**04/16/2021 NEWS AM**

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| **Israel: A Land of Living Prophecy**  [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAAHvQTXK3E&t=1s**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAAHvQTXK3E&t=1s) |

**מידד טסה - כל יכול | Meydad Tasa - Kol Yachol**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hTpwhUqTOQ**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hTpwhUqTOQ)

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| Sometimes I do not know what to choose  Sometimes I feel like falling into an abyss  Sometimes you look at me  And sometimes it seems to me that I am  In reality as in a dream  Sometimes I do not know what to feel  This world is so exhausting  Give me just one more sign to understand the world  This one will not fall I will not give up I will not give up  refrain  Or ... Almighty Father and ...  Or ... get me out of everything  Or ... you're such a great dad  And only you can understand me | And now I understand that it all depends only on me  And between the tears you tell me  If I am not for myself, who  But Dad just give me a hand  Give me light and I will return too  Let me feel your hand inside my hand  refrain  Dad can understand ...  I believe in you ... |

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| **"The justification and the purpose of freedom of speech is not to indulge those who want to speak their minds. It is to prevent error and discover truth. There may be other ways of detecting error and discovering truth than that of free discussion, but so far we have not found them." -- Henry Steele Commager (1902-1998) Historian and author** |

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

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

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for AS – post knee replacement – some problems and another one scheduled.**  **Pray for TR – abnormal Mammogram having double biopsy – Mastectomy Scheduled**  **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 25:6And to the sons of the concubines who were to Abraham, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away eastward, from his son Isaac, while still alive to an eastern land. 7And these *are* the days of the years of the life of Abraham, which he lived, one hundred seventy five years. 8And Abraham expired and died in a good old age, aged and satisfied, and was gathered to his people. 9And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him at the cave of Machpelah, at the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite which *is* before Mamre, 10the field which Abraham bought from the sons of Heth. Abraham and his wife Sarah were buried there.**

**Israel strikes Hamas targets after Gaza rocket fire**

***IDF says military aircraft hit sites linked to the Strip’s terrorist rulers, including an armaments production facility and a smuggling tunnel***

*By* [*Alexander Fulbright*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/alexander-fulbright/) *and* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 2:18 am*

The Israeli military struck targets in the Gaza Strip early Friday, hours after Palestinian terrorists in the coastal enclave fired a rocket at southern Israel.

An Israel Defense Forces statement said fighter jets and other aircraft hit a number of sites linked Hamas, the Islamist terror organization that rules Gaza. The targets included an armaments production facility, a tunnel for smuggling weaponry and a Hamas military post, according to the IDF.

“The attack was carried out as a response to the rocket fire from the Gaza Strip toward Israeli territory earlier this evening,” the statement said.

The military did not specifically blame Hamas for Thursday evening’s rocket fire, but Israel has stressed it holds the terror group responsible for all violence emanating from Gaza.

The rocket, which was fired as Independence Day came to an end, struck a field northeast of Gaza, causing neither injury nor damage. The rocket attack triggered sirens in the town of Sderot and the nearby communities of Nir Am and Ibim. The attack came amid a general lull in violence from the Gaza Strip in recent months, amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

Last month, a rocket was fired toward Beersheba as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a campaign stop in the southern city ahead of the March 23 elections. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-strikes-hamas-targets-after-gaza-rocket-fire/>

**After last year’s lockdown, Israelis back at parks to celebrate Independence Day**

***With most restrictions lifted, majority-vaccinated country’s citizens able to enjoy holiday at sites nationwide, some of which are forced to stop accepting visitors due to overflow***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:31 pm*

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| An Israeli barbecues at Sacher Park in Jerusalem on Independence Day on April 15, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)  An Israeli barbecues at Sacher Park in Jerusalem on Independence Day on April 15, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90 | An Israeli celebrates Israel's 73rd Independence Day at Sacher Park in Jerusalem, April 15, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)  An Israeli celebrates Israel's 73rd Independence Day at Sacher Park in Jerusalem, April 15, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90) |
| Israelis enjoy the Independence Day flyover at the Tel Aviv beach on April 15, 2021. (Miriam Alster/Flash90)  Israelis enjoy the Independence Day flyover at the Tel Aviv beach on April 15, 2021. (Miriam Alster/Flash90) | People celebrating Israel's 73rd Independence Day at Sacher Park in Jerusalem, April 15, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)  People celebrating Israel's 73rd Independence Day at Sacher Park in Jerusalem, April 15, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90) |



Israelis enjoy the Independence Day flyover at Jerusalem's Sacher Park on April 15, 2021. (Miriam Alster/Flash90)

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis flocked to beaches and parks across the country Thursday, barbecuing, waving flags and craning their necks for a glimpse of the Air Force fighter jets’ flyby to mark the country’s 73rd Independence Day.

While most wore face coverings or had masks strapped around their chins, the scenes looked nearly identical to those from the pre-coronavirus era. After an early wave of the pandemic tamed celebrations significantly last year, Israelis were allowed to celebrate freely this year, with restrictions drawn back almost entirely.

As a result, families flocked to national parks and beaches, filling many to full capacity. The Israel Nature and Parks Authority issued a statement early Thursday afternoon urging civilians to avoid traveling to the Tel Ashkelon National Park in the coming hours due to overcrowding.

The Tze’elon, Shikmim and Amnon beaches at the Sea of Galilee were also shuttered to additional visitors after reaching full capacity, the parks authority said.

Meanwhile, Israeli Air Force planes jetted across the country to mark the occasion. The flyover, a popular and iconic feature of Independence Day celebrations, is passing over more cities and towns than usual this year in what the Israel Defense Forces has called a “[salute](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-air-forces-independence-day-flyover-returns-after-pandemic-break/)” to all Israeli citizens.

Last year, during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the flyby saluted medical staff over the nation’s hospitals.

מטוסי חיל האוויר במופע אווירובטי בשמי תל אביב[@YoavBorowitz](https://twitter.com/YoavBorowitz?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/pERvSgSrdb](https://t.co/pERvSgSrdb)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [April 15, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1382621114279546880?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Other official Independence Day events scheduled for Thursday included the International Bible Contest in the morning and the Israel Prize ceremony, which will be held at 6:30 p.m.

 Israelis also traditionally celebrate the holiday with private gatherings that often include outdoor cookouts.

Municipalities are permitted to hold Independence Day celebrations for the vaccinated. In locales with limited risk of infection, depending on the size of the venue, up to 3,000 vaccinated people are allowed to gather indoors and 5,000 outdoors.

