up**.” In Canada, [CTV provided an anecdotal report](https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/vaccine-hesitancy-on-the-front-lines-a-health-care-worker-shares-her-questions-we-find-answers-1.5241947) that many long-term-care workers in Montreal are “flat-out refusing” to be inoculated.

For health care workers around the world, their dilemma is who to believe. Their government employers and the pharmaceutical companies, who insist the vaccines’ benefits far outweigh the risks? Or their own eyes?

**Many frontline workers see first-hand those who fall sick or die after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine, and in the absence of independent analyses judge for themselves whether the vaccine is implicat**ed. They noted [23 nursing-home deaths in Norway](https://norwaytoday.info/news/norwegian-medicines-agency-links-13-deaths-to-vaccine-side-effects-those-who-died-were-frail-and-old/) and [hundreds of hospitalizations in Israel](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/294794) following vaccination.

Frontline workers also suffer from vaccinations themselves. As Reuters reported in February in an article entitled “[AstraZeneca Vaccine Faces Resistance in Europe After Health Workers Suffer Side-Effects](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-europe-astrazeneca-idUSKBN2AI237),” the adverse effects hitting health care workers have unexpectedly left large numbers unable to work, forcing hospitals to scramble to maintain services. **MORE -**  <https://www.technocracy.news/frontline-health-care-workers-are-biggest-covid-vaccine-skeptics/> **[Think carefully about the potential of short and long term consequences. I am not the only ‘radical’ that is concerned about this issue. There are many, many healthcare professionals that have looked carefully at the available data and are most concerned about the immediate and long term effects of this Jab. – rdb]**

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| **You will also want to read and think about this letter:**  **Urgent Open Letter from Doctors and Scientists to the European Medicines Agency regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Concerns**  [**https://doctors4covidethics.medium.com/urgent-open-letter-from-doctors-and-scientists-to-the-european-medicines-agency-regarding-covid-19-f6e17c311595**](https://doctors4covidethics.medium.com/urgent-open-letter-from-doctors-and-scientists-to-the-european-medicines-agency-regarding-covid-19-f6e17c311595)  **You will note that I have attached a pdf file concerning other financial aspects of the Jab. \_** |

**Pope calls for 'new world order' after coronavirus pandemic**

***'It is time to remove social injustice and marginalization'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published March 15, 2021 at 7:56pm*

**Aligning with the call among globalist leaders for a "Great Reset" in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis makes the case for a "new world order" in a book to be published Tu**esday.

**That world, he explains in "God and the World to Come," is characterized by a shift from financial speculation, fossil fuels and military build-up to a green economy based on inclusive**ness, [reports Breitbart News](https://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2021/03/15/pope-francis-calls-for-new-world-order-after-the-pandemic/).

The book is a lengthy Q&A with Italian journalist Domenico Agasso.

After the coronavirus pandemic, he said [in an excerpt of the book released by the Vatican](https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-03/pope-francis-book-excerpt-god-world-to-come.html), "no one today can afford to rest easy."

"The world will never be the same again. But it is precisely within this calamity that we must grasp those signs which may prove to be the cornerstones of reconstruction," he said.

**"Let us all keep in mind that there is something worse than this crisis: the drama of wasting it," Francis stated. "We cannot emerge from a crisis the same as before: we either come out better or we come ou**t worse."

The **pope said justice can be healed "by building a new world order based on solidarity, studying innovative methods to eradicate bullying, poverty and corruption**," with "all working together, each for their own part, without delegating and passing the buck."Bottom of Form

He said the world can no longer "blithely accept inequalities and disruptions to the environment."

"The path to humanity’s salvation passes through the creation of a new model of development, which unquestionably focuses on coexistence among peoples in harmony with Creation," he said.

Frances said the "dominant speculative mentality" of the global financial system must be reestablished with a "soul" to reduce the gap between those who have access to credit and those who do not.

"It is time to remove social injustice and marginalization," he said. "If we seize the current trial as an opportunity, we can prepare for tomorrow under the banner of human fraternity, to which there is no alternative, because without an overall vision there will be no future for anyone."

The pope said it's "no longer tolerable to continue to manufacture and traffic in arms, expending huge amounts of capital which should be used to treat people and save lives."

"Against this planetary discord that is nipping the future of humanity in the bud, we need political action that is the fruit of international harmony," he said.

Frances called for an end to "short-sighted nationalism" and other forms of "political selfishness."

***'Magic theories'***

In [his third encyclical, in 2020, the pope declared the coronavirus pandemic proved that the "magic theories" of market capitalism have failed](https://www.wnd.com/2020/10/pope-coronavirus-proves-magic-theories-capitalism-failed/) and the world needs new systems that promote equality and unity.

Francis asserted it should be clear that it is not enough to "refine" existing systems.

He charged that the "perverse" global economic system keeps the poor on the margins while enriching the few.

He opposes a right to property for individuals, contending a "social purpose" and common good must come from sharing the Earth's resources.

In November 2018, [as WND reported](https://www.wnd.com/2020/10/pope-coronavirus-proves-magic-theories-capitalism-failed/), progressive filmmaker Michael Moore claimed Francis told him capitalism is a sin and urged Moore to continue making his left-leaning documentaries. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmaDZ4hXSTs>

**[Read the Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation. We are seeing the signs now. – rdb]**

**Data shows 18 active cases related to election irregularities**

*OAN Newsroom UPDATED 8:30 AM PT – Monday, March 15, 2021*

**Election fraud cases from the 2020 presidential election are still being looked into. Data shows there are still 18 active court cases out of the 83 total filed in relation to the last election cycle. However, the majority of the inactive cases were not looked into by the courts**.

**Twenty-one cases related to election fraud were based on merit with President Trump and the GOP winning 14 of those. There are active lawsuits in 11 states with the majority in Michigan and Pennsylvania**.

**This came after the Supreme Court refused to hear multiple election-related lawsuits last month, which arose from possible election fraud in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wis**consin. The **high court did not provide a justification for rejecting** one of the more contentious cases filed by U.S. attorney Sidney Powell in Pennsylvania

**Powell alleged there was evidence of electronic manipulation of votes, which resulted in thousands of ballots not being counted in multiple sta**tes.

“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,” explained the attorney. “There were counterfeit ballots…if you just keep running the same counterfeit bill through the same counting machine, you’re going to get the same result.”

Absentee ballots are ripe vehicles for fraud because they're the only ballots outside the supervision of election officials and outside the observation of poll watchers. This leaves the ballots susceptible to being stolen, forged, or altered. <https://t.co/XGJHx0oAFf>

— Heritage Foundation (@Heritage) [March 14, 2021](https://twitter.com/Heritage/status/1371190900244774920?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

According to the [Heritage Foundation](https://www.heritage.org/), there have been over 1,300 proven cases of voter fraud in recent years and over 1,100 convictions. <https://www.oann.com/data-shows-18-active-cases-related-to-election-irregularities/>

**Brainwashing America's next generation**

***How millions of school children are being indoctrinated in Marxist ideology***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published March 15, 2021 at 2:52pm*

**In “1984,” George Orwell’s famous novel about a nightmarish future society, the main character Winston Smith runs afoul of the ruling “Party” for insisting that “two plus two make four.” Only after being tortured by those in power does he come around to agreeing that, of course, “two plus two make f**ive.”

**America in 2021 has become Orwell’s “1984” – and nowhere more so than in the nation’s sch**ools.

**In New York City, math education Professor Laurie Rubel claims the whole notion that “2+2=4” is one that “reeks of white supremacist patriarchy.**” How is that remotely possible? As the Brooklyn College prof explained in a tweet: “The idea that math (or data) is culturally neutral or in any way objective is a MYTH. … Along with the 'Of course math is neutral because 2+2=4' trope are the related (and creepy) 'Math is pure' and 'Protect math.' Reeks of white supremacist patriarchy.”

Likewise, in Oregon, the state’s education department is **promoting “A Pathway to Math Equity**,” intended to train public school teachers in how to “dismantle racism in mathematics instruction.”

**“We see white supremacy culture show up in the mathematics classroom even as we carry out our professional responsibilities,” declares the teachers’ guide**. “The concept of mathematics being purely objective is unequivocally false. … Upholding the idea that there are always right and wrong answers perpetuate objectivity as well as fear of open conflict.” **[What a gigantic bunch of ignorance these idiots are trying to inculcate the children of America. There is absolutely NO REASON under the sun for a person to send their kids to a public school if this is the trash that is being thrown at kids. – rdb]**

**Most Americans would describe the notion that mathematics is “racist” as completely ins**ane.

**Meanwhile, Rutgers University recently determined that speaking and writing English correctly is – just like math – also totally racist. T**he school’s English department is altering its grammar standards to “stand with and respond” to the Black Lives Matter movement and emphasize "social justice" and "critical grammar" over irrelevancies like correct spelling and grammar. The English Department is even offering an internship titled "Decolonizing the Writing Center" to make writing “more linguistically diverse."

To recap: Insisting that two plus two equals four and that there are correct and incorrect ways to spell, write and speak English are indicative of “white supremacist patriarchy” and a need for “decolonization.”

This is just a small taste of what is overtaking the nation’s educational system – which, truth be told, amounts to the Marxist indoctrination of America’s children.

It’s all documented in the sensational new issue of WND’s monthly Whistleblower magazine, an issue titled [“BRAINWASHING AMERICA’S NEXT GENERATION.”](https://superstore.wnd.com/subscribe/) <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/brainwashing-americas-next-generation/>

**Biden Asks For EEOC Attorney's Resignation. She Refused. Here's What Happened Next.**

[*Leah Barkoukis*](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/leahbarkoukis/) *Posted: Mar 15, 2021 5:56 AM*

**President Biden fired Equal Employment Opportunity Commission general counsel Sharon Fast Gustafson on Friday after she declined to resign under pressure from the White House**.

**“At the time I was nominated, I was asked if I would commit to do my best to fulfill my four-year term, and I answered yes,” Gustafson said in a letter to Biden. “Unless prevented from doing so, I intend to honor that commit**ment. I have confidently given this advice to countless embattled clients of the last 25 years: hold your head high, do your best work, and do not resign under pressure. In solidarity with them, I will follow that advice.”

**Gustafson was appointed in March 2018 by former President Trump and was confirmed by the Sena**te in August 2019 to a four-year term, which Biden wanted cut short. The EEOC is an independent agency within the federal government.

**"So far as I know, no previous General Counsel has been fired for being appointed by the wrong political** party," Gustafson wrote.

Andrea Lucas, who was also appointed to the EEOC by Trump, blasted the White House’s decision.

**"I find the action taken today by the White House against our independent agency to be deeply troublin**g, a break from long-established norms respected by presidents of both parties, an injection of partisanship where it had been absent, and telling evidence of what 'unity' actually means to this President and his Administration," Lucas [tweeted](https://twitter.com/andrealucasEEOC/status/1367958634672623619).

"That, however, does not seem to apply to Sharon Gustafson.  And if such a principle does not apply to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission—**the very agency charged with preventing and remedying discrimination and retaliation—where else does it apply?" she continued**. "In the days leading up to the President’s decision to fire Ms. Gustafson, a report and related materials dealing with religious discrimination were removed from the EEOC’s website shortly after inauguration."

At the beginning of that report appeared letters from Lucas and Gustafson. In it, Lucas said she was “deeply concerned that today, religious liberty has become a disfavored or second-class right in many areas of our society and culture.”

**On Twitter, she said the administration's move "proves" her point. "The actions taken by this Administration are quite telling as to their priorities . . . and one can safely assume that combating religious discrimination—or retaliation, frankly, given Ms. Gustafson’s firing—is not one of them**," she pointed out. "Instead, it appears that this Administration intends to achieve unity through uniformity by removing all dissenting actors, thought, and content from the federal government, the public square, and the marketplace."

**Though Biden’s request offered no reason for wanting her to resign**, Gustafson had been known for being a strong defender of religious liberties.

“Your request that I resign provided no reason for the request, and I do not know which of your advisors recommended that you make the request,” she said. “But please be aware that there are those who oppose my advocacy on behalf of employees who experience religious discrimination and on behalf of constitutional and statutory protections for religious entities. I would like to continue my work on the EEOC’S mission to prevent and remedy illegal employment discrimination.”

**In response, Gautum Raghavan, the deputy director of the Office of Presidential Personnel,** [**told her**](http://eppc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WH-Termination-Email.pdf) **that she would be terminated, effective by the close of business on Fri**day.

Republican Congresswoman Virginia Foxx blasted the White House’s decision.

**"This is a pattern. President Biden calls for the end to 'partisan warfare,' only to turn around and demand that Senate-confirmed officials resign so he can make room for his left-wing frie**nds," she [said](https://republicans-edlabor.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=407237) in a statement. “President Biden should take a note from General Counsel Gustafson, who stuck to her commitment and refused to cave to partisan pressure. This unprecedented firing of an honorable public official which occurred just hours after she was asked to resign is unwarranted and should be immediately rescinded. General Counsel Gustafson should be reinstated so she can complete her four-year term, independently and free from undo political influence.”

**Biden pulled a** [**similar stunt**](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/leahbarkoukis/2021/01/22/with-the-firing-of-nlrb-general-counsel-bidens-unity-pledge-is-already-over-n2583547) **with Peter Robb, general counsel of the National Labor Relations Boa**rd. Like Gustafson, Robb was in a Senate-confirmed position to serve a four-year term at an independent agency when Biden fired him.  <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/leahbarkoukis/2021/03/15/biden-fires-eeoc-attorney-who-refused-to-resign-n2586253> **[This is the person who was calling for unity and an end to partisanship. Send the entire demon-rat group into the pits of hades. - rd**

**Commentary:**

**Biden Can Trigger a Regional War by Reviving the Nuclear Deal**

*by* [*Majid Rafizadeh*](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Majid+Rafizadeh) *March 15, 2021 at 4:00 am* The Biden administration, deep down, unfortunately seems to wish to [forge](https://apnews.com/article/biden-iran-nuclear-deal-d261fbe927984d9328db0e0f74b62410) ahead with its agenda to revive the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) -- also known as the Iran nuclear deal, which, incidentally, [Iran never signed](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3334249/State-Department-says-Iran-NEVER-SIGNED-nuclear-deal-s-not-legally-binding-tells-Congress-butt-Obama-s-political-commitments.html) -- and subsequently to lift sanctions against Tehran.  
 The Biden administration also seems to be conflicted about [reversing](https://apnews.com/article/biden-iran-nuclear-deal-d261fbe927984d9328db0e0f74b62410) the course of the previous administration's "maximum pressure" policy of economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic. The US had reportedly [authorized](https://www.algemeiner.com/2021/02/23/south-korea-says-will-release-7-billion-in-frozen-iranian-assets-after-consultations-with-us/) South Korea to release $7 billion in frozen assets to Iran, until, on March 10, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken [urged](https://www.voanews.com/usa/blinken-no-iran-funds-s-korea-nuclear-compliance) South Korea not to release the funds until Iran had agreed to return to full compliance with the JCPOA. Unofficial [meetings](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/24/iran-and-world-powers-hint-at-talks-over-nuclear-deal) between the Islamic Republic and the P5+1 (China, Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom and France, plus Germany) seem to be on the way to resurrect the nuclear deal, in spite of major [opposition](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iran-nuclear-deal-saudi-arabia-arab-allies-israel-middle-east-sunni-shiite/) from many regional powers, including Israel and Saudi Arabia, as well as US [Senators](https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/top-us-senate-republicans-warn-biden-against-reviving-iran-deal) Jim Risch, Marco Rubio and Jim Inhofe.  
 Governments in the Middle East have a valid reason to be concerned about the nuclear deal. They have already witnessed its negative consequences. US President Barack Obama had [pledged](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/14/obama-veto-republican-iran-nuclear-deal) that he was "confident" the deal would "meet the national security needs of the United States and our allies". Throughout that time, the Obama administration not only initiated and expanded appeasement policies, they [made](https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/366197-now-theres-no-denying-it-obamas-failed-iran-deal-wasnt-worth-the) unprecedented concessions in an attempt to dissuade the ruling mullahs from their internal and external aggression. The US met them with generosity and flexibility every step of the way.  
 Soon after, however, many countries in the region – as well as US citizens -- felt betrayed. It became clear that the nuclear deal had entirely overlooked Iran's funding of its violent proxies, such as Hezbollah, which took over [Lebanon](https://www.arabnews.com/node/1616716/middle-east), Hamas in the [Gaza Strip](https://www.npr.org/2019/07/04/733487137/i-want-to-get-the-hell-out-of-here-thousands-of-palestinians-are-leaving-gaza) and the Houthis in [Yemen](https://www.npr.org/2019/07/04/733487137/i-want-to-get-the-hell-out-of-here-thousands-of-palestinians-are-leaving-gaza), as well as Iran's expansion of influence over large swaths of [South America](https://cco.ndu.edu/Portals/96/Documents/prism/prism_5-4/Iranian%20and%20Hezbollah.pdf). This would have not been the outcome if Israel and other regional powers had been part of the negotiations.  
 The composition of the current negotiating team, similar to the previous one, completely excludes those on Iran's doorstep. In an approach reminiscent of the bygone colonial era, it remains a policy set by governments thousands of miles away.  
 Worse, after the JCPOA agreement was sealed, the regional powers came to witness first-hand the impact of this nuclear deal. As sanctions against Iran were lifted during the Obama administration, it quickly became clear that instead of curbing Iran's malign behavior at home and abroad, those actions had, in the eyes of the international community, given Iran a newfound global legitimacy. Both that, and the lifting of sanctions, generated billions of dollars in revenue for Iran's military institution, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, as well as for Iran's militia and terror groups. Tehran used that influx of revenues to expand its influence throughout the region, including in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon. Iran's expansion campaign proved immensely successful.  
 The Gulf states and Israel saw immediately that the threat Iran poses was never, and will not be, thwarted by this nuclear deal. Instead of [preventing](https://jamieraskin.com/preventing-iran-developing-nuclear-weapons) Iran from having nuclear weapons, as deceitfully [promised](https://jamieraskin.com/preventing-iran-developing-nuclear-weapons), the deal actually [permitted](https://www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com/iran-nuclear-deal) Iran in a short time to enrich as much uranium and manufacture as many nuclear bombs as it liked – as well as the [ballistic missiles](https://www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com/iran-ballistic-missile-program) with which to deliver them.  
 Arab nations have already seen the consequences of the previous attempt at striking a nuclear deal. The Iranian-armed Houthis simply ratcheted up efforts to cause death and destruction in [Yemen](https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/yemen), and Hezbollah escalated its involvement and control of large swathes of [Syrian territory](https://mepc.org/commentary/hezbollahs-foreign-intervention-syria). The region also saw a greater propensity for Houthi rocket launches at [civilian targets in Saudi Arabia,](https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20210210-yemen-s-houthi-rebels-launch-attack-on-civilian-plane-in-saudi-arabia) the deployment of thousands of [Hezbollah foot soldiers in Syria](https://www.csis.org/analysis/escalating-conflict-hezbollah-syria), and the constant bombardment of southern Israel by Iranian-funded [Hamas rockets](https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/palestinian-rocket-and-mortar-attacks-against-israel).  
 As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [pointed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-israel-will-prevent-a-nuclear-iran-whether-or-not-a-deal-is-in-place/) out, "We have already seen the nature of agreements with extremist regimes like yours [the Iranian regime]". Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan [chimed in](https://iranintl.com/en/world/riyadh-arab-countries-must-be-included-new-nuclear-deal-iran?page=34) to the Agence France-Presse news agency:  
 "I think we've seen as a result of the after-effects of the JCPOA that not involving the regional countries results in a build up of mistrust and neglect of the issues of real concern and of real effect on regional security."  
 By returning to a deal which brought nothing but heightened destruction and instability to the region, the Biden administration would be abandoning old allies such as Israel and Saudi Arabia -- which at least has begun instituting reforms -- and instead empowering a regime that remains an existential threat to the entire Middle East.  
 One possible repercussion of rejoining the nuclear deal is that countries in the region may find no other option than taking military action against Iran, a move that would spiral into regional war. "With an agreement or without an agreement, we will do whatever is necessary so you do not arm yourselves with nuclear weapons," Netanyahu [said](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-israel-will-prevent-a-nuclear-iran-whether-or-not-a-deal-is-in-place/) recently during a memorial ceremony at the Tel Hai monument in northern Israel. Israeli military chief Lt. Gen. Aviv Kohavi also recently [warned](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-01/27/c_139699850.htm):  
 "I instructed the army to prepare a number of operational plans in addition to the existing ones. We are taking care of these plans and will develop them during the coming year. Those who decide on carrying them out, of course, are the political leaders. But these plans have to be on the table."  
 In short, the Biden administration's attempt to revive the 2015 nuclear deal can easily turn both the region and the Biden legacy into a conflagration -- as well ignite a resolute nuclear arms race throughout the Middle East.

*Dr. Majid Rafizadeh is a business strategist and advisor, Harvard-educated scholar, political scientist, board member of Harvard International Review, and president of the International American Council on the Middle East. He has* [*authored*](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_1_9?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=majid+rafizadeh&sprefix=majid+raf%2Caps%2C757&crid=22WY06JIYF98T) *several books on Islam and US foreign policy. He can be reached at* [*Dr.Rafizadeh@Post.Harvard.Edu*](mailto:Dr.Rafizadeh@Post.Harvard.Edu)

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/17166/biden-iran-deal-war>

**and then…**

**Biden's Mental Decline Is a Democratic Strategy Not a Democratic Problem**[*Drew Allen*](https://townhall.com/columnists/drewallen/) *Posted: Mar 15, 2021 12:01 AM* It is no secret that Joe Biden is not in charge of the executive branch. Nor does it come as a surprise. The only observable difference between 2020 presidential hopeful Joe and 2021 President Joe, is his change of address. He moved from a basement somewhere in Delaware to a basement at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. In fact, a benign [question](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/oct/19/joe-biden-takes-question-on-milkshake-flavors-scur/) from a pathetic journalist today as to what type of ice cream Joe is eating would be received with a standing ovation.  
 What is surprising, however, is how effective and advantageous his non-presidency has been for the Democratic Party. His mental incapacitation has not hindered the left’s sinister Marxist agenda to transform the United States from a Constitutional republic to a totalitarian state, but has helped facilitate it.   
 While Joe’s mental impairment remains the elephant in the room for Democrats and their propagandists in the media, who refuse to acknowledge the obvious, we don’t need them to confirm what we can see with our own eyes and hear with our own ears. Whether it’s Joe [admitting](https://www.ibtimes.sg/biden-caught-saying-i-dont-know-what-im-signing-before-signing-executive-order-video-55157) on camera that he has no idea what he’s signing as he signs an executive order, or Joe [forgetting](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-seems-to-forget-defense-secretarys-name-calls-him-the-guy-who-runs-that-outfit) his defense secretary’s name, Joe giving an unprecedented [zero](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2021/03/05/does-it-matter-president-joe-biden-no-press-conference/6920568002/) press conferences, or even Joe’s reneged [promise](https://www.bizpacreview.com/2021/03/09/biden-will-deliver-first-primetime-address-to-mark-one-year-since-covid-shutdown-still-mum-on-sotu-1039571/) to deliver an address to a joint session of Congress in February, it all demonstrably proves one thing — Joe Biden is unfit for the office he nominally holds.   
 But so long as Joe remains the “president,” even if this is understood as merely a figurative role, the Democrats will continue to have wild success in their diabolical and unconstitutional efforts to destroy America. There is a reason the cognitively challenged Biden has already proven to be a far more effective radical Marxist than even Barack Obama — expectation, or rather, a lack of expectation.  
 Barack Obama also held a Democratic majority in the legislature during his first two years in office. But Barack Obama’s mental acuity was a handicap to the unpopular, radical agenda of the left. When Barack Obama signed a flurry of executive orders and championed questionable and unconstitutional legislation, he still was expected to answer to the American people. While Obama was radical, the American people still remained partially informed. At least some diffusion of knowledge took place as Obama was expected to explain and defend his agenda, and took questions from the press.  
 Even those of us who are the most vocal and unequivocal critics of Joe’s obvious mental decline must also admit that the very thing we demand — a president, for example — we cannot have. We are living in a nightmare scenario. It’s like trying to cancel some subscription service or seeking answers to some other technical issue and being put on hold, endlessly transferred from one unintelligible party to another, and never getting any answers or resolution.  
 In the absence of a president, we take our questions and concerns to Jen Psaki, who would benefit from the excuse of dementia. But her challenge is not mental decline, but an unfortunate inability to communicate, a lack of preparedness in part due to her lack of a boss in the Oval Office, and her own limited IQ. Like the worst hotel concierge or IT specialist, her response to everything is, “I’ll circle back on that,” which better translates to, “I have no idea, I’m as unqualified and unfit as my boss, Joe Biden.” It is also damning proof that there is a vacuum in the White House.  
 What is the upshot? The American people and our country have been plunged into darkness. We have largely no idea what is going on. While we can speculate as to who is actually running the country — Obama? [Susan Rice](https://www.kabc.com/news/ric-grenell-to-newsmax-tv-president-susan-rice-in-charge/)? — we have no access to the one individual “responsible” for the literal decimation of our economy, our safety, and our freedom. America is being run by a shadow government and in the absence of any actual leader. We can’t even rely on the limited defense of pressuring and demanding accountability from the titular leader of the executive branch.   
 Joe Biden’s nomination was due to his superficial appeal to the moderate Democrat and the basement strategy employed to bolster his chances of victory. While I reluctantly applaud the Democrats’ proven aptitude for a long-term strategy, I don’t believe they ever calculated the then-unknown benefits of a mentally impaired president.  
 We cannot simultaneously admit that Biden is mentally unfit for the presidency and simultaneously expect that he fulfills his duties. This is the bizarre dilemma we now face. So long as he remains in office, those Americans who religiously watch CNN and get their propaganda from the Washington Post will never be exposed to anything remotely resembling reality.   
 While Joe continues to be largely hidden from public view and protected by his handlers from facing questioning, and Jen Psaki continues to carry out her circle back strategy, those of us who do demand answers and wish to live in reality will be forced to continue this insufferable existence in the twilight zone, or purgatory.  
 Joe Biden is a strategy for the Democratic Party at this point, not a hindrance or frustration. As the rag known as the Washington Post declares, “Democracy dies in darkness.” We are living in darkness. I regret to say that we would be better off with Kamala Harris. At least if she was president, there would be no unspoken excuse either understood or accepted for this un-American and totalitarian regime. But if the Democrats are smart, they’ll keep Joe around as long as they can.<https://townhall.com/columnists/drewallen/2021/03/15/bidens-mental-decline-is-a-democratic-strategy-not-a-democratic-problem-n2586236>

**And also…**

**The Occupation of America**

*By* [*Amil Imani*](https://newswithviews.com/author/amil/)*|March 15th, 2021* Friends and collogues have asked me why I have stopped writing articles related to Islam and its perpetual threat to the United States of America. My answer is simple. America has a much bigger problem than Islam.  
 For decades, the Democrat Party has shown by both words and deeds that they despise the U.S. Constitution while they bend over backwards to embrace Islamists, illegal aliens, and anyone who hates America and feels entitled.  The left is interested only in power — even if it means sacrificing our safety and security. The current Democrat Party has declared war on traditional American values and is imposing their socialist betrayal in every area of our lives.  
 In his 1796 [farewell address](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp), George Washington warned future generations about the forces that could destroy our republic, and much of which rings true for today. Washington was rightly concerned about hyper-partisanship, excessive debt and entanglements in foreign wars. Washington stated, “The name of AMERICAN, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of PATRIOTISM, more than any appellation derived from local distinctions.”  
 President Washington’s fears for the future of America were justified, in particular, his concerns with respect to our political parties.  
 “Washington warned of “the baneful effects of the SPIRIT OF PARTY.” To Washington POLITICAL PARTIES were a deep threat to the health of the nation for they allowed “a small but artful and enterprising minority” to “put in the place of the delegated will of the Nation, the will of a party.”  
 Never in American history has a group of power hungry wolves, particularly, the Democrat Party, has done far greater harm to the country than has any foreign enemy. Yet, not all blame rests with them alone. Too often, their opposition party, establishment Republicans, has been far too eager to act as co-conspirators.  
 President Washington’s warnings to future generations of Americans was more than two hundred years ago. Many things have changed since his farewell address.  
 Today, America is being physically, culturally eroded and disintegrated. When the next generation of Americans are born, America as we know it will not look the same. [Our elected](https://granitegrok.com/blog/2020/02/holding-politicians-accountable)  
 officials no longer work for We the People. Both US political parties have failed us.Clearly, they have their agenda, which is more important than serving their own constituents.  
 But the most recent betrayal—the worst and most outrageous—against the will of people occurred on November 3rd, 2020, when over seventy-four million (perhaps a great many more) Americans cast their votes to re-elect President Trump for his second term.  
 Trump’s striking victory was a reward for his tireless commitment to serving the American people. It was also the crowning achievement of an exceptional campaign whose brilliance and high tone demonstrated the vitality of our Constitutional Republic to the entire world while keeping them spellbound. In choosing Trump, the American people chose the path of change, openness, and optimism. They chose him because they wanted a leader who believed in them and believed in America. A leader who was willing and able to put an end to the corrupt decay of Washington, D. C. and an end to the Deep State.  
 At a time when the world is in torment and uncertainty, the American people—true to the values that have always been at the very core of America’s identity—strongly put their faith in President Trump and in the future.  
 Unfortunately, the Socialist-Democrats, under the pretense of Chinese virus hysteria, implemented a national, orchestrated drive to relax accountability in the voting process, and allowing massive mail-in ballots to pour in, which they evidently exploited with massive voter fraud that enabled them to flip a lopsided presidential election.  
 The release of a forensic audit of [Dominion Voting Systems Software](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/bethbaumann/2020/12/15/new-report-says-dominion-voting-systems-has-a-remarkably-high-error-rate-n2581624) in Antrim County, Michigan has shown that the voting machines are “intentionally and purposefully designed with inherent errors to create systemic fraud and influence election results.”  
 The Socialist-Democrats were very persistent and resilient. They resorted to every devilish act and trick to end Trump’s presidency through massive voter fraud. But the evidence they left behind is overwhelming. Trump won this election in a huge landslide and the [machine’s algorithm fraud](https://www.rightwingwatch.org/post/absolute-proof-mike-lindell-releases-voter-fraud-documentary/) was not enough for Biden to win, therefore the extra illegal mail-in ballots started flowing in at 2 am/ 3 am and even days after.  
 We are witnessing an [international plot](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1285860/China-coronavirus-Xi-Jinping-cover-up-spread-news-latest-update-secret-plot) and a coup d’etat to exploit a manufactured virus to support a utopian society in order to steer in a New World Order.  
 “[The ‘Occupation of America](https://canadafreepress.com/article/jan.-31-2021-america-under-occupation-but-doesnt-know-it-yet)‘ was staged by Democrat activists whose first move after occupation due to a questionable election, with the help of the mainstream and social media, was to silence any and all dissent.”  
 Washington is corrupt. The military, the FBI, the CIA, the Justice Dept. the administrative state, and the judiciary were all out to get President Trump, and he had essentially no support in Congress from Republicans. So, the election was stolen in bright daylight and in front of billions of people worldwide.  
 Just for a second ponder on the mind-boggling irony of this fraudulent election. President Trump wins the election in a landslide. [No question about it](https://www.rightwingwatch.org/post/absolute-proof-mike-lindell-releases-voter-fraud-documentary/). The legislatures and courts ignored the evidence of fraud and the judiciary refused to even hear it. The heathen villains, who hijacked the White House, call up National Guard troops to protect them from a country that is livid about their stealing the election. Meanwhile, the thieves, send the National Guard troops to sleep in a [cold garage](https://www.politico.com/news/2021/01/21/national-guard-troops-vacate-capitol-461220), while the man who was cheated all the way around offers his hotel to the troops defending the thieves.  
 In short, Americans have an illegitimate President and a federal government that has proven itself to be harsh to its citizens; taking unconstitutional measures and issuing edicts that amount to nothing short of federally mandated self-destruction.  
 Meanwhile, China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and terrorists worldwide celebrate as they watch America commit suicide as the Democrats use a sharp knife to slit the throats of true, American values. <https://newswithviews.com/the-occupation-of-america/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**North Korean leader's sister to Biden: Don't cause a stink**

***Kim Yo Jong, sister of Kim Jong Un, criticizes ongoing military drills in South Korea, warns new US administration against “causing a stink” if it wants peace.***

*Elad Benari , Mar 16 , 2021 2:07 AM*

Kim Yo Jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, on Monday criticized ongoing military drills in South Korea and warned the new US administration against “causing a stink” if it wants peace, *Reuters* reports.  
 The statement comes a day before America’s top diplomat and defense chief are due to arrive in Seoul for their first talks with South Korean counterparts.  
 “We take this opportunity to warn the new U.S. administration trying hard to give off powder smell in our land,” Kim said in a statement carried by state news agency *KCNA*. “If it wants to sleep in peace for coming four years, it had better refrain from causing a stink at its first step.”  
 South Korean and American troops began a joint springtime military drill, which was limited to computer simulations because of the coronavirus risk as well as the ongoing efforts to engage with the North.  
 “War drills and hostility can never go with dialogue and cooperation,” said Kim Yo Jong, who mocked South Korea for “resorting to shrunken war games, now that they find themselves in the quagmire of political, economic and epidemic crisis.”  
 Her warning follows reports on Saturday that [North Korea has not responded](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298420) to behind-the-scenes diplomatic outreach since mid-February by President Joe Biden’s new administration.  
 Former US President Donald Trump tried to reached an agreement with North Korea while in office. Kim and Trump met [in Hanoi in 2019](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/259705) for a summit that left nuclear talks at a standstill.  
 The pair had met three times since June 2018 but made little progress towards denuclearization.  
 Since those talks broke down, North Korea [has conducted](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/272438) several tests of ballistic missiles.  
 Shortly before Biden took office, the North Korea’s ruling Workers’ Party held its first congress in five years. During the congress, [Kim was named](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/294665) the “general secretary” of the party.  
 In remarks he made at the start of the gathering, [Kim threatened](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/294590) to expand his nuclear arsenal and stated that the fate of relations with the United States depends on whether it abandons its “hostile policy”.

Later, [North Korea displayed](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/294952) what appeared to be a new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) at a parade. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298560>

**Rockets fired toward Iraqi airbase housing US troops**

***Attack on Al-Balad base did not cause any casualties or damage inside the base.***

*Elad Benari , Mar 16 , 2021 3:09 AM*

**Seven rockets were fired on Monday toward an Iraqi airbase housing US troops north of Baghdad, a security source said, according to AFP**.  
 The **attack on Al-Balad did not cause any casualties or damage inside the base**, the security official said.  
 **Five rockets crashed into a nearby village, he added, noting that all seven were fired from a separate village in the neighboring province of Diyala, east of the ba**se.  
 Rocket attacks have regularly targeted Iraqi bases as well as [the fortified Green Zone](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/291467) in Baghdad, where the US embassy is located, since the US elimination of top Iranian General Qassem Soleimani last January.  
 Former US President Donald Trump [had warned](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/293642) the Islamic Republic against further attacks on American interests in Iraq and said, “Some friendly health advice to Iran: If one American is killed, I will hold Iran responsible. Think it over.”  
 Last month, [a rocket attack](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/296885) targeting an airbase in Iraq's Kurdistan region killed a foreign civilian contractor and wounded five others, among them a US soldier.  
 In response, [the US bombed a border depot](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297549) in Syria which the Pentagon said was used by Iran-backed Iraqi armed militia that have been tied to the rocket attacks.  
 US President Joe Biden described the attack as a "warning" to Iran. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298561>

**Moderna begins COVID vaccine tests on young children**

***Coronavirus vaccines administered to children ranging in age from 0.5 - 12 years.***

*David Rosenberg , Mar 16 , 2021 1:26 PM*

**Moderna has begun testing its mRNA coronavirus vaccine on children under the age of 12, the company announced Tuesday**. **In a press release Tuesday afternoon, the pharmaceutical giant announced that it has begun trials with its mRNA-1273 vaccine on young children, ranging in age from six months to just under 12 years**.

“We are pleased to begin this Phase 2/3 study of mRNA-1273 in healthy children in the U.S. and Canada and we thank NIAID and BARDA for their collaboration,” said Stéphane Bancel, Chief Executive Officer of Moderna.

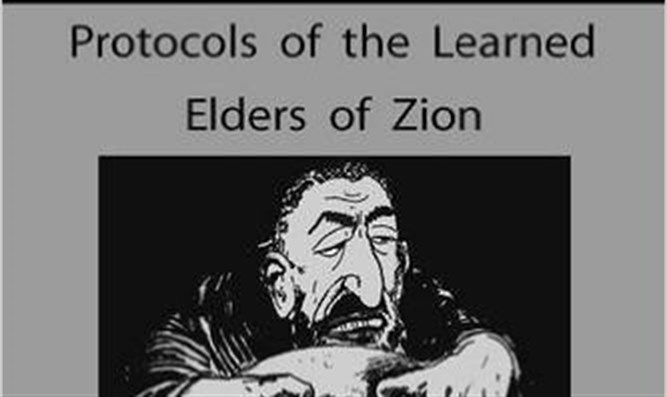
“It is humbling to know that 17.8 million adults in the U.S. have received the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to date. We are encouraged by the primary analysis of the Phase 3 COVE study of mRNA-1273 in adults ages 18 and above and this pediatric study will help us assess the potential safety and immunogenicity of our COVID-19 vaccine candidate in this important younger age population.”

The study is expected to enroll a total of 6,750 children in the US and Canada, with two doses of the Moderna vaccine administered 28 days apart. A vaccinated group will be compared to a placebo-controlled group to assess the vaccine’s effectiveness on children. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298588> **Disastrous. Kids are not significantly affected by the virus. Why Jab them and endanger them. – rdb]**

**Tattered copy of ‘Protocols of the Elders of Zion’ found at Capitol Police checkpoint**

***Capitol Police officer under investigation after classic anti-Semitic screed found at his work station by congressional aide.***

*Ben Sales, JTA , Mar 16 , 2021 7:08 AM*



***Protocols of the Elders of Zion INN:Amazon***

A Capitol Police officer has been suspended after a copy of “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion,” an infamous anti-Semitic document, was found near his work area.

**The officer, part of the force that was overwhelmed during the Jan. 6 riots on the U.S. Capitol, is under invest**igation “after anti-Semitic reading material was discovered near his work area on Sunday,” according to the *Washington Post*.

Zach Fisch, chief of staff to Rep. Mondaire Jones, a Democratic congressman from New York, found the document, which was clipped together and tattered, on a table at the Capitol Police security checkpoint Sunday night. He sent a photo of the document to the *Washington Post*.

“As I left my office in Longworth yesterday, I discovered something that, as a Jew, horrified me,” Fisch tweeted Sunday night. “At the United States Capitol Police security checkpoint, someone had left vile anti-Semitic propaganda in plain sight.”

**The Protocols, first published in Russia in the early 20th century, is one of the most widespread anti-Semitic tracts of all time. It alleges a Jewish conspiracy to control the world. It has been published worldwide and was first printed in the United States by Henry** Ford. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298569>

**Today marks the date 78-years ago when Germany began exterminating Greek Jews**

***Seventy-eight years ago to the day, on March 15, 1943, the Nazis began deporting Greek Jews to Auschwitz.***

*Dan Verbin , Mar 15 , 2021 9:55 PM*

**Seventy-eight years ago to the day, on March 15, 1943, the Nazis began deporting Greek Jews to Auschwitz**.

On March 15, the first 2,800 men, women and children from Greece were transported to the extermination camp where they were murdered in gas chambers.

During WW II Greece was conquered and occupied by Nazi Germany. Nearly 13,000 Greek Jews fought in the Greek Army. Early on in the war, they were able to keep the Italian army at bay but later fell to the overwhelming military strength of the German army. The Nazis had been collecting information on Salonica's prosperous Jewish community since 1937, enabling the Nazis to murder 60 to 70,000 Greek Jews, nearly 80 percent of the country's Jewish population. Only a smaller number were able to seek refuge with their Greek neighbors.

Of the 55,000 Jews from Thessaloniki, Greece who were sent to concentration camps in 1943, less than 5,000 survived. Most of those who returned discovered their former homes being lived in by Greek families. The Greek government offered little assistance with recovering lost property. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298553>

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**03/15/2021 NEWS AM**

**Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra**

[**https://vimeo.com/97556294**](https://vimeo.com/97556294)

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| **"There are many well-meaning people today who work at placing an economic floor beneath all of us so that no one shall exist below a certain level or standard of living, and certainly we don't quarrel with this. But look more closely and you may find that all too often these well-meaning people are building a ceiling above which no one shall be permitted to climb and between the two are pressing us all into conformity, into a mold of standardized mediocrity." -- Ronald Reagan (1911-2004) 40th US President** |

**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 21:25And Abraham reasoned with Abimelech concerning the matter of a well of water which Abimelech's servants have taken violently away, 26and Abimelech saith, `I have not known who hath done this thing, and even thou didst not declare to me, and I also, I have not heard save to-day.' 27And Abraham taketh sheep and oxen, and giveth to Abimelech, and they make, both of them, a covenant; 28and Abraham setteth seven Lambs of the flock by themselves.**

**International Criminal Court accepts Israeli government’s Nuremberg Code violation complaint**

*March 13, 2021 by* [*archyde*](https://www.archyde.com/author/drbyos/)

**According to an article in Database Italia, the complaint lodged last week in the Hague court accusing the Israeli government of violating the Nuremberg code has been confirmed. A decision is now awaite**d.

**A complaint was filed in The Hague Tribunal by lawyers Ruth Makhacholovsky and Aryeh Suchowolski last weekend regarding violations of the Nuremberg Code by the Israeli government and other parti**es. We recall that the People of Truth organization has filed a complaint against the Israeli government, which is carrying out illegal experiments on Israeli citizens through the Pfizer vaccination. ” *The organization includes lawyers, doctors, public activists and the general public, who have chosen to exercise their democratic right not to receive experimental medical treatment (Corona vaccine), and feel under great and serious pressure. illegal acts by the Israeli government, parliamentarians and ministers, senior representatives of the public, mayors, etc.* »

Therefore, and taking into account the above, they ask:

1.     L’**immediate cessation of medical experience and administration of vaccines** to the Israeli public.

2. Ask the government **adopt all legislative procedures that do not violate the principle of informed consent** of a person to receive the medical treatment described above, which denies legal status in Israel and in Israeli democracy, including avoiding the creation of a health passport, giving the names of unvaccinated people to local authorities or to any other competent legislator.

3. Take **the most severe measures** against any public, commercial or employment entity that violates state labor laws or other matters necessary to prevent coercion or solicitation of vaccines, as well as discrimination, against those who choose not to receive the vaccines. innovative medical care mentioned above.

4. Draw your attention to the fact that a copy of **this document will also be sent to the media** around the world for violating the Nuremberg Code. Relevant in all countries of the free world.

5. And as a final remark, it should be noted that it was only recently that a Council of Europe decision was taken on 27/1/21, in which all authorities are ordered not to exercise pressuring or soliciting people to take the Corona vaccine in any way. Therefore, whatever is good for advanced European countries is certainly also good for Israel – and the balance is obvious ”.

Lawyer Ruth Makhachovsky told Israel News:

« **Pfizer’s experiment in the State of Israel was carried out in violation of the Nuremberg Code, which is part of international criminal law and is under the jurisdiction of the Hague tribunal.** We are now awaiting a decision ”.

<https://www.archyde.com/international-criminal-court-accepts-israeli-governments-nuremberg-code-violation-complaint/> **[This is amazing and wonderful. The forced and coerced process with this experimental treatment is now a huge problem for this group in Israel’s government . – rdb]**

**Shouting ‘traitor,’ Netanyahu supporters attack Sa’ar event with rocks, eggs**

***New Hope chief blames premier for violence at campaign meeting; party increases security detail for leader following incident***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:17 am*

**New Hope leader Gideon Sa’ar said on Saturday that a campaign event held by his party was attacked by supporters of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**. The attackers threw objects, including stones and eggs, at the New Hope party meeting in Azaria in central Israel.

**The intruders also interfered with the meeting’s audio system and shouted that Sa’ar was a “traitor.” Sa’ar split from Netanyahu’s Likud party** to form New Hope last year.

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| ***[Supporters of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are watched by police officers outside an event for Gideon Sa'ar's New Hope party, March 13, 2020 Screen grab/Channel 13)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/saar-e1615713887138.jpg)Supporters of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are watched by police officers outside an event for Gideon Sa'ar's New Hope party, March 13, 2020 Screen grab/Channel 13)*** | ***Benjamin Netanyahu and Gideon Sa’ar at a Likud faction meeting in the Knesset, Nov. 21, 2005. (AP Photo/Oded Balilty)*** |

One person was injured, became unconscious and was evacuated from the scene, Sa’ar wrote on Facebook.

**Sa’ar blamed Netanyahu for the violence and reiterated his campaign pledge to oust Netanyahu from office in the upcoming elections on Marc**h 23.

“Netanyahu has completely lost it. Bibi, I’m not afraid of you! In another ten days I’ll replace you,” Sa’ar wrote on Facebook, referring to Netanyahu by his nickname.

**“Netanyahu crossed a red line,” Sa’ar sa**id.

Sa’ar shared video that showed people carrying Likud flags, arguing with his supporters and calling him a traitor, apparently outside the Saturday meeting.

ככה נראת מורשת נתניהו. שיסוע, שנאה, פלגנות, הסתה בוטה ופציעה של פעיל תקווה חדשה בכנס הערב במועצה אזורית גזר. עוד תזכורת למה צריך לשנות ולהחליף את השלטון הזה. [pic.twitter.com/m9UeMMY3sh](https://t.co/m9UeMMY3sh)

— Hemi.u (@HemiUnger) [March 13, 2021](https://twitter.com/HemiUnger/status/1370836273410228230?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Following the incident, the New Hope party increased Sa’ar’s security detail,** pointing to the apparently planned nature of the disturbance, Army Radio reported Sunday. Up until now, Sa’ar has had one privately hired bodyguard with him most of the time, the report said.

**Opposition leader Yair Lapid of the Yesh Atid party “strongly condemned” the att**ack.

“The violence of Netanyahu’s people is breaking records and his silence is deafening,” Lapid said.

Netanyahu has not yet commented on the alleged attack, which happened late at night on Saturday.

**Netanyahu has in the past been accused of inciting against his political opponents and the justice system**. He has similarly accused his detractors of threatening himself and his family.

The premier has repeatedly accused Sa’ar, as well as Yamina party chief Naftali Bennett, of planning to form a coalition with the left after the March 23 elections.

**Earlier this month Netanyahu** [**was accused of sexism and racism**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-accused-of-sexism-racism-for-deriding-new-hopes-shasha-biton/) **toward former Likud MK and current New Hope No. 2 candidate Yifat Shasha-Biton, after he referred to her with a disparaging nickna**me, while appearing to suggest she was to blame for Israel’s coronavirus deaths.

**Sa’ar was long seen as Netanyahu’s chief rival within Likud b**efore he broke ranks to form New Hope in December.

**He was initially seen as a leading challenger to Netanyahu from the right but support for New Hope has plummeted in recent we**eks.

New Hope polled as high as 21 seats after it was formed, but has steadily shed support, [with recent polls](https://www.timesofisrael.com/poll-forecasts-deadlock-after-election-with-blocs-split-60-60/) predicting it will win around 10 seats in the election, trailing Bennett’s right-wing Yamina faction.

New Hope, Yamina, and Avigdor Liberman’s Yisrael Beytenu and Netanyahu’s Likud are all battling for votes on the right, along with the smaller, further right Religious Zionism faction headed by Bezalel Smotrich.

Sa’ar has vowed not to serve in a coalition under Netanyahu, unlike his rival Bennett, who has not ruled out cooperating with the premier, or his opponents.

**Surveys have generally predicted political deadlock after the election,** with neither the pro- or anti-Netanyahu blocs having a clear path to assembling a majority coalition.

**The upcoming elections — the fourth in two years — were called after the power-sharing government of Likud and Blue and White failed to agree on a budget by a December 23 deadli**ne.

The election, like the previous three votes, is largely seen as a referendum on Netanyahu’s rule amid his ongoing trial on corruption charges, as well as his government’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/saar-says-netanyahu-supporters-attacked-his-campaign-event-injuring-one/> **[The degree of dirty politics that has gone on in Israel this election really takes the cake. I have been following Israel and their political situation for over 25 years and don’t recall this kind of absolute hatred and discord. With all the fragmentation going on it would be a perfect opportunity for one of their adversaries to institute a bad military episode. – rdb]**

**Netanyahu indicates he avoided Saudi airspace because of Houthi missiles**

***PM called off first official trip to UAE last week at the last minute, blaming Jordan for failing to approve flyover; Jordan confirms closing its airspace over diplomatic spat***

*By* [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 3:57 pm*

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday that he was deterred from flying to the United Arab Emirates through Saudi airspace last week because of the threat of missile fire from Iranian proxies in Yem**en.

**Netanyahu had called off a visit to the Emirates on Thursday over a spat with neighboring Jordan, which had temporarily closed its airspace to the prime minister’s flight**.

**But rather than bypass Jordanian airspace and take a more southerly route through Saudi skies, Netanyahu told Israel’s Channel 13, “there were also problems a week ago in the skies of Saudi Arabia,”** referring to recent missile attacks by Yemen’s Houthi rebels.

Netanyahu did not elaborate, nor did he say there were concrete plans to target his plane by the Iran-backed Houthis.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/F210314YS52.jpg)

***Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at a conference of the ‘Besheva’ group in Jerusalem, on March 14, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)***

**The Houthis, who control the capital and much of the country’s north, have escalated their cross-border attacks on critical Saudi infrastructure in recent weeks**, crashing bomb-laden drones and missiles into the kingdom’s Patriot missile batteries and revealing gaps in its defenses.

**Last week, missiles and drones hit one of the world’s largest oil shipping ports and halted air traffic toward the international airport in the port city of Jiddah**. While Houthi-claimed attacks on Saudi Arabia rarely cause substantial damage, such strikes have roiled the world economy and raise the risk of a disruption in global oil supplies.

**Netanyahu was slated to make the first official visit by an Israeli leader to the United Arab Emirates, half a year after the countries established formal relations**. He had hoped to use the audience with the UAE’s crown prince to boost his reelection campaign less than two weeks before the March 23 Knesset elections.

The Prime Minister’s Office said it had [difficulties coordinating the flight](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-said-weighing-canceling-uae-trip-due-to-wifes-illness/) over Jordanian airspace after Jordan’s Crown Prince Hussein canceled a visit to the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, a sensitive holy site under Jordanian custodianship, due to disagreements over security arrangements.

**Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman al-Safadi confirmed on Friday that Jordan held up granting Netanyahu overflight permission in retaliation for the canceled v**isit.

Safadi accused Israel of violating an agreement on the arrangements for the visit, while Israel has said Hussein arrived with heavier security than promised.

On Saturday, Netanyahu insisted that relations between the two countries were positive, saying that “Jordan needs good relations with us no less than we need good relations with Jordan.”

The diplomatic spat underscored [Jordanian frustrations with Netanyahu](https://www.timesofisrael.com/long-frustrated-jordan-finally-finds-a-way-to-hit-netanyahu-where-it-hurts/) and tensions between the two neighbors that have simmered for years. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-says-he-avoided-saudi-airspace-because-of-houthi-missiles/>

**‘Iron Sting’: Israel completes testing of ‘groundbreaking’ laser-guided mortar**

***120mm shell, which offers division-level firepower to battalion-sized forces, touted by Defense Ministry as reducing collateral damage, danger to noncombatants, due to its accuracy***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 4:00 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/Iron-sting-e1615735766986.jpg)

***Screen capture from video of the Iron Sting morter during tests. (Defense Ministry)***

**A new laser-guided mortar completed trials and will bring greater firepower to smaller units while reducing collateral damage to noncombatants due to its high levels of accuracy, the Defense Ministry said in a statement** Sunday.

**The Iron Sting 120mm mortar was developed by the ministry along with the Israel Defense Forces and Elbit Systems and, following the successful completion of the tests in the south of the country, is set to be** delivered to the army.

**Defense Minister Benny Gantz said in the statement that Israeli industry provides the IDF with technology “that changes the combat arena and gives us more lethal, accurate, and effective me**ans.”

Apparently referring to Israel’s clashes with the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip and the Lebanese Hezbollah terror group in the north, **Gantz said the weapon meets the army’s need for “suitable means for combat against enemies who hide among civilian populations, while complying with the legal and value standards set by the State of Israel**.”

He said Iron Sting will **integrate well with the IDF’s multi-year plan**, the general framework under which the Israel Defense Forces builds up its arsenals and trains its troops in order to confront the threats it expects to face in the coming years.

Colonel Arik Avivi, head of the IDF’s land forces weaponry department, said the weapon offers “an ability that until today was for the brigade or division, and we are bringing it now to the level of the battalion.”

He said it would offer “a very great lethality for that level” of force size.

**According to the head of the Defense Ministry’s Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure, Yaniv Rotem, the mortar had been in development for ten y**ears.

Describing it as “groundbreaking” on an international level, he said the mortar would offer infantry units the kind of accuracy that was previously only available from missiles and airborne weaponry.

**“Iron Sting is intended to provide accurate fire in the open field and crowded urban areas w**hile reducing collateral damage in injury to non-combatants,” the statement said.

According to the Elbit website, Iron Sting has a range of 1-12 kilometers (0.6-7.5 miles, depending on the launch mortar, and has an accuracy to within 10 meters. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/defense-ministry-completes-testing-of-groundbreaking-laser-guided-mortar/> **[Obviously they didn’t have an ‘operation warp speed’ like we did with the ‘JAB’. Maybe this has been tested a little better. – rdb]**

**Changing direction, Lapid targets Blue and White, Labor voters**

***Parties fume at move, say it weakens bloc; PM hits Bennett but says he has ‘no problem’ with people voting for right-wing Religious Zionism party***

*By* [*Raoul Wootliff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/raoul-wootliff/) *Today, 11:09 am*

**With just over a week remaining until the election, Yesh Atid chair Yair Lapid on Sunday made a bold change in his campaign’s direction, sending a series of late-night text messages to potential supporters warning that parties that are projected to win just a handful of seats will not be able to make a real dif**ference.

“Parties with five seats do not change government and parties with six do not save democracy,” read a text signed by Lapid and sent to hundreds of thousands of people, alluding to the Blue and White and Labor parties, which are [currently projected](https://www.timesofisrael.com/poll-blocs-split-58-58-raam-could-be-tie-breaker/) within that range.

“A big change can only be made by having a big Yesh Atid,” Lapid declared. His party is currently polling at around 20 seats.

**Pointing a finger directly at Blue and White, which Yesh Atid had once been allied with but split from last year when its leader Benny Gantz agreed to form a government with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Lapid said: “Everyone involved in this bloated and wasteful government has kept Netanyahu in Balfour” street, where the Prime Minister’s Residence is locate**d.

While the left-wing Meretz party is currently polling at just four seats in some polls, and others show it failing to cross the electoral threshold, a Yesh Atid source told The Times of Israel that the message was not aimed there.

“According to Yesh Atid’s data, Meretz will be crossing the threshold and we are not trying to take votes away from Meretz; we are not targeting Meretz,” the source said.

The move by Yesh Atid, and the claim that it is not aimed at Meretz, highlights a significant risk for Yesh Atid and the center-left camp: if Blue and White, Labor or Meretz fail to cross the threshold, it is unlikely that the anti-Netanyahu bloc will be able to reach a 61-seat majority. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/changing-direction-lapid-targets-blue-and-white-labor-voters/>

**Ahead of elections, Israel set to allow citizens to return from any destination**

***Limit on just 3,000 entries a day maintained, however; as infection rates continue to fall, Edelstein sees no need for Passover restrictions; Gallant calls for all schools to open***

*By* [*Stuart Winer*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/stuart-winer/) *Today, 2:35 pm*

**The government on Sunday decided to allow Israelis to arrive from any destination with the aim of enabling citizens to reach the country in time for next week’s electio**ns.

**Previously, Israelis could only take incoming flights from a shortlist of destinations in the US, Europe, and the Far East. However, the government kept in place a limit of no more than 3,000 arrivals each day, a restriction aimed at preventing new mutations of the virus** from coming in with travelers.

**Health Minister Yuli Edelstein in particular was adamant that the cap rem**ain, warning that coronavirus infection numbers would quickly rise again without it, according to Hebrew media reports of leaks from the cabinet meeting.

**The move came as the government was preparing to respond to a High Court petition against the 3,000-person limit later in the day, t**he Kan public broadcaster reported.

Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit, who had pushed for the limit to be raised to 4,000 in order to better argue the case in court, said that opening all departure points would help the government’s position, according to the report.

**So far, with only limited departure points permitted, the number of actual daily entries has reportedly not reached the upper limit.** But Transportation Minister Miri Regev assured the cabinet that authorities will be able to handle the situation if the number of arrivals does reach that rate.

**However, Regev also said Sunday at the Besheva Group’s conference in Jerusalem that some flights to Israel had already been canceled because there was no demand for those rou**tes.

**Israel’s land and air gateways have been largely closed since January 25, leaving thousands unable to retur**n. Ben Gurion Airport has been shuttered for all but a few special flights by Israeli and some foreign airlines to bring back citizens stranded abroad. There are estimated to still be tens of thousands of Israelis who were left stranded abroad and struggling to return in time for the March 23 elections.

The discussion came during cabinet discussions on further easing of restrictions amid falling infection and transmission rates.

**Speaking earlier in the day to the Kan public broadcaster, Edelstein said it appeared there would be no reason to apply any restrictions for the coming Passover holiday**, an annual event that sees many Israelis gather together for large family meals. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ahead-of-elections-israel-set-to-allow-citizens-to-return-from-any-destination/>

**Israeli students return to campuses after year of remote studies**

***New regulations mean those returning to in-class sessions must present proof of coronavirus vaccination or recovery from COVID-19 or recent negative test; rest of student body expected to return to some campuses after Passover***

*Tamar Trabelsi Hadad | Published: 03.14.21 , 11:34*

**Students at a number of universities and institutions of higher education across Israel returned to class for in-person studies Sunday morning, after a year of mostly remote sessions via Zo**om.

 According to the outline approved by the coronavirus cabinet, returning students are required to present a certificate showing full vaccination against coronavirus or that they have recovered from COVID-19 or a new negative test. Staff and faculty, however, are exempt from this requirement.

***The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Photo: Shutterstock)***

**The number of students in each lecture hall will not exceed 75% of the site's maximum occupancy, while large halls will hold no more than 300 peopl**e.

**The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan and the university at the West Bank settlement of Ariel was only allowing physics, chemistry and biology students to return, as they are required to work in a lab to continue their studies**.

The rest of the students at these three universities were expected to return after the Passover holiday in April.

***Bar-Ilan University (Photo: Dana Kopel)***

Natan Rahat, a third-year chemistry student at the Hebrew University is one of those who was finally returning to in-person studies after a year of remote learning.

**“Learning via Zoom is difficult. On campus you study with other people, walk around in the open air - you are active. At home, you need to concentrate for hours at the com**puter,” he said.

 Also returning was Karin Siman Tov, a first-year law student at Bar Ilan University.

**“The first semester had a lot of introductory courses which were not always interesting and learning them via Zoom sometimes made them particularly challengi**ng,” she said.

**The long period of remote learning prompted several studies that sought to understand the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the behavior of those who were forced to learn away from their classmates and in a disco**nnected manner.

One such study was conducted by Dr. Tali Gazit, a senior faculty member at the Department of Information Science at Bar-Ilan University. **Her research involving 550 students showed that just 30% said their remote learning experience was positive, while 40% described it as negative**.

Other research by Prof. Yair Amichai-Hamburger, Dr. Tal Azran and Dr. Tsahi Hayat at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya showed that extroverted students found the lack of human contact caused feelings of loneliness and dissatisfaction with their studies to a greater degree than introverted students. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/HJauUrsmO>

**'Israel will be hit by 2,000 missiles a day in future war' - IDF general**

***“They know they cannot defeat us on the battlefield so they try to move the war to a second front and that is our homes and in our cities,” the IDF general said.***

*By* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff) *MARCH 15, 2021 12:21*

**Israel will come under an onslaught of 2,000 rockets and** [**missiles**](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/israeli-research-center-finds-28-new-hezbollah-missile-launch-sites-634911) **every day during a future war with Hezbollah in Lebanon, OC Home Front Command Maj.-Gen. Uri Gordin warned on Monday**.

Speaking at the B’Sheva Conference in Jerusalem, Gordin said that some 2,000 rockets and missiles will be fired at Israel every day and will challenge Israel’s military and civil defense capabilities.

**“Out enemies on the different fronts need to know that if needed, we will activate a powerful military that has never been seen before**,” Gordin said.

He added that Israel’s enemies should know that the Israeli home front is resilient and has proven itself in the past.

“They know they cannot defeat us on the battlefield so they try to move the war to a second front and that is our homes and in our cities,” the IDF general said.

Israel believes that [Hezbollah](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/hezbollah-slams-idf-report-on-nasrallahs-paranoia-megalomania-662016?_ga=2.209160338.1800829301.1615526598-322123844.1568527356) has today an arsenal of approximately 150,000 rockets and missiles, some of which have the ability to strike anywhere inside the State of Isral(sic) . <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/israel-will-be-hit-by-2000-missiles-a-day-in-future-war-idf-general-662042>

**PA: Jerusalem Arabs to participate in Palestinian elections**

***An Israeli official said that no decision has been taken regarding the participation of Jerusalem Arabs in the PA election.***

*By* [*KHALED ABU TOAMEH*](https://www.jpost.com/author/khaled-abu-toameh)*,* [*LAHAV HARKOV*](https://www.jpost.com/author/lahav-harkov) *MARCH 14, 2021 19:51*



***Muslims pray in front of the Dome of the Rock. (photo credit: AMMAR AWAD / REUTERS)***

**Arab residents of Jerusalem will participate in the upcoming** [**Palestinian general elections**](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/palestinian-elections-this-time-for-real-655688) **by casting their ballots or presenting their candidacy in the neighborhoods where they live, a Palestinian Authority official said Sund**ay.

**Mutasem Tayem, director-general of the “Jerusalem Unit” in the PA President’s Office, said Arab residents who hold Israeli-issued ID cards will be able to vote and present their candidacy “despite all Israeli** measures aiming to prevent them from participating in the parliamentary and presidential election.”

**The parliamentary vote has been set for May 22, while the presidential election is scheduled to take place on July 3**1.

**Arab residents of Jerusalem participated in previous PA parliamentary and presidential elections by casting their votes in Israeli post offices in the** city.

According to the 1995 Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement (Annex II), “A number of Palestinians of Jerusalem will vote in the [Palestinian] elections through services rendered in five post offices in Jerusalem.”

**International observers will be present in the post offices on the day of the el**ections.

No decision has been taken yet regarding the participation of Jerusalem Arabs in the PA elections, a senior Israeli government official told *The Jerusalem Post.*

**Arabs from Jerusalem will participate in the upcoming Palestinian elections “in accordance with international agreements,”** Tayem told the PA’s Palestine TV.

The PA elections will take place in Arab neighborhoods where the residents live, a reference to Arab communities located within the boundaries of the Jerusalem Municipality, he said.

“Their participation is in their hands and in the hands of the occupation,” Tayem said. “The participation of the [Arab] Jerusalemites is a Palestinian national decision based on international legitimacy. We won’t wait for permission from the occupation to hold the elections in Jerusalem.”

The Palestinian Central Elections Commission is entitled to work in Jerusalem to ensure the participation of the Arab residents in the elections, whether by voting or presenting their candidacy, he said.

**“Our battle in Jerusalem is a battle for sovereignty over the city,” he added.** “There will be no elections without Jerusalem.”

Nabil Sha’ath, who serves as PA President Mahmoud Abbas’s “special representative,” said Arab residents of Jerusalem would cast their ballots in Israeli post offices in the city.

The Palestinians have obtained the international community’s agreement to hold the vote through the Israeli post offices, he told Anadolu Agency, a Turkish state-run news agency. Israel has thus far not objected to the participation of the Arab residents of Jerusalem in the Palestinian elections, he said.

Abbas and other Palestinian officials have in the past said there would be no elections without the participation of Arab residents of Jerusalem.

Earlier this year, PA Prime Minister Mohammad [Shtayyeh](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/shtayyeh-israel-must-allow-jerusalem-arabs-to-participate-in-elections-655849) said the Palestinians would ask Israel “to allow our people in Jerusalem” to participate in the elections. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/pa-jerusalem-arabs-to-participate-in-palestinian-elections-661979> **[This makes the “PA” governance an even more confused situation that that in Israel. These folks if they have applied for citizenship can vote in Israeli elections and then also in “PA”? – rdb]**

**Direct flight from Israel to Algeria sparks Arab outcry**

***Ynet reporters reveal on Twitter Brazilian jet carrying diplomats made direct stop in the north African state en route from Israel, catalyzing wave of denials and condemnations from online users and officials alike***

*Itay Blumenthal, Daniel Salami | Published: 03.14.21 , 17:50*

**A Brazilian Air Force plane carrying a diplomatic delegation has stirred controversy in the Arab world after Ynet reporters revealed on Twitter it had made a stop in an Arab country en route from Israel to the South American coun**try.

**The aircraft, carrying dignitaries such as Brazilian Foreign Minister Ernesto Araujo and the son of President Jair Bolsonaro, Eduardo, took off from Ben Gurion Airport last Tuesday after** [**a diplomatic visit**](https://www.ynetnews.com/article/ByIR4tGXd)**, landing directly at an airport in Algeria for a refueling st**op.



***A Brazilian jet carrying a diplomatic landed in Ben Gurion Airport last week***

**This has sparked anger in the Arab world, with many considering the stop as Algeria recognizing Israel. Both nations do not currently have official ties between them**.

**Arab officials denied the reports of the aircraft's flight route and presented evidence they claimed was proof of a "Zionist plot" to defame Algeria**, which, unlike its neighbor Morocco, refuses to normalize relations with Israel. **[God forbid any countries plane should refuel in an arab country if Israel was on their flight plan. So what if there had been a technical problem. Is it supposed to divert to Italy to avoid touching arab land? – rdb]**

**A source from the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, commonly known as Eurocontrol, confirmed has confirmed to Ynet that the jet had landed in the north African count**ry.

Aircraft traffic is most often tracked by civilian tracking software, the most popular of which, FlightRadar24, captured the plane taking off from Israel.