Israelis enjoy the Independence Day flyover at the Tel Aviv beach on April 15, 2021. (Miriam Alster/Flash90)

Independence Day [began Wednesday evening](https://www.timesofisrael.com/memorial-day-sorrow-fades-into-joy-as-israel-ushers-in-73rd-independence-day/) as Memorial Day came to an end, with the annual state ceremony at Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

The juxtaposition of the two days is a key element of Israelis’ experience of national independence, ensuring that no commemoration completely excludes the achievement wrought by the sacrifice of the fallen and their families, and that the elation of independence is never far removed from an awareness of its cost.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-last-years-lockdown-israelis-back-at-parks-to-celebrate-independence-day/>

**Haredi teens said to burn wreaths on troops’ graves, PM blasts ‘barbaric’ act**

***Perpetrators steal and set alight flags and garlands following Israel’s Memorial Day; police open probe as Netanyahu decries ‘horrifying’ act, IDF chief calls it ‘disgusting’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 4:08 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/Screenshot-2021-04-15-at-13.20.55.png)

Wreaths and flags that were on IDF soldiers graves for Memorial Day are seen consumed by flames on 14 April, 2021. (Screen capture: Kan News/ Twitter)

Ultra-Orthodox youth allegedly burned flags and floral wreaths left on fallen IDF soldiers’ graves during Memorial Day, drawing widespread fury and condemnation on Thursday.

Jerusalem police opened an investigation into the incident in an attempt to locate the individuals who stole and later burned flags and flowers from the Har Hamenuhot cemetery.

The wreaths and flags had been placed on soldiers’ graves to honor them on Memorial Day on Wednesday, before being stolen overnight.

According to information gathered by the police, young members of the ultra-Orthodox community removed the items from the graves and took them to the Jerusalem neighborhood of Mea Shearim. There, they set the flags and wreaths on fire and filmed them burning, according to Hebrew media.

המשטרה פתחה בחקירה בעקבות פרסום סרטון, ובו רואים שריפת זרים על קברי חללים בירושלים[@uriyaelk](https://twitter.com/uriyaelk?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)   
(צילום: ישראל קרויס) [pic.twitter.com/VvWwnflSKH](https://t.co/VvWwnflSKH)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [April 15, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1382620848780115970?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the act in a statement, saying: “A horrifying act has been carried out to desecrate fallen soldiers, who are the reason why we are all here.”

“I strongly condemn this barbaric act and I expect the relevant authorities to bring those responsible to justice as soon as possible,” the premier added.

MK Ya’akov Asher of the United Torah Judaism party called the perpetrators “heartless and attention-seeking provocateurs.” “[They] are doing whatever they can to try and create friction and provocative tensions against the general public in this country.” “Their harmful actions, worthy of all condemnation, have long deprived them of the title ‘Haredim.’ They do not deserve it,” said Asher.

IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi decried the “serious and shameful incident, which insults the defenders of the state and its values. “The IDF supports the bereaved families and condemns this disgusting and contemptuous behavior, and it is certain that the Israel Police will bring the perpetrators of the criminal act to justice.”

Israel commemorated 23,928 fallen soldiers and terror victims on Wednesday, including 43 soldiers and civilians killed since last year’s Memorial Day.

 This year saw the return of Israelis to the country’s 52 military cemeteries and hundreds of smaller military sections of civilian cemeteries nationwide, after they were closed during last year’s commemorations due to coronavirus restrictions.

Israeli soldiers visit graves of fallen soldiers in Mount Herzl Military Cemetery in Jerusalem, on April 13, 2021, ahead of Israeli Memorial Day, which begins tonight. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Since last Memorial Day, 112 new names were added to the roster of those who have died defending the country or in terror attacks since 1860. Forty-three were IDF soldiers, police officers, and civilians, and 69 were disabled veterans who passed away due to complications of injuries sustained during their service.

Memorial Day is one of Israel’s few national non-religious holidays, during which large swaths of the Israeli public typically visit the graves of loved ones and comrades. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/haredi-teens-said-to-burn-wreaths-on-troops-graves-pm-blasts-barbaric-act/>

**Israelis no longer required to wear masks outside starting Sunday, as COVID ebbs**

***As Independence Day comes to an end, health minister’s announcement of latest milestone in beating back the pandemic gives country another cause to celebrate***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:18 pm*

In a further sign that Israel is beating back the COVID-19 pandemic, Health Minister Yuli Edelstein declared Thursday that starting on Sunday, Israelis will no longer be required to wear masks while outside. [They probably shouldln’t have been wearing them outside anyway unless they were in a big crowd. -rdb]

In a statement as the country’s Independence Day celebrations were coming to an end, Edelstein said he had instructed ministry director-general Chezy Levy to sign a decree ending the health regulation as of Sunday, after consulting with ministry professionals

Masks will still be required in closed public spaces.

“The masks are intended to protect us from the coronavirus,” Edelstein said. “After professionals decided this was no longer required in open spaces, I decided to enable taking them off.” [But don’t work! – rdb]

He credited Israel’s successful vaccination campaign but called for ongoing vigilance inside.

Health professionals had for weeks been saying the mask mandate outside would likely end soon, but actually reaching the milestone will doubtless be a moving moment for many Israelis, who over the past year have become accustomed to seeing little more than each others’ eyes while out on the streets.

Earlier this month, Levy was still skeptical and [cautioned against lifting the mandate](https://www.timesofisrael.com/health-ministry-director-cautions-against-lifting-outdoor-mask-mandate/), arguing the use of masks outdoors was effective in curbing the spread of COVID-19.

Media reports in recent weeks indicated that police had at any rate been instructed to stop enforcing the outdoor mask mandate, with the focus instead on enforcement against those who violate quarantine rules.

After suffering a severe third wave of the pandemic, Israel’s situation has rapidly improved in recent months as it has carried out the world’s fastest per capita vaccination drive. Over half of the population is fully inoculated against the virus, and the results have shown, with daily new cases and serious cases dropping to levels not seen in long months.

As the caseload has dropped, Israel has significantly rolled back coronavirus restrictions by opening businesses, event venues and other activities.

A top expert on the pandemic said on Sunday that Israel may have reached “a sort of herd immunity” and could safely ease further restrictions. Eran Segal, a computational biologist at the Weizmann Institute of Science, told Channel 12 that with most Israelis immunized, even the reopening of swaths of the economy and gatherings over the Purim and Passover holidays had not contributed to a spike in cases.

Also this week cabinet ministers voted to fully reopen Israeli schools starting Sunday, ending the requirement that some grades still learn in smaller class sizes. Children in grades 5-9 had been the only remaining students required to study in socially distanced “capsules,” or pods.

According to the latest Health Ministry figures released Thursday evening, 196 new coronavirus cases were recorded Wednesday, with 836,699 total infections confirmed since the pandemic began.

The death toll stood at 6,314.

There were 2,984 active cases, including 209 patients in serious condition, 126 of whom were on ventilators.

Of the 55,470 tests performed Sunday, 0.4% came back positive. The ministry also said 5,338,967 Israelis have received at least one coronavirus vaccine dose and 4,961,238 have received two shots. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israelis-no-longer-required-to-wear-masks-outside-starting-sunday-as-covid-ebbs/> [These officials were simply brainwashed by listening to the foul CDC and INH. Too bad! Because of that they probably lost far more souls than they would have had they done their own thing. – rdb]

**16 retirement home residents contract COVID-19, most of them vaccinated**

**All are currently asymptomatic; Health Ministry will investigate if the residents were infected with a variant strain**

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:12 pm*

Sixteen residents of a retirement home in Ashkelon were evacuated by Magen David Adom medics on Thursday after being diagnosed with COVID-19, Walla news reported.

They were transported to a clinic in Hadera, near Haifa. None of them have symptoms and most are vaccinated, according to Walla.

The Health Ministry will investigate if the residents of Neot Avi were infected with a variant strain.

According to [data released by the Health Ministry](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-says-vaccine-dramatically-effective-prevents-98-9-of-covid-deaths/) in February, the Pfizer vaccine is 99.2% protective against serious illness, reduces morbidity by 95.8% and decreases the chance of hospitalization by 98.9%. It also prevents 98.9% of deaths.

Last week, an Israeli study found that the South African variant of the coronavirus is notably more adept at “breaking through” the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine than other variants are.

A team from Tel Aviv University and the Clalit healthcare organization sequenced the swabs of 150 Israelis who tested positive for COVID-19 despite having been vaccinated.

In their study, the prevalence of the South African strain among vaccinated individuals who were infected despite their inoculation was eight times higher than its prevalence in the unvaccinated infected population. Though the number of such infections among the vaccinated was relatively small, the findings indicated that this variant was far more successful in getting through vaccinated individuals’ defenses than other strains.

The research, which has been posted online but not yet peer-reviewed, is likely to raise questions about [Pfizer’s own real-world study,](https://www.forbes.com/sites/palashghosh/2021/04/01/pfizer-biontech-vaccine-protects-against-south-african-variant-highly-effective-against-disease-for-six-months-updated-trial-data-shows/?sh=4b93641e6ff9) which found that in South Africa, despite the local strain being prevalent, the vaccine was 100 percent effective.

The number of COVID-19 patients in serious condition, currently at some 220, has fallen to its lowest level in months as the coronavirus pandemic continues to ebb in Israel. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/16-retirement-home-residents-contract-covid-19-most-of-them-vaccinated/> [So how effective is this Jab??? That is the 64,000 $ question and the answer is probably not nearly as much so as they have been told. – rdb]

**COVID-19 pandemic caused ‘mental crisis’ among Israeli youth**

***The highest rates of anxiety were found in the secular sector (21%). The lowest rates were among the ultra-Orthodox (7%).***

*By* [*MAAYAN JAFFE-HOFFMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/maayan-jaffe-hoffman) *APRIL 15, 2021 18:18*

Israeli children are experiencing a “mental crisis,” according to new research released to The Jerusalem Post.  
 The report, based on a study conducted by Prof. Michal Grinstein-Weiss of Washington University and the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya together with Prof. Rami Benvenisti of Hebrew University, showed that one in five children – 21% and three times more than before the [coronavirus](https://www.jpost.com/coronavirus) crisis – are suffering from symptoms of anxiety.  
 “The data is very worrisome – very, very worrisome,” Grinstein-Weiss told the Post.  
 The study was conducted in Israel at the end of March 2021 and included surveys of around 1,000 parents of children in the education system. Parents were asked to describe their children’s emotional, behavioral and social status, among other things.  
 The highest rates of [anxiety](https://www.jpost.com/tags/anxiety) were found in the secular sector (23%). The lowest rates were among the ultra-Orthodox (7%). Grinstein-Weiss said that it is expected that anxiety levels would be lower among the ultra-Orthodox.  
 “They have faith, so in general they worry less,” she said.  
 Anxiety was highest among children who had two parents return to work outside the home during the pandemic when they were still required to engage in distance learning.  
 At this stage, the survey showed, parents estimate that nearly half of children (46%) need psychological help as a result of the crisis.  
 Emotional and social data revealed similar challenges. Some 60% said children were reported as feeling lonely. Less than half (44%) managed to maintain their relationships with their friends.  
 Only about half of all schoolchildren took their online studies seriously and more than half had difficulty managing online learning. The classes “put a heavy burden on them,” the report showed.  
 Parents said that they feel teachers and principals did their best, but that the school system simply did not provide a good enough solution.  
 While at home, students spent a long time at their screens. Parents reported that about half of all children spent so much time on their screens it could be considered an “addiction.”  
 Other children expressed frustration through physical violence (23%) and some suffered from eating disorders (24%).  
 Grinstein-Weiss cautioned that consideration would need to be given to any long-term effects of the year of distance learning, as it is likely that some students will continue suffering from learning gaps as well as emotional and behavioral challenges.  
 She emphasized the need for a national organization that would focus on children’s recovery from the crisis, including systematic efforts to support students and educational staff during the transition back to school.  
<https://www.jpost.com/health-science/covid-19-pandemic-caused-mental-crisis-among-israeli-youth-665249> [The morbidity/mortality of having covid for children is literally negligible, Less than 0.01% which simply means all their silly process has devastated a big segment of their population so they could be guinea pigs for Big Pharm. – rdb]

**Israeli scientists say they’ve paved way to turn off the brain’s ‘hunger switch’**

***Peer-reviewed research at Weizmann Institute is most detailed insight into MC4 hunger-controlling receptor; drugs may now be able to target it precisely, without major side effects***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *15 April 2021, 9:00 pm*

New Israeli research may pave the way for drugs that “turn off the hunger switch” in the human brain with minimal side effects, scientists say. A receptor in the brain, melanocortin 4 (MC4), is known to control the urge to eat. It has been dubbed the “hunger switch.”

A genetically inherited malfunction with this receptor is believed to be the most common cause of obesity that is triggered by a single gene mutation, impacting an estimated 5 percent of early-onset childhood obesity.