لأول مرة في التاريخ: طائرة تقلع لرحلة مباشرة من إسرائيل إلى الجزائر  
  
الطائرة، التابعة لسلاح الجو البرازيلي (FAB2584)، تحمل على متنها مسؤولون رفيعو المستوى، وقد هبطت بمطار بن غوريون الدولي هذا الأسبوع 🇮🇱🇩🇿🇧🇷[@DanielSal\_87](https://twitter.com/DanielSal_87?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@ynetalerts](https://twitter.com/ynetalerts?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/VF5qW6dksK](https://t.co/VF5qW6dksK)

— איתי בלומנטל Itay Blumental (@ItayBlumental) [March 9, 2021](https://twitter.com/ItayBlumental/status/1369305868777492489?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**However, due to a lack of receivers operating in ADS-B technology in the region, the plane was only spotted before landing through a technology called TMLT. Planes' approximate location can be traced by measuring time** and signal reception by several receivers as they are required to transmit Mode-S signals — which made it possible to locate the plane prior to its landing in Algeria.

Another tracking software called Adsbexchange, has picked up two signals along the aircraft's route — one nearby Tel Aviv, and another next to the island of Malta, which was the result of a glitch.

**Algerian officials and the Arab world predicated a new narrative on the glitch in which the plane made a stop in Malta and only then arrived in Algeria, so it did not fly directly from Israel to the north African c**ountry. **[The degree of ingrained almost inbred hatred is just unbelievable. – rdb]**

Arab media covered the report on the first direct flight from Israel to Algeria extensively.

هبوط طائرة سلاح الجو البرازيلي في مطار الجزائر الدولي هواري بومدين، قبل بضع دقائق، قادمة برحلة مباشرة ولأول مرة في التاريخ من إسرائيل للجزائر 🇧🇷🇮🇱🇩🇿[@ItayBlumental](https://twitter.com/ItayBlumental?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/jdoPnn19JJ](https://t.co/jdoPnn19JJ)

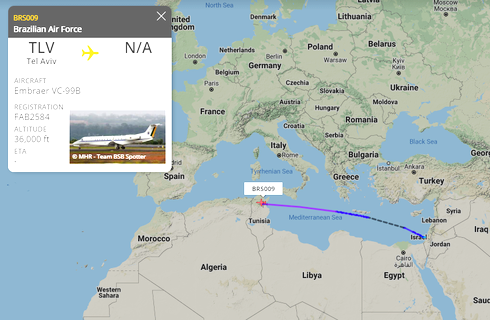
— Daniel Salami (@DanielSal\_87) [March 9, 2021](https://twitter.com/DanielSal_87/status/1369381669401198593?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Qatar-based television personality Faisal Al-Kasim, who is known for hosting the controversial live debate show The Opposite Direction on Al Jazeera shared the report to his more than 5 million Twitter followers.

BBC Arabic presented the incident in a skeptical manner, without mentioning the Brazilian jet's flight route as picked up by Eurocontrol. At the end of a piece channel ran on the incident, which also featured tweets from Ynet reporters, Algerian government spokesman Ammar Belhimer denied the report, saying that "our country is undergoing an electronic defamation campaign in light of its refusal to normalize relations with Israel."

The Iranian Arabic-language news network Al-Alam also ran a story on the incident in a skeptical light, later following up with another story presenting a host of tweets from different sources supposedly debunking the original report and dismissing it as fake news.

Lebanese news channel Al Mayadeen, which is affiliated with the Hezbollah terrorist group, also covered the incident, adding that an official Algerian source from denied any reports of an aircraft from Israel landing in Algeria and said they were "propaganda targeted to influence the Algerian position on the Zionist enemy."



***Tracking data showing Brazilian jet's route from Israel to Algeria***

***(Photo: FlightRadar24)***

**Following the reports, the hashtag "#Algeria\_in\_the\_Zionists\_net" began to circulate on social media**.

"Every Algerian who loves their country must share this hashtag and respond to the Jewish-Moroccan allegations against Algerian foreign policy. Everybody can see that the Brazilian plane did not even pass through Algeria," wrote one user on Twitter.

Other users considered the alleged landing of the plane in Algeria as a chance to receive some help in the country's COVID-19 response from Israel, which leads the world's fastest vaccination campaign against the disease.

A researcher residing in Algeria told Ynet that anger within the country does not stem from anti-Semitism, but criticism against Israeli policies.

"Our anger is not targeted at the Jews or at the people in Israel, but against the Israeli government that has been long turning its back on Arab peace initiatives and then spinning it as if we're the ones not interested in peace," he said. "That is why we are finding it hard to believe that the plane had landed in Algeria. If you have definitive proof, such as landing documentation or permit, present it." **MORE -** <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/S16L2sj700> **[When you read this you have to get an idea of just how impossible peace in the ME really is to accomplish. Anything “Israeli” or Zionist is simply taboo and unacceptable. If they aren’t fighting with or about Israel then they are fighting among themselves because of which brand of islam they like, Shiite or Sunni and even beyond that are they Wahabi or not. More blood has been shed by this group than you can imagine. It is true that the crusaders were bloody conquerors but the battle today is islam. – rdb ]**

**US Air Force receives first F-15EX fighter jet**

***The IAF was said to be interested in the aircraft, and can now follow its performance closely.***

*By* [*UDI SHAHAM*](https://www.jpost.com/author/udi-shaham) *MARCH 14, 2021 18:51*

***An F15EX fighter jet taking off from a runway in the United States. (photo credit: BOEING)***

**The US Air Force officially accepted the first Boeing F-15EX last week, Boeing said Sunday in a press release.**

**The** [**fighter jet**](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/cabinet-okays-massive-us-israel-aircraft-deal-658176) **is a two-seat aircraft that is operable by a single pilot. It has fly-by-wire flight controls, digital cockpit displays and advanced avionics systems, including the Eagle Passive/Active Warning and Survivability System, an electronic warfare upgrade that is also being fielded on F-15E models.**

**“This is a big moment for the Air Forc**e,” said Col. Sean Dorey, F-15EX program manager with the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center’s Fighters and Advanced Aircraft Directorate, responsible for the acquisition, modernization and sustainment of the aircraft.

**“With its large weapons capacity, digital backbone and open architecture, the F-15EX will be a key element of our tactical fighter fleet and complement 5th-generation asset**s,” he said. “In addition, it’s capable of carrying hypersonic weapons, giving it a niche role in future near-peer conflicts.”

**This progress in the F-15EX program also has an effect on the Israel Air Forc**e.

**Previous reports said the IAF was interested in this specific fighter jet, and this move will allow officials to observe its performance closely**.

The US Air Force plans to acquire 144 F-15EXs from the company to replace F-15C/D models and refresh the F-15 fleet, Boeing said. <https://www.jpost.com/jpost-tech/us-air-force-receives-first-f15ex-fighter-jet-661947>

**3 hospitalized for 'unusual symptoms' after taking new COVID vaccine**

*By* [*Kipp Jones, The Western Journal*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wj/) *Published March 13, 2021 at 6:48pm*

**Three Norwegian health care workers have been hospitalized after receiving the newly-unveiled single-dose AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, authorities have announced, which has led to a temporary suspension of giving out the sho**t.

[**Reuters**](https://www.reuters.com/article/reutersComService_2_MOLT/idUSKBN2B50GZ) **reported that the workers experienced issues relating to blood clots and other vascular issues. Norwegian authorities did not say how long the distribution of** [**the vaccine**](https://www.westernjournal.com/astrazeneca-will-resume-vaccine-trials-concerning-pause/) **would be halted as those p**eople remain hospitalized.

Sigurd Hortemo with the Norwegian Medicines Agency told reporters at a media briefing with members of the Norwegian Institute of Public Health that each of the hospitalized health care workers were under the age of 50, but said the hospitalizations could not be definitively linked to the shot.

“**We do not know if the cases are linked to the vaccine**,” Hortemo said.

The hospitalizations will be investigated by the European Medicines Agency, Hortemo added.

Steinar Madsen, the medical director at the Norwegian Medicines Agency, told regional media that the affected individuals were very ill after receiving the shots.

“They have very unusual symptoms: bleeding, blood clots and a low count of blood platelets,” Madsen said. “They are quite sick ... We take this very seriously.”

Reuters reported that no such issues were reported during its [clinical trials](https://www.westernjournal.com/gop-senator-announces-participated-covid-19-vaccine-trials/).

AstraZeneca defended the vaccine while pointing out that those hospitalized might have experienced their symptoms with or without taking its single-shot vaccine.

“In fact, the reported numbers of these types of events for COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca are not greater than the number that would have occurred naturally in the unvaccinated population,” the pharmaceutical giant said. **MORE -**<https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/3-norwegians-hospitalized-unusual-symptoms-taking-new-covid-vaccine/>

**Judge takes action on 'virtually unintelligible' lawsuit against Trump, Israel**

***'Truly bizarre complaint alleged a massive conspiracy'***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published March 14, 2021 at 2:29pm*

**A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit by Palestinian activists against President Trump and Israel, describing the complaint as "virtually unintelligible," with plaintiffs failing to specify who hurt them, when and w**here.

**"The truly bizarre complaint alleged a massive conspiracy between the Israeli government and the named defendants to commit war crimes against Palestinians,** without offering – or even identifying – any evidence to back up the baseless claim," said the American Center for Law and Justice, the ACLJ.

The ACLJ said some of the Palestinian activists were tied to terrorism. Other targets were Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and prominent pro-Israel politicians. **MORE -**

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/judge-takes-action-virtually-unintelligible-lawsuit-trump-israel/>

**Angela Merkel’s party takes a hammering in German state elections – exit polls**

*14 Mar, 2021 18:22*

**German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s CDU party has suffered heavy losses in two state elections, as the long-ruling leader fights corruption scandals and looks to choose a successor for this year’s elections**.

**Voters in the states of Baden-Wuerttemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate went to the polls on Sunday, and by the time exit polls were published that evening, it was clear that they had given Merkel’s Christian Democratic Union (CDU) a drubbin**g.

**The CDU could once count on support from Baden-Wuerttemberg, an industrial state which is home to auto manufacturers Porsche, Daimler, and Mercedes-Benz. However, the Green Party was projected by TV network ZDF to take home 31.5% of the vote,** leaving the CDU in second place with 23%, down 4% from 2016. In Baden-Wuerttemberg, the CDU is, and looks set to remain, the junior partner in a coalition with the Greens.

Hier die Prognose zur Landtagswahl Baden-Württemberg, Stand 18:00 Uhr.[#Landtagswahlen2021](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Landtagswahlen2021?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)[#ltwbw21](https://twitter.com/hashtag/ltwbw21?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)[pic.twitter.com/An44vz1Yvq](https://t.co/An44vz1Yvq)

— ZDF (@ZDF) [March 14, 2021](https://twitter.com/ZDF/status/1371145223993237504?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Neighboring Rhineland-Palatinate is also ruled by a coalition, with the CDU playing second fiddle to the center-left Social Democrats (SDP). By Sunday evening, ZDF predicted that the SDP would lose 2.7%, hanging on to first place with 33.5% of the vote. The CDU is predicted to come in second with 25.5%, down 6.3% since 2016. The Greens are predicted to pick up more than 4%, with a smattering of smaller parties taking minor gains and losses.

Hier die Prognose zur Landtagswahl Rheinland-Pfalz, Stand 18:00 Uhr.[#landtagswahl2021](https://twitter.com/hashtag/landtagswahl2021?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)[#ltwrp21](https://twitter.com/hashtag/ltwrp21?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)[pic.twitter.com/jRLWoMZJ3z](https://t.co/jRLWoMZJ3z)

— ZDF (@ZDF) [March 14, 2021](https://twitter.com/ZDF/status/1371144753161637896?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Right-wing Alternative for Germany (AfD), which more than doubled its share of the vote in two state** [**elections in 2019**](https://www.rt.com/news/467759-germany-elections-saxony-brandenburg-afd/)**, had a relatively disappointing outing on Sunda**y. The party was predicted to come in third place in both Baden-Wuerttemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate, scoring 12.5% and 10.5% respectively. Both figures are around two percent lower than 2016’s results.

**CDU leadership will likely be unsurprised by the party’s poor showing, as defeat was predicted in the runup to Sunday’s elections**. However, having those predictions materialize does not bode well for the party with a general election set to take place in September. Merkel is not expected to run for a sixth term as leader of Germany’s government, though the long-serving chancellor has yet to nominate a successor. **MORE -**<https://www.rt.com/news/518083-germany-elections-merkel-defeat/>  **[Looks like Angela and her power brokers are going down. Too much welcoming unwanted illegal aliens and not handling the radicals. – rdb]**

**EU countries lose almost 6 MILLION jobs due to Covid-19 pandemic, study finds**

*14 Mar, 2021 07:05*

**The coronavirus crisis has had an unprecedented impact on the EU economy, as well as the labor market and society, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Condit**ions (Eurofound) said in a new report.

**According to the agency, “There were 5.7 million fewer people in employment in the EU by spring 2020 than at the end of 2019,” with the jobless rate across the 27-nation bloc increasing from 6.6 percent to** 6.7 percent over the same period.

In the 12 months leading up to spring 2020, EU employment declined by 2.4 percent, the weekly hours of those still working dropped by nearly one hour, and the share of workers employed but not working more than doubled to 17 percent. *“By July 2020, nearly 50 percent of EU workers had moved to exclusive or partial telework, opening up new labor market gulfs as the more highly educated and those in urban areas were better placed to work from home.”* ***MORE -*** <https://www.rt.com/business/517844-eu-pandemic-job-losses/>

**‘No culture, no future’: French actress strips NAKED at awards ceremony to protest Covid-19 restrictions (GRAPHIC VIDEO)**

*13 Mar, 2021 09:06*

**Actress Corinne Masiero disrobed on stage during a French awards ceremony, exposing the audience to her anger over the government’s closure of cinemas and other cultural institutions amid the Covid-19 crisis**.

Masiero was invited to present the award for the best costumes at the Cesar Awards, France’s equivalent of the Oscars, on Friday. The 57-year-old actress approached the podium wearing a donkey costume over a blood-stained dress. After taking the microphone, she made a sarcastic remark about wanting a nicer gown but being told that it wasn’t *“essential enough,”* in an apparent jab at coronavirus restrictions that have targeted businesses and activities deemed non-essential.

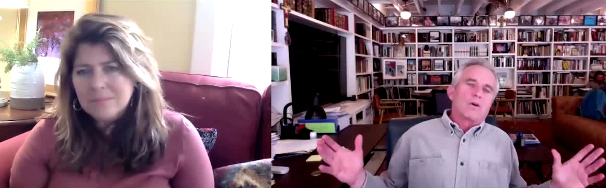
Moments later, she stripped down to her birthday suit, revealing the message *“no culture, no future”* written across her chest. She then showed her backside, which contained an appeal to French Prime Minister Jean Castex.

*“Give us back art, Jean,”* the message read. **MORE -** <https://www.rt.com/news/518006-french-actress-strips-masiero-protest-covid/> **[It appears that the world is just about fed up with the corona nonsense that the WHO and deep state player have tried to inflict on the population. Unfortunately with the Gates ‘vaccine ploy’ they may succeed in getting their eugenics wish anyway. – rdb]**

**2 liberal icons: America now on a path to 'totalitarianism'**

***Famous leftists find it 'inexplicable' other liberals don't see the threat***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published March 14, 2021 at 1:07pm*

[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/wolf-kennedy-cropped.jpg)

***Naomi Wolf on Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 's "Truth" podcast (Video screenshot)***

**Citing government seizure of power and censorship during the coronavirus pandemic, well-known liberal figures Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Naomi Wolf warned in a recent video-podca**st discussion that America is on "a path to totalitarianism."

**Wolf, a renowned feminist thinker who once was an adviser to Bill Clinton, has been warning of late that the nation has reached "step 10" of he**r ["Fascism in 10 Easy Steps," from her 2008 book "The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot."](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/naomi-wolf-steps-to-fascism/)

**In their discussion on Kennedy's "Truth" podcast, the son of the late liberal icon said he sees himself and Wolf as "kindred spirits" who are perplexed about why fellow liberals can't see what is happening now in Ame**rica.

**He noted that liberal scholars grew up reading the great dystopian writers of the 20th century, including Orwell and Huxley, who "predicted exactly what we are going through now**."

"It just felt like we were all on the same page, and it is very, very strange to me, almost inexplicable, how all these people who have been friends of mine for life, and people I have admired, and people whose writings I read, have acquiesced to something that clearly is a path to totalitarianism," he told Wolf in the podcast, which was published March 8.

**Kennedy added that fascism is another term for it, noting Wolf pointed out in her recent interview with Fox News' Tucker Carlson that Mussolini complained that fascism should be called corporatism, the merger of state and corporate pow**er.

**"And here today we're living in a world where you have government officials who are censoring criticism of pharmaceutical products," said Kennedy, w**ho is known for his anti-vaccination activism.

Wolf said she agreed with Kennedy's assessment that liberals today largely are blind to the erosion of constitutional liberties. Bottom of Form

"I have that same feeling that we are in a club that started out with millions and millions of people, and now there are, like, five or six liberals I can count," she said.

**Wolf said that as she sounds the alarm about the threat to the U.S. Constitution, the only people affirming her are "libertarians and people who are on the ri**ght."

**"And the left," she said, "is like, 'Shut up, sit down. You're killing grandm**a. Don't give aid to the enemy. How can you talk to the conservatives? This is not the time for freedom. This is the time for a kind of communitarian self-censorship.'

"It's absolutely devastating," Wolf said.

Kennedy's organization Children's Health Defense provided a list of highlights of the discussion:

* We're **reaching a point reminiscent of what led to the American Revolution**: People were willing to die rather than give up their rights.
* The Constitution wasn't written for easy times but for emergencies such as the current COVID crisis.
* Arbitrary restrictions are being put in place by those abusing emergency powers at local, state and federal levels.
* In a **free society, points are made and arguments won through free speech and open debate rather than censoring opinions that differ from ours**.
* **Authoritarianism has no place in medicine although most liberals are accepting edicts promoted by Dr. Fauci and Bill Gates**.
* Direct-to-consumer advertising that started in 1997 marked the beginning of Pharma’s takeover of American media.
* The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation neutralized once-independent media, including The Guardian, NPR and public television, through financial gifts.
* Democrats are leading the “biofascism” charge.
* There's no science to back up the widespread suspension of our constitutional rights.
* Non-partisan grassroots efforts are gaining momentum and can preserve our freedom and prevent totalitarian takeover.

*See the video of the discussion:* [*https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/truth-rfk-jr-naomi-wolf-constitutional-rights/*](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/truth-rfk-jr-naomi-wolf-constitutional-rights/)

**In her** [**interview with Tucker Carlson last month**](https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/biden-creating-totalitarian-state-eyes/)**, Wolf explained that "step 10" of her 10 steps to totalitarianism is the suspension of the rule of law**.

That's when nations "start to be a police state," she said.

**"We're here. There's no way around it**."

Just five days after Biden's election, [Wolf expressed regret for her vote for the Democratic candidate](https://twitter.com/naomirwolf/status/1325604856283869189).

**"If I'd known Biden was open to 'lockdowns' as he now states, which is something historically unprecedented in any pandemic, and a terrifying practice, one that won’t ever end because elites love it, I would never have voted for him," she wrote on** Twitter.

*See Wolf's interview with Tucker Carlson:* [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKTZMuJ9cDQ*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKTZMuJ9cDQ)

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/4899605/>  **[Buyer’s remorse. The problem is, had this been an honest election “Bi-dumb” would not be where he is now and both houses of congress would in all likelihood would have been red, not blue. The entire election was a total fraud orchestrated by the demon-rats. – rdb]**

**Largest Pro-Israel Group in US Launches Ads Against Biden Pentagon Pick**

***Christians United for Israel calls on Joe Manchin to Oppose Colin Kahl***

[***Alana Goodman***](https://freebeacon.com/author/alana-goodman/) ***- March 12, 2021 4:00 PM***

***Christian followers of American Evangelical Pastor John Hagee chant slogans in support of Israel as they wave Israeli and US flags during a rally downtown Jerusalem on April 07, 2008 / GALI TIBBON/AFP via Getty Images***

**A prominent pro-Israel group is launching a targeted ad campaign calling on Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin (W. Va.) to oppose Pentagon nominee Colin Kahl, citing Kahl’s "antagonism" toward Israel and "disturbing" positions** on Iran.

**The series of ads will run in six West Virginia newspapers early next week, ahead of the Senate Armed Servi**ces Committee’s vote on Kahl’s nomination for undersecretary of defense for policy, which is expected to take place on Tuesday. Manchin has said he is still undecided and is likely to hold the swing vote on the committee.

**The ads feature a statement by Pastor Doug Joseph, Christians United for Israel’s state director for West Virginia, describing Kahl as an "antagonistic anti-Israel voic**e" and asking constituents to call Manchin’s office and voice their opposition.

The ad campaign comes as a number of Republicans have come out strongly against Kahl, due to his positions on Israel and Iran, as well as his inflammatory Twitter comments. Kahl has referred to the GOP as the "party of ethnic cleansing" and a "clown show," and approvingly linked to an anti-Israel blog that claimed the "Israel lobby" was trying to start a war between the United States and Iran.

"Kahl’s nomination may well hinge on one vote. And that vote will very likely be our state’s own Sen. Joe Manchin," wrote Joseph. "Given his West Virginia values and common-sense approach to the Middle East, I am hopeful he’ll make the right decision and decline to support such a misguided nomination." **MORE -** <https://freebeacon.com/biden-administration/largest-pro-israel-group-in-us-launches-ads-against-biden-pentagon-pick/> **[It is interesting that a huge Christian organization has to be a major advocate for Israel rather than the Jewish groups in the US. When you google the man most articles are about Christian opponents to him because of his anti-Israel stance. Didn’t see any Jewish ones. – rdb]**

**Schumer, Teachers Union Chief Got Billions for Private Schools**

**Democrats have long professed to be staunch supporters of public education and against school choice, but Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., struck an 11th-hour deal to fund almost $3 billion for private schools,** [**The New York Times reported**](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/13/us/politics/schumer-weingarten-stimulus-private-schools.html) **Sunda**y.

**The $2.75 billion for private schools came together from Schumer after aggressive Orthodox Jewish lobbying and rare support from American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, according to the** Times.

**Notably, though, Democrats excoriated Trump administration Education Secretary Betsy DeVos for fitting in funding for private schools in past stimulus bills last ye**ar, only to turn around and do the same thing with Biden's $1.9 trillion spending package signed by President Joe Biden on Thursday.

**"We never anticipated Senate Democrats would proactively choose to push us down the slippery slope of funding private schools directly," lamented School Superintendents Association Advocacy Director Sasha Pudel**ski, in a [letter to Congress](https://aasa.org/uploadedFiles/AASA_Blog(1)/AASA%20ARP%20Senate%20030521%20FINAL.pdf). "The floodgates are open and now with bipartisan support, why would private schools not ask for more federal money?"

**The machinations began behind a push from Orthodox Jewish lobbying in New York, and Catholic schools, according to Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America Director for Public Policy's Nathan** J. Diament.

**"It's still the case that 10% of America's students are in nonpublic schools, and they are just as impacted by the crisis as the other 90%, but we're getting a much lower percentage ov**erall," Diament told the Times.

"We're very appreciative of what Sen. Schumer did."

**Schumer's late deal in the Senate version gave about 12 times more to private schools than the $200 million capped in the original House bill, per the re**port.

**"This fund, without taking any money away from public schools, will enable private schools, like yeshivas and more, to receive assistance and** services that will cover COVID-related expenses they incur as they deliver quality education for their students," Schumer told [Jewish Insider](https://jewishinsider.com/2021/03/senate-relief-bill-covid-nonprofits/).

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, fought for a provision for "nonpublic schools that enroll a significant percentage of low‐​income students and are most impacted by the qualifying emergency."

"I'm proud of what the American Rescue Plan will deliver to our students and schools, and in this case specifically, I'm glad Democrats better targeted these resources toward students the pandemic has hurt the most," Murray wrote in a statement.

**In the bill, there is $3 billion in funding for special education programming under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and $800 million for homeless** students.

**"Make no mistake, this bill provides generous funding for public schools," a Schumer spokesman told the Times**. "But there are also many private schools which serve large percentages of low-income and disadvantaged students who also need relief from the COVID crisis."

**The National Education Association, the largest teachers union in the U.S. protested the private school funding to the Biden White House,** with which it remains a strong ally, sources told the Times. **MORE -** <https://www.newsmax.com/politics/private-schools-funding-randiweingarten/2021/03/14/id/1013743/>

**Cuomo's Staffers Have Stopped Showing Up to Work**

By [Matt Margolis](https://pjmedia.com/columnist/matt-margolis) Mar 13, 2021 2:22 PM ET

**Despite repeated refusals to resign, disgraced Governor Andrew Cuomo may soon have no choice as disillusioned staffers are now refusing to show up to work, according to** [**a report**](https://nypost.com/2021/03/13/cuomo-staffers-have-stopped-showing-up-to-work-sources-say/?utm_source=facebook_sitebuttons&utm_medium=site%20buttons&utm_campaign=site%20buttons) **from the New York Pos***t*.

**“I hear that most people aren’t even coming into work, and the offices at the Capitol are empty,” an insider told the Post. “He’ll fight and fight and fight, but the staffers I’ve talked to are ready for him to hang up the glove**s. Everyone feels like there is an inevitable conclusion — I mean at some point will Biden call on him to step down? They [staffers] just want this torture to stop.”

A total of six women have come forward alleging sexual harassment or misconduct against the governor. The [most recent allegation](https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/matt-margolis/2021/03/11/the-latest-allegations-against-cuomo-just-got-a-whole-lot-worse-n1431775) comes from an unnamed female aide who alleges that Cuomo aggressively groped her in a sexually charged manner. Five other women [allege a pattern of sexual harassment,](https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/matt-margolis/2021/03/08/say-their-names-the-five-women-who-have-accused-andrew-cuomo-of-sexual-misconduct-n1430579) ranging from not-so-subtle propositions for sex to inappropriate touching and kissing. On Friday, he seemed to have [suggested that he may have had sexual relationships](https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/matt-margolis/2021/03/12/did-cuomo-just-suggest-hes-had-sexual-relationships-with-staffers-n1432127) with staffers.

**A former aide reports that many staffers are choosing to work remotely or at vaccine sites, rather than show up at executive offices**. A current staffer even texted the former aide on Friday saying, “He has to resign now right? (I say for the 15th time this week).”

Cuomo appears to have lost the support of his staff, and they’re eagerly awaiting what they believe to be his inevitable resignation. Five aides have resigned in the past two weeks. **MORE -** <https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/matt-margolis/2021/03/13/cuomos-staffers-have-stopped-showing-up-to-work-n1432280>

**Commentary:**

**Keeping America's Eye on the Islamist Ball**[*William Marshall*](https://townhall.com/columnists/williammarshall/) *Posted: Mar 14, 2021 12:01 AM* It is easy to become distracted in this age of information overload. We are bombarded with data input from sources both ridiculous and sublime. And every issue seems to be existential, or at least is cast in that way. Covid virus hysteria, China rising, budget-busting budgetary blow-out bills brought to us courtesy of a Democratic Party at the controls of all the levers of power. It is in just such times, with our country’s leadership, such as it is, juggling many balls, that our adversaries see opportunity.   
 It is good, therefore, that we have folks like Dr. William Saxton and his estimable [Citizens for National Security](https://cfns.us/) keeping a vigilant eye on those other threats we face. CFNS has recently published “[Council on American-Islamic Relations: 2020 View](https://cfns.us/cair-20-20-view/),” which is an update to its earlier “Council on American-Islamic Relations: Its Use of Lawfare and Intimidation,” published in 2013.  
 The 2020 View was written pseudonymously by “Col. C. Grant Hall,” a nod to the author’s West Point education and the Academy’s beloved dining facility. He also holds a master’s degree from Harvard, served in Ranger and Special Forces units in Vietnam, and spent over 40 years working in intelligence and special operations, including many years in the Middle East, where he developed extensive expertise in radical and pollical Islam. Tellingly, the author notes at the outset that he chose to write under a pen name “given CAIR’s penchant for using lawfare and intimidation to silence critics.” Who can blame him for wanting to keep his hard-earned savings after a lifetime of service to the nation from the clutches of lawyers hired to defend him in baseless defamation actions? But that mere fact is a mute testament to the effectiveness of CAIR’s tactics and apropos of the book’s thesis.  
 The Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, is of course the organization which bills itself as “the nation’s largest civil rights and advocacy organization,” but was also identified as an unindicted co-conspirator in the largest terror-financing case in American history, *USA v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, et al.*, which ran from 2007 to 2008. HLF was found guilty of having given more than $12 million to the infamous terrorist organization Hamas, and five individuals in the case were convicted on charges of providing material support to a foreign terrorist organization and conspiracy to commit money laundering. They received sentences ranging from 15 to 65 years.   
 In his book, Hall says of CAIR, “The reality of CAIR is radically different from the image it tries to project. CAIR’s success in projecting a false image of itself to the American political, media and academic elite is a classic example of an expertly executed campaign of denial and deception.” He then relies on a review of authoritative sources, as well as CAIR’s own literature and websites, to provide examples of what he describes as CAIR’s “critical service to the international Jihadist movement through psychological warfare, perception management, and disinformation.”   
 Hall provides a useful discussion of CAIR’s lineage, noting that, “In order to fully understand the CAIR of 2020, one must reach back almost 100 years.” He then discusses the organization’s roots in the Muslim Brotherhood, founded in 1928 in Egypt by Hasan al-Banna, and bolstered ideologically by the writings of Sayyid Qutb. Hall then traces CAIR’s roots through Hamas, which was the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, and first gained notoriety and strength during the First *Intifada* from 1987-1993.   
 Hall identifies the central players in CAIR’s evolution, such as Dr. Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, who, according to the HLF prosecutors, “funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars into the three organizations (UASR/IAP/OLF/HLF) during a time when he was an unemployed graduate student.” The officers of one of those organizations, IAP (Islamic Association of Palestine), would go on to found CAIR in 1994. IAP itself is described by the author as “a propaganda outlet,” and had itself been founded by the “Palestinian Committee,” which Hall describes as a “sub-group of active Muslim Brotherhood members of Palestinian origin.” The Palestinian Committee, he says, “became the responsible body in the U.S.” for providing outside support to Hamas.   
 The author goes on to identify various other characters involved in the rise of CAIR. He also identifies those associated with CAIR who were later convicted of various crimes, which CAIR has sought to downplay.   
 Hall summarizes the tactics of CAIR thusly: “[L]aunching frivolous lawsuits, or threatening such, mounting boycott campaigns, pressuring companies to withdraw products if the emblems resemble a symbol in Islam, demanding that radio and TV stations fire hosts who speak out on the threat of radical Islam, demanding that anti-Jihadi billboards be taken down, and pressuring campuses to refuse to host guest speakers on the subject of radical Islam.”   
 View 2020 is a useful primer for those of us not steeped every day in the study of political Islam and the dangers it poses to American society.  Hall’s discussion of the chilling of free speech through baseless claims of “Islamophobia” for those who so much as raise the issue of radical Islam and of the dangers posed to our national security by the efforts of Islamists to undermine it is illuminating and important.   
 This book serves as a powerful reminder that our country must be vigilant to dangers that tend to recede from the spotlight as we focus our attention on a seemingly endless parade of horribles. The threat to American society by those seeking to advance the agenda of the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, CAIR and their affiliated organizations has not gone away but, thankfully, neither have Col. Hall or CFNS.  <https://townhall.com/columnists/williammarshall/2021/03/14/keeping-americas-eye-on-the-islamist-ball-n2586213>

**And then…**  
**Has Joe Biden Sold America out to the Mexican Drug Cartels?**[*Wayne Allyn Root*](https://townhall.com/columnists/wayneallynroot/) *Posted: Mar 14, 2021 12:01 AM* I told you so. It's become crystal clear I was right on the money. I've said for two years now on my national radio show that the best thing that could ever happen for the Mexican drug cartels would be a Democratic presidential victory.   
 Mexican drug kingpins have waited their entire lives for this fantasy. They must be singing, dancing and toasting champagne right now, because President Joe Biden is the greatest gift ever bestowed upon the Mexican cartels.  
 Experts estimated the money made on drug trafficking by the cartels at around $500 billion a year. That's half a trillion dollars a year -- "trillion" with a T.  
 Who quotes that figure? Republican senators. See what Georgia Sen. David Purdue said in 2019: "At half a trillion dollars -- $500 billion -- that makes the cartel business and the drug traffic just in Mexico alone coming across to the United States bigger than Walmart, to put it in perspective. So this is larger than our largest companies."  
 But that figure is bipartisan. Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein quotes a figure in a similar range: "The illicit drug trade is a business, valued at anywhere between $426 and $652 billion."  
 That was all before Joe Biden's lax open-borders policies.  
 But that's just drugs. What about human trafficking? Nearly 100,000 migrants crossed the U.S. border in just the past month. Multiply 100,000 migrants times 10,000 ($10,000 is a common going rate for smuggling humans). That's $1 billion for human trafficking in a month. Now add in child sex trafficking.  
 So, what are the cartels willing to pay to keep the borders open and the dollars flowing? I'm a businessman. I always pay a 5% to 10% finder's fee to whoever brings me business. I'm sure it works exactly the same way with Mexican drug lords, human traffickers, sex traffickers and pedophiles.  
 There's a lot of money on the line here. How much did Trump's strict border policies cost the Mexican drug cartels? Tens of billions? Hundreds of billions? By comparison, how much extra money will Joe Biden and the Democratic Congress's open-borders policies earn the Mexican drug cartels? This is like Christmas morning for organized crime.  
 Our country has clearly been sold out by Joe Biden and the Democratic Party. This is just pure common sense. The only real question is, how much is the Mexican drug cartel paying?  
 Don't take my word for it. Just days ago, a U.K. Daily Mail headline read, "Even Mexico thinks Biden is too lax on asylum. Mexican leader fears 'Migrant President' Biden will spark boom time for cartels ..."  
 A Border Patrol agent reports that illegal immigration this year has already surpassed that of 2018 and is on track to surpass that of 2018, 2019 and 2020 combined.  
 Trust me, it's going to get much worse. Millions more are surely coming. Maybe tens of millions. With Biden's sanctuary city policies, they might never be deported. And they could each potentially bring in hundreds of their relatives and friends. They could all get on a fast track to citizenship, and if they become citizens, they could get welfare from cradle to grave.  
 If this is allowed to stand, America is finished. The entire economy will collapse. America will be a foreign country ... to Americans.   
 Now I ask you -- use your common sense: Why is this happening? Why would any sane president or political party want to encourage an invasion that will overwhelm our country and risk disease and death -- let alone in the middle of a pandemic? This is insanity.  
 Obviously, someone's getting filthy rich on this scam to destroy America. We know the Mexican drug cartels are making hundreds of billions. This is the dream of a lifetime for them. Who's getting bribed inside the USA to allow this to happen? Who would you pay if you were a Mexican drug cartel kingpin?  
 I'm guessing it's the same guy who sold America out to the Ukrainian mob and the Chinese communists. And the same group that sold Uranium One to the Russians. And the same group that sold us out to Iran with the world-class terrible Iran treaty.   
 It's Biden, the Biden family and the Democratic Party. <https://townhall.com/columnists/wayneallynroot/2021/03/14/has-joe-biden-sold-america-out-to-the-mexican-drug-cartels-n2586212>