Now, researchers at the Weizmann Institute of Science have conducted research that they say could bring about easy manipulation of the receptor among people with such a mutation.

They say it could even be used to help people who don’t have a genetic condition that directly impacts the MC4 in their efforts to lose weight, by treating the receptor as an “override” switch. When “turned off,” they say, it could suppress regular hunger.

Their research involved building a detailed 3D model of the receptor, giving unprecedented insight into how it functions, in a peer-reviewed study that was published on Thursday in the journal Science.

“It’s a switch activated by a hormone that our body secretes, which can be turned on and off,” said Dr. Moran Shalev-Benami of Weizmann Institute. “We’ve shown exactly what it looks like and outlined all of its molecular details.”

Pharmaceutical companies have been racing to make drugs that manipulate MC4, but as they are doing so with limited knowledge of how the receptor works, drugs appear to bind with several receptors and affect other aspects of the brain and body, causing side effects.

The first drug of its type, setmelanotide — sold under the brand name Imcivree — was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in November for chronic weight management, but [reported side effects](https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-approves-first-treatment-weight-management-people-certain-rare-genetic-conditions) included spontaneous penile erections in males and adverse sexual reactions in females, as well as depression and suicidal ideation. There were also cases of nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal pain.

“Now that we know the precise molecular details of the switch, we can use this to target it very precisely and design drugs that can avoid some of the side effects that have been encountered with this first drug,” said Shalev-Benami.

Her lab at Weizmann’s Chemical and Structural Biology Department conducted the study, which involved observing the impact of setmelanotide in detail, with scientists from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Queen Mary University of London.



Prof. Moran Shalev-Benami of Weizmann Institute (courtesy of the Weizmann Institute)

The study started after Hadar Israeli, a Hebrew University medical student pursuing PhD studies into the mechanisms of obesity, heard about a family in which at least eight members, who all felt constantly hungry, were severely obese. Most of them had a body mass index of over 70, which is about triple the norm.

Israeli was struck by the fact that the family’s plight was due to a single mutation that ran in the family — one affecting the MC4 receptor — and asked whether new advances in imaging biological specimens could give insights into how the receptor works.

Her supervisors contacted Shalev-Benami, who decided to launch a study into the structure of MC4, inviting Israeli to join her lab as a visiting scientist. They isolated large quantities of pure MC4 receptors from cell membranes and determined its 3D structure using cryogenic electron microscopy, an imaging technique performed at very low temperatures.

Shalev-Benami said that the first priority is to help people with genetic conditions directly affecting  MC4 but said that advances could well help others trying to diet. She commented: “If we can get rid of side effects and manipulate this receptor without interfering with other receptors and causing side effects this could help the general population of people struggling with weight loss.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-scientists-say-theyve-paved-the-way-to-turn-off-brains-hunger-switch/> [This could be an amazing discovery. It will be interesting to see what side reactions it has. I think this would be a real winner on the Big Pharm market. – rdb]

**Police in Jerusalem gird for possible unrest after Friday Ramadan prayers**

***Cops on high alert after 3 consecutive nights of rioting in East Jerusalem; just 10,000 vaccinated Palestinians to be permitted to enter Temple Mount***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:06 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/F210409JA09.jpg)

***Palestinians attend Friday prayers at the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem, on April 9, 2021.(Jamal Awad/Flash90)***

Police were gearing up for possible unrest around the Old City of Jerusalem following the first Friday prayers of the Ramadan holiday, after three consecutive nights of rioting in the area.

The month of Ramadan normally sees increased tensions around Jerusalem’s Old City, which houses the flashpoint Temple Mount site, holy to both Jews and Muslims.

Friday prayers during the holy month usually draw hundreds of thousands of Muslim worshipers to the Temple Mount. This year, however, due to coronavirus restrictions, the prayer services are capped at 10,000 vaccinated Palestinians.

 The past three days have seen nightly clashes in East Jerusalem, with tensions flaring over the police decision to prevent people from sitting on the stairs outside the Damascus Gate, as part of coronavirus restrictions during Ramadan.

***Palestinians clean the floor at the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem, ahead of the holy month of Ramadan, on April 10, 2021 (Jamal Awad/Flash90)***

The Palestinians [were also angered](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-to-muzzle-al-aqsa-muezzin-as-memorial-day-observed-at-western-wall/) earlier this week after Israel reportedly disconnected the power supply to the Islamic call to prayer on the Temple Mount as an official Memorial Day service was held in the adjacent Western Wall square on Tuesday evening,

 Tensions are also soaring in East Jerusalem over concerns Israel will prevent the area from being included in the national Palestinian legislative elections scheduled for next month. Israel cracks down on Palestinian Authority activity inside Jerusalem, considering it a violation of Israeli sovereignty in its capital.

Israel’s military liaison to the Palestinians, COGAT, said Tuesday that up to 10,000 vaccinated Palestinians will be allowed to pray Friday at the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount to mark the first Friday of Ramadan.

Israeli border police clash with Palestinians outside Damascus Gate in Jerusalem’s Old City, April 15, 2021 (Jamal Awad/Flash90)

“The measures are being taken to allow freedom of worship and religion on one hand, and on the other hand, prevent to the extent possible, the spread of COVID-19 in the region,” COGAT said in a statement.

After Friday, “an additional situation assessment will be carried out to examine the approved outline, taking into account both security and health needs.”

At least [two police officers](https://www.timesofisrael.com/cop-hurt-in-east-jerusalem-clashes-during-ramadan/) and [five civilians](https://www.timesofisrael.com/6-injured-5-arrested-as-hundreds-riot-in-east-jerusalem-after-ramadan-prayer/) have been hurt during the East Jerusalem clashes this week, which saw rioters lob firecrackers, rocks and glass bottles at cops and passersby, according to police. At least six suspects have been arrested. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/police-gird-for-possible-unrest-after-friday-ramadan-prayers-in-jerusalem/>

**Lebanon demands Israel halt gas search after expanding claims in disputed area  
Beirut insists it has right to hundreds more square miles of Mediterranean in indirect talks with Israeli officials on offshore fuel exploration, angering Jerusalem***By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 7:30 pm* [*0*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/lebanon-demands-israel-halt-gas-search-after-expanding-claims-in-disputed-area/#comments)

BEIRUT — Lebanon’s President Michel Aoun Thursday demanded Israel halt all exploration in an offshore gas field on its southern border, as part of an ongoing dispute over their shared sea frontier.   
 The countries, which are still technically at war, last year took part in indirect US-brokered talks to discuss demarcation to clear the way for offshore oil and gas exploration.   
 But those talks stalled after Lebanon demanded a larger area, including part of the Karish gas field, where Israel has given a Greek firm rights for exploration.   
 “Lebanon is within its rights to evolve its position,” Aoun told visiting US envoy David Hale, asking for “international experts” to weigh in on the issue.   
 He called for a “commitment to not carrying out any oil or gas activities and not starting any exploration in the Karish field and its adjacent waters” until the matter was settled, the presidency said.   
 The talks last year were supposed to discuss a Lebanese demand for 860 square kilometers (330 square miles) of territory in the disputed maritime area, according to a map sent to the UN in 2011. But Lebanon then said the map was based on erroneous calculations and demanded 1,430 square kilometers (552 square miles) more territory farther south, including part of Karish.   
 Israel’s Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz blasted Lebanon after it demanded the new territory on Monday. “It seems that Lebanon prefers to blow up the talks instead of trying to reach agreed-upon solutions,” Steinitz said in a statement. “Unfortunately, this won’t be the first time in the past 20 years that the Lebanese changed their naval maps for propaganda purposes,” he continued. “Obviously, unilateral Lebanese steps will be met in kind by Israel.”   
 Lebanon’s outgoing public works minister this week signed a draft decree cementing Lebanon’s demand for the larger area.  
 Aoun, the caretaker prime minister and the outgoing defense minister still have to sign it before Lebanon sends it to the UN to make its new demand official.  
 Lebanon and Israel began indirect talks with US mediation in October to reach a deal over the disputed area that is believed to be rich with oil and natural gas deposits. The meetings, which stopped few weeks later, were held at a UN post along the border of the two nations.  
 The negotiations were the first non-security talks to be held between the two countries, which remain technically in a state of war and have no diplomatic relations following decades of conflict. Resolving the border issue could pave the way for lucrative oil and gas deals on both sides.  
 Hale on Thursday said the US was ready to continue brokering Israel-Lebanon talks “on the basis on which we initiated these discussions,” appearing to reject the Lebanese move toward demanding a larger area.  
 The US envoy’s visit comes as Lebanon’s top politicians have for months argued over the composition of a new cabinet to launch reforms and unlock financial aid to lift the country out of its worst economic collapse in decades.  
 “The time to build a government, not block it, is now,” Hale said. “Those who continue to obstruct progress on the reform agenda jeopardize their relationship with the United States and our partners and open themselves up to punitive actions.”

The US in November slapped sanctions on Aoun’s son-in-law, former energy and foreign affairs minister Gebran Bassil, for alleged corruption.  
 It also sanctioned former finance minister Ali Hassan Khalil and former transport minister Yusef Fenianos in September for alleged graft and support of the Iran-backed Hezbollah terror group.  
 Hezbollah is black-listed by Washington, but it is also a powerful political player in Lebanon with seats in parliament.  
 Lebanon’s government stepped down after a massive blast at Beirut’s port in August 2020, but deeply divided politicians have been unable to form a new cabinet ever since.  
 Israel has already developed offshore natural gas rigs, producing enough for domestic consumption and export abroad. Lebanon hopes that its own oil and gas discoveries will help alleviate its long-running economic troubles.  
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/lebanon-demands-israel-halt-gas-search-after-expanding-claims-in-disputed-area/>

**Russia says Iran nuclear talks ‘positive’ despite enrichment, Natanz sabotage  
*But as parties meet in Vienna, EU diplomat says Iranian move to further enrich uranium ‘puts pressure on everyone’****By* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) and [TOI staff](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) Today, 6:22 pm   
[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP_21105381298727.jpg)   
***Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia’s ambassador to the IAEA, arrives at the Grand Hotel Wien where closed-door nuclear talks with Iran take place, in Vienna, Austria, Thursday, April 15, 2021. (AP Photo/Lisa Leutner)*** Russia said Thursday that the latest talks in Vienna to save the 2015 Iran nuclear deal were positive despite fresh tensions, and Tehran’s preparations to further ramp up uranium enrichment.   
 The latest round of negotiations between Tehran and world powers took place between diplomats over roughly two hours on Thursday afternoon, with Russia’s ambassador to the UN in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov tweeting afterward that the “general impression is positive.”   
 He added that Thursday’s talks “will be followed by a number of informal meetings in different formats, including at expert level.”   
 The talks comprised delegations from the remaining parties to the deal — Germany, France, Britain, China, Russia and Iran. An American delegation is attending the talks indirectly, staying at a separate hotel.   
 A European diplomat had told AFP in advance of the meeting that Iran’s announcement that it would enrich uranium up to 60 percent “puts pressure on everyone.”   
 The move would take Iran closer to the 90% purity level needed for use in a nuclear weapon. Under the tattered 2015 nuclear deal, it had committed to keep enrichment to 3.67%, though it stepped this up to 20% in January, a rate that is already a short technical step away from weapons-grade levels.   
  
***Russia’s ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mikhail Ulyanov, outside the ‘Grand Hotel Wien’ for the closed-door nuclear talks with Iran in Vienna on April 15, 2021, where diplomats of the EU, China, Russia and Iran hold their talks. (Joe Klamar/AFP)***

EU external affairs spokesperson Peter Stano described the announcement as “extremely worrisome from a nuclear non-proliferation point of view.”   
 “There is no credible or plausible civilian justification for such a decision,” Stano told reporters.   
 Meanwhile, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani re-stated the country’s long-standing position that “we are not seeking to obtain the atomic bomb,” saying it was a “mistake” for Europe and the United States to express concern that Iran could “enrich to 90% in one go.”   
 Iran previously had said it could use uranium enriched up to 60% for nuclear-powered ships. However, the Islamic Republic currently has no such ships in its navy.   
 Tehran says the enrichment move is a response to Israel’s “nuclear terrorism” after an explosion on Sunday knocked out power at its Natanz enrichment plant.  
 The incident at Natanz was initially described only as a blackout in the electrical grid feeding above-ground workshops and underground enrichment halls — but later Iranian officials began calling it an attack.  
 On Monday, an Iranian official acknowledged that the blast took out the plant’s main electrical power system and its backup.  
 The remarks appeared to confirm Israeli reports indicating the damage was widespread and Iran will have significant difficulty restoring its enrichment to previous levels in the coming months.  
 The New York Times reported that the blast was caused by a bomb that was smuggled into the plant and then detonated remotely. The report cited an unnamed intelligence official, without specifying whether they were American or Israeli. This official also specified that the blast took out Natanz’s primary electrical system as well as its backup.  
 Israel has hinted at being involved, but not officially confirmed any role in the attack. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly vowed never to allow Tehran to obtain a nuclear weapon and Israel has twice preemptively bombed Mideast nations to stop their atomic programs.  
 US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said late Wednesday that Washington was taking the “provocative announcement” on enrichment from Iran “very seriously.”  
 “I have to tell you the step calls into question Iran’s seriousness with regard to the nuclear talks,” Blinken told reporters in Brussels.  
 But events of the past few days have also “reminded both parties that the status quo is a lose-lose situation,” and have “added urgency” to the talks, said Ali Vaez, Iran Project Director at the International Crisis Group think tank.  
 “It is clear that the more the diplomatic process drags on, the higher the risk that it gets derailed by saboteurs and those acting in bad faith,” Vaez added.  
 Known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the deal has been disintegrating since former US president Donald Trump dramatically withdrew from it in 2018 and re-imposed sanctions, prompting Iran to retaliate by exceeding its agreed limits on nuclear activity.  
 The Biden administration, while agreeing on the JCPOA’s value, has stressed that it is waiting for Iran to first roll back steps away from compliance that it took to protest Trump’s sanctions. Iran has taken a hardline stance, demanding sweeping sanctions relief before it returns to compliance, putting the two sides at a stalemate.  
  