**And more…**

**On Cartoons, Wokesters Once Again Miss the Point**[*Rob Jenkins*](https://townhall.com/columnists/robjenkins/) *Posted: Mar 14, 2021 12:01 AM* The latest front in the culture war focuses on—wait for it—children’s cartoons, in the form of animated shows and movies and illustrated story books. Several Dr. Seuss titles, along with Disney movies like *Peter Pan* and *The Artistocats* and Loony Tunes characters Pepe LePew and Speedy Gonzalez, have all been essentially canceled by the woke mob.   
 Unfortunately, though unsurprisingly, in their insatiable appetite for new phantom offenses, the wokesters have completely missed the point. Of course those cartoons traffic in stereotypes. They’re cartoons, another word for which is caricatures.  
 More importantly, though, the fact that they might contain some mildly inappropriate material is not a bug but a feature. That’s the purpose of what we used to call “the comics”—funny stories featuring broadly drawn, cartoonish characters in preposterous situations. Essentially, they’re morality tales, helping children understand, in an engaging fashion, what is and isn’t acceptable in society.  
 It has ever been so, dating back long before modern moving pictures or today’s colorful, high-tech animation. Consider the Winnebago Trickster Cycle, a series of ancient Native American oral tales (since transcribed) about a shady, mischievous yet comical—dare we say cartoonish?—character known as Trickster. A shape-shifter, Trickster appears at times as an animal, other times as human; sometimes male, sometimes female. According to one story, Trickster carries his (her? its?) genitals around in a box, all the easier to morph quickly into whatever the plot requires. Trickster’s role, of course, is to fool people; but more than that, he (for Trickster is primarily a he) exhibits the kinds of antisocial behaviors that were dangerous or forbidden in Winnebago culture.  
 For example, in another story, Trickster eats a plant he had been warned not to eat. Soon, he begins to defecate—and defecate, and defecate. The pile of you-know-what eventually becomes so large that Trickster must climb a tree to escape it, and even then it continues to grow, all the way up to the lowest branches. Imagine generations of Winnebago children, sitting around the campfire in rapt attention as skilled story-tellers wove the sordid yet hilarious tale and squealing with delight at Trickster’s grotesque predicament.  
 But beyond the fact that it’s undeniably funny (even for adults), there is an obvious point to the narrative: Don’t eat things your elders tell you not to eat. In the story, the results of disobedience are absurd and therefore comical. In real life, they could be disastrous, even deadly. But it’s the humorous depiction, specifically the “inappropriate content,” that drives that important message home and makes the lessons stick—lesson that ultimately underscore what’s acceptable in an organized society.  
 The Trickster character is hardly unique to Native American culture. In fact, he has appeared in many guises, throughout history, all the world over. Brer Rabbit, in the Uncle Remus tales from the Gullah culture in South Georgia, is based on an African version of Trickster. In Norse mythology, the trickster is named Loki—long before he was glamorized for Hollywood by the movie industry.  
 In modern America, we have our own versions of Trickster. Here, he goes by names like Bugs Bunny, Pepe Le Pew, and The Cat in the Hat. Yet, in whatever form, he serves the same purpose: to make us laugh—specifically, to make children laugh—while at the same time illustrating behavior that, although indisputably funny, is also obviously, wildly inappropriate. That, as our Winnebago, Norse, and African forebearers understood so well, is one of the primary ways children learn: not just through moralistic portrayals of good behavior but through comical depictions of bad.  
 Thus, it never occurred to me, as a little boy watching Pepe Le Pew cartoons on Saturday morning, to find his behavior acceptable, much less imitate it. Viewing his overly-amorous antics in light of what my parents had taught me about male-female relationships—and therein, perhaps, lies the key—I understood just the opposite: It was clear that Pepe was a cad, that no man should treat women that way, and that any man who did was—what else?—a skunk. That was the message I received because it was the message intended by the storytellers.  
 Like those who came before us, we used to understand such things. That we no longer do--that sour, humorless wokesters are attempting to banish the lovable, deplorable, ridiculous rogue, Trickster—bodes ill for our society. <https://townhall.com/columnists/robjenkins/2021/03/14/on-cartoons-wokesters-once-again-miss-the-point-n2586222>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**COVID death toll tops 6,000**

***Infection rate continues to plummet, even as Israel hits grim milestone in coronavirus pandemic.***

*David Rosenberg , Mar 14 , 2021 8:34 PM*

The number of coronavirus-related fatalities reported in Israel topped 6,000 Sunday, reaching a grim milestone even as the infection rate continues to fall.

A total of 6,008 people have died within 30 days of testing positive for the virus, including eight deaths on Sunday.

The first COVID-related death was reported just under a year ago - on March 20th, 2020.

Israel’s fatality rate now stands at 653 deaths per one million people, placing Israel as the 54th country out of 221, well-above the world average of 341 deaths per million, despite Israel’s relatively young population.

A total of 775 new cases of the virus were diagnosed across Israel Saturday, with the percentage of tests coming back positive holding steady at 2.9%, the same percentage as on Friday, but down from 3.1% of tests on Thursday. This is the lowest rate recorded since December 12th.

The number of active cases of the virus also declined, falling to 27,974, with 1,031 hospitalized COVID patients.

Of those, 640 are in serious condition, including 221 on respirators.

Thus far, 5,139,301 people - or 55.27% of the population - have received at least one dose of the vaccine, with 4,149,380 people, or 44.62% of the population, having received both doses <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298477>

**Shas leader Deri: "I've had it with Liberman"**

***Aryeh Deri talks about his political peers at the 18th Jerusalem conference in Sheva.***

*Shlomo Witty , Mar 14 , 2021 10:31 PM*

**The Minister of the Interior and Shas Chairman Aryeh Deri attacked the chairman of Yisrael Beiteinu, Avigdor Liberman, at the 18th Jerusalem Conference of the Besheva newspa**per.

**Deri said: "The biggest mistake in my life was friendship with Lieberman, and I regret it wholehearted**ly. Liberman has shown his true nature, and though I am furious at what he has said, I cannot give in to slander. That would play right into his hands. Our answer to hatred is love, and we have campaigned positively for a tradition that unites us all and for the care of the weak regardless of sector or belief one way or another," Deri added.

**Regarding the COVID-19 crisis, Deri said: "This has been a challenging year for the haredi population. Most haredi centers are overcrowded, which has contributed to the high morbidity statistic**s, but we are part of the Israeli people and want to beat the virus as well. I personally made sure that Rabbis of the community issued firm instructions that no one was to go about without a mask, or leave their home at all if it could be avoided.”

Minister Deri says that the struggle against the virus is divided into two parts: "The government has done well with curbing the spread of the virus - we’ve worked hard and seen results. The other half, of keeping everyone within the guidelines, worked well with a transitional government, but has since fallen apart. The fines have become a political tool against the Arab and haredi sectors.”

Deri took some time to consider possible candidates for Prime Minister: "Bennett, of course, would love to be prime minister, but you can’t get that position with only ten seats. Lapid has joined the boycott of the haredim; he will never be our prime minister.”

Deri remains hopeful despite what the polls seem to say: ''Polls are notoriously inaccurate. I believe that Shas will see enough seats to equal Bennett or Sa’ar.” <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298484>

**Great Synagogue to reopen ahead of Pesach - after a year of being closed**

***Jerusalem's Great Synagogue announces reopening, says it will adhere to Green Badge guidelines.***

*Yehonatan Gottlieb , Mar 15 , 2021 12:38 PM*



***Great Synagogue in Jerusalem Lara Hart /Flash90***

**The Great Synagogue in Jerusalem will return to regular operations, opening its doors on the upcoming Pesach (Passover) holiday after a year of closure due to t**he [coronavirus](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/287324) pandemic.

The Orthodox synagogue, which first opened for prayer in 1958, seats 850 men and 550 women.

The synagogue's management has announced that prayers will be held according to the Green Badge plan, and will require attendees to pre-register and present a Green Passport.

Cantor Tzvi Weiss will lead approximately half the prayers, and the synagogue's choir, led by Eli Jaffe, will accompany the cantor for the prayers on the Shabbat (Sabbath) just prior to Pesach, as well as on the first day of the holiday.

Cantor Avraham Kirshenbaum will lead the prayers on the last day of Pesach, accompanied by the synagogue's choir.

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298519>

**Shevach Stern, Likud candidate, urges: 'Vote for Religious Zionism'**

***Likud candidate Shevach Stern urges voters to support Religious Zionism party - even at the expense of his own seat.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 15 , 2021 11:20 AM*



***Shevach Stern Spokesperson***

**MK Shevach Stern from the Likud party on Sunday night surprised participants at an event by urging them to vote for MK Bezalel Smotrich's Religious Zionism** party.

**At the event, which protested the violent Palestinian Authority takeover of Area C in Judea and Samaria, Stern urged voters to support the smaller party, even at the expense of his own seat in the Knesset**.

"If you have a dilemma in another ten days, regarding whether to give Likud its 38th seat, which would put me in the Knesset, or to give Religious Zionism its fifth seat, putting Orit Strock in the Knesset - vote for Orit Strock," he said.

Though [recent polls](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298483) do not show an immediate coalition for the Likud-led bloc, without [the Religious Zionism party](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298406), any such coalition would be nigh impossible.

Last month, Likud [signed](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/296573) a vote-sharing agreement with Religious Zionism. In a vote-sharing deal, if both parties cross the 3.25% electoral threshold, and one of the two parties is just short of the number of votes needed to receive an additional seat in the Knesset, that party receives the surplus votes from its partner – that is, the votes above and beyond those needed for the last seat the second party won go to the boosting the first party to an extra seat. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298518>

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**03/14/2021 NEWS AM [In case you missed it see below!!! – rdb]**

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| **This is a very long video BUT probably THE most important you will ever see! Begin if you wish at minute 57.**  **This is a interview from Geert Vanden Bossche, PhD DVM. A world renowned virologist developer of vaccines who has worked for many of the foremost vaccine manufacturers in the world as well as GAVI and even the Gates group. He has a warning the must be seen. This man is well educated and knows the science better than anyone else.**  **Please do yourself and you family a favor and take the time to watch this interview with him. Your life and that of others likely depends upon it.**  **<https://thehighwire.com/WATCH/>**  **Mass Vaccination will Breed Dangerous Variants & Destroy Our Immunity — Geert Vanden Bossche, PhD - It is already happening – rdb]** |

**In the end it will be good**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckZ3RHY_0E8>

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| **"If a majority are capable of preferring their own private interest, or that of their families, counties, and party, to that of the nation collectively, some provision must be made in the constitution, in favor of justice, to compel all to respect the common right, the public good, the universal law, in preference to all private and partial considerations... And that the desires of the majority of the people are often for injustice and inhumanity against the minority, is demonstrated by every page of history... To remedy the dangers attendant upon the arbitrary use of power, checks, however multiplied, will scarcely avail without an explicit admission some limitation of the right of the majority to exercise sovereign authority over the individual citizen... In popular governments [democracies], minorities [individuals] constantly run much greater risk of suffering from arbitrary power than in absolute monarchies..." -- John Adams (1735-1826) Founding Father, 2nd US President** |

**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 21:22And it cometh to pass at that time that Abimelech speaketh--Phichol also, head of his host--unto Abraham, saying, `God *is* with thee in all that thou art doing; 23and now, swear to me by God here: thou dost not lie to me, or to my continuator, or to my successor; according to the kindness which I have done with thee thou dost with me, and with the land in which thou hast sojourned.' 24And Abraham saith, `I--I do swear.'**

**Great read and very true!**

**Rand Paul trashes Dr. Fauci: 'He fashions himself some sort of Greek philosopher, tells you noble lies'**

[*Paul Sacca*](https://www.theblaze.com/u/paulsacca) *March 13, 2021*

Sen. [Rand Paul](https://www.theblaze.com/tag/rand-paul) (R-Ky.) has been one of the few politicians who has regularly questioned Dr. Anthony Fauci's decision-making during the coronavirus pandemic. In a new interview on "The Ingraham Angle," Paul once again blasted Fauci for his public health recommendations during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying that he spreads "noble lies."

[Fox News](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/rand-paul-fauci-lies-noble-lies-greek-philosopher) anchor Laura Ingraham asked Paul, "Senator, you have been one of the few lawmakers to directly call out Dr. Fauci's lies. Are people afraid to question him? And if so, why?"

Paul responded, "Well, it's the science — and people are afraid of, you know, scientists, and he's put on a pedestal."

**"But you have to remember that his lies are noble lies, Laura. He's not telling you this because he's a mean man," the Kentucky senator continued. "He's telling you this because he feels sorry for you because you don't understan**d, and Americans aren't smart enough to make informed decisions. So, he fashions himself some sort of Greek philosopher. He tells you these noble lies."

Paul then tore apart Fauci for his "noble lies" about face masks.

"So, at first, he told you that all the masks don't work. But he told you that because he wanted to protect the N-95 masks, which actually in a health setting do work," Paul explained. "But then, later on, he said, all masks do work. But that's also a lie also because, really only the N-95 masks work."

"It's a compilation of lies," Paul said of Fauci. "But they're all done to protect you because he doesn't think you're smart enough to make any of these decisions on your own."

Paul then took aim at [President Joe Biden for his coronavirus speech](https://www.theblaze.com/news/biden-good-chance-that-small-groups-of-americans-can-gather-by-fourth-of-july) this week, where he told Americans they might be allowed to gather on Independence Day, which [caused outrage online](https://www.theblaze.com/news/biden-speech-independence-day-reactions).

"Well to show you so far out of touch President Biden is, he said he's going to let us get together with two or three people from our family July 4th," Paul told Ingrham. "Has he not met anybody? Everybody is making their own decisions now. Where we are forced to comply with Dr. Fauci and his Faucisms, we do. But in private, most of us are doing what we want, when we want, and have been for a long, long time. We do try to take precautions."

Paul then questioned whether COVID-19 lockdowns helped curb the spread of coronavirus.

"You can sequentially look at the date when each mandate was passed and when it got ratcheted up," Paul said. "You can look at the incidence of the disease, and what you find is they were proportional, meaning the more mandates we got, the more disease we got."

"The mandates did not cause the disease but there is no evidence the mandate slowed down the disease at all," Paul added.

Paul then gave former President Donald Trump credit for the coronavirus vaccine rollout in "record time."

"President Trump was criticized for a lot of things, but one thing he did do was shake things up in the bureaucracy. He didn't take 'no' for an answer," Paul noted. "I think President Trump's personality actually did force the issue on the vaccine and probably helped it to get done in record time."

Sen. Rand Paul: Fauci fashions himself some sort of Greek philosopher, he tells you this noble lies.... https://t.co/cU7nHdPPUW

— conspiracyguy (@conspiracyguy)[1615669624.0](https://twitter.com/donkamion78/statuses/1370843880044773387)

Last summer, Paul challenged Fauci on several occasions about his coronavirus recommendations as a member of the president's White House coronavirus task force.

"I think we ought to have a little bit of humility in our belief that we know what's best for the economy, and as much as I respect you, Dr. Fauci, I don't think you're the end-all," [Paul said last May](https://www.theblaze.com/news/rand-paul-to-dr-fauci-i-dont-think-youre-the-end-all). "I don't think you're the one person that gets to make the decision. We can listen to your advice, but there are people on the other side saying there's not going to be a surge and that we can safely open the economy and the facts will bear this out."

Last June, [Paul accused Dr. Fauci of politicizing the coronavirus pandemic](https://www.theblaze.com/news/fauci-rand-paul-coronavirus-lockdown).

"All of this body of evidence about schools around the world shows there's no surge," Paul slammed Fauci. "All of the evidence shows it's rare. I mean, we're so politicized this and made it politically correct." <https://www.theblaze.com/news/rand-paul-dr-fauci-biden-covid> **[Folks we have been lied to by WHO and Fauci from the very beginning and the NIH and CDC have been complicit and it has all be for political reasons. The CDC has cooked the books on mortality rates and disease incidence from the very start. Follow the money and the power and you will then understand. Conspiracy YES – theory NO. – rdb]**

**Masked settlers beat, throw rocks at Palestinian family in West Bank**

***Rights group B’Tselem says parents and 8 children were attacked near Mitzpe Yair outpost; parents taken to hospital for treatment***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:07 pmUpdated at 6:15 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/btselem-1-e1615630593140.jpg)

***A member of the Alyan family after an attack allegedly by masked settlers, south of the West Bank city of Hebron, March 13, 2021 (B'Tselem)***

**A group of around 10 masked alleged Israeli settlers beat and threw rocks at a Palestinian family in the West Bank on Saturday in an attack the family captured on vide**o.

**According to the B’Tselem organization, the Alyan family — two parents and their eight children — were working on their agricultural land near the illegal settler outpost of Mitzpe Yair, south of the West Bank city of Hebro**n, when the attack took place.

**The family filmed part of the incident, which was released by the rights gr**oup.

**In the footage, the assailants can be seen throwing rocks and brandishing batons** as the children scream and cry in the background.

This morning, about 10 ten settlers, some masked and equipped with batons attacked the Alyan family (parents + 8 children) near the settlment Mitzpe Yair in South Hebron Hills. The parents were injured and evacuated to a hospital in Hebron.   
Footage courtesy of Alyan family [pic.twitter.com/Eicby67vX8](https://t.co/Eicby67vX8)

— B'Tselem בצלם بتسيلم (@btselem) [March 13, 2021](https://twitter.com/btselem/status/1370666613255630848?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Left-wing activist Guy Butavia, who arrived on the scene shortly after the attack, told the Haaretz daily that the two parents were taken on stretchers by Red Crescent emergency services to a medical facility in Hebron.

 **B’Tselem said the family comes to work on that part of the land every Saturday but that settlers regularly prevent them from reaching the are**a. The organization said that legal proceedings were underway on the matter.

***The vehicle belonging to the Alyan family after an attack allegedly by masked settlers south of the West Bank city of Hebron, March 13, 2021 (B’Tselem)***

**Also Saturday, the Yesh Din rights group reported an attack the day before by settlers in the northern West Bank.**

**According to Yesh Din, some 20 settlers coming from the direction of the Yitzhar settlement threw rocks Friday at a neighborhood in the town of Hawara, damaging two parked cars. The group has recently reported other attacks in the area.**

“Settler violence is a crime meant to terrify Palestinians, take over their land and in this way expelling them. The systematic non-enforcement and silence of politicians encourages this violence,” Yesh Din director Lior Amihai said in a statement.



***The windshield of a car in the northern West Bank town of Hawara that was damaged by alleged settler rock-throwing on March 12, 2021. (Yesh Din)***

**Incidents of vandalism and attacks against Palestinians and Israeli security forces in the West Bank are commonly referred to as “price tag” attacks**, with perpetrators claiming that they are retaliation for Palestinian violence or government policies seen as hostile to the settler movement.

Arrests of perpetrators have been exceedingly rare and rights groups lament that convictions are even more unusual, with the majority of charges in such cases being dropped.

B’Tselem noted that the Alyan family lives in Um Lasafa, the same village as the [five Palestinian children detained](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-detains-5-palestinian-children-suspected-of-trespassing-at-west-bank-outpost/) by Israeli soldiers in the south Hebron hills on Wednesday after settlers in an illegal outpost reported that they had trespassed on the site.

Video captured by the rights group showed the IDF soldiers forcefully hauling the children away and putting them in a military vehicle. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/masked-settlers-beat-throw-rocks-at-palestinian-family-in-west-bank/> **[This is a bad scene and terrible for the victims and for the hasberah (pr) of Israel. – rdb]**

**‘Change criminal rule’: Anti-Netanyahu protesters rally ahead of election**

***Large demonstrations planned next week, in last weekend before vote; one group hopes to ‘bring the spirit of the protest to the ballot box’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:50 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/EwX88O1XMAIWjCY.jpg)

***Anti-Netanyahu protesters in Eilat on March 13, 2021. (Courtesy: Kumi Israel/The Black Flags)***

**With just 10 days until Israel’s 2021 elections, protesters rallied across Israel on Saturday evening in the 38th week of widespread demonstrations against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over his indictment on graft charges and handling of the coronavirus pande**mic.

**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.

“**Criminal rule is changed in the ballot box,” one of the protest signs read in Tel Aviv**, the Maariv news site reported.

The Black Flags protest movement said that next week, with just a few days left until the general election, they are planning a larger, country-wide protest to encourage Israelis to go and vote.

בלפור זה גם כאן! (אילת)  
כבוד לאילתים!  
תכלס מרגש לראות!  
[@orlybarlev](https://twitter.com/orlybarlev?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@ishayhadas](https://twitter.com/ishayhadas?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@GONENB1](https://twitter.com/GONENB1?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@sadibenshitrit](https://twitter.com/sadibenshitrit?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@AmirHaskel](https://twitter.com/AmirHaskel?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@kumiiisrael](https://twitter.com/kumiiisrael?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@CRIMEMINISTER12](https://twitter.com/CRIMEMINISTER12?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@darkenuIL](https://twitter.com/darkenuIL?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@kolmotsash](https://twitter.com/kolmotsash?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@EnMazav](https://twitter.com/EnMazav?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@Hakiranow](https://twitter.com/Hakiranow?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@TheBlackFlags1](https://twitter.com/TheBlackFlags1?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@barak1cohen](https://twitter.com/barak1cohen?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/8I6iZIFXFj](https://t.co/8I6iZIFXFj)

— Lizzy (@LizzyFinigen) [March 13, 2021](https://twitter.com/LizzyFinigen/status/1370766517638430720?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**The Ein Matzav (“No Way”) group, one of the leading protest organizations, said it was imperative to “bring the spirit of the protest to the ballot box,** and to ensure everyone comes out to vote to give us back our country.”

**Israel is preparing to hold new elections on March 23**, the nation’s fourth vote in two years.

Demonstrators have been holding regular protests against Netanyahu for months, 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.

20.3 כולנו בבלפור. 23.3 כולנו בקלפי! זה בידיים שלנו! צאו להצביע! [pic.twitter.com/oqa1gelSAn](https://t.co/oqa1gelSAn)

— קומי ישראל (@kumiiisrael) [March 13, 2021](https://twitter.com/kumiiisrael/status/1370785694696759298?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Over the last few weeks, a number of** [**violent incidents**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-latest-protests-anti-pm-groups-say-violence-against-them-now-routine/) **towards demonstrators have been reported**.

“The accused and his supporters will stop at nothing to harm the protest,” the Black Flags protest movement, one of several leading the regular rallies, said in a statement last week. “Cyber activity, physical violence and incitement from Likud [activists’] cars have all become routine.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/change-criminal-rule-anti-netanyahu-protesters-rally-ahead-of-election/>

**Netanyahu rules out rotation with Bennett, says he won’t fire Mandelblit**

***PM tells Channel 13 his rivals cannot hope to form coalition without rotating premiership; calls claim of contract giving wife Sara power over senior appointments an ‘outright lie’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:40 pm*

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed Saturday that he would not agree to rotate the premiership with Yamina party chief Naftali Bennett in order to form a coalition with him after the elec**tion.

**Speaking to Channel 13 news, Netanyahu asserted that the only way his political rivals can form a coalition after the election would be “a government of rotati**ons.”

**“Bennett says ‘if I’ll have 15 seats I’ll be prime minister,'” he said. “With me, there will not be a rotatio**n. I will not have a rotation with Bennett.”

**Bennett is seen as a possible deciding factor following the electi**on. All polls indicate Netanyahu will not be able to form a government without him, and it is not clear whether he’ll be able to do so even with his support.

**Bennett has campaigned hard on the need to replace Israel’s current leadership, but has refused to rule out sitting with Netany**ahu.

Earlier Saturday during an interview with Channel 12, Galit Distal Atbaryan, no. 10 on Likud’s election slate, said Netanyahu should fire Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit immediately after the election.

**The prime minister’s rivals have warned that Netanyahu intends to do so in order to appoint a more friendly attorney general who will help him avoid his c**riminal trial.

When asked on the matter in the interview Netanyahu responded: “I don’t deal with him at all.” When interviewer Ayala Hason noted that he had not answered the question and asked again, he answered: “No.”

But Netanyahu also claimed many details about Mandelblit had [emerged](https://www.timesofisrael.com/new-recordings-resurface-questions-over-mandelblits-role-in-harpaz-affair/) that put his conduct in question. “If I had known all the things that later came to light,” he said, trailing off, apparently indicating he would not have appointed him.

As to his criminal trial, Netanyahu insisted that “these cases are crumbling before our eyes.” He maintained that “the truth is so powerful” that no fair trial could find him guilty of wrongdoing.

On Friday Itamar Ben Gvir, head of the extremist Otzma Yehudit party, said he would condition his joining a governing coalition on legislation of a law granting Netanyahu immunity in his corruption case and stopping his trial.

Netanyahu dismissed Ben Gvir’s statement as “childish spin.”

And he asserted that the proceedings would not affect his ability to function as prime minister.

**This week a former high-ranking official in Israel’s military-industrial complex claimed that years ago Netanyahu’s lawyer David Shimron showed him a contract between Netanyahu and his wife Sara that gives her sweeping control over core aspects of Israel’s national affairs**. Supposedly this includes provisions for her to sit in at top-secret meetings and to sign off on appointments of the heads of the Mossad intelligence agency, Shin Bet domestic security service and the Israeli military.

**Netanyahu called the claim “an outright lie”** and said he was happy that Shimron was suing David Arzi, former vice president of commercial and civil aviation at Israel Aerospace Industries, for libel.

“My relations to my wife Sara are relations of love and of huge appreciation I have for her sacrifice in the face of such lies,” he said. “There are many lies…they lie about Sara because they can’t bring me down at the ballot box. I’m a strong right-wing prime minister so they create a miserable false narrative.”

**Netanyahu also said he intended to keep Mossad chief Yossi Cohen in an influential position when he ends his term in the coming months**.

“I am certainly thinking about him playing a part later on. I think he’s had a great contribution. In the government I will form I will make sure to use the talents of Yossi Cohen.”

**Polls have shown** [**political deadlock after the election**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/poll-forecasts-deadlock-after-election-with-blocs-split-60-60/)**, with neither Netanyahu nor his rivals having a clear path to a parliamentary majo**rity.

New elections, the fourth since April 2019, were called in December after the power-sharing government of Likud and Blue and White failed to agree on a budget by a December 23 deadline.

The election, like the previous three votes, is largely seen as a referendum on Netanyahu’s rule amid his ongoing trial, as well as his government’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-rules-out-rotation-with-bennett-says-he-wont-fire-mandelblit/> **[Four elections in two years and from the sounds of this a good potential that a government will have great difficulty being formed after this election. That is a true belagan (crazy mixed up mess).**

**Pandemic shifts election dynamics in Israel**

***After four election rounds in less than two years, Israel’s largest parties have changed their political strategies to reflect the changes brought on by the coronavirus pandemic with challengers to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promising stable and sane government***

*Maya Margit / The Media Line | Published: 03.13.21 , 08:53*

**A year into the COVID-19 pandemic, Israel’s largest political parties are shifting their campaign strategies as the country heads to its fourth election in just two ye**ars.

A poll by 103FM radio station released Tuesday showed the Likud Party receiving 28 seats in the next Knesset, the Yesh Atid Party coming in a strong second at 20 seats, and the New Hope Party garnering 11 seats. Naftali Bennett’s Yamina Party rose in the polls and was predicted to receive 12 seats.

Amid a sense of election fatigue, the political strategies of Israel’s largest parties reflect the changing realities the pandemic has brought to the fore.

**Many are focusing on virtual events and elaborate social media campaigns ahead o**f the March 23 vote.

**With more than half of the population having had at least one dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, Israel on Sunday reopened much of its economy just in time for the electi**ons.

Those who are fully inoculated can receive vaccine passports – so-called green passes – that enable them to attend concerts and dine indoors at restaurants, among other activities.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party was quick to catch on. “The Likud has begun to hold the first ‘green passport’ political rallies on earth,” says Avi Hyman, director of the Likud Anglo Campaign. **MORE -**<https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/ry6ggyu700>

**100,000 Israelis who got first COVID shot reportedly haven’t returned for second**

***Health officials attribute reluctance to go back for final dose to wariness over side effects after initial injection, misinformation about vaccines***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *14 March 2021, 12:30 am*

**A hundred thousand Israelis who received their first COVID-19 vaccine shot have not returned for the second dose, according to a Saturday report**.

Ministry officials quoted by Channel 12 news attributed the reluctance to get the second shot to two factors — wariness over side effects after the first dose and misinformation about the vaccines.

The network said health workers were among those who got a first dose but did not come back for the second, but at a lower percentage than the general population.

According to the latest Health Ministry figures, 5,128,212 Israelis have received at least one vaccine dose. The 100,000 people who reportedly have not gotten a second dose account for just under 2 percent of this group.

The number of people who have received both shots stood at 4,128,807. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/100000-israelis-who-got-first-covid-shot-reportedly-havent-returned-for-second/>  **[The idea that it is misinformation is a blatant prevarication. People are beginning to wake up to the atrocious game that Bibi and friends played on them making them into guinea pigs and they are fed up. It is difficult to believe that Likud is expected to do so well in the election on the 23rd because there are a lot of Israeli’s who are less than pleased with him as a leader and despise what the government is doing to the people. – rdb]**

**Israel in talks with China to allow quarantine-free travel for vaccinated**

***Israel has reached understandings with Greece and Cyprus and is said to be working on similar deals with the United States and the United Arab Emirates.***

*By* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff) *MARCH 13, 2021 22:50*

**Israel is working to reach understandings with China on recognition of vaccination that would allow cross-border travel between the two countries, Israel’s newly-installed ambassador to China said over the weeken**d.

Speaking to Chinese press, Amb. Irit Ben-Abba said that Israel would like to be the first country to reach “vaccination understandings” with China. The coronavirus is believed to have originated in the Chinese city of Wuhan. A recent World Health Organization delegation to China returned home and claimed that Chinese authorities had [refused](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/14/uk-says-it-shares-us-concerns-over-who-covid-19-mission-to-china.html) to share all raw data from the early days of the COVID-19 outbreak.

"**This is one of the main things that I would like to push through with the Chinese government to see if we can get a bilateral agreement on mutual understanding of vaccines," Ben-Abba was widely quoted in Chinese media**.

Israel has reached understandings with Greece and Cyprus and is said to be working on similar deals with the United States and the [United Arab Emirates](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/israel-uae-to-establish-quarantine-free-travel-corridor-amid-covid-restrictions-661646). The idea would be to allow vaccinated citizens of both the countries to travel freely between one another without requiring quarantine.

Israel has inoculated over 5 million people with the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine, including 4 million with both doses. A week after the second dose, the Israeli Health Ministry issues vaccinated citizens a “green passport” which gives that person access to inside seating at restaurants, gyms, theaters, hotels and more. <https://www.jpost.com/health-science/israel-in-talks-with-china-to-allow-quarantine-free-travel-for-vaccinated-661909> **[You would think that Israel would learn from the virus and from the US experience that dealing with China can be a deadly proposition and you must be extremely careful. – rdb]**

**Stricken Israeli businesses pin hopes on return of foreign tourists**

***Owners of businesses catering to visitors from abroad say they don't know when government will reopen airport to non-Israelis; they say their struggles are ignored as Tourism Ministry responds to needs of domestic tourism only***

*Daniel Sonnenfeld / The Media Line | Published: 03.13.21 , 19:04*

**Sunday felt like a holiday in Jerusalem’s city cente**r.

**With Israel implementing the third stage of its reopening plan, restaurants and cafes opened their doors to patrons and the streets bustled with shoppers enjoying the sunny weather and relative return to norm**alcy.

***A Jerusalem restaurant reopens after Israel lifts coronavirus restrictions (Photo: AFP)***

**But the country’s borders continue to be closed to international visitors, and no date has been set for their openin**g.

**With this year-long situation persevering, businesses that were anxiously awaiting the yearly rush of Passover and Easter tourists are either changing their business model, or facing difficult**ies.