 Iran’s envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Kazem Gharib Abadi, arrives the ‘Grand Hotel Wien’ for the closed-door nuclear talks with Iran in Vienna on April 15, 2021, where diplomats of the EU, China, Russia and Iran hold their talks. (Joe Klamar/AFP)

Washington is “very open-eyed about how this will be a long process,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters Wednesday. “It’s happening through indirect discussions, but we still feel that it is a step forward.” [How many times did she circle back on this response??? – rdb]  
 In the meantime, the European diplomat said that Tehran is reducing its “breakout time” — the time needed to acquire the fissile material necessary for the manufacture of a bomb.  
 The UN’s International Atomic Energy Agency said its inspectors visited the site at Natanz for “verification and monitoring activities” on Wednesday, and that Iran had “almost completed preparations” to enrich uranium to 60% purity.  
 Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the Natanz attack had unleashed a “dangerous spiral” and warned Biden the situation could only be contained by lifting the sanctions Trump imposed.  
 “It was unrealistic to expect Iran not to respond to such a humiliating attack at the heart of its nuclear program,” the Internation Crisis Group’s Vaez said. “But the only thing that in the past two decades has effectively curtailed Iran’s nuclear program has been diplomacy, not sanctions or sabotage.”  
 Further increasing tensions, Israel and Iran have accused each other of carrying out tit-for-tat sabotage attacks on each other’s shipping. On Tuesday, an Israeli-owned ship reportedly came under missile fire off the coast of the United Arab Emirates. Officials in Jerusalem believe Iran is responsible, according to Hebrew media reports.  
 Also, in 2020, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, the scientist said by Israel and the US to head Iran’s rogue nuclear weapons program was assassinated in an ambush near the capital Tehran. Top Iran officials blamed Israel for the killing.  
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/russia-says-iran-nuclear-talks-positive-despite-enrichment-natanz-sabotage/>

**Iran says it could enrich uranium to 90% purity if it wanted to, but is ‘not seeking weapon’ as nuclear deal talks restart**15 Apr, 2021 14:06 The enrichment of weapons-grade uranium is within Iran's reach, but it chose to stick to a lower purity level because it does not want to make a bomb, President Hassan Rouhani has said as talks to revive the nuclear deal continue.   
 This week, Iran announced it would start enriching uranium to 60% purity after reporting an alleged Israeli sabotage attack at its Natanz nuclear facility, a move it said was intended to undermine indirect Iranian-US negotiations for a return to the 2015 agreement.  
 Speaking on Thursday, Rouhani dismissed US and European concerns about Iran moving toward weapons-grade uranium.  
 He also said Tehran would resume commitments under the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), once Western signatories uphold their side of the bargain.  
 *“We could have done 60% [enrichment] before. Today we can do 90% enrichment if we want to, but we are not seeking a nuclear bomb,”* he said during the inauguration of petrochemical projects.  
 *“Whenever you return to the JCPOA commitments, we will return to our obligations immediately and our enrichment will not be above 3.67% as allowed by the JCPOA,”* he added, according to the Mehr news agency.  
 France, Britain and Germany have expressed *“concern”* at Iran's plans to achieve 60% enrichment and to install 1,000 additional nuclear centrifuges at Natanz. MORE - <https://www.rt.com/news/521137-iran-uranium-enrichment-nuclear-talks/>   
   
**US expels Russian diplomats, sets new sanctions over hacking, election meddling  
*Measures also target Moscow’s ability to borrow money; Russia denounces move, warns of retaliation****By* [*Eric Tucker*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/eric-tucker/) *and* [*AAMER MADHANI*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aamer-madhani/) *Today, 5:27 pm*  
[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP_21104463334494.jpg)Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a session of the Russian Geographical Society via video link in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, April 14, 2021 (Alexei Druzhinin, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration on Thursday announced the expulsion of 10 Russian diplomats and sanctions against dozens of people and companies as it moved to hold the Kremlin accountable for interference in last year’s presidential election and the hacking of federal agencies.   
 The sanctions also target Moscow’s ability to borrow money by prohibiting US financial institutions from buying Russian bonds directly from Russian institutions.   
 The actions, foreshadowed for weeks by the administration, represent the first retaliatory measures announced against the Kremlin for the hack, familiarly known as the SolarWinds breach. In that intrusion, Russian hackers are believed to have infected widely used software with malicious code, enabling them to access the networks of at least nine agencies in what US officials believe was an intelligence-gathering operation aimed at mining government secrets.   
 Besides that hack, US officials last month alleged that Russian President Vladimir Putin authorized influence operations to help Donald Trump in his unsuccessful bid for reelection as president, though there’s no evidence Russia or anyone else changed votes or manipulated the outcome. [I would venture to say that if Pootie Poot had wanted to influence for The Donald he would have been able to do it even with the demon – rat sabotage of the election – rdb]  
 Russia swiftly denounced the actions and warned of retaliation.   
 The measures announced Thursday include sanctions on six Russian companies that support the country’s cyber activities, in addition to sanctions on 32 individuals and entities accused of attempting to interfere in last year’s presidential election, including by spreading disinformation. The US also sanctioned eight people and entities tied to Russia’s occupation of Crimea.   
 The 10 diplomats being expelled include representatives of Russian intelligence services, the Biden administration said.   
 Other measures are expected as well, though the administration is not likely to announce them. Officials have been advising that their response to Russia would be in ways both seen and unseen.   
 “These actions are intended to hold Russia to account for its reckless actions. We will act firmly in response to Russian actions that cause harm to us or our allies and partners,” Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.   
 But, he added, “Where possible, the United States will also seek opportunities for cooperation with Russia, with the goal of building a more stable and predictable relationship consistent with US interests.”   
 The White House also said Biden was using diplomatic, military and intelligence channels to respond to reports that Russia encouraged the Taliban to attack US and allied troops in Afghanistan based on the “best assessments” of the intelligence community.  
 Reports of alleged “bounties” surfaced last year, with the Trump administration coming under fire for not raising the issue directly with Russia. The White House did not publicly confirm the reports. “The safety and well-being of US military personnel, and that of our allies and partners, is an absolute priority of the United States,” the White House said Thursday.  
 After the sanctions were announced, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova warned that “such aggressive behavior will undoubtedly trigger a resolute retaliation.”  
 “Washington should realize that it will have to pay a price for the degradation of the bilateral ties,” Zakharova said, adding that “the responsibility for that will fully lie with the United States.”  
 She said the ministry has summoned the US ambassador for a “hard conversation,” but wouldn’t immediately say what action Russia will take.  
 The sanctions send a clear retributive message to Russia and are aimed at serving as a deterrent. But they are certain to exacerbate an already tense relationship between the US and Russia.  
 President Joe Biden told Putin this week in their second call to “de-escalate tensions” following a Russian military buildup on Ukraine’s border, and said the US would “act firmly in defense of its national interests” regarding Russian intrusions and election interference.  
 In a television interview last month, Biden replied “I do” when asked if he thought Putin was a “killer.” He said the days of the US “rolling over” to Putin were done. Putin later recalled his ambassador to the US and pointed at the US history of slavery and slaughtering Native Americans and the atomic bombing of Japan in World War II.  
 It remained unclear whether the US actions would actually result in changed behavior, especially since past measures by the US have failed to bring an end to Russian hacking. The Obama administration expelled diplomats from the US in 2016 in response to interference in that year’s presidential election. And though Trump was often reluctant to criticize Putin, his administration also expelled diplomats in 2018 for Russia’s alleged poisoning of an ex-intelligence officer in Britain.  
 US officials are still grappling with the aftereffects of the SolarWinds intrusion, which affected agencies including the Treasury, Justice, Energy and Homeland Security departments, and are still assessing what information may have been stolen. The breach exposed vulnerabilities in the supply chain as well as weaknesses in the federal government’s own cyber defenses.  
 The actions would represent the second major round of sanctions imposed by the Biden administration against Russia. Last month, the US sanctioned seven mid-level and senior Russian officials, along with more than a dozen government entities, over a nearly fatal nerve-agent attack on opposition leader Alexei Navalny and his subsequent jailing. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-expels-russian-diplomats-sets-new-sanctions-over-hacking-election-meddling/> [When you add this to the issues going on in the Ukraine and the fact that “Bi-dumb” and friends are reported to have seen to carriers to the Black Sea which is actually a provocative move AND the fact that there are some unclear reports of agreements between Pootie Poot and China, Things could get very interesting should “Bi-dumb” make a stupid move because he has pretty much gutted most of the capable military leaders that were there since he felt threatened by them. – rdb]  
   
**Russia pledges retaliation, summons US envoy over new sanctions, as NATO & EU back Biden’s move to target country’s national debt***15 Apr, 2021 16:13 / Updated 2 hours ago*The Russian Foreign Ministry announced on Thursday that it would soon respond in kind to a new package of sanctions unveiled against the country by US President Joe Biden, with Washington also expelling ten of Moscow’s diplomats.   
 Maria Zakharova, the ministry’s spokeswoman, told reporters that retaliation against the move was “unavoidable,” and that the American ambassador, John Sullivan, had been summoned for “tough talks.” She said, *“I would hardly have said this before, but I can say it now: It’s not going to be a pleasant meeting for him.”*  
 Biden signed the decree on Thursday morning, ushering in sanctions against more than 30 Russian individuals and organizations over claims that Moscow meddled in the 2020 US presidential election and was behind the colossal SolarWinds cyber-espionage case that saw hackers gain access to more than 100 corporate networks, as well as nine American government agencies. The Kremlin has denied accusations it was involved in either case.  
 The new measures include a ban on American financial institutions directly purchasing Russian sovereign debt, which is traditionally used by governments as a way to shore up their economies.  
 Just weeks ago, the country’s Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Pankin warned that the US may resort to attacking bonds as part of *“a deliberate calculation to create a toxic atmosphere around Russian securities in order to reduce their investment potential.”* He revealed that Moscow has already been working to create a battle plan to limit the effect such sanctions would have on the economy.  
 White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan defended the move later on Thursday, saying that the package of sanctions comprised *“proportionate measures to defend American interests in response to harmful Russia actions including cyber intrusions and election interference.”* Ned Price, the State Department spokesman, also tweeted that *“we are sending a clear message to Moscow”* with the new measures.  
 However, Dmitry Polyanskiy, Russia’s deputy permanent representative to the UN, replied saying that *“now it is our turn to ‘hold the US to account’ for promoting unsubstantiated allegations and unfriendly moves. That’s how it works in diplomacy.”*  
 Vyacheslav Volodin, the speaker of Russia’s State Duma, claimed the measures demonstrated that the *“whole arsenal of accusations has been exhausted, and the US is going in a circle.”* He added that *“by imposing sanctions, they punish themselves. In the end, they will have to build relationships that they themselves have destroyed.”*  
 Responding to the news, the US-led NATO military bloc said that its members *“support and express their solidarity”* with Washington, and warned that *“Russia continues to adhere to a recurring pattern of destabilizing behavior.”* The statement concluded that its constituency nations *“will continue to work in close consultation on how to respond to Russian actions that pose a threat to Euro-Atlantic security.”*  
 The EU’s foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, added his voice to those backing Biden’s move. *“We share the concerns of our partners about the increasing number of malicious cyber activities,”* the former Spanish foreign minister said. *“All actors must refrain from irresponsible and destabilizing behavior in cyberspace.”*  
<https://www.rt.com/russia/521148-us-sanctions-national-debt-retaliation/>   
  
**Democrats launch 'raw muscle play' to take over Supreme Court  
*Bill calls for 4 new justices to ensure left-wing decisions***By [Bob Unruh](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) Published April 15, 2021 at 10:04am   
 Democrats in Washington have launched a "raw muscle play" to take over the U.S. Supreme Court with a bill that would expand the court to 13 seats.  
 The plan from Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., who helped lead House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's two impeachment campaigns against President Trump, was reported by The Intercept.  
 Other promoters of the bill include Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass.; Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Ga.; and Rep. Mondaire Jones, D-N.Y.  
 [Fox News reported](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/republicans-slam-assault-on-supreme-court-packing-bill) George Washington University law professor and constitutional scholar Jonathan Turley was appalled. "There is nothing subtle or elegant in the move. Just a raw muscle play to take control of the Court," he wrote on Twitter.