**"I’ve been open for almost two weeks, right? Apart from one person, not a soul has entered my store,” says Berale, who works at the Estee Brook jewelry store in Jerusalem’s city c**enter.

He says that the store has two main busy seasons – during the Jewish holidays of Passover and Sukkot.

A lot of people usually are visiting from abroad then, he says, and “you can say that 70 percent to 80 percent of our business occurs either in the month around Passover or the month around Sukkot.”

Israel’s closed skies ahead of Passover have dealt a terrible blow to the store.

The Estee Brook store is located a short walk from Jerusalem’s most luxurious hotels, but Berale believes reopening the hotels won’t do the store much good.

**If Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “reopens the hotels and doesn’t reopen the airport, what good will th**at do?” he says.

Israelis aren’t the typical clientele for those hotels, and even if Jerusalem fills with domestic tourists, he says it will do the store “very little good.”

**Loyal customers that have continued to come back are what has kept the store aflo**at, but Berale says the store owner is now looking to sell, since “there’s no light at the end of the tunnel.”



***A tourist floats in the Dead Sea before the pandemic***

***(Photo: Shutterstock)***

**Estee Brook has fallen between the cracks, as a business that relies almost entirely on tourists but falls outside the purview of the Ministry of Tourism**, which is working to mitigate the results of the closed skies.

Hotels and tour companies would normally be expecting to fill with tourists coming from abroad for Passover and Easter during this season, and while this may be off the table, the Tourism Ministry is hoping that their absence will be somewhat counterbalanced by domestic tourism.

**Israelis cannot currently travel abroad for vacations and many will be vacationing inside the cou**ntry.

**Bed-and-breakfast accommodations in Israel’s countryside are already full, and the Tourism Ministry is funding free tours to encourage Israelis to visit citi**es, where overnight accommodations have been slower to fill up.

The hope is that this will kill two birds with one stone – encouraging visitors to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa, while providing employment for tour guides and bus drivers.

 **Tourism Minister Orit Farkash-Hacohen said in a statement that, “with Passover around the corner, domestic tourism is open and thriving, and I am certain this will give the entire industry a big push** as we continue to work toward the resumption of inbound tourism.”

***Jerusalem's Mamilla outdoor shopping area was a popular draw for foreign visitors before the pandemic (Photo: Courtesy)***

**However, for Joe Yudin, who owns and manages Touring Israel, a luxury touring company, the ministry’s efforts are too little too lat**e.

“I’ve heard of these things. It’s all talk,” he says. “Until they open the airport for people who have been vaccinated, or for people that have taken a COVID test, it’s all talk. It’s not a solution, it’s not even a Band-Aid for the problem.”

March through June is his company’s biggest season, but now “it’s not there,” Yudin says.

**Not only that, “we’ve got no idea when it’s going to start again. People want to come to Israel and they feel safe about coming to Israel. The only problem is when they email me, ‘when can we come to Israel**?’ I don’t have an answer for them, I can only speculate.”

Yudin says that his company tried to direct its efforts at the local market, but that didn’t work out.

Not only are Israeli customers very different from international travelers, the various restrictions on activities in the country, that were “on and off and on and off” throughout the year, made it difficult to reorganize and try to compensate for the absence of global visitors, he says.

**Also, all of Israel’s touring industry was “trying to aim at that small market s**o...”

**The past year has pushed many tour guides out of the business, Yudin says. “When they do want to reopen the skies and there’s this mad rush, there’s going to be a huge prob**lem

Others are more optimistic, including Uri Sharon, marketing director at Abraham Hostels and Tours and Ynetnews tourism contributor.

“We are optimistic, we’re investing right now in a [new] location – our fourth hostel in Eilat – it will be our biggest hostel with more than 100 rooms, and we are planning the opening for the 1st of May,” he says.

 **Sharon expects international visitors will be able to enter in the coming months but, in the meantime, the company has adjusted to cater to the local taste and he says**, “we’re definitely seeing a good response.”

***The rooftop bar at the Abraham Hostel in Tel Aviv before the coronavirus pandemic (Photo: Nitzan Hafner)***

**Although domestic tourism “will only partially compensate for 4.5 million tourists that will hopefully return t**o Israel**,” Sharon says that he is expecting high occupancy rates during the coming Passover season – both at his company’s hostels, and on its tour buses**.

While some tour companies and hotels are trying to shift to Israel’s domestic market, other businesses have found different ways to cope with the situation. Roni co-owns Miss D. Gallery, a large pop art and fine-art gallery in Tel Aviv, whose clientele is mostly international.

“We are waiting for” our clients “to return and we love it when they can come and visit us as well,” Roni says. In the meantime, the gallery continues to keep in touch with its clients online. Roni says he is optimistic about the situation. **People in Israel are adaptive and “we have survived Pharaoh, we’ll survive this as well**,” he says, using a common Israeli saying, often uttered in the face of hardship.



***The King David hotel in Jerusalem (Photo: Yoram Asheim)***

**Eli Zur runs a Judaica and jewelry store in central Jerusalem, selling unique Jewish-Yemenite jewelry. He remains optimistic for a different reason:** He is still hoping that the skies will reopen for the coming holidays.

“It was a terrible blow to us, the stores that sell a lot to tourists,” he says of the past year.

The Jewish holidays are an important season for his store, when returning customers come to visit family and visit him as well.

“ I really hope that they will open the skies to tourists as well,” he says. “I hope and I believe. What do I have left? That’s what I have left.” <https://www.ynetnews.com/business/article/Hy3BdnK7d>  **[This is about as bad if not worse for the people of Israel as it was during the intifada when people feared traveling there because you didn’t know if a bomb would go off or not. – rdb]**

**Israelis win gold, silver at world sailing championships**

***Gil Cohen and Noam Homri take first place in the mixed-gender category at the 470 class tournament in Portugal***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:51 pm*

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| ***[Gil Cohen and Noam Homri with coach Eran Sela (Israel Sailing Association)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/3148279-46.jpeg)***  ***Gil Cohen and Noam Homri with coach Eran Sela (Israel Sailing Association)*** | ***Tal Sade and Noa Lasry (Israel Sailing Association)*** |

**Israel on Saturday dominated the mixed-gender category at the 470 World Championships, with Gil Cohen and Noam Homri winning the gold medal at the sailing tournament in Portuga**l.

Also winning a medal were fellow Israelis Tal Sade and Noa Lasry, who took silver.

Nitai Hasson and Tamar Saar finished seventh in the category.

“This is a big day for Israeli sailing,” Shai Buber, head of the Israel Sailing Association, was quoted saying by the Walla news site. “We’re already waiting to recreate the accomplishment at the world championships next year.”

The race in the mixed-gender field was to qualify for the 2024 Olympics in Paris in the 470 dingy class and not the upcoming games in Tokyo. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israelis-win-gold-silver-at-world-sailing-championships/>

**PA, Arab League condemn opening of Czech diplomatic office in Jerusalem**

***Ramallah says move is ‘violation of international law’; Arab League’s Ahmed Aboul Gheit claims mission will affect Jerusalem’s legal status***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Lazar Berman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/lazar-berman/) *Today, 7:58 pm*

**The Palestinian Authority and the Arab League on Saturday condemned the opening of the Czech Republic’s diplomatic office in Jerusalem, calling the move “a flagrant violation of international law,” according** to [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-palestinians-czech-diplomacy/palestinians-arab-league-condemn-czech-jerusalem-office-idUSKBN2B50H3?il=0).

**Prague** [**opened the Jerusalem office**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/czech-prime-minister-opens-embassy-office-in-jerusalem/) **of its embassy Thursday in a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis and Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkena**zi.

**In response, the Palestinian Authority foreign ministry said it considered the move “a blatant attack on the Palestinian people and their rights, a f**lagrant violation of international law,” adding that it would harm peace prospects, the report said.

**At the same time in Cairo, the Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit said that “the legal status of Jerusalem will be affected by the decisio**n of one country or another to open representative offices.”

“East Jerusalem is an occupied land under international law,” Gheit added, despite the diplomatic mission being located in the western side of the city.

Israel captured East Jerusalem from Jordan in the Six Day War of 1967 and later extended sovereignty over it in a move never recognized by most of the international community. It considers the entire city its capital, while the Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/pa-arab-league-condemn-opening-of-czech-diplomatic-office-in-jerusalem/>

**Jordan health minister quits as COVID patients die from hospital oxygen shortage**

***PM reportedly asks Nathir Obeidat to step down after at least 6 patients die at government-run medical center near Amman***

*By* [*OMAR AKOUR*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/omar-akour/) *Today, 3:02 pm*

**SALT, Jordan (AP) — Jordan’s health minister stepped down Saturday after at least six patients in a hospital’s COVID-19 ward died due to a shortage of oxygen supplies, state media repo**rted.

**[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/jordan.jpg)Jordanian Prime Minister Bisher al-Khasawneh ordered an investigation into the deaths early Saturday morning at a government** hospital in the town of Salt, 20 kilometers (13 miles) north of the capital Amman.

He asked Health Minister Nathir Obeidat to resign, according to the reports. The Al-Rai newspaper, a government mouthpiece, confirmed that Obeidat had resigned.

***The hospital where at least six people died due to an oxygen shortage, March 13, 2021, Salt, Jordan (Screen grab/Al Mamlaka television)***

**Jordan, home to 10 million people, is grappling with surging coronavirus infections and deaths and struggling to secure vaccines**.

***Jordan’s Health Minister Nathir Obeidat, December 2, 2020 (Screen grab/YouTube)***

 **About 150 relatives of the patients gathered outside the hospital, which was surrounded by a large deployment of police and security officers, who prevented the families from enteri**ng.

**One of those waiting anxiously outside was Fares Kharabsha, whose parents are COVID-19 patients. He was inside when the oxygen ran out in the ward and said medical and civil defense workers and people from outside the hospital rushed with portable oxygen devices to try to prevent more deaths**. “They resuscitated a large number of people, including my father and mother,” he said. “I do not know how many, but I saw people who died.”

Another relative, Habis Kharabsha, complained of a lack of sufficient services at the hospital. “At the isolation department, there was only one doctor and two nurses for 50 or 60 patients; this is mad,” he said.

**The Middle Eastern kingdom has reported over 465,000 cases and more than 5,200 deaths during the pande**mic. Last month it tightened restrictions, restoring a weekend lockdown and nighttime curfews to curb the spread of the virus.

**Jordan launched its vaccination drive in mid-January with plans to inoculate over 4 million residen**ts in 2021. On Friday, the country received 144,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, delivered through the global COVAX initiative.

The COVAX alliance aims to share COVID-19 vaccines with more than 90 lower- and middle-income nations. However, the program is facing delays, underfunding and limited supplies.

The EU has allocated 8 million euros to support Jordan’s purchase of vaccines. A second shipment from COVAX is expected in April. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jordans-health-minister-resigns-over-covid-deaths-from-hospital-oxygen-shortage/>

**Iranian investigator claims Israel behind attack on cargo ship in Mediterranean**

***Accusation comes shortly after US officials tell Wall Street Journal that Israel has hit many ships taking Iran oil and arms to Syria***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:39 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/kQHK3FKEhIDdptZl-e1615652272776.jpg)

***A fire is seen on the Iranian Shahr E Kord cargo ship in the Mediterranean on March 10, 2021. (Screenshot: Twitter)***

**Israel is the likely suspect behind an attack this week in the Mediterranean that damaged an Iranian cargo ship, an Iranian investigator told local media Saturday, according to** [**Reuters**](https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN2B50GE).

**An unnamed member of the investigation team told the semi-official Nournews that “considering the geographical location and the way the ship was targeted, one of the strong possibilities is that this terrorist operation was carried out by the Zionist regim**e,” the report said.

**The ship was slightly damaged by an explosive object b**ut no one on board was hurt, Ali Ghiasi, a spokesman for state-run shipping company IRISL told semi-official Nournews on Friday.

**The accusation comes a day after** [**The Wall Street Journal reported**](https://www.wsj.com/articles/israel-strikes-target-iranian-oil-bound-for-syria-11615492789?mod=hp_listb_pos2) **that Israel has targeted at least 12 ships bound for Syria, most of them transporting Iranian oil, with mines and other weapon**s.

The alleged attack occurred on Wednesday. “Such terrorist acts amount to naval piracy,” he added, identifying the ship as the Shahr E Kord, and said it was traveling from Iran to Europe.

Ghiasi said the blast caused a small fire that was extinguished by the crew.

Short footage of the aftermath of explosion in Iran's Europe-bound Shahre Kord cargo ship [pic.twitter.com/oEfxh81hZJ](https://t.co/oEfxh81hZJ)

— Reza Khaasteh (@Khaaasteh) [March 12, 2021](https://twitter.com/Khaaasteh/status/1370381439561269251?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**“Legal proceedings will be taken to identify the perpetrators through related international bodies**,” Ghiasi added.

The company official did not disclose the ship’s current location and cargo, but said “it will continue its route after assessing and repairing the damage.”

The attacks started in late 2019 and targeted both Iranian vessels, and other ships with Iranian cargo, the report said, citing “US and regional officials.”

Some of the alleged Israeli strikes, which took place in the Red Sea and other areas, targeted Iran-linked weapons shipments, the report said.

**The attacks did not sink the tankers, but forced at least two of the vessels to return to por**t in Iran. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iranian-investigator-claims-israel-behind-attack-on-cargo-ship-in-mediterranean/>

**Recall Calif. Gov. Newsom effort surpasses 2M signatures**

***OAN NewsroomUPDATED 12:45 PM PT – Thursday, March 11, 2021***

**The effort to recall Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-Calif.) hit another milestone. Organizers of the “Recall Newsom” campaign said they’ve surpassed their goal of gathering two million signatures. The initiative needs about 1.5 million signatures by the March 17 deadline to put the recall effort on a sta**te ballot.

**JUST IN: Effort to recall Governor Gavin Newsom has surpassed the goal of 2 million signatures** with still days ahead of deadline.

Supporters say the count is now at 2,060,000 signatures, enough to offset potential 25% rejection rate of verified signatures.

— Ashley Zavala (@ZavalaA) [March 11, 2021](https://twitter.com/ZavalaA/status/1369865728447291395?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

So far, the group said about 1.8 million of those signatures have been verified. A Republican contender for California’s governorship called out Newsom for his failed leadership. **MORE -** <https://www.oann.com/recall-calif-gov-newsom-effort-surpasses-2m-signatures/>

**Soros-funded District Attorney George Gascon Now Facing Recall After Creating Legal Mayhem in Los Angeles**

*by* [*William F. Jasper*](https://thenewamerican.com/contributor/william-f-jasper/) *March 13, 2021*

**It did not take Los Angeles County’s newly-elected district attorney, George Gascon, long to show his true** colors. Now, like his principal political sponsor, Governor Gavin Newsom, the far-Left DA is facing a recall by a citizenry outraged over his policies of turning criminals (including convicted murderers) loose and refusing to prosecute serious crimes. Most Los Angeles voters were not counting on this when they voted for this “criminal justice reform” candidate.

**On March 11, the** [**RecallGeorgeGascon**](https://recallgeorgegascon.com/) **campaign announced that Gascon “has officially been served with a notice of intention to circulate a recall petition. Th**e formal service triggers the final steps leading up to the approval and public circulation of official recall petitions. Once the recall petition is approved, proponents will have 160 days to collect 580,000 signatures from registered voters in Los Angeles County.”

**“George Gascon’s failure to protect our most vulnerable communities is a complete dereliction of his foremost duty as a District Attorney, and he must be removed from office immediately before he can do any more dam**age,” said Tania Owen, Co-Chair of the Recall George Gascon campaign. “What George Gascon is doing is not criminal justice reform; it is the outright destruction of our criminal justice system and the very laws meant to protect us.”

***Soros’s Man***

**Gascon, who ran one of the most expensive DA races in the country, was boosted with massive funding infusion from pro-communist, New York-based billionaire George Soros, totaling more than $2.5 million**. On November 6 he defeated DA Jackie Lacey, an 8-year incumbent who was the county’s first black female district attorney.

**Although a Democrat and viewed by many to be a “progressive” Democrat, Lacey was not radical enough for the Soros-funded extreme Left.** Leading cadres of Black Lives Matter, the National Lawyers Guild, and the ACLU relentlessly attacked her. Two of California’s most high-profile (and most radical) black women in political office, U.S. Representative Maxine Waters of Los Angeles and then-U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, endorsed her opponent, Gascon. Gavin Newsom, while he was mayor of San Francisco, appointed Gascon as the city’s Chief of Police in 2009, initiating his political ascent. Two years later, when Kamala Harris moved up to become California’s attorney general, Mayor Newsom appointed Gascon to fill her vacant post as DA for San Francisco. **MORE -** <https://thenewamerican.com/soros-funded-d-a-george-gascon-now-facing-recall-after-creating-legal-mayhem-in-los-angeles/>  **[You have to get ride of about 2/3’s of the CA politicians to finally make a dent in their disastrous governments. – rdb]**

**Atlanta neighborhood moves to secede as crime spikes**

***Plans its own police force amid 80% surge in murders citywide***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published March 13, 2021 at 8:02pm*

**Amid a citywide spike in murders of 80%, Atlanta's richest neighborhood is moving to secede and set up its own police** force.

**Residents of the neighborhood of Buckhead have established the Buckhead Exploratory Committee to break away as crime across all categories surges in the wake of 200 officers leaving the Atlanta police force after the shooting death of a black man by a white officer in** June, [reported DailyMail.com](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9351315/Residents-wealthy-Atlanta-community-push-police-force-amid-crime-wave.html)

**Home surveillance footage in Buckhead, dubbed the "Beverly Hills of the South," in recent months has captured a man running to reach the safety of his house as a car pulled up with a man brandishing a rifle. One woman was thrown to the ground on her driveway and held at gunpoint as robbers took her purse and cellphone. A 7-year-old girl was shot in the head and killed during a Christmas shopping trip** with her family.

In December, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms admitted she doesn't know how to stop the wave of violence and is "open to suggestions."

**Atlanta Police Department crime data shows robberies increased 40% from Jan. 1 to Feb. 20** compared to the same period last year in zone two, which includes Buckhead. Aggravated assaults rose 35%, auto theft 63% and larceny from auto theft 32%.

**The Buckhead Exploratory Committee told the Wall Street Journal residents want to create their own police force because they are "genuinely concerned for their safet**y and the safety of their family members."

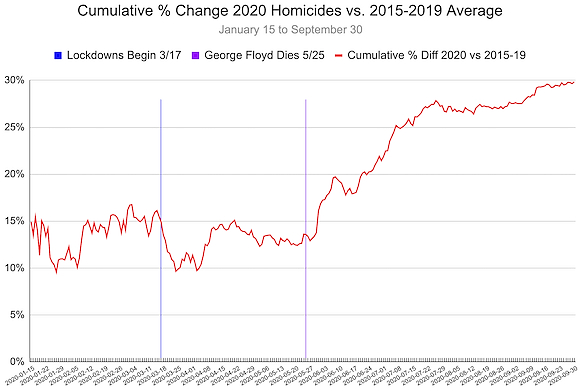
"Residents must be wary and 'on guard' continuously, even when doing routine tasks like going to the gas station, nearby shopping mall, shopping at the grocery store or just pulling into their driveways, mindful if anyone is lurking in the bushes," the committee said.

**Across the nation, homicides rose in 29 of 34 cities surveyed in the National Commission** on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice report. Homicide rates were up 30% in 2020 compared to 2019 as an additional 1,268 people were murdered. *Bottom of Form*

***'Minneapolis Effect'***

[**A chart of homicide data compiled from 19 cities shows a spike in murders immediately after the death of George Floyd**](https://www.wnd.com/2021/02/study-homicide-rate-spiked-death-george-floyd/) **on Memorial Day last May**, confirming analysts who attribute the record homicide rate to the "Minneapolis Effect."

*See the chart:*

[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/sailer-chart.jpg)

**Manhattan Institute scholar Heather Mac Donald coined the term "Ferguson Effect" in the wake of the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014. As police backed off from discretionary enforcement, an additional 2,000 blacks lost their lives in 2015-16 compared to the previous period**. The ["Minneapolis Effect," she said last summer](https://www.wnd.com/2020/07/minneapolis-effect-crime-spike-follows-anti-cop-push/) was far worse, making the "Ferguson Effect" looking like "child's play."

**In the weeks following Floyd's death, homicides rose 240% in Atlanta, 200% in Seattle, 182% in Chicago** and 100% in Minneapolis.

In Atlanta, the shooting death of Rayshard Brooks by a white police officer at a Wendy's restaurant in downtown Atlanta last June ignited further protests. Brooks was shot after he wrestled two officers to the ground, punched one officer then grabbed his taser. After Brooks fired back with the taser at the two officers while fleeing, Officer Garrett Rolfe shot Brooks dead. Rolfe was charged with felony murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and violation of oath by a public officer.

**On the day Rolfe was charged, June 12, more than half of Atlanta's beat officers engaged in a "blue flu" protes**t, calling out of work.

Atlanta now has about 1,700 officers on the force compared to the 2,046 it is authorized to have at one time.

***The evidence***

Mac Donald, at a virtual event last July, [presented empirical evidence rebutting the Black Lives Matter's "systemic police racism" narrative](https://www.wnd.com/2020/08/black-lives-matter-narrative-gets-destroyed-less-40-minutes/?preview=true).

**For example, a 2019 study published by the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America concluded there is no racial disparity in police shootings once violent crime is taken into accou**nt.

As [WND reported](https://www.wnd.com/2020/07/researchers-found-no-anti-black-police-bias-withdraw-paper/), the authors retracted that study because Mac Donald had cited it verbatim in congressional testimony and in several articles. **She said she received a personal email from the authors asking her to cease and desist from citing it, even though the authors stand by their findings**.

As it turns out, however, the authors did not retract a 2018 article that reached the same conclusion, that violent crime, not race, determines police shootings.

**The researchers found blacks were 2.5 times more likely to be shot by police. But the authors recognized population isn't the proper benchmark, it's cri**me.

**When you compare fatal police shootings to homicides and arrests, Mac Donald pointed out, the likelihood of being shot, in the authors' words, "flips complete**ly."

**Whites are about three times more likely to be fatally shot than blacks, once their homicide rates are taken into account, the authors fo**und.

Others have reached the same conclusion, she noted, including Harvard economist Roland Fryer.

Officers in the 10 large cities and counties were more likely to shoot a suspect without first being attacked if the suspect was white than if the suspect was black, Fryer found.

**In 2015, under President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder, a Justice Department analysis of the Philadelphia Police Department found white police officers were less likely than black or Hispanic officers to shoot unarmed black suspect**s. In 2016, [the Washington Post reported](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/true-crime/wp/2016/04/27/this-study-found-race-matters-in-police-shootings-but-the-results-may-surprise-you/) a Washington State University study finding that police officers are three times less likely to shoot unarmed black suspects than unarmed white suspects. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/atlanta-neighborhood-moves-secede-crime-spikes/> **[When you actually treat statistics in a valid and correct way so you are comparing apples with apples and oranges with oranges it is obvious that the problem is NOT the police. It is a society that has totally lost its footing where most of the population (i.e. black population) are raised in single family fatherless homes and have had little or no significant discipline and never learned to follow basic rules so when a policeman says stop after they have attacked someone they just run or worse yet try to assault the officer. Authority has to be respected and in today’s youth – black and white – many do not follow any rules because they are their own law and have been since childhood. There is a big push in the psych and religious society that you should not raise a child with “NO” because it makes the into negative people. Total garbage! The Jewish sages identify 613 commandments in the Torah of Moses given by The Almighty. Of those commandments 365 are negative commands (i.e. NO – “thou shalt NOT” or ‘don’t do it’. That leaves 248 commands are positive commands. Obviously the creator of the universe doesn’t have a problem telling people “NO”. It should be apparent that if you want a child to grow up learning respect for the law and for others they need to learn “NO” from an early age and there will be very definite painful results if you don’t obey them. – rdb]**

**Lawmaker: Ban prayer that is 'inconsistent with LGBT theology'**

**Pastoral counseling also targeted by transgender activism**

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published March 13, 2021 at 7:36pm*

**Churches that adhere to the Bible's teaching on gender and sexuality were targeted in a debate Monday night in the British Parliament over legislation that would ban so-called "conversion therap**y."

Member of Parliament Alicia Kearns dismissed concerns over the impact of such a ban on freedom of religious expression, [according to the U.K.'s Christian Institute](https://www.christian.org.uk/news/mps-attack-prayer-and-pastoral-support-in-conversion-therapy-debate/).

**"Religious liberty is fundamental, but so too is people’s liberty to live their lives free from identity-based violence and abuse," she told her collea**gues.

**Kearns insisted that any prayer "inconsistent with LGBT theology" should be banne**d.

Supporters of counseling for people with unwanted sexual attractions [reject the term "conversion therapy,"](https://www.wnd.com/2019/02/ex-gay-leader-jesus-still-transforms-lives/) describing it as an ideological term used by the LGBT activists who seek to link compassionate spiritual care and talk therapy with disreputable practices.

**The Westminster Hall debate focused on a petition to make it a criminal offense to practice conversion therapy in the U.K. or send people abroad** for it. **MORE -**<https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/lawmaker-ban-prayer-inconsistent-lgbt-theology/> **[Just want you to realize that it isn’t only the USA that has gone totally bonkers. – rdb]**

**COVID bills pilfer $17,000 from each individual, give back only $3,200**

***'It showers money on special interests but spends less than 9% on actually defeating the virus'***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published March 13, 2021 at 7:59pm*

Got your checkbook handy?

**The combined $6 trillion price tag on the COVID-19 stimulus packages – including the latest $1.9 trillion Biden bill – will cost taxpayers about $17,000 per person, or $69,000 per family, according to an analysis by minority staff of the House Budget Committee** and ranking member Rep. Jason Smith, R-Mo.

**Paul Bedard,** [**in his "Washington Secrets" column**](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/washington-secrets/covid-stimulus-price-tag-17-000-per-person-69-000-per-family)**, reported the latest bill spends billions of dollars on things that have nothing to do with COVID-**19.

.[@housebudgetGOP](https://twitter.com/housebudgetGOP) Republican Leader [@RepJasonSmith](https://twitter.com/RepJasonSmith) at House Rules Committee meeting today: “So much of what is in this bailout is for the political class, not the working class.”

READ full prepared remarks -<https://t.co/kEInhtTc78>

— House Budget GOP (@housebudgetGOP) [March 9, 2021](https://twitter.com/housebudgetGOP/status/1369360194346639360)

**House Minority Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy called the Democrats' latest giveaway a "Christmas tr**ee."

"This is the reality of the bill before us today: It showers money on special interests but spends less than 9% on actually defeating the virus. But it gives San Francisco $600 million, essentially wiping out 92% of their budget deficit," he pointed out.

**Smith told NPR on Wednesday that if the bill "was about direct payments to people and putting shots in the arms and vaccines, you would have strong bipartisan support across this Congre**ss and across this country."

* Less than 9% goes to combating COVID-19.
* Twenty-seven percent (or more than $500 billion) goes to state and local governments.
* Twenty-one percent (or approximately $400 billion) goes to policies that reduce private-sector employment.
* $135 million for the National Endowment for the Arts.
* $135 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities.
* And $12 billion will be shipped overseas.

The first COVID-19 package, last April, issued checks for $1,200 per person and the second, in December, $600. The third bill will send out $1,400 payments as early as this weekend. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/covid-bills-pilfer-17000-individual-give-back-3200/> **[this is a total sham and is a bailout for deeply indebted government retirement systems and city governments. – rdb]**

**Commentary:**

**Israel’s Fourth Election in Two Years, Part I**[*Jonathan Feldstein*](https://townhall.com/columnists/jonathanfeldstein/) *Posted: Mar 13, 2021 12:01 AM* On March 23, Israel will hold its fourth national election in two years. This is a result of political stalemate and politicking that’s placed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu against most other parties, with his Likud party showing one of its lowest polling projections in the past three elections.  It is not the first election since the pandemic, but the pandemic will play a more significant role than the previous election a year ago.     
 In addition to the pandemic, there are several other issues that make this election and the potential outcome unique. This analysis will explain some of the main issues so that after March 23, you’ll understand better whether Israel will be able to form a stable government and move forward, or be doomed to an unprecedented fifth election later this year.  
 **How Israel’s System Works**  
 Israel is a parliamentary democracy. This means that Israelis vote for a party, not a candidate. Each party has its own way of determining the leader of that party, and their respective list of candidates. Some employ a democratic primary, and others through appointments by the head of the party. Factions made up of two or more parties with common interests and have joined forces for their mutual interests decide their lists based on internal agreements allocating these positions.    
 The parliament, Knesset, has 120 members who are determined by a proportional representation of seats based on the number of votes received. Parties must win at least 3.25 percent of the total votes (the threshold) to enter Knesset. After the election, Israel’s president consults the leaders of all the parties that passed the threshold for their recommendations as to who should form the government. Usually that’s the head of the party with the most votes, but not always, depending on who has the best probability to form a government from among the rest of the incoming Knesset. In order to form a government, one requires at least 61 Knesset members to vote in favor, typically as a coalition of a few to several parties.    
 Israel has no early voting or absentee ballots. As most Israeli adults have been vaccinated, on Election Day, Israelis will line up to vote in person, in a socially distanced way, and place a paper ballot inside an envelope, and place that envelope inside a second. Shortly after the polls close there will be a good sense of the overall shape of the Knesset, but actual numbers won’t be sure until a day or two later when the ballots of soldiers voting on their bases are counted, and the final numbers and percentages are determined.  
 **The Parties**  
 There are about three dozen parties running for the 24th Knesset. Most will not receive the required 3.25 percent. Yet with Israelis suffering election fatigue, it’s possible that there could be a surprise “protest vote” not (yet) represented in the polls that catapults a fringe party into prominence, and a place of influence. The main parties estimated to pass the threshold and enter Knesset, in general order of their current polling positions, are:  
 - Likud – the long-standing party founded by Menachem Begin, which has been one of Israel’s leading parties since the 1970s, is right of center and represents much of the wide diversity of Israel’s population. It is headed by incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin “Bibi” Netanyahu, the longest serving PM in Israeli history.  
 - Yesh Atid – has been on the scene for most of the past two decades, considered to be center-left, is headed by former TV personality Yair Lapid, who has served in past coalitions with Netanyahu as prime minister, but who now is one of the leaders of the “anyone but Bibi” camp.  
 - New Hope – a new party established last year by former Likud member and previous minister Gidon Sa’ar, who is considered to the right of Netanyahu. While Sa’ar was once close to Bibi, they have long been at odds, and Sa’ar has placed all his chips and future career on replacing Netanyahu.  
 - Yamina – a right of center party that’s gone through a variety of incarnations, breaking away from a wider national religious group, merging back, and running on its own. It is headed by former government minister Naftali Bennett, who was also once close to Netanyahu and is now challenging him to be PM, and the head of the right of center nationalist camp.  
 - Yisrael Beiteinu – a party headed by another former Netanyahu confidant and government minister Avigdor Liberman that combines right of center policies with liberal social and often anti-religious views. It typically attracts Russian immigrants.  
 - Joint List – three Arab parties merged to form this faction to succeed collectively and not have any one of them slip below the threshold. In recent elections they have won enough votes to be the third largest party in the Knesset.  
 - Shas – an ultra-Orthodox Jewish party made up by and representing mostly Sephardic Jews, whose families are from predominantly Arab countries of north Africa and the Middle East.  
 - United Torah Judaism - an ultra-Orthodox Jewish party made up by and representing mostly Ashkenazi Jews, whose families are from predominantly eastern European countries and specific rabbinic dynasties decimated by the Holocaust and rebuilt in Israel.  
 - Labor – from Israel’s founding until the late '70s, Labor and its predecessors were the predominant political force in Israel. Since then, Labor not only has not won more than a handful of elections, but its representation in Knesset has waned, nearing extinction. It is left-wing socially and politically. Labor has been led by 10 different people in the past 20 years, a product or symptom of its waning influence.  
 - Blue and White – was formed before the last election and is headed by former Chief of Staff and retired general Benny Gantz. They formed a unity government with Likud last spring which quickly unraveled as the government fell apart. It is now polling just above the threshold.  
 - Religious Zionists – is a right-wing nationalist-religious faction that’s the merger of two parties. They are controversial in having a person on their list who is widely derided as racist and not qualified to serve, but seen as a potential key partner of a Likud-led government.  
 - Meretz – a far left party that espouses controversial positions considered pro-Arab and anti-Israel by some, that is polling just below the threshold. Meretz could be a key element to having enough seats to form a government, but hard to imagine right-of-center Sa’ar and Bennett sitting in a government with them.  
 - Ra'am – is an Arab Islamist party that, until this election, was part of the Joint List. It broke away over the Joint List rejecting any government plans, including the heralded Abraham Accords, and not representing the interest of Israel’s Arab citizens.  It is polling just below the threshold but if it passes, could become a key player in supporting the establishment and maybe being part of the next government.  
 **Budget**  
 Officially, the previous government fell apart over the failure to pass a state budget. Yes, Israel has not only entered 2021 with no budget, but we still don’t have a budget for 2020. This is a legal issue that some believe Netanyahu played deliberately, not allowing his Likud Finance Minister to bring a budget for a vote, knowing that it would force the dissolution of the government and a new election.  It’s a bit third world for a county to operate without a budget, especially during the pandemic.  This has created real hardships and challenges for wide sectors of society to be able to plan, purchase, or even fulfill existing obligations.  It may become a key issue that comes back to bite Likud, guilty of obsessive political maneuvering at the detriment of 9 million Israelis, many of whom remain unemployed or suffering significant hardship as a result of the pandemic.  
 **Netanyahu’s Legal Issues**  
 Over the past two years, legal allegations and the indictment of Prime Minister Netanyahu have been a recurring issue.  Unlike last year, legal proceedings have begun, and Netanyahu has appeared in court. Despite the bad optics, and weakening support, polls show him remaining “most qualified.”  It’s unclear how much of that is intuitive, after all a man holding the same position for over a dozen years has qualifications that nobody else does. Or is it an indication of remaining strong support? There will be no more public court appearances before the election so how much more, if at all, this will be a factor is probably limited.  
 **Unemployment and the Economy**  
 A year ago, Israel’s economy was strong and unemployment in low single digits. Today, the economy is much weaker, and unemployment hovers around 20 percent. Israel’s had a token bailout, and while the majority of Israeli adults have been vaccinated at least once, we seem to be all vaxxed up with no place to go.  The economy is opening again including hotels, restaurants, cultural and sporting events, and more.  But there are many fewer Israelis who can afford dinner out or going to a movie.    
 It’s unclear how much the hope of things opening up further will be incentive to reward the government under Likud with people’s votes, or how much Israelis struggling through three lockdowns and more, will be a major deciding factor in a vote for change. One key element of this is that despite the success in vaccinating so many, a pillar of the economy is tourism, which has been decimated. There remains no end in sight as to when tourists will be allowed back to fill the buses, hotels, shops, and tourist sites, and giving people who have been out of work for a year the opportunity to earn a living. <https://townhall.com/columnists/jonathanfeldstein/2021/03/13/israels-fourth-election-in-two-years-n2585955>

**And then….**

**Joe Promises to Grant you Freedom, If…***By* [*J.B. Williams*](https://newswithviews.com/author/jbwilliams/)*|March 13th, 2021* In a stunning March 11th teleprompter reading of someone else’s words, pseudo-President Joe Biden attempted to settle the nerves of Americans and a growing number of states rushing to defend them from ridiculous federal tyranny, demonstrating only that he’s the biggest sock-puppet to ever occupy the Oval Office.  
 Responding to the lock-step adulation from his adoring communist media following his first very carefully crafted [address to the nation](https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/transcript-joe-biden-delivers-remarks-year-anniversary-pandemic/story?id=76403134), Joe said… “What dress?”  
 *“While it was different for everyone, we all lost something — a collective suffering, a collective sacrifice, a year filled with the loss of life and the loss of living for all of us. But in the loss, we saw how much there was to gain in appreciation, respect, and gratitude. Finding light in the darkness is a very American thing to do.”*  
 First, the only thing Joe lost was more of his cognitive abilities. His “[collectivism](https://www.scribd.com/document/497870654/Transcipt-0221?secret_password=kF9e24QTiIv3XelIARPV)” message was oozing with Maoist overtones as if Joe is “one of us” and “we’re all in this together.” Let me just say, nobody in Washington D.C. today is “one of us.” At last, he urged Americans to “find light in the darkness” he and his commie cohorts are working around the clock to continue creating.  
 *“I know it’s been hard. I truly know. As I’ve told you before, I carry a card in my pocket with the number of Americans who have died from COVID to date. It’s on the back of my schedule. As of now, total deaths in America, 527,726. That’s more deaths than in World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War and 9/11 combined.”*  
 As we all know, except Joe is his band of useful idiots, 96% of that alleged 527,726 deaths are in reality from numerous other unrelated causes, which means that Joe needs carry a list of the 21,109 who actually died of [COVID19](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/03/two-stanford-doctors-blast-nations-covid-response-worst-public-health-mistake-last-100-years/). That would be far more meaningful, even though carrying any list around when you and you cohorts are personally responsible for those deaths, rings a bit hollow.  
 Meanwhile, Stanford Doctors finally blast leftists for what they call [“The Worst Public Health Mistake In Last 100 Years.”](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/03/two-stanford-doctors-blast-nations-covid-response-worst-public-health-mistake-last-100-years/)  
 Joe said *“You lost your job, you closed your business, facing eviction, homelessness, hunger, a loss of control. Maybe worst of all a loss of hope.”* No, Joe and his insane commie global cabal intentionally took your job, your business, your home, your food, your freedom and your liberty, your ability to survive, much less thrive, via their [fake pandemic](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/03/two-stanford-doctors-blast-nations-covid-response-worst-public-health-mistake-last-100-years/) and as were heard again in his reading of someone else’s words last night, they are not done wrecking our lives yet! Joe’s masters, the people in control of the sock-puppet, stole our hope…  
 *“The things we used to do that always filled us with joy have become things we couldn’t do and broke our hearts.”* If he were even [half-honest](https://www.scribd.com/document/497870654/Transcipt-0221?secret_password=kF9e24QTiIv3XelIARPV), he’d a said *“the things we stopped you from doing and are still stopping you from doing, without any real science behind our actions.”*  
 *“Look, we know what we need to do to beat this virus. Tell the truth. Follow the scientists and the science. Work together. Put trust and faith in our government…”* pseudo-Joe said… and he’s saying it because our government and scientists have such a long record of being entirely trustworthy… (NOT!)  
 *“My fellow Americans, you’re owed nothing less than the truth.”*  The only time Joe has ever been accused of telling the truth is when he had yet another bumbling idiot gaffe… When Joe’s mind escapes him, he does [tell the truth](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGRnhBmHYN0) and the media covers it up as if it’s a stereotypical Biden gaffe, when in reality, it’s yet another Biden Freudian slip…  
 When you’re a [mindless boob](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGRnhBmHYN0) famous for being the greatest gaffe factory in humankind, everything can be played off as a mere gaffe. Can you even imagine if President Trump had made this exact same statement only days before the 2020 elections?  
 *“These two companies, competitors, [*[*Pfizer & Maderna*](https://www.worldviewweekend.com/news/article/modernas-top-scientist-we-are-actually-hacking-software-life)*] have come together for the good of the nation, and they should be applauded for it.”* Under the leadership of REAL President Donald Trump… this part of the statement slipped Joe’s mind. **(All COVID19 vaccines will be under trial for at least two more years, which means, YOU are the guinea pigs.)**  
 *“We continue to work on making at-home testing available…”* which is Joe’s way of letting you know that he intends to keep you locked in your home.  
 *“First, tonight, I’m announcing that I will direct all states, tribes, and territories to make all adults, people 18 and over, eligible to be vaccinated no later than May 1.”* Since only 0.0063% (21,109) of Americans have actually died of COVID19 over 14 months, why does every American need a vaccine? Almost 1000 Americans have already died from the vaccines…in just the past 30-days.  
 Since Joe is in late stages of dementia, I’ll take a moment to remind him that pseudo-Presidents don’t run anything. In fact, even real Presidents have no constitutional authority to force any American to do anything. Presidents don’t run this country at all. 50 State Governors run 50 sovereign states, and thousands of Mayors run thousands of cities, all on behalf of 330,000,000 **free** Americans citizens.  
 *“Fourth, in the coming weeks, we will issue further guidance on what you can and cannot do…”* – if it’s mere “guidance,” then this should read “should and should not” do, not “can and cannot.” But these aren’t mere suggestions, or “guidance.” [These are a dictator’s orders.](https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/transcript-joe-biden-delivers-remarks-year-anniversary-pandemic/story?id=76403134)  
 And this is the [dictator’s carrot](https://www.scribd.com/document/497870654/Transcipt-0221?secret_password=kF9e24QTiIv3XelIARPV), how he believes you will continue to accept his tyrannical orders as well-meaning “guidance” for “your own good and the good of all Americans.”  
 *“I need you, the American people. I need you. I need every American to do their part. And that’s not hyperbole. I need you. I need you to get vaccinated when it’s your turn and when you can find an opportunity. And to help your family, your friends, your neighbors get vaccinated as well. Because here’s the point. – If we do all this, if we do our part, if we do this together, by July the 4, there’s a good chance you, your families and friends, will be able to get together in your backyard or in your neighborhood and have a cookout or a barbecue and celebrate Independence Day. That doesn’t mean large events with lots of people together, but it does mean small groups will be able to get together.”*  
 As an increasing number of [State Governors and legislators rush to FREE the people](https://www.forbes.com/sites/joewalsh/2021/03/05/these-states-lifted-covid-restrictions-this-week---against-cdcs-advice/?sh=4a1702e439ea) of their states from mindless, unscientific, unlawful and unconstitutional federal tyranny, the people running the Biden pseudo-administration (not Joe or Kamala) grow increasingly nervous that their plot to keep Americans locked down until every American is forced into global Marxist lockstep, is collapsing. Their ability to carry on their COVID plandemic until there is no America left, is on very shaky ground.  
 As a result, the powers that be (not Joe or Kamala) felt it necessary to have Joe read another teleprompter speech to convince useful American idiots to continue committing personal and national suicide by accepting more tyrannical orders from the puppet dictator-in-chief, or more accurately, the masters behind the puppets.  
 [The carrot?](https://www.worldviewweekend.com/news/article/modernas-top-scientist-we-are-actually-hacking-software-life) If you will just continue to accept living under the global [Marxist boot](https://www.scribd.com/document/497870654/Transcipt-0221?secret_password=kF9e24QTiIv3XelIARPV) of Covid19 orders, Joe (Joe’s puppet masters) may allow the American people an ounce of freedom by July 4th. Maybe, just maybe, if you will continue to be good little mindless dotes, like you have been for over a year now, then maybe, they will grant you an ounce of freedom and liberty again, by the 4th of July, Independence Day.  
 Well, whoo-ha… how about that! What a wonderful dictator, to offer us just an ounce of freedom and liberty, if we will just continue to live like we’re in a 3rd world toilet instead of the United States of America. How grand is that…wonderful news! What a guy!  
 And the band plays on, as the people dance, and the Titanic of all free people sinks.  
https://newswithviews.com/joe-promises-to-grant-you-freedom-if/

**You might want to read...**

**The 60 Percent Solution to Reforming Healthcare**[*Devon Herrick*](https://townhall.com/columnists/devonherrick/) *Posted: Mar 13, 2021 12:01 A* Can we transform the entire health care system by empowering the roughly 60 percent of patients who are in private health plans? That’s the premise of a new book I just read by Todd Furniss (@TFurniss on Twitter). The author of *The 60% Solution: Rethinking Healthcare*, believes there are five major reforms necessary to empower patients and help them get better care at better prices. These include: (1) change governance, (2) modify health savings accounts (HSAs), (3) clear prices, (4) standardize accounting and information technology in the medical industry and (5) emphasize primary care. **MORE -** <https://townhall.com/columnists/devonherrick/2021/03/13/the-60-percent-solution-to-reforming-healthcare-n2586197>

**King Biden Will Give You Your Freedom Now**[*Katie Pavlich*](https://townhall.com/columnists/katiepavlich/) *Posted: Mar 12, 2021 1:25 PM  
 The opinions expressed by columnists are their own and do not necessarily represent the views of Townhall.com.*  
 During his first primetime address to the nation as president this week, Joe Biden proved what many of us warned about when he was running for America’s highest office: He is no moderate and perfectly comfortable with big government telling citizens what they’re allowed to do with their lives. **MORE -**  
<https://townhall.com/columnists/katiepavlich/2021/03/12/king-biden-will-give-you-your-freedom-now-n2586182>   
   
**Pick Your Poison: Impaired Biden or President Kamala**[*Larry O'Connor*](https://townhall.com/columnists/larryoconnor/) *Posted: Mar 12, 2021 11:50 AM* Let's face it: Joe Biden is not totally in control of his mental faculties.  
 You know it. I know it. Everyone knows it.   
 The problem we are now faced with is not what should be done about it, because we know what *should*be done... the problem is: if we were to do what should be done, will we actually be much worse off? **MORE -**

**MORE -** <https://townhall.com/columnists/larryoconnor/2021/03/12/pick-your-poison-impaired-biden-or-president-kamala-n2586160>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Report: North Korea ignoring Biden's diplomatic outreach**

***Senior US official says North Korea has not responded to behind-the-scenes diplomatic outreach by Biden administration.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 14 , 2021 2:42 AM*

**North Korea has not responded to behind-the-scenes diplomatic outreach since mid-February by President Joe Biden’s administration, including to Pyongyang’s mission to the United Nations, a senior Biden administration official told Reuters** on Saturday.

**The senior Biden administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, offered few details on the diplomatic push, but said there had been efforts to reach out to the North Korean government “through several channels starting in mid-February, including in Ne**w York.”

**“To date, we have not received any response from Pyongyan**g,” the official told *Reuters*.

North Korea’s mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Former US President Donald Trump tried to reached an agreement with North Korea while in office. Kim and Trump met [in Hanoi in 2019](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/259705) for a summit that left nuclear talks at a standstill.

**The pair had met three times since June 2018 but made little progress towards denuclearization**.

Since those talks broke down, North Korea [has conducted](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/272438) several tests of ballistic missiles.

The Biden administration has so far been cautious in publicly describing its approach to North Korea, saying it is carrying out a comprehensive policy review following Trump’s unprecedented engagement with Kim.

Shortly before Biden took office, the North Korea’s ruling Workers’ Party held its first congress in five years. During the congress, [Kim was named](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/294665) the “general secretary” of the party.

In remarks he made at the start of the gathering, [Kim threatened](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/294590) to expand his nuclear arsenal and stated that the fate of relations with the United States depends on whether it abandons its “hostile policy”.

Later, [North Korea displayed](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/294952) what appeared to be a new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) at a parade.

The US official who spoke to *Reuters* declined to speculate about how the silence from Pyongyang would impact the Biden administration’s North Korea policy review, which was expected to be completed in the coming weeks. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298420>

**Avigdor Liberman: 'Throw the haredim into the garbage'**

***Haredi MKs from the United Torah Judaism party respond to MK Avigdor Liberman's promise to 'send the haredim to the garbage.'***

*Ben Shaul , Mar 14 , 2021 12:40 AM*

**MK Moshe Gafni, head of the United Torah Judaism (UTJ) party, on Saturday night responded to MK Avigdor Liberman's (Yisrael Beytenu) statement that he will send the haredi community - and Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu - to the "garba**ge."

Speaking to *Channel 12 News*, Liberman said, "I will send the haredim, together with Netanyahu, in one wheelbarrow to a garbage dump."

**Responding to the statement, Gafni said: "His desperation in the fight against Netanyahu has led him to say such things. We, the haredim, have for a while already seen him as one who has lost his mind. He** apparently knows the garbage dump well, and brings it to the public discourse. I expect the law enforcement authorities to handle this anti-Semitic statement."

UTJ's MK Yisrael Eichler said: "The horrible Evet is not the first who has suggested placing us on carts and wheelbarrows and sending us 'to a good garbage dump.' There were those who threatened it before him, and even [those who] did it."

**"This is no longer simple racism from an insane enemy, but a real threat and calls to war that threaten live**s. Israel Police and the Prosecutor's Office must interrogate him for the crime of serious incitement and encouraging the bloodshed of haredi Jews."

Avigdor Liberman was born Evet Liberman. He changed his name to the Hebrew Avigdor after immigrating to Israel in 1978. Since the 2019 elections, politicians angry with Liberman have often referred to him as Evet.

**MK Yakov Asher (UTJ), who heads the Knesset's Coalition, Law, and Justice Committee, said that he will demand that the Racism Law be amended immediately following the el**ections.

**"In an attempt to** [**gain**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/295006) **another quarter of a Knesset seat [based on] blind hatred of religion and haredim, Liberman is willing to use any expression possible, no matter how low.** It's time to put an end to the incitement against the haredi community, which in the past year has reached worrisome heights," Asher said.

"My bill to amend the Racism Law so that it includes incitement against haredim was already placed on the Knesset's table, and ahead of the formation of the next government, we will demand that it be presented as a government bill, in order to stop the choir of hatred and incitement."

**Housing Minister Yakov Litzman (UTJ) responded: "The temptation to hate and the urge to incite which motivate Evet have caused him to cross the line into a discours**e of sewage and despicable words. The public should see and judge whether trying to gain a few votes justifies losing control of logic and brainpower."

"It's embarrassing and pitiful," he added. "I call on the Attorney General to investigate this, in light of the wild and dangerous incitement which encourages harm to the public and is seemingly in opposition to the law and to elections protocols." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298419> **[I have not seen this much hatred from people in a long time (with of course the exception of Nancy Pansy Peeelosi along with Nadler the adler and pencil neck Schiff toward The Donald. – rdb]**

**WHO authorizes Johnson & Johnson vaccine for emergency use**

***Approval means the one-dose shot can now theoretically be used as part of the international COVAX effort to distribute vaccines globally.***

*Elad Benari, Canada , Mar 12 , 2021 11:17 PM*

**The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday granted an emergency use listing for the coronavirus vaccine made by Johnson & Johnson, The Associated Press report**s.

The approval means the one-dose shot can now theoretically be used as part of the international COVAX effort to distribute vaccines globally, including to poor countries without any supplies. **MORE -**<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298401> **[NOTICE the so called ‘vaccine’ is FOR EMERGENCY USE. If there are several cures for the illness which has a very low mortality rate unless you are over 65 and have multiple co-morbidities is this really an emergency. Every word counts and learn to read critically. Your life depends on it. I am actually in the ‘at risk group’ BUT there is no way I would take their Jab. – rdb]**

**Giant metal cylinder falls on car traveling on Ayalon Highway**

***Heavy metal object falls from crane and hits car. Driver lightly to moderately injured.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 14 , 2021 12:58 PM*



***Miracle on the AyalonMDA***

**A heavy object fell Sunday morning from a crane onto a vehicle traveling on the Ayalon Highway (20) near the Halakha Interchange**.

The object, a huge metal cylinder, fell during infrastructure work for the construction of the fast lanes being carried out by Electra.

A 27-year-old man who was traveling on Ayalon South was lightly to moderately injured, and suffered injuries to his limbs.

Eitan Gavra, a paramedic on an MDA motorcycle, noted: "This was a real miracle. The vehicle passing on the highway was hit by a large metal cylinder that fell from a crane and hit its front end. The driver, who was injured in his limbs, walked around at the scene while conscious. We performed medical tests and evacuated him to the hospital while his condition was stable."

Following the fall of the object on the vehicle, there was traffic congestion on Route 20 South from the Shivat Hakohavim Interchange to the Arlozorov Interchange. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298441>

**300 people sent into isolation by mistake**

***Glitch causes false COVID positives at Bnei Akiva school in Neria, forcing hundreds of people into quarantine.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Mar 14 , 2021 9:00 AM*

Hundreds of coronavirus tests were conducted at a Bnei Akiva school in Neria last week in order to allow the students to go on a school trip in safety. However, a mistake in how the tests were conducted led to 300 people being wrongly sent into quarantine.

The National Health Insurance Fund was enlisted to help conduct the tests, which found that dozens of students were positive for the coronavirus.

Neria spokesman Oved Perel, told *Yediot Aharonot:* "Immediately about 300 people went into isolation and two entire grades of the school were shut down. A high percentage of vaccinated. However, we had suspicions about the results because the girls were in capsules, were very strict about all the rules, as are all the community's residents in general, and there is a high percentage of vaccinated people. So we asked the council to reexamine the matter."

Neria Mayor Yisrael Gantz got involved and new tests were conducted, which showed that there was not a single case of coronavirus among the students.

The National Health Fund said that "in the first run of tests there was probably a technical failure that caused an error and was not identified before the results were distributed." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298428> **[I doubt that this was an unusual event and that many of their tests were not accurate – PCR tests aren’t for diagnosis. – rdb]**

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**03/13/2021 NEWS AM**

**Kama Tov Hashem I Kobi Brummer**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GxRQwq5H70>

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| **Lyrics:**  **No need to find reasons to rejoice,**  **Just open your eyes and mind,**  **Look around the world and see how good the name is,**  **Even on a day that is a little uncomfortable,**  **Everything is closed and there is nowhere to run,**  **Just open your eyes and see ..**  **How good is the name ..**  **How good is the name ..**  **How good is the name ..**  **How good is the name ..**  **Even if you have a door slammed shut,**  **He's going to open another door for you,**  **Behind every murky wave beyond any cloud,**  **Is the sun that shines new from old,**  **Hi Jew do not forget, you are the son of a king**  **Who accompanies you all the way,**  **Raise Thrash to the Lord of the Worlds,**  **Shout with me, let's wake everyone up.** | **How good is the name ..**  **(All that Devid Rahmana Latv Abid ..)**  **Remove from us all sorrow and all fear,**  **We will always remember that when we are together,**  **Every bitter will become sweet, every cry will turn into laughter,**  **Yes yes dad ..**  **And even if the world closes in on you, and you are blocked, you suffocate,**  **Raise Thrash to Heaven Man,**  **And with all your heart you will shout ..** |

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| **"There is nothing which I dread so much as a division of the republic into two great parties, each arranged under its leader, and concerting measures in opposition to each other. This, in my humble apprehension, is to be dreaded as the greatest political evil under our Constitution." -- John Adams (1735-1826) Founding Father, 2nd US President** |

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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 21:19And God openeth her eyes, and she seeth a well of water, and she goeth and filleth the bottle *with* water, and causeth the youth to drink; 20and God is with the youth, and he groweth, and dwelleth in the wilderness, and is an archer; 21and he dwelleth in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother taketh for him a wife from the land of Egypt.**

**Israeli troops nab Gazan infiltrator who was carrying grenades**

***IDF says Palestinian man was caught after crossing into Israel from Strip, had stashed grenades along border before arrest***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:53 pm*

Israeli troops on Friday arrested an armed Palestinian man who crossed into Israel from the Gaza Strip, the military said.

An initial interrogation revealed the suspect had three grenades he left along the border barrier before he was caught, according to an Israel Defense Forces statement.

The IDF said the suspect, who entered Israel from northern Gaza, was taken in for further questioning.

The incident came a day after the Gaza-ruling terror group Hamas blamed Israel for an explosion that killed three fishermen off the coast of the Strip earlier this week, leading several armed factions in Gaza to vow revenge. MORE -

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-troops-nab-gazan-infiltrator-who-was-carrying-grenades/>

**Big tech makes big bucks from fake news, Israeli company finds**

***Study conducted by Adverifai uses AI technology to detect fake news on sites shows advertisers often ignorant of their role in propagating lies and their contribution to a 1 billion dollar revenue stream for fake news sites***

*Tal Shahaf | Published: 03.12.21 , 18:33*

Large internet platforms might declare a commitment to prevent the spread of fake news, but in practice many of them rake in large amounts of money in advertising revenue from such sites, according to a study by Israeli company Adverifai, which specializes in spotting disinformation online.

According to the study, Google leads the pack and is responsible for most ads appearing on sites promoting coronavirus denial and other lies.



***Illustrative (Photo: Shutterstock)***

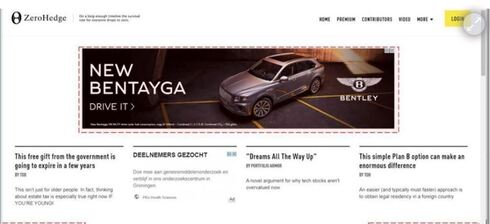
The study found that Google Ads and Google's DoubleClick internet advertising company were responsible for 69% of the ads that appeared on fake news sites during January and February of this year, followed by the Revcontent platform with 7%, OpenX with 4% and Israel's Taboola with 2%.

Google said in response that the company has a strict policy of blocking dangerous and misleading content about the coronavirus.

"We remove such content and block these sites' ability to create revenue. Our enforcement can extend all the way to a single page with such content that violates our policy," Google said.

Taboola CEO Adam Singolda said his company does not support fake news (Disclaimer: Ynetnews uses the Taboola platform).

"We are one of the world's leading companies for content moderation, with a team that works manually according to our public policy. We also work with other companies that assist us in our efforts," he said.



***An advert for Bentley Motors on a fake news website (Photo: Adverifai)***

Adverifai CEO Or Levi told Ynet his company has scanned thousands of sites that promote misinformation.

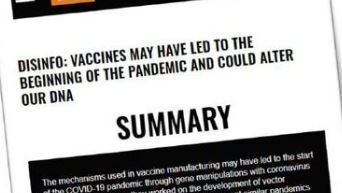
"We found many of them shared platforms with companies like Google, who we estimate generate $100,000,000 in revenue each year. Some of the largest advertisers actually finance these sites, although they may be doing so unknowingly due to lack of transparency from advertising platforms.

The study by Adverifai, which specializes in using AI technology to identify fake news, found that 2,500 companies had promoted their products with platforms that placed their ads on fake new sites.

These companies, Adverifai said, included Bentley Motors, AsusTek Computer Inc. and T-Mobile.

The study did not cover ads placed by Facebook due to the difficulty in obtaining the data. But according to Levi, Adverifai is planning further research that will focus on that social media giant.

"You see many Facebook ads on coronavirus denial websites and although we have many such examples, we cannot at this point say whether we are seeing a method in action or just a random coincidence," Levi said.



Fake news content promoted by Taboola (Photo: Adverifai)

[Sorry folks but from what I have read in the literature this vaccine does potentially change the DNA – not fake. – rdb]

Advertising platforms are the mediators between advertisers and content websites around the world. These platforms place ads on various websites and share revenue with the site owners. In fact, fake news sites finance their activity through ad revenue, which often makes them very profitable.

Adverifai can identify fake news using AI technology that monitors hundreds of thousands of texts and locates key words prevalent in such items. It also tracks manipulative language through the use of semantic and psycholinguistic models.

The company identifies the most common false narratives being promoted online. This includes claims about alleged dangers of the coronavirus vaccine, conspiracy theories on the source of the virus, Bill Gates' purported connections to the vaccines, accusations against big pharmaceutical companies and governments and the promotion of products to "cure" COVID-19. [NONE of these issues are false. There is good documentation on all of them. – rdb]

The American Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) said in October 2020 that it estimated anti-vaxxers had made a total of one billion dollars last year, mostly by posting on Facebook and its Instagram subsidiary. These groups also increased their followers by 20% and now reach about 40,000,000 people in all. [The fact that material goes against the politically correct and accepted narrative does not make it fake. The PC narrative is stilted and biased for a reason. All you have to do is some research to find out that Gates Foundations have huge investments in vaccine companies and Klaus Schwab has openly admitted his plans. The fact that Gates and his parents were members of eugenics societies is also documented. – rdb]

Fake news has been found to cause serious damage to health and the economy; studies have shown that the refusal to wear masks during the pandemic has led to increased deaths and placed a greater financial burden on healthcare systems.

Facebook, Google and Twitter all say they are committed to fighting fake news, by blocking some publications and preventing the promotion of others.

In February, the Biden administration began promoting a joint initiative with the social media companies to fight fake news.

But this latest study shows that while the big tech companies prevent such content from appearing on their own platforms, they still enable and finance sites that do propagate it. <https://www.ynetnews.com/business/article/HJ117jvPXu> [This is the cancel culture trying to squelch a narrative which is PC and probably mostly inaccurate and is itself Fake. – rdb]

**Netanyahu speaks to Ukrainian leader, vows to renew Hassidic pilgrimages to Uman**

***In conversation with Volodymyr Zelensky, PM urges Ukraine to accept Israel’s ‘Green Pass’ amid threats from Bratslav community to boycott upcoming elections over pilgrimage ban***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:43 pm*

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke Friday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in a bid to have Kyiv recognize Israel’s ‘Green Pass’ for the vaccinated to allow travel to Ukraine, including for Hassidic pilgrims to Uman.

Netanyahu said they spoke about “cooperation on the vaccine and recognizing Israel’s Green Pass so that the vaccinated can soon visit Ukraine, including Uman.”

Ties were strained last year when thousands of Jewish pilgrims tried to get to Uman for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, despite a coronavirus travel ban imposed by Ukraine, ending with [a tense standoff](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-tells-hasidic-pilgrims-on-ukraine-border-to-go-home-as-uman-talks-fail/) between the pilgrims and Ukrainian guards on the borders with Belarus and Moldova.

Uman usually sees tens of thousands of Hasidic Jews visit the gravesite of Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav for the Rosh Hashanah holiday.

The incident caused great anger among the Bratslav community who accused Israeli authorities, and the ultra-Orthodox parties, of not doing enough to help them after then-coronavirus czar Ronni Gamzu appealed to Zelensky directly, without notifying Netanyahu, to ask him to prevent the pilgrimage, fearing returning pilgrims could drive up infection rates in the Jewish state.

Netanyahu’s conversation on Friday came after the Bratslav community threatened to boycott the upcoming March 23 elections over the issue, with activists putting up posters saying “My Rosh Hashanah is above all else. We will not meet at the polls.”

The posters had crossed out symbols of the two ultra-Orthodox parties, United Torah Judaism and Shas, and warned: “The Bratslav community says in a clear voice: We will not forget, we will not forgive.”

בעקבות קמפיין אי ההצבעה בברסלב, חברי הכנסת של אגודת ישראל כבר חותמים על התחייבויות לטובת הנוסעים לאומן בראש השנה הבא [pic.twitter.com/7aZxrgTQqQ](https://t.co/7aZxrgTQqQ)

— יאיר שרקי (@yaircherki) [March 12, 2021](https://twitter.com/yaircherki/status/1370370776021544962?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Earlier Friday, UTJ lawmakers signed a pledge promising to work to allow pilgrimages to go ahead this year, Channel 12 reported.

UTJ  and Shas are key allies of Netanyahu in a race that is seen [as too close to call.](https://www.timesofisrael.com/poll-forecasts-deadlock-after-election-with-blocs-split-60-60/) MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-speaks-to-ukrainian-leader-vows-to-renew-hassidic-pilgrimages-to-uman/>

**Authorities to allow 800 people at state Independence, Memorial Day ceremonies**

***Health officials said surprised to note ‘significant decline’ in virus despite economy being almost fully open this week, optimistic about close-to-normal holiday celebrations***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:11 pm*

If Israel’s coronavirus situation continues to improve, officials will not impose new restrictions for the Passover holiday and will authorize Independence Day and Memorial Day events to take place with public participation, Channel 12 reported Friday.

Israel’s serious COVID-19 cases dropped Friday to the lowest tally since December, as the country’s vaccination campaign kept striding forward, with more than 4 million citizens receiving both doses.

Health officials have [expressed optimism](https://www.timesofisrael.com/health-officials-situation-in-israel-most-hopeful-since-pandemic-began/) that Israel is turning the corner on the coronavirus pandemic, being quoted Thursday by Channel 13 news as saying the situation was “the most hopeful it’s been since the beginning of the pandemic” last year. The officials said that if the positive trajectory continues, Israelis will be able to celebrate Passover without limitations at the end of March.

Channel 12 on Friday quoted health officials saying that they were seeing a “significant decline” in virus activity and that if this continues then the Memorial Day and Independence Day commemorations in mid-April would also be able to go ahead.

Last year the government took the unprecedented step of barring bereaved families from visiting the graves of fallen soldiers amid an intense lockdown.

This year there would be few restrictions and the public ceremonies would go ahead with crowds of up to 800 people, the report said. However, health officials were watching the trends before making a decision on allowing the Independence Day concerts traditionally put on by different cities across the country.

Health Ministry data published Friday afternoon showed that 2,510 new cases were confirmed the previous day. The Ynet news site said more than half of them were under 19 years old, an age group in which serious cases are rare. The rate of positive tests stood at 3.1 percent, continuing the trend of low positivity.

Since the start of the pandemic, 816,198 Israelis have been confirmed to have the coronavirus. They include 34,322 active cases, of whom 621 are in serious condition — the lowest figure recorded since December 26. They also include 257 patients regarded as critical.

The total number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients dropped below 1,000 to 997.

The death toll was nearing the 6,000 mark and reached 5,980. The data showed 196 people died in the first 11 days of March. More than 1,400 died in January, with the rate appearing to slow down almost threefold.

The virus’s basic reproduction number, which represents the average number of people each carrier infects, dropped further to 0.83. A transmission rate below 1 means the outbreak is abating.

All the figures represent a dramatic improvement over the past two months, credited chiefly to the successful vaccination campaign. The success comes despite the more infectious new mutated coronavirus strains proliferating and despite the gradual lifting of virus restrictions.

The Health Ministry said 5,117,096 people have received the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine. The number of people who also received the second shot passed 4 million and stood at 4,094,073.

According to Ynet, around 1,140,000 Israelis remain who are eligible to get vaccinated and haven’t yet received the first dose of the inoculation.

The vaccination rates are relatively lower among the ultra-Orthodox population — where 80% of those aged 60 and up are either inoculated or recovered from the disease — and in the Arab community (81%). The figure among those who aren’t Haredi or Arab is 97%. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/authorities-to-allow-800-people-at-state-independence-memorial-day-ceremonies/>

**Restaurants fully booked as Israelis flock back after year of restrictions**

***Some places reporting 10-day waiting lists for a spot; credit card use jumps after eateries, cafes reopen***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:45 pm*

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| [Israelis at bars in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market  on March 12 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/F210312OF06-e1615570086481.jpg)  Israelis at bars in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market on March 12 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90) | Israelis enjoy dining at restaurants, in Tel Aviv, as they were re-opened earlier this week, following a long period of lockdown. March 11, 2021. (Miriam Alster/FLASH90) |

Israelis have flocked back to restaurants, bars and cafes in the days since they were allowed to reopen, with many booked up and credit card companies noting a spike in spending on Friday.

Since reopening Sunday, restaurants and cafes have seen a torrent of customers, with many would-be diners unable to make reservations as tables at many eateries are all booked days in advance, according to the Kan public broadcaster.

Some restaurants had a 10-day waiting list, the report said.

Under the relaxed virus rules, eateries are allowed to host up to 100 people with Green Passes — indicating vaccination or recovery from the virus — indoors at up to 75 percent capacity, and can seat up to 100 people outside, even without passes. Tables must be two meters apart. [NOTICE – NO vaccine or NO document of the virus and you don’t get to go. – rdb]

Previously, restaurants and cafes had only been able to offer takeout and delivery services.

Credit card companies reported a marked jump in spending Friday morning, a day off for many Israelis and a popular time for brunch.

Compared to the previous Friday, there was a 15 percent increase in spending between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., with Israelis shelling out NIS 538.9 million (nearly $162 million) on their credit cards during that time, according to Automated Bank Services, which processes international payments for Israeli credit cards.

During that same period last week, Automated Bank Services said Israelis spent NIS 468.3 million ($140.7 million) on their credit cards.

While this is welcome news for restaurant owners who were severely impacted financially by the restrictions, for many it came too late.

Channel 12 reported last week that some 4,000 of the 14,000 restaurants that operated before the pandemic have closed for good.

Besides restaurants, the current stage of reopening extends to all school grades, event venues, attractions and hotels, with some of the activities available only to those with Green Passes.

Israel in February began easing restrictions following a third lockdown and has since gradually reopened shopping malls, gyms, swimming pools, hotels and some cultural facilities.

Health Ministry data published Friday afternoon showed that 2,510 new cases were confirmed the previous day. The Ynet news site said more than half of them were under 19 years old, an age group in which serious cases are rare. The rate of positive tests stood at 3.1 percent, continuing the trend of low positivity. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/restaurants-fully-booked-as-israelis-flock-back-after-year-of-restrictions/>

**The COVID campaign is not Israel's first vaccine drive**

***From mandatory inoculations to threats of criminal proceedings against anti-vaccinators, the country has had to battle numerous potential medical catastrophes, such as smallpox, typhoid and polio outbreaks***

*Amit Naor, the National Library of Israel | Published: 03.12.21 , 14:02*

The rampant spread of the coronavirus and the proven effectiveness of the vaccines have given rise to a serious controversy: Is it morally acceptable or even legal for the state to impose mandatory vaccination on its citizens?

As it turns out, the Public Health Ordinance, a regulation enacted during the British Mandate and still in effect today, includes a clause allowing the government to force the population to be vaccinated if the illness in question presents a serious danger to the public. [Does an illness with a 99+% recovery rate for the vast majority of the population merit the characterization of a serious danger? I don’t think so. Not to mention that there are treatment modalities that can be used early on to spare lives if the government doesn’t have an ulterior motive to push for vaccinations like we have seen with this problem and particularly with the government of Israel. – rdb]

"In any city, village or area in which an infectious disease has taken or is likely to take epidemic form... the Director or Government Physician may take measures they deem as necessary to protect the residents of these places," the regulation reads.

This clause has actually been activated several times during Israel's history: Once in 1949 following an outbreak of smallpox, again in the early 1990s after a measles outbreak in the south, and most recently in 2018, due to a local measles outbreak in the north. [Small pox is a much different critter than this flu virus. – rdb]

In 1952, typhoid fever spread in Israel and an extensive vaccination campaign was launched. Not unlike the recent spread of the coronavirus, the government deliberated whether to activate the mandatory vaccine clause.



A 1949 notice about the need to vaccinate against smallpox

(Photo: National Library of Israel)

A poster from then-director general of the Health Ministry, Chaim Sheba, even threatened criminal proceedings against those who refused to be vaccinated.

Eventually however, and apparently due to the opposition of several district physicians, the government decided to drop its draconic approach and continue the vaccination campaign as was.

Many other vaccination campaigns throughout the country’s history have proven successful thanks in part to intensive public relations drives such as articles and posters urging the public to get vaccinated.

Still, some vaccination drives have been more heavy-handed than others, as seen in a poster from 1930, which included the names of parents whose children have not yet been vaccinated against smallpox alongside a warning that the Health Ministry would initiate proceedings against those refusing the inoculation.

As it turns out, mandatory vaccinations were also used by regimes predating even the British Mandate, such as the Ottomans who demanded that all their subjects be vaccinated against smallpox.

And while it is unclear whether this provision was also valid for the residents of Israel who were under Turkish rule at the time, there is no question that in times of crisis, compulsory inoculations were utilized to avert any widespread catastrophe. <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/SkXbkY8Qu> [Another huge issue with the vaccines for those illnesses is that they had been researched and tested by well proven methodologies and not pushed thru where the entire population is actually being the guinea pigs for the Big Pharm companies. – rdb]

**Iran says container ship damaged in ‘terrorist’ attack in Mediterranean**

***Accusations come a day after US officials tell Wall Street Journal that Israel has hit many ships taking Iran oil, arms to Syria***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:48 pm*

An Iranian container ship traveling in the Mediterranean was damaged in an attack this week, an official said Friday, calling the incident a “terrorist act.”

The ship was slightly damaged by an explosive object but no one on board was hurt, Ali Ghiasi, a spokesman for state-run shipping company IRISL told semi-official Nournews, [according to Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/iran-ship-int/iran-ship-damaged-in-attack-in-mediterranean-state-company-says-idUSKBN2B41SC).

The accusation comes a day after the [Wall Street Journal reported](https://www.wsj.com/articles/israel-strikes-target-iranian-oil-bound-for-syria-11615492789?mod=hp_listb_pos2) that Israel has targeted at least 12 ships bound for Syria, most of them transporting Iranian oil, with mines and other weapons. Thanks a lot WSJ for all your help? – rdb]

The alleged attack occurred on Wednesday. “Such terrorist acts amount to naval piracy,” he added, identifying the ship as the Shahr E Kord, and said it was traveling from Iran to Europe.

Ghiasi said the blast caused a small fire that was extinguished by the crew.

Here's the Iranian ship hit heading into Syria, pix taken last year in Istanbul by [@YorukIsik](https://twitter.com/YorukIsik?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/OT1tYX278m](https://t.co/OT1tYX278m)

— avi scharf (@avischarf) [March 12, 2021](https://twitter.com/avischarf/status/1370402100337913863?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

“Legal proceedings will be taken to identify the perpetrators through related international bodies,” Ghiasi added.

The company official did not disclose the ship’s current location and cargo, but said “it will continue its route after assessing and repairing the damage”.

The attacks started in late 2019 and targeted both Iranian vessels, and other ships with Iranian cargo, the report said, citing “US and regional officials.”

Some of the Israeli strikes, which took place in the Red Sea and other areas, targeted Iran-linked weapons shipments, the report said.

The attacks did not sink the tankers, but forced at least two of the vessels to return to port in Iran.

Israel sought to halt the trade in oil because it believed the profits were financing regional extremists, the report said.

Iran has carried on with its oil trade to Syria in recent years, in violation of both US sanctions on Tehran and international sanctions on Damascus.

Israel declined to comment to The Wall Street Journal on the report.

The attacks mark a new front in the shadow war between Israel and Iran.

Israel said Iran was behind a blast on an Israeli-owned ship in the Persian Gulf last month; Iran denies the charge.

 Some sources said the explosion on the MV Helios Ray, a tanker carrying cars, was caused by limpet mines. The damage forced the ship to port for repairs but did not disable it or injure any crew.

In the tense summer of 2019, the US military blamed Iran for explosions on two oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world’s most strategic shipping lanes.

Iran, whose leaders repeatedly call for Israel’s demise, backs the Hezbollah terrorist group, as well as terror groups in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli-owned cargo ship, Helios Ray, sits docked in port in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Feb. 28, 2021. (AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili)

The Israeli military has launched hundreds of airstrikes in Syria since the start of the civil war in 2011 against moves by Iran to establish a permanent military presence in the country and efforts to transport advanced, game-changing weapons to terrorist groups in the region, principally Hezbollah.

Iran has blamed Israel for a recent series of attacks, including [a mysterious explosion last summer](https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-claims-its-identified-saboteurs-behind-blast-at-nuclear-site/) 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.

Tensions have heated in the Middle East in recent months, as Iran repeatedly violated the terms of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers ahead of possible talks with the Biden administration.

Israel’s environment minister blamed Iran for an oil spill off the Israeli coast last month that saw hundreds of tons of tar pollute beaches along most of Israel’s Mediterranean coastline, but Israeli security officials said they could not confirm the allegation. Much of the tar has been removed, and many beaches have now reopened.

Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have already begun voicing opposition to the Biden administration’s desire to rejoin the deal, putting Jerusalem and Washington at odds on the issue. Some leading Israeli officials in recent months have threatened military action to halt Iran’s rogue nuclear weapons program.

Informal talks between the US and Iran over the return to the nuclear deal could begin in the coming weeks, American and European diplomats told The New York Times in a report Thursday. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-container-ship-damaged-in-terrorist-attack-in-mediterranean/> [Pretty soon the constant tit for tat is going to explode into something quite major and then…..? – rdb]

**WHO insists AstraZeneca vaccine is safe as shot faces new setbacks**

***Italy returns to lockdown as infections surge; Austria alleges some countries signed ‘secret contracts’ with vaccine makers; US, Japan, India, Australia form joint initiative***

*By* [*Robin MILLARD*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/robin-millard/) *Today, 2:00*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/Untitled-22-1.jpg)

Health workers administer doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine against COVID-19 inside the convention center known as "La Nuvola", The Cloud, in Rome, Italy, March 10, 2021. (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

AFP — The World Health Organization said Friday there is no reason to stop using AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine after several countries suspended the rollout over blood clot fears while some nations begin warning of another virus wave.

The WHO, which said its vaccines advisory committee was examining the safety data coming in, stressed that no causal link has been established between the AstraZeneca vaccine and clotting.

“AstraZeneca is an excellent vaccine, as are the other vaccines that are being used,” WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris told reporters in Geneva.

“Yes, we should continue using the AstraZeneca vaccine,” she added, stressing that any concerns over safety must be investigated.

UK-based AstraZeneca insisted its shot was safe, adding there is “no evidence” of higher blood clot risks from it.

***New lockdown in Italy***

Despite hopes that vaccines will pave the way to a return to normality, hard-hit Italy announced tough new restrictions in much of the country, with Prime Minister Mario Draghi warning the country was facing “a new wave” of infections.

One year after it became the first European country to face a major outbreak, Italy is once again struggling with the rapid spread of COVID-19, this time fuelled by new, more contagious variants.

Schools, restaurants, shops and museums were ordered Friday to close across most regions of Italy, including Rome and Milan from next week.

The Greek authorities on Friday spoke of a “serious epidemiological situation,” also warning of a third wave as infection numbers mount in Athens and other major towns.

Health experts there warned that restriction measures in place, including school closures in the major urban areas, would be extended once more.

And Disneyland Paris, Europe’s biggest tourist attraction, said Friday it will not be able to reopen as planned on April 2 because of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis with infections remaining stubbornly high in France.

***Another possible side effect***

The shadow cast over the AstraZeneca jab is adding to problems the European Union has had in distributing coronavirus vaccines.

Denmark, Norway and Iceland paused the use of the AstraZeneca shot as a precaution after isolated reports of recipients developing blood clots.

Italy and Austria have banned the use of shots from separate batches of AstraZeneca, and Thailand and Bulgaria said this week they would delay the rollout of the shot.

In Spain at least five regions said Friday they had suspended use of the AstraZeneca vaccines from the suspect batch banned by Austria as a precautionary measure.

But several other countries, including Australia, said they would continue their rollouts as they had found no reason to alter course. Canada also said there was no evidence the shot causes adverse reactions.

In a fresh hit, the EU’s drug regulator said severe allergies should be added to the possible side effects of the AstraZeneca vaccine after likely links were found to a number of cases in Britain.

***‘Secret contracts’***

Austria’s Chancellor Sebastian Kurz on Friday suggested that some European countries may have signed “secret contracts” with vaccine companies to receive more vaccines than they were entitled to based on EU rules.

EU members have agreed that vaccines should be distributed among countries based on population size, but Kurz said that after comparing the total procurement figures of member states, it became clear that “deliveries do not follow the per capita quota system.”

Despite the setbacks elsewhere, US President Joe Biden offered hope to his country, the worst-affected in the world.

Biden vowed a return to some kind of normality by July 4, marking the national holiday as his target for “independence” from the virus.



Visitors wearing face masks walk past a sign requiring masks at a restaurant in San Antonio, Texas, March 3, 2021. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

After a shaky start, the US has ramped up its vaccination program, following the advice of scientists who say inoculations are the only way out of a pandemic that has killed 2.6 million people around the world.

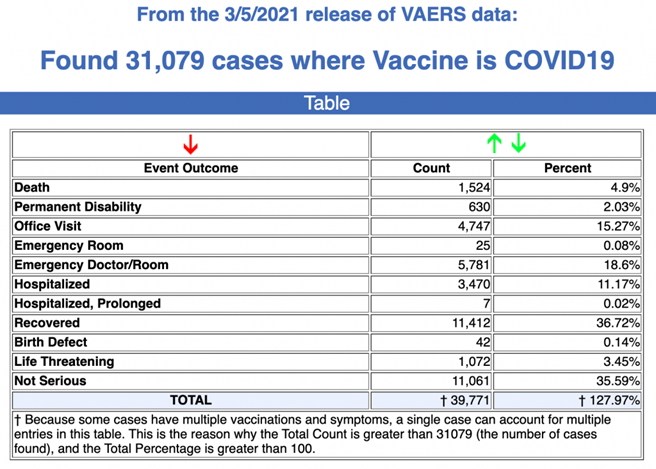
There was also some encouraging news on the vaccine front as the WHO on Friday approved Johnson & Johnson’s COVID-19 vaccine, paving the way for an additional 500 million doses to enter the Covax global vaccine-sharing scheme.

“Every new, safe and effective tool against COVID-19 is another step closer to controlling the pandemic,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

The news comes after the single-dose shot won approval from the European Union on Thursday.

It has also received the green light from regulators in the United States, Canada, South Africa and France — which on Friday topped 90,000 coronavirus fatalities since the start of the pandemic.

Meanwhile it was announced that India will manufacture at least one billion more COVID-19 vaccine doses by the end of next year in a joint initiative with the United States, Japan and Australia. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/who-insists-astrazeneca-vaccine-is-safe-as-shot-faces-new-setbacks/> [It is most interesting that India is producing packs with Zink, Doxycycline and Ivermectin for their population at a cost of $2.75. Much cheaper and less dangerous than the Jab. – rdb]

****Reports of Deaths After COVID Vaccines Up by 259 in 1 Week, CDC Data Show**

*Between Dec. 14, 2020, and Mar. 5, 2021, 31,079 reports of adverse events were submitted to VAERS, including 1,524 deaths, 5,507 serious injuries and 390 reports of Bell’s Palsy.*

*By* [*Megan Redshaw*](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/authors/megan-redshaw/)

Data released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the number of injuries and deaths reported to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System](https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html) (VAERS) following COVID vaccines remain consistent with previous weeks, with the exception of a 31% spike in reports of Bell’s Palsy.

Every Friday, [VAERS](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/rfk-jr-david-kessler-covid-vaccine-vaers/) makes public all vaccine injury reports received by the system as of Friday of the previous week. Today’s data show that between Dec. 14, 2020, and March 5, a total of [31,079 total adverse events](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?TABLE=ON&GROUP1=CAT&EVENTS=ON&VAX=COVID19) were reported to VAERS, including [1,524 deaths](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?TABLE=ON&GROUP1=CAT&EVENTS=ON&VAX=COVID19) — an increase of 259 over the previous 7 days — and [5,507 serious injuries](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?TABLE=ON&GROUP1=AGE&EVENTS=ON&VAX=COVID19&SERIOUS=ON), up 1,083 over the same time period.In the U.S., [85.01 million](https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/cumulative-covid-vaccinations?tab=chart&stackMode=absolute&country=~USA&region=World) COVID vaccine doses had been administered as of March 5.

VAERS is the primary mechanism for reporting adverse vaccine reactions in the U.S. Reports submitted to VAERS require further investigation before a causal relationship can be confirmed. MORE -<https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/vaers-reports-death-up/>

**YouTube Blacklists 30,000 Videos It Claims Are Coronavirus Vaccine ‘Misinformation’**

[*Lucas Nolan*](https://www.breitbart.com/author/lucas-nolan/) 12 Mar 2021474

Google-owned video platform YouTube has reportedly removed more than 30,000 videos that the Masters of the Universe claim made misleading or false claims about coronavirus vaccines over the last six months.

AXIOS [reports](https://www.axios.com/youtube-removed-30000-covid19-vaccine-videos-misinformation-a8968086-95a4-4d5e-86da-0e22ddbc1b6a.html?utm_medium=techboard.thu.media.20210311&utm_source=email&utm_content=&utm_campaign=campaign) that YouTube spokesperson Elena Hernandez has revealed that YouTube has removed more than 30,000 videos that it claims made misleading or false claims about coronavirus vaccines in the last six months, providing the first release of numbers on the topic.

YouTube began including vaccination misinformation in its COVID-19 medical misinformation policy in October 2020.

Since February 2020, YouTube has removed more than 800,000 videos containing coronavirus misinformation, the videos are first flagged by the company’s AI or a human reviewer. The videos are then sent for another level of review before a decision is made on whether or not to remove them.

Videos that violate YouTube’s policy relating to misinformation about vaccines include those that contradict expert consensus on the vaccines from health authorities or the World Health Organization.

Accounts that violate YouTube’s policy rules are subject to its “strike” system which can result in accounts being permanently banned from the platform.

[Facebook](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2020/12/04/facebook-bans-misinformation-about-coronavirus-vaccine/) and [Twitter](https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2021/03/02/twitter-will-enforce-a-strike-system-against-coronavirus-vaccine-misinformation/) have adopted similar policies to YouTube and have worked to remove misleading information about the coronavirus and vaccines from their various platforms. <https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2021/03/12/youtube-blacklists-30000-videos-it-claims-are-coronavirus-vaccine-misinformation/> [Since when did You Tube become a medical authority? They aren’t and never have been and never will be. They parrot the trash from the deep state. – rdb]

**Minneapolis agrees to pay George Floyd family $27 million**

***Settlement of civil case over death while in police custody***

By [Bob Unruh](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) Published March 12, 2021 at 3:29pm

Just as the criminal trial for former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin begins, city officials have agreed to pay $27 million to the family of George Floyd.

The payment is in settlement of a civil lawsuit, [reported the Star Tribune of Minneapolis.](https://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-to-pay-record-27-million-to-settle-lawsuit-with-george-floyd-s-family/600033541/)

Lawyers for the family described it as the "largest pre-trial settlement in a civil rights wrongful death case in U.S. history." [Way to go Minneapolis! You don’t suppose that this may bias the trial of the police officers in any way, do you? Surly not! The fact that the city is essentially professing a criminal intent won’t make any difference? What a bunch of bozos in that pit. – rdb]

Attorney Benjamin Crump said in a statement: "George Floyd's horrific death, witnessed by millions of people around the world, unleashed a deep longing and undeniable demand for justice and change. That the largest pre-trial settlement in a wrongful death case ever would be for the life of a black man sends a powerful message that black lives do matter and police brutality against people of color must end."

The payoff was adopted by city council members Friday, and Mayor Jacob Frey's office has indicated he will approve it.

"This part of our tragic journey to justice for my brother George is resolved," said Bridgett Floyd. "Our family suffered an irreplaceable loss May 25 when George's life was senselessly taken by a Minneapolis police officer."

The Star Tribune reported $500,000 is to be used for the benefit of the community in the neighborhood where George Floyd died.

Andrea Jenkins, a member of the council, told the paper: "This is a deeply traumatic event that, unfortunately, is a part of too many black and brown families' realities. There is no amount of money that can replace a brother, a son, a nephew, a father, a loved one but what we can do is continue to work towards justice and equity and equality in the city of Minneapolis and that's what I commit to do."

The case alleged police acted with "reckless disregard" for Floyd's civil rights.

On Thursday, the judge in the case against Chauvin added a charge of third-degree murder, increasing the likelihood of a conviction.

Prosecutors pushed for that option, [contends Fox News' Tucker Carlson](https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/tucker-carlson-george-floyd-death-what-media-didnt-tell-you), because body-cam video and a toxicology report counter the narrative that media and activists derived from the horrific viral video of Chauvin kneeling on Floyd's neck.

Long before a jury could consider the evidence, Floyd's death was turned into a race issue, sparking deadly and costly protests and rioting along with monumental societal changes.

Now, "mob justice," Carlson said on his show Wednesday, is threatening Chauvin's right to a fair trial, as activists stare down National Guard troops outside the courthouse and shut down streets, demanding "justice by any means necessary."

"In other words, if you vote to acquit Derek Chauvin, the mob is saying, the community will burn because we will burn it," Carlson said. "It’s like something from Mississippi in the 1920s. But where’s the Justice Department? Where’s the so-called Civil Rights Division to protect the civil rights of Derek Chauvin? Yes, even accused cops have the right to a fair trial. Your civil rights are not suspended when you’re accused. This is America."

[A USA Today/Ipsos poll published last week](https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/poll-36-believe-george-floyd-murdered-police-officer/) showed only 36% of Americans believe Floyd was murdered.

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office found Floyd suffered from heart disease and had three times the lethal dose of fentanyl in his system as well as methamphetamine.

While Floyd's lawyer admits the report is correct, he insists Floyd was killed "by racism," Carlson noted.

Carlson noted Floyd's death has transformed the nation. MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/minneapolis-agrees-pay-george-floyd-family-27-million/>

**Calling out the lies and errors in Biden's COVID speech**

***Joseph Farah inserts some reality into president's primetime pandemic address***

By [Joseph Farah](https://www.wnd.com/author/jfarah/) Published March 12, 2021 at 12:27am

"Good evening my fellow Americans. Tonight, I'd like to talk to you about where we are as we mark one year since everything stopped because of this pandemic."

Stop the tape! Everything did not stop because of this pandemic.

"A year ago, we were hit with a virus that was met with silence and spread unchecked, denials for days, weeks, then months."

Stop the tape! It was not met with silence nor spread unchecked (except in New York) nor denials for days, weeks, then months. What you left out was where it originated. Not with Donald Trump, but with China.

"That led to more deaths, more infections, more stress, and more loneliness. Photos and videos from 2019 feel like they were taken in another era. The last vacation, the last birthday with friends, the last holiday with extended family."

Stop the tape! Yes, it's terrible what China did to us. Why aren't you doing anything about it, as Donald Trump was doing?

"While it was different for everyone, we all lost something – a collective suffering, a collective sacrifice, a year filled with the loss of life and the loss of living for all of us. But in the loss, we saw how much there was to gain in appreciation, respect, and gratitude. Finding light in the darkness is a very American thing to do."

Stop the tape! I know what you lost: Your mind! You have done everything humanly possible to make it worse, including stealing the election.

"In fact, it may be the most American thing we do. And that's what we've done. We've seen frontline and essential workers risking their lives, sometimes losing them, to save and help others. Researchers and scientists racing for a vaccine. And so many of you, as Hemingway wrote, "Being strong in all the broken places.

"I know it's been hard. I truly know. As I've told you before, I carry a card in my pocket with the number of Americans who have died from COVID to date. It's on the back of my schedule. As of now, total deaths in America, 527,726. That's more deaths than in World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War and 9/11 combined.

"They were husbands, wives, sons and daughters, grandparents, friends, neighbors, young and old. They leave behind loved ones, unable to truly grieve or to heal, even to have a funeral. But I'm also thinking about everyone else who lost this past year to natural causes, by cruel fate of accident or other disease. They, too, died alone. They, too, leave behind loved ones who are hurting badly."

Stop the tape! "Young and old"? There weren't many young at all – which illustrates that the real reason you're not reopening schools is to provide an extended vacation for public school teachers. We know how much they mean to you!

"You know, you've often heard me say before, I talk about the longest walk any parent can make is up a short flight of stairs to his child's bedroom to say, I'm sorry, but I lost my job, I can't be here anymore. Like my dad told me when he lost his job in Scranton. So many of you have had to make that same walk this past year."

Stop the tape: Oh please. Not this yarn again. We're sick of hearing it.

"You lost your job, you closed your business, facing eviction, homelessness, hunger, a loss of control. Maybe worst of all a loss of hope. Watching a generation of children who may be set back up to a year or more because they've not been in school because of their loss of learning. It's the details of life that matter the most, and we miss those details, the big details and the small moments, weddings, birthdays, graduations, all of the things that needed to happen but didn't."

Stop the tape: Why were the children set back a year or more? You're right. You miss the details.

"The first date, the family reunions, the Sunday night rituals. It all has exacted a terrible cost on the psyche of so many of us. For we are fundamentally a people who want to be with others, to talk, to laugh, to hug, to hold one another. But this virus has kept us apart. Grandparents haven't seen their children or grandchildren. Parents haven't seen their kids. Kids haven't seen their friends."

Stop the tape: Yes, all these things made people depressed. There has been an epidemic of suicides as a result – among children! Who's to blame? You and your Democratic friends and the teachers unions.

"The things we used to do that always filled us with joy have become things we couldn't do and broke our hearts. Too often, we've turned against one another. A mask, the easiest thing to do to save lives, sometimes it divides us. States pitted against one another instead of working with each other. Vicious hate crimes against Asian Americans who have been attacked, harassed, blamed, and scapegoated.

"At this very moment, so many of them, our fellow Americans, they're on the front lines of this pandemic trying to save lives, and still, still, they are forced to live in fear for their lives, just walking down streets in America. It's wrong, it's un-American, and it must stop."

Stop the tape! Vicious hate cries against whom? Where did you get that? It's a lie. You mean Americans chased down Asian Americans because COVID was started in China? Please share the details of this fantasy.

"Look, we know what we need to do to beat this virus. Tell the truth. Follow the scientists and the science. Work together. Put trust and faith in our government to fulfill its most important function, which is protecting the American people. No function more important. We need to remember the government isn't some foreign force in a distant capital. No, it's us. All of us. We, the people."

Stop the tape: If telling the truth is the secret to beating the virus, why have you been lying about it? Put faith in *government?* Are you kidding? We're Americans.

"For you and I, that America thrives when we give our hearts, when we turn our hands to common purpose. And right now, my friends, we're doing just that. And I have to say, as your president, I am grateful to you. Last summer, I was in Philadelphia, and I met a small business owner, a woman. I asked her, I said, 'what do you need most?' I will never forget what she said to me. She said, looking me in the eye, and she said, 'I just want the truth. The truth. Just tell me the truth.'"

Stop the tape: She was telling you that you were lying, Joe.

"Think of that. My fellow Americans, you're owed nothing less than the truth. And for all of you asking when things will get back to normal, here is the truth. The only way to get our lives back, to get our economy back on track, is to beat the virus. You've been hearing me say that for – while I was running and the last 50 days I've been president. But this is one of the most complex operations we've ever undertaken as a nation in a long time."

Stop the tape: No, Joe, it's not the only way to get the economy back on track. Most people don't die from the virus. Let people work! They have a right to work. This is not so complex as you imagine. You've been a politician all your life.

"That's why I'm using every power I have as the president of the United States to put us on a war footing to get the job done. Sounds like hyperbole, but I mean it, a war footing. And thank God we're making some real progress now. In my first full day in office, I outlined for you a comprehensive strategy to beat this pandemic. We've spent every day since attempting to carry it out.

"Two months ago, the country – this country didn't have nearly enough vaccine supply to vaccinate all or anywhere near all of the American public, but soon we will. We've been working with vaccine manufacturers, Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, to manufacture and purchase hundreds of millions of doses of these three safe, effective vaccines."

Stop the tape! You're blaming Trump for not having vaccines? Are you crazy? We know what Trump did to get vaccines. He moved mountains. It was done in record time! You would still be fumbling around, blaming others.

"And now, at the direction and with the assistance of my administration, Johnson & Johnson is working together with a competitor, Merck, to speed up and increase the capacity to manufacture new Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which is one shot. In fact, just yesterday, I announced, and I met with the CEOs of both companies, I announced our plan to buy an additional 100 million doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

"These two companies, competitors, have come together for the good of the nation, and they should be applauded for it. It's truly a national effort, just like we saw during World War II. Now because all the work we've done, we'll have enough vaccine supply for all adults in America by the end of May. That's months ahead of schedule. And we're mobilizing thousands of vaccinators to put the vaccine in one's arm. Calling active duty military, FEMA, retired doctors and nurses, administrators, and those to administer the shots."

Stop the tape! Stop pretending you invented the vaccines. Ordering vaccines is not the same as getting it done in record time.

"And we've been creating more places to get the shots. We've made it possible for you to get a vaccine at nearly one – any one of 10,000 pharmacies across the country. Just like you get your flu shot. We're also working with governors and mayors in red states and blue states to set up and support nearly 600 federally supported vaccination centers that administrators hundreds of thousands of shots per day.

"You can drive up to a stadium or a large parking lot, get your shot, and never leave your car, and drive home in less than an hour. We've been sending vaccines to hundreds of community health centers all across America, located in underserved areas. And we've been deploying and we will deploy more mobile vehicles and pop-up clinics to meet you where you live so those who are the least able to get the vaccine are able to get it.

"We continue to work on making at-home testing available, and we've been focused on serving people in the hardest hit communities of this pandemic, Black, Latino, Native American, and rural communities. So what does all of this add up to? When I took office 50 days ago, only 8% of Americans after months, only 8% of those over the age of 65 had gotten their first vaccination. Today that number is 65%."

Stop the tape: Must everything be about race with you?

"Just 14% of Americans over the age of 75 – 50 days ago had gotten their first shot. Today, that number is well over 70%. With new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC, that came out on Monday, it means simply this. Millions and millions of grandparents who went months without being able to hug their grandkids can now do so and the more people who are fully vaccinated the CDC will provide additional guidance on what you can do in the workplace, places of worship with your friends as well as travel. When I came into office you may recall I set a goal that many of you said was kind of way over the top. I said I intended to get 100 million shots in people's arms in my first 100 days in office.

Stop the tape: The CDC will provide guidance on what? What you can do in the workplace? In places of worship? With your friends? As well as travel? This is the United States of America, Joe!

"Tonight, I can say we're not only going to meet that goal, we're going to beat that goal. Because we're actually on track to reach this goal of 100 million shots in arms on my 60th day in office. No other country in the world has done this, none. And I want to talk about the next steps we're thinking about.

"First, tonight, I'm announcing that I will direct all states, tribes, and territories to make all adults, people 18 and over, eligible to be vaccinated no later than May 1. Let me say that again. All adult Americans will be eligible to get a vaccine no later than May 1. That's much earlier than expected.

"And let me be clear. That doesn't mean everyone's going to have that shot immediately, but it means you'll be able to get in line beginning May 1. Every adult will be eligible to get their shot. And to do this, we're going to go from a million shots a day that I promised in December before I was sworn in, to maintaining, beating our current pace of 2 million shots a day, outpacing the rest of the world."

Stop the tape: That's terrific, Joe. For once you're looking out for Americans. You're putting them first. You'll need to do that if you keep waving in those foreigners with COVID by the hundreds.

"Secondly, at the time every adult is eligible in May we will launch with our partners new tools to make it easier for you to find the vaccine and where to get the shot including a new website that will help you first find the place to get vaccinated and the one nearest you. No more searching day and night for an appointment for you and your loved ones. Thirdly, with the passage of the American Rescue Plan, and I thank, again, the House and Senate for passing it, and my announcement last month of a plan to vaccinate teachers and school staff, including bus drivers, we can accelerate massive nationwide effort to reopen our schools safely. And meet my goal that I stated at the same time about 100 million shots of opening the majority of K-8 schools in my first 100 days in office. This is going to be the No. 1 priority of my new secretary of education, Miguel Cardona."

Stop the tape: Was that the American Rescue Plan that was full of pork and foreign aid? Was it the one that had only 9 percent for COVID relief?

"Fourth, in the coming weeks, we will issue further guidance on what you can and cannot do once fully vaccinated to lessen the confusion, to keep people safe, and encourage more people to get vaccinated. And, finally, fifth, and maybe most importantly, I promise I will do everything in my power. I will not relent until we beat this virus.

Stop the tape: There are 19 states already open. It's too late for you to tell people what they can and can't do – vaccinated or not.

"But I need you, the American people. I need you. I need every American to do their part. And that's not hyperbole. I need you. I need you to get vaccinated when it's your turn and when you can find an opportunity. And to help your family, your friends, your neighbors get vaccinated as well. Because here's the point.

"If we do all this, if we do our part, if we do this together, by July the 4th, there's a good chance you, your families and friends, will be able to get together in your backyard or in your neighborhood and have a cookout or a barbecue and celebrate Independence Day. That doesn't mean large events with lots of people together, but it does mean small groups will be able to get together."

Stop the tape: Daddy, you're going to let me see my friends on July 4? We can have a cookout, too? By golly. I bet suicides will be way down by then. But even then, it doesn't mean large events, huh?

"After this long hard year, that will make this Independence Day something truly special, where we not only mark our independence as a nation, but we begin to mark our independence from this virus.

"But to get there we can't let our guard down. This fight is far from over, as I told the woman in Pennsylvania, I will tell you the truth. On July 4, with your loved ones, is the goal. A lot can happen. Conditions can change. The scientists have made clear the things may get worse again, new variants of the virus spread, we have work to do to ensure everyone has confidence so our message is this. Listen to Dr. Fauci, one of the most distinguished and trusted voices in the world. He's assured us the vaccines are safe and went through a rigorous scientific review. I know they're safe. Vice President Harris and I know they're safe."

Stop the tape: Only a goal now? Haven't we heard this before? Wasn't Fauci the one who said we didn't need to wear masks? Then he told us we had to wear two? Didn't he also invest taxpayer money in the Chinese lab that came up with the virus?

"That's why we got the vaccine publicly in front of cameras for the world to see so you could see us do it. The first lady and second gentleman also got vaccinated. Talk to your family, friends, neighbors, the people you know best who have gotten the vaccine. We need everyone to get vaccinated. We need everyone to keep washing their hands, stay socially distanced and keep wearing the mask as recommended by the CDC. Even if we devote every resource we have beating this virus and getting back to normal depends on national unity. And national unity isn't just how politicians vote in Washington. What the loudest voices say on cable or online. Unity is what we do together as fellow Americans. Because if we don't stay vigilant and the conditions change and we may have to reinstate restrictions to get back on track, please, we don't want to do that again. We've made so much progress."

Stop the tape: "National unity isn't just how politicians vote in Washington?" What planet are you on?

"This is not the time to let up. Just as we were emerging from a dark winter into a hopeful spring and summer is not the time to not stick with the rules. I'll close with this, we've lost so much over the last year. We've lost family and friends. We've lost businesses and dreams we spent years building. We've lost time, time with each other. And our children have lost so much time with their friends, time with their schools.

"No graduation ceremonies this spring, no graduations from college or high school, moving up ceremonies. You know, and there's something else we lost. We lost faith in whether our government and our democracy can deliver on really hard things for the American people. But as I stand here tonight, we're proving once again something I've said time and time again, probably tired of hearing me say it."

Stop the tape: Joe, you think you've been an inspirational leader of some kind? This is your first speech in 50 days!

"I say it to foreign leaders and domestic alike. It's never, ever a good bet to bet against the American people. America is coming back. The development, manufacturing, and distribution of vaccines in record time is a true miracle of science. It's one of the most extraordinary achievements any country has ever accomplished. And we all just saw the Perseverance Rover land on Mars. Stunning images of our dreams that are now reality."

Stop the tape: Yes, Joe, and it was Donald Trump's triumph getting those vaccines out. YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

"Another example of the extraordinary American ingenuity, commitment, and belief in science and one another. And today, I signed into law the American Rescue Plan, an historic piece of legislation that delivers immediate relief to millions of people. It includes $1,400 in direct rescue checks, payments. That means a typical family of four earning about $110,000 will get checks for $5,600 deposited if they have direct deposit or in a check, a treasury check.

"It extends unemployment benefits. It helps small businesses. It lowers health care premiums for many. It provides food and nutrition and will cut child poverty in half according to the experts. It creates millions of jobs. In the coming weeks and months I'll be traveling along with the first lady, the vice president, the second gentleman and members of my cabinet to speak directly to you to tell you the truth about how the American rescue plan meets the moment, and if it fails, I will acknowledge that it failed but it will not. After long, dark years, one whole year there is light and hope of better days ahead if we all do our part. This country will be vaccinated soon. Our economy will be on the mend, our kids will be back in school.

Stop the tape: Oh please. "After long, dark years, one whole year there is light and hope of better days ahead if we all do our part." Good stuff, Joe. Did you write that?

"This country can do anything, hard things, big things, important things. Over a year ago no one could have imagined what we were about to go through. But now we're coming through it. And it's a shared experience that binds us together as a nation. We are bound together by the loss and the pain of the days that have gone by. We're also bound together by the hope and the possibilities of the days in front of us. My fervent prayer for our country after all we've been through will come together as one people, one nation, one America. I believe we can and we will. We're seizing this moment and history, I believe, will record, we faced and overcame one of the toughest and darkest periods in this nation's history. The darkest we've ever known. I promise you we'll come out stronger with a renewed faith in ourselves, a renewed commitment to one another to our communities and country.

"This is the United States of America and there's nothing, I believe this from the bottom of my heart, nothing we can't do when we do it together.

"God bless you all and please, God, give solace to all those people who lost someone. And may God protect our troops. Thank you for taking the time and listening. I look forward to seeing you."

Stop the tape: God help America survive the Biden presidency. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/calling-lies-errors-bidens-covid-speech/>

**Pelosi: 'Of Course' Republican Who Won Tight Race Could Be Removed**

[*Leah Barkoukis*](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/leahbarkoukis/) *Posted: Mar 12, 2021 5:55 AM*

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the possibility exists that Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, who narrowly defeated Democrat candidate Rita Hart, could be unseated.

According to the speaker, the Democratic-led House Administration Committee “is following the law” in reviewing the election, which Miller-Meeks won with just six votes.

The election results were certified by Iowa state officials and Miller-Meeks was provisionally sworn into Congress in January.

"Could you see a scenario? We don't do press conferences on 'can you see a scenario.' Of course! Of course!" Pelosi told reporters during a [press conference](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuTxfNEpmpc) on Thursday, referring to the possibility the Republican congresswoman could be forced out. "I respect the work of the committee. ... We'll see where that takes us. There could be a scenario to that extent."

A key House committee voted Wednesday to consider a challenge from the Democratic candidate in a contested race for a House seat in Iowa.

The House Administration Committee voted by a 6-3 margin to table Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks’s (R-Iowa) motion to dismiss an effort by Democrat Rita Hart to press the panel to consider the results in the 2020 race in Iowa’s 2nd Congressional District.

The panel will begin examining the merits of Hart’s argument that she should be placed in the House seat. ([The Hill](https://thehill.com/homenews/house/542568-house-committee-to-consider-democrat-challenge-to-results-in-iowa))

Hart has said she has evidence [22 legally cast votes](https://kwwl.com/2021/01/03/rita-hart-at-least-22-legally-cast-ballots-in-iowas-2nd-congressional-district-were-not-counted/) were left out of the counting process, 18 of which are for her.

“At least twenty-two Iowans’ legally-cast ballots still have not been counted due to a string of errors. We are glad to see the House Committee on Administration taking the next step towards ensuring that every legally-cast vote is counted in this race and that all Iowans’ voices are heard. Every legal voter in this country has a right to have their ballot counted and the remedy here is clear — count the ballots,” Hart said in a statement after the vote.

National Republican Congressional Committee spokesman Mike Berg blasted the Democrats’ “stunt.”

"Rita Hart and Speaker Pelosi are trying to subvert Democracy and I look forward to all Democrat members condemning this partisan stunt." he told Fox News. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/leahbarkoukis/2021/03/12/pelosi-of-course-dems-could-remove-republican-who-won-tight-race-n2586153> [Not only do the demon-rats steal elections but now they are attempting to nullify representatives they don’t like. If they state verified it then I guess as with “Bi-dumb” it must be true? More duplicitous garbage. - rdb]

**Dianne Feinstein Introduces Ban on 205 Different ‘Assault Weapons’**

[*Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images*](http://gettyimages.com)

[*AWR Hawkins*](https://www.breitbart.com/author/awr-hawkins/) 12 Mar 20211,961 2:30

Following Thursday’s House [passage](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/03/11/house-passes-democrat-bill-criminalizing-private-gun-sales/) of a Democrat gun control bill, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced a ban on 205 “assault weapons.”

The [legislation](https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/a/7/a77ca0d0-07b0-4cc1-8ce5-271997fe1947/063DD11B94F08E05113DFC5F9841B0C4.assault-weapons-ban-of-2021.pdf), called the “Assault Weapons Ban of 2021,” is co-sponsored by 34 Senate Democrats. It would also ban ammunition magazines holding more than ten rounds.

[Feinstein’s ban](https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ContentRecord_id=0763FFE7-8E3F-4F57-B1C7-E09E161C83D7) would allow current owners of “assault weapons” to retain possession of them, but if the gun is transferred, a person must undergo an FBI background check before receiving the firearm.

Her “Assault Weapons Ban” also [bans bump stocks](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2018/12/20/gun-rights-supporters-outraged-donald-trumps-bump-stock-ban/), which have been illegal since March 26, 2019.

Feinstein announced her ban stating:

It’s been 17 years since the original Assault Weapons Ban expired, and the plague of gun violence continues to grow in this country. To be clear, this bill saves lives. When it was in place from 1994-2004, gun massacres declined by 37 percent compared with the decade before. After the ban expired, the number of massacres rose by 183 percent.

In contrast, the Department of Justice’s National Institute of Justice (NIJ) [issued a report](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2018/02/19/flashback-national-institute-justice-federal-assault-weapon-ban-not-reduce-crime/) indicating the 1994 “assault weapons” ban did not reduce crime. MORE - <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/03/12/dianne-feinstein-introduces-ban-on-205-different-assault-weapons/> [Ban Feinstein instead. – rdb]

**Twitter using Section 230 immunity as defense in child-porn case**

***Sued for not responding to complaints of videos on platform***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published March 12, 2021 at 4:43pm*

A lawsuit in federal court in California alleges Twitter allowed child-porn videos and images to remain on its platform after receiving complaints, because the posts didn't "violate policies."

The social-media behemoth is trying to get out of the case entirely by relying on the immunity from libel litigation it is afforded from Section 230 of the federal Communications Decency Act, [reports the Red State Nation blog](https://redstatenation.com/new-court-documents-reveal-that-twitter-is-using-section-230-to-get-immunity-after-being-sued-for-refusing-to-take-down-child-porn-images/).

The law grants social-media platforms immunity because they are regarded as neutral platforms for the flow of information rather than publishers. However, many Congress members argue, Twitter essentially has acted as an editor by censoring or flagging as "false" certain controversial viewpoints.

Twitter allegedly refused requests to remove the pornograhic content, including of a 13-year-old who was tricked into sharing explicit videos and then blackmailed with them. The videos eventually were removed after an agent of the Department of Homeland Security intervened.

"Only after this take-down demand from a federal agent did Twitter suspend the user accounts that were distributing the CSAM and report the CSAM to the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children," the lawsuit said.

[The New York Post reported](https://nypost.com/2021/01/21/twitter-sued-for-allegedly-refusing-to-remove-child-porn/) the complaint alleges Twitter knowingly hosts people who use the platform to exchange child-porn material and profits from it through advertising.

The complaint in the Northern District of California was filed by the victim, whose name was not revealed, and his mother.

But now the Red State Nation report includes images of court filings in which Twitter claims it is protected from lawsuits under "CDA 230 immunity."Bottom of Form

The plaintiff, Twitter charges in the document, "does not adequately plead that Twitter knowingly and affirmatively participated in any sex trafficking venture."

Twitter's [motion to dismiss](https://www.scribd.com/document/498357883/Twitter-motion-to-dismiss) argued Section 230 gives platforms immunity for the failure to remove "offensive third-party content."

The company conceded that there was damage but denies any responsibility.

"Plaintiff John Doe appears to have suffered appallingly at the hands of unknown individuals, who tricked and manipulated him into making and sharing explicit pictures and videos of himself and another individual in 2017, when he was a minor. But this case ultimately does not seek to hold those perpetrators accountable for the suffering they inflicted on plaintiff," Twitter said.

"Rather, this case seeks to hold Twitter liable because a compilation of that explicit video content was … years later – posted by others on Twitter's platform and although Twitter did remove the content, it allegedly did not act quickly enough."

Twitter claimed its "mistakes or delays" don't make it "a knowing particpant in a sex trafficking venture."

The company claimed it has "zero tolerance" for such material but admitted it had to take action against nearly 440,000 accounts in only six months of 2020.

And the company contended "it is simply not possible" to remove all offensive content immediately.

Congress gave it "broad immunity from legal claims arising out of failure to remove content."

Twitter claimed that an exception to the immunity, for sites that post sex-trafficking material, doesn't apply, because Twitter didn't know the boy "was a victim of sex trafficking."

The Red State Nation report noted the videos were reported to Twitter "at least three times," but the company declined to take action until federal agents were involved.

The victim was 13 and 14 when he "was manipulated" into sending images to human traffickers "who pretended to be a 16-year-old girl who went to his school."

He then was blackmailed into sending more.

Eventually, he blocked the traffickers, but in 2019, the videos reappeared on two accounts "known to share child sexual abuse material."

[The motion is posted here.](https://www.scribd.com/document/498357883/Twitter-motion-to-dismiss)

Twitter's response to one complaint about the videos was: "Thanks for reaching out. We’ve reviewed the content, and didn’t find a violation of our policies, so no action will be taken at this time."

The company then recommended reviewing the possibility of a "copyright infringement."

The teen told the company: "What do you mean you don’t see a problem? We both are minors right now and were minors at the time these videos were taken. We both were 13 years of age. We were baited, harassed, and threatened to take these videos that are now being posted without our permission. We did not authorize these videos AT ALL and they need to be taken down." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/twitter-using-section-230-immunity-defense-child-porn-case/> [Those scumbags need to be shut down and bankrupted. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**Biden Unveils Policy Honoring Osama bin Laden’s Old Friend**

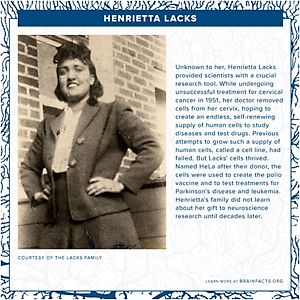
[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*March 11, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/03/biden-unveils-policy-honoring-osama-bin.html)

Secretary of State Antony Blinken began his confirmation hearing by reciting a family history of antisemitism. A month later he unveiled a ban named in the memory of an antisemite.  
 “Jamal Khashoggi paid with his life to express his beliefs,” Blinken claimed.

Those beliefs that Khashoggi gave his life for included [his contention](https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/The-antisemitic-tweets-of-murdered-Saudi-writer-Jamal-Khashoggi-586820) that the Protocols of the Elders of Zion were real, and that Jews were deceivers with no connection to Israel. It also included the Muslim Brotherhood member’s support for the Hamas war against Israel.  
 Last October, Biden falsely claimed that the world was “mourning Khashoggi’s death and echoing his call for people everywhere to exercise their universal rights in freedom.”  
 Jamal Khashoggi didn’t believe in universal rights or freedom. He believed in the absolute supremacy of Islam. He died in the service of two Islamist regimes, Qatar and Turkey, that have built their foreign policy around supporting Islamist terror and the suppression of human rights.  
 In conversations with American diplomats, he claimed that most Saudis supported Osama bin Laden because they hated America, and came out against education for women.  
 Osama bin Laden, Khashoggi’s old friend, also “paid with his life” for some similar beliefs.  
 Blinken's remarks on what he and the Biden administration have dubbed the 'Khashoggi Ban" targeting some of the Qatari agent’s alleged killers, called him a journalist, while neglecting to mention that Khashoggi got his start in ‘journalism’ through Adel Batterjee, whom the Treasury Department had at one time listed as one of “the world’s foremost terrorist financiers”.  
 In Afghanistan, Khashoggi churned out Jihadist propaganda with titles like “Arab Mujahadeen in Afghanistan II: Exemplifies the Unity of Islamic Ummah”, “Arab Youths Fight Shoulder to Shoulder with Mujahadeen" and "Arab Veterans of Afghanistan Lead New Islamic Holy War".  
 Who were these Arab youths?  
 “Khashoggi showed me a photo published in the English language paper Arab News, in 1988. It depicted him inside Afghanistan, standing with a tall, young, Kalashnikov-wielding Saudi named Usama Bin Laden,” Barnett Rubin wrote in Afghanistan from the Cold War through the War on Terror.  
 That wasn’t accidental. Jamal Khashoggi and Osama bin Laden were good friends.  
 “We were hoping to establish an Islamic state anywhere,” Khashoggi reminisced about their time together in the Muslim Brotherhood. “We believed that the first one would lead to another, and that would have a domino effect which could reverse the history of mankind.”  
 That came from Lawrence Wright’s epochal book, The Looming Tower. In Thomas Hegghammer's Jihad in Saudi Arabia, he noted that, "Bin Ladin and Azzam actively encouraged and facilitated the visit of Saudi journalists such as Jamal Khashoggi to Afghanistan."  
 That’s a reference to Abdullah Azzam, a founder of Al Qaeda, known also as the Father of the Global Jihad. In Peter Bergen's, The Osama Bin Laden I Know, Khashoggi describes becoming an "activist" in "political Islam", meeting Azzam, and having Osama bin Laden invite him to Afghanistan.  
 Osama bin Laden, Khashoggi wrote, "decided to contribute his experience and capabilities to the Mujhadeen". He glorifies Osama, quoting his boasts and praises, and contacts his mother.  
 The media knew all along who and what Jamal Khashoggi was. He made no real secret of it. The leading journalists writing about the origins of Al Qaeda invariably brushed up against Khashoggi, often using him as a source because of his ties to Osama bin Laden.  
 The reinvention of Khashoggi into the Horst Wessel of the Democrat foreign policy establishment didn’t happen because the media didn’t know his track record.  
 Jamal Khashoggi was a member of the violently antisemitic Muslim Brotherhood, who at the time of his death was planting columns from Qatar, a state sponsor of the Brotherhood, in the Washington Post. Now, Khashoggi is the subject of his very own government policy.  
 That policy comes courtesy of the Biden administration.  
 In October, Biden had claimed that, “Jamal’s death will not be in vain, and we owe it to his memory to fight for a more just and free world.” A just and free world is the last thing that Khashoggi would have wanted. But Biden is fighting for the kind of world he did want.  
 The Biden administration picked Iran over the Saudis in Yemen, he picked the old Saudi establishment that Khashoggi was associated with over its reformist crown prince who had favored rights for women, and he’s moving to pressure Egypt over the Muslim Brotherhood.  
 Much as Blinken monetized a family history of antisemitism in support of an antisemite.  
 These policies that will deprive millions of human rights are being done in the name of human rights even if it’s only the human rights of Osama bin Laden’s old friend who has since gone to join him in whatever Islamic paradise of virgins that Jihadists believe awaits them in the afterlife .  
 While the Biden administration erects its Khashoggi Ban, it’s working to tear down the Taylor Force Act. Unlike the Khashoggi Ban, [the Taylor Force Act](https://archives.frontpagemag.com/fpm/how-us-taxpayers-funded-murder-iraq-vet-israel-daniel-greenfield/) was passed by Congress.  
 Taylor Force [had been](https://archives.frontpagemag.com/fpm/how-us-taxpayers-funded-murder-iraq-vet-israel-daniel-greenfield/) deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and had served at Fort Hood in the year of the infamous Islamic terrorist attack on the base, but was killed in Israel as a civilian.  
 The American veteran was [murdered by](https://archives.frontpagemag.com/fpm/our-taxpayer-funded-palestinian-saddam-daniel-greenfield/) Bashar Masalha, an Islamic terrorist who received a hero’s funeral and was praised by the Palestinian Authority.  
 “The Martyr Bashar Masalha returned from Qalqilya to his village Hajja in a procession,” PA TV gushed, describing the burial of a terrorist who had murdered an American as a “national wedding” in which he was “embraced by the soil of his homeland as a Martyr.”  
 In response to the Palestinian Authority’s refusal to stop funding terrorism, the Taylor Force Act attempted to cut off foreign aid to the terrorist entity. While the Trump administration took the Taylor Force Act and other laws preventing the government from funding Islamic terrorists, the Biden administration is working to bypass it and send money to the terrorists killing Jews.  
 Secretary of State Blinken, fresh from describing the travails of his ancestors who suffered pogroms and genocide, would like to go back to paying Islamic terrorists to kill Jews.  
 And Americans in general, like Taylor Force.  
 Meanwhile, the Khashoggi Ban will make Osama bin Laden’s friend an official martyr, not of Al Qaeda, but of the Biden administration.

*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/)*.*

*Click*[*here to subscribe*](http://sultanknish.blogspot.com/2005/03/blogging-hara.html)*to my articles.* <http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/03/biden-unveils-policy-honoring-osama-bin.html>

**Blood Money, Experimentation For Profit***By* [*Kelleigh Nelson*](https://newswithviews.com/author/kelleigh/)*|March 12th, 2021  
 The concentration camps were a laboratory for the Nazis. They put the minorities and intellectuals in there because the general population wouldn’t mind losing those people. The Nazi leaders knew people needed targets for their own self-hatred. —Wendy Hoffman, Survivor of Criminal Abuse*  
 *We slow the progress of science today for all sorts of ethical reasons. Biomedicine could advance much faster if we abolished our rules on human experimentation in clinical trials, as Nazi researchers did. —Paul Nitze, served under Truman, Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson*  
 The above quote by Nitze is the reality of how the government and medical scientists think of American citizens…we are cash cows to be used and disposed of for their own experiments.  Joseph Mengele, the Angel of Death, would be proud.  
 In 1951, I was sitting on the kitchen table in our apartment in Chicago swinging my legs as little girls will do.  My mom was reading the very conservative Chicago Tribune newspaper, and often would read aloud to me as a child.  I distinctly remember her reading an article that stated the federal government had sprayed a flu virus over the Rogers Park area of Chicago to see how the contamination worked on the population.  It was a very small article in the back pages, and I remember my mother’s anger at reading it.  I believe Americans have been experimented on by our government, for many, many decades, and I also believed it would get far worse with Obamacare and it has.  
**The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks**  
 In 1951, a 31-year-old woman and mother of five by the name of Henrietta Lacks, died of cervical cancer in Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.  Without her or her family’s permission, portions of her cancer cells were taken by her doctor prior to her treatment, as well as after her death and during autopsy.   Throughout our history, the poorer citizens, many of whom were black, were especially targeted for experimentation.  Henrietta had two of the most virulent strains of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) that cause cervical cancer.  There are over 100 different strains affecting 90% of today’s sexually active population.  Henrietta’s family did not learn of her cells being taken until over 20 years after her death.  
Unlike normal cells which are extremely difficult to grow, the cancer cells from Henrietta grew exponentially.  They are called the HeLa cell line, the first two letters from the patient’s name were used for cell lines back then.  Henrietta’s cells have helped to conquer various illnesses with new drugs, helped create the polio vaccine, uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effect, and have been bought and sold by the billions.  There are so many of them now that they would wrap around the earth three times.  They also easily contaminate other cell lines so their use is now in a sterile and controlled environment.  
 Henrietta’s family has never received one dime from any laboratory or Johns Hopkins in all the years since her death despite the fact that her cells were taken without the family’s knowledge, until now…  
 In 2013, the National Institute of Health announced it was, at long last, [making good with Lacks’ family](https://www.nbcnews.com/healthmain/nih-finally-makes-good-henrietta-lacks-family-its-about-time-6C10867941). Under a new agreement, Lack’s genome data will be accessible only to those who apply for and are granted permission. And two representatives of the Lacks family will serve on the NIH group responsible for reviewing biomedical researchers’ applications for controlled access to HeLa cells. Additionally, any researcher who uses that data will be asked to include an acknowledgement to the Lacks family in their publications.  And in 2020, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute gave a six-figure donation as [reparations to the Lacks family](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03042-5).  
 There are still no laws on the books stating that any piece of your body that is removed cannot be used without your express permission.  Today, labs sell countless biopsies for various uses in cell line cultures, but there is no benefit to the patient.  
 Back in 1954, Dr. Chester Southam, a cancer researcher and chief of virology at Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute had a frightening thought.  What if the researchers working with HeLa cells could be infected?  He and many other scientists believed that cancer was caused by either a virus or an immune system deficiency, so Southam decided to use HeLa to test those theories.  
 He loaded a syringe with saline solution mixed with HeLa.  He injected millions of HeLa cells into the forearm of a leukemia patient telling her he was testing her immune system.  Within a short period of time, nodules like Henrietta’s showed on the arm.  He removed them.  He injected several other patients who had cancers to see whether or not their own immune system would fight them off.  In many cases they did, but in four they had to be removed but kept growing back, and in one they metastasized to her lymph nodes.  
 Southam continued injecting patients at Sloan-Kettering and James Ewing Hospitals.  It wasn’t until three Jewish doctors refused to do Southam’s protocols, citing the [Nuremburg Code](https://www.ushmm.org/information/exhibitions/online-exhibitions/special-focus/doctors-trial/nuremberg-code), that the experiments were halted.  In the ensuing media mess and trial, Southam nearly lost his medical license, and the wars about patient consent began.  
 Southam went on to solicit prisoners in Ohio State Penitentiary in order to inject healthy patients with HeLa.  As Rebecca Skloot, the author of, “[The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks](https://www.amazon.com/Immortal-Life-Henrietta-Lacks/dp/1400052181/ref=sr_1_1?crid=KLW757SX5AJC&dchild=1&keywords=the+immortal+life+of+henrietta+lacks+by+rebecca+skloot&qid=1615336802&sprefix=the+immortal+life+of+henrie%2Caps%2C228&sr=8-1)” states, his tactics reminded her of Dr. Josef Mengele, the notorious “Angel of Death,” in Nazi Germany who conducted horrid experiments on prisoners and especially twins.  
 You can even order Henrietta’s cells on the web today, and we still have no proper laws governing parts of our bodies that are excised and discarded, but are not put in the biohazard garbage!  
**The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment**  
 At the White House on May 16, 1997, President Clinton addressed five elderly African American men, ages 89 to 109, and the family members of others that couldn’t be present.  He apologized for one of the most shameful episodes in U.S. medical history.  In 1932, the government used 623 men as human guinea pigs in a 40-year medical experiment.  This, in itself, is bad enough, but for 40 years these black men, predominately poor and uneducated, were deliberately kept in the dark about what was happening to them.  This “experiment” continued for 20 years after the Nuremburg trials and the set of standards that came out of the trials called the Nuremburg codes.  The civilized world agreed that human beings would not be used as research animals and that doctors would never forget their first duty to heal their patients.  
 The United States Public Health Service (PHS) conducted this experiment (now the CDC). More than half of the 623 men had syphilis, the others, a control group, did not.  They were told they were being treated for “Bad Blood.”  The men were told they’d get free lunches, free medical care, free burial and 100 dollars. That may sound odd, but at the time burial money and free medical care were coveted.  Despite the development of penicillin in the early 40’s and the availability of it by 1944, the men were never treated.  In actuality, the “experiment” was to see what illnesses developed and how long it took the men to die.  [Here](https://www.cdc.gov/tuskegee/timeline.htm) is the timeline.  
 By the end, in 1972, 28 of the men had died of syphilis, 100 were dead of related complications, 40 of their wives had been infected, and 19 of their children had been born with congenital syphilis.  At first, they were given the choice of the medicine of that day to treat syphilis, but in such small amounts that only 3% showed any improvement.  To ensure the men would show up for potentially dangerous spinal taps, the PHS doctors misled them with a letter full of promotional hype…their “last chance for special free treatment.”  The men were also never told their bodies would be required for autopsy.  Even the Surgeon General of the U.S. participated in enticing the men to remain in the experiment by sending them certificates of appreciation after 25 years in the study.  
 To read about this experiment on poor uneducated blacks in our country is to become outraged at the cruelty and the inhuman tactics, not to mention the fact that they purposely lied to these men as though their lives were less important than anyone else’s life…i.e., white men.  Yet, the times were quite different, and even after the experiment, many within the medical community felt absolutely no regret.  And, what did the “experiment” succeed in doing?  
 On July 27, 1972, one survivor, Charlie Pollard went to see attorney Fred D. Gray who became the attorney for the plaintiffs in what became known as Pollard vs. United States of America, a $1.8 billion class action civil suit filed in federal court in Montgomery, Alabama.  Gray demanded $3 million in damages for each living participant and the heirs of the deceased.  The case never went to trial and was settled out of court in December, 1974.  The government agreed to a $10 million out-of-court settlement.  Sadly, the living participants received $37,500 in damages, the heirs of the deceased, $15,000.  Gray received nearly $1 million in legal fees for two years of hard work.  No PHS officer who had been directly involved in the study felt any contrition.  
 While working as a producer for the Roger Fredinburg show some years back, we interviewed attorney Fred D. Gray.  I will never forget what he said when we were told the small number of awards from the lawsuit.  He said, “How can you expect to get a fair settlement when the judge hearing the case works for the people you’re suing?”  
 In 1990, a survey found that 10% of black Americans believed the U.S. government created AIDS as a plot to exterminate blacks and another 20% could not rule out the possibility that this might be true.  Is it any wonder after the government’s experiment at Tuskegee?  
 President Clinton nominated Dr. Henry W. Foster for Surgeon General in 1995.  The mainstream media reported that Dr. Foster, an ob/gyn was present at a meeting in 1969 in which a small number of local doctors were informed of the infamous Tuskegee experiment.  
 Dr. Luther C. McRae said in an interview that Dr. Foster learned some details of the experiment at the 1969 meeting. Dr. McRae said that like all the doctors present that day, including himself, Dr. Foster did not express any moral qualms about the study. At the time, Dr. Foster was chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Tuskegee University.  He did not become surgeon general because of this fact.  
**Medical Apartheid**  
 The experiments on black Americans began in the early days of our Republic and by the time of the War of Northern Aggression, blacks were being used, almost exclusively for experimental surgeries, and it was never consensual, but rather to expand medical knowledge.  
 One surgeon from Alabama, James Marion Sims, did all his experimentation with his slaves.  He took the skulls of young black children (only blacks) and opened their heads and moved the bones around.  He even decided to remove the jawbone of a slave who protested loudly, so the doctor had him tied to a barber’s chair and operated on him without anesthesia.  
 There have been many stellar physicians and surgeons throughout American history who have never suffered any consequences for their experiments and surgeries on people without their permission.  
 Prison experiments have been off limits for a number of years, but a federal panel is now considering loosening the regulations around prisoner experiments.  The history of research in prisons has been the worst of abuses.  There were experimental agents administered, men were crippled and killed.  There were even mind control experiments.  
 In Holmesburg Prison in Philadelphia, prisoners there were injected with Staphylococcus and Monilia, herpes, and other viruses.  Dr. Kligman was in charge and he injected men at the behest of pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies with dangerous chemicals.  These men had a type of checkerboard on their backs where different chemicals were tested.  Dr. Kligman has never been successfully sued, but rather honored.  
 Another Mississippi neurosurgeon, Orlando J. Andy, was doing experimentation in the 1960’s and 70’s.  He was taking institutionalized young black boys and cutting out parts of their brain.  His rationale was to find “behavior problems,” but there’s no psychologist report.  And he was not a psychologist, but a neurologist.  Also, there was no indication any of them had behavioral problems.   The University of Mississippi is very proud of their revered hero, Dr. Andy.  His medical literature never shows that he did anything untoward.  
 There are countless horror stories of experiments on black Americans from the beginning of our Republic, but there are also countless experiments that are done on the general population of America.  I’m not talking about conspiracy theories; I’m talking about documented proof of government experiments on the general population.  
 The SV-40 monkey virus contamination of the polio vaccines, the plutonium experiments during the cold war on military and others, and the fluoride deception perpetrated by the majority of towns and cities of America, are only a few of the horrors perpetrated on American citizens.  
 The US governments [secret history of grisly experiments](https://www.rcreader.com/news-releases/us-government%E2%80%99s-secret-history-grisly-experiments) on both animals and humans remains hidden from most citizens.  
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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Government approves: Jordanian foreign workers will enter Eilat**

***Government approves Ministry of Health's proposal to allow the entry of Jordanian foreign workers for the hotel industry in Eilat.***

*Arutz Sheva North America Staff , Mar 12 , 2021 8:18 PM*

The government approved on Friday, before the start of Shabbat, the proposal of the Ministry of Health to allow the entry of about 700 Jordanian foreign workers for work at the hotel industry in Eilat.

The workers will enter from the Arava crossing on a date to be determined by the Minister of the Interior. Every employee will have to undergo a coronavirus test upon entry. They will then go into isolation, under the responsibility of the hotels, in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health.

Diplomatic representatives will also be allowed to pass through the land border crossings - Taba and the Jordan River.

Anyone who exits through the Taba crossing for humanitarian or vital needs will also be able to return through it.

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298396>

**White House national security adviser: US and Iran holding indirect diplomacy**

***White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan reveals the US and Iran have begun indirect diplomacy on 2015 Iran deal.***

*Elad Benari, Canada , Mar 12 , 2021 10:54 PM*

The United States and Iran have begun indirect diplomacy with Europeans and others regarding the 2015 nuclear deal, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan revealed on Friday. "Diplomacy with Iran is ongoing, just not in a direct fashion at the moment," he told reporters, according to *Reuters*.

"There are communications through the Europeans and through others that enable us to explain to the Iranians what our position is with respect to the compliance for compliance approach and to hear what their position is," Sullivan added.

Iran [has gradually scaled back](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/264672) its compliance with the 2015 deal in response to former US President Donald Trump’s [withdrawal from the agreement](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/245626) in May of 2018.

President Joe Biden has expressed a desire to return to the deal but has stressed that Iran must resume compliance with it before any negotiations on a US return to the agreement.

The new administration of US President Joe Biden has rejected giving Tehran unilateral incentives to begin talks but has held out the possibility of both sides taking reciprocal steps to resume implementing the deal, an approach Washington calls "compliance for compliance."

On Thursday, State [Department spokesman Ned Price reiterated](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298366) that Washington will not offer Iran unilateral incentives to persuade it to attend talks about both sides resuming compliance with the 2015 deal.

"We are waiting at this point to hear further from the Iranians how they would like to proceed," Sullivan said on Friday. "This is not going to be easy but we believe that we are in a diplomatic process now that we can move forward on and ultimately secure our objective, which is to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and to do so through diplomacy."

The US [recently accepted](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297158) Europe's offer to mediate conversations with Iran regarding the 2015 nuclear deal.

Iran, however, [rejected the proposal](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297673), claiming that the “time was not right” to hold such talks. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298400>

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