If the report is true, they have decided not to wait for the Commission. A move to just add 4 new justices would dispense with even the pretense of principle. The bill will now strip away any semblance of constitutional values for members who do not denounce raw court packing.  
 — Jonathan Turley (@JonathanTurley) [April 14, 2021](https://twitter.com/JonathanTurley/status/1382482270733402114)  
 Ultimately, this shows the cost of a failure of leadership in the Democratic party, including President Biden. Rather than denounce court packing, Biden played to the far left and called for a Commission to study something he called a "bone headed" and "terrible, terrible idea."  
 — Jonathan Turley (@JonathanTurley) [April 15, 2021](https://twitter.com/JonathanTurley/status/1382485136088911880)

Turley said the move shows "the cost of a failure of leadership in the Democratic party, including President Biden."

That was because the Democrats apparently are refusing to cooperate even among themselves. Biden announced just days ago a commission, dominated by Democrats, to consider changes to the Supreme Court.  
 "Democrats are launching a full assault on the independence of the federal judiciary. Republicans will stop them," said Rep. Ken Buck, R-Colo.  
 Matt Whitlock, a former staffer for the National Republican Senatorial Committee, called the move, which Biden once described when he was a senator as "boneheaded," as a "fantastic gift" to Republicans.  
 "And making it a bill instead of a Senate rules process means we get to get moderate House D's on the record on it too. Just a fantastic turn of events," he said.  
 Democrats have claimed that Republicans "packed" the court when President Trump successfully nominated three justices to fill three vacancies, because then-Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell did not move forward Barack Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland at the end of Obama's term.  
 The  move comes despite the opposition of late justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an icon to progressives, as well as current liberal justice Stephen Breyer.  
 Breyer recently warned: "My experience of more than 30 years... as a judge has shown me that once men and women take the judicial oath they take that oath to heart. They are loyal to the rule of law, not to the political party that helped to secure their appointment. These considerations convince me that it is wrong to think of the court as just another political institution and it is doubly wrong to think of its members as junior league politicians."  
 "Structural alteration motivated by the perception of political influence can only feed that latter perception, further eroding that trust," he said. "There is no shortcut."  
 Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, called the Democrats' move "an act of arrogant lawlessness."  
 Fox News said the bill was "unlikely to pass," since the Democrats have a slim majority in the House and would need to eliminate the filibuster in the Senate. Even then, at least one Democratic senator has expressed opposition to the court-packing idea.  
 DailyMail.com reported Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., said, "The Democrats will do anything for power."  
 And Mark Meadows, a former chief of staff for President Trump, said: "The moderate left is gone. This is who they are now. Open borders. Outlawing voter ID. Free healthcare for illegal migrants. And now court packing."  
 Rep. Jones of New York, one of the sponsors of the bill, described the court packing as "infrastructure."  
 Biden's panel, for which the Democrats are not waiting, has two Democratic operatives heading a panel of more than 30 members, mostly lawyers, to "study" the possibility of adding justices and make a recommendation.  
 The White House told the commission to look at "the length of service and turnover of justices on the court" as well as the "membership and size of the court." Biden appointed Bob Bauer of the New York University School of Law and Cristina Rodriguez of Yale to lead it.  
 Only days after Biden was inaugurated, Rodriguez lashed out at former President Trump under the headline "Fixing Trump’s damage to government will take more than executive orders."  
 She wrote: "President Biden has wasted no time in addressing the damage of the Trump years, issuing a slew of executive orders and presidential proclamations — most of them reversing the last administration’s most controversial actions. He rejoined the World Health Organization and the Paris climate agreement, canceled a gas pipeline permit the Trump administration had approved and abolished the 1776 Commission his predecessor had set up to push a distorted view of U.S. history.  
 "But Biden’s orders on immigration most exemplified his attempt to undo Donald Trump’s legacy on Day One: He halted construction on Trump’s border wall, rescinded the infamous travel ban on people from several Muslim-majority countries and recommitted to protections for unauthorized immigrants brought to the country as children."  
 Since then, a humanitarian crisis has developed at the border, with tens of thousands of illegal immigrant children and many more adults arriving to enter the United States illegally. The surge, overwhelming the border protection capabilities of the nation, has subjected young migrants to abuse from smugglers.  
 Bauer served as White House counsel to Barack Obama. He previously was part of an analysis of the American election system that resulted in measures that, Republicans charge, made fraud easier.  
 During the second impeachment of Trump, he wrote articles arguing for changes that would have allowed the Democrats to remove their archnemesis from the White House.  
 "The Senate had the occasion to pass judgment on the demagogic presidency, and in the end, relying primarily on a jurisdictional objection, it did not do so," he wrote.  
 He said the Senate should have done more fact-finding, which could have exposed "the senators who stood by Trump to a greater level of public embarrassment or discomfort."  
 The White House said it wants the new Supreme Court commission to examine the Supreme Court's "role in the constitutional system" and even how the justices choose cases and establish their rules.  
 Its report is expected within six months.  
 Mike Davis, founder of the Article III Project, said: "This is an alarming announcement from President Biden that should be met with the harshest of denunciations from both sides of the aisle. Packing the Supreme Court would destroy centuries of hard work from Democrat- and Republican-appointed justices to insulate the high court from partisan politics. It also raises serious red flags as to what unconstitutional actions President Biden is planning that a more favorable Supreme Court might tolerate." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/democrats-launch-raw-muscle-play-take-supreme-court/> [[This literally could change the world as we know it. – rdb].   
 **CDC: Nearly 6,000 People Infected with COVID Even After Getting Vaccine***By* [*Eric Lendrum*](https://amgreatness.com/author/eric-lendrum/)  *April 15, 2021* The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported that roughly 5,800 people who received a coronavirus vaccine still ultimately came down with the disease anyway, according to [CNN](https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/14/health/breakthrough-infections-covid-vaccines-cdc/index.html).  
 Of those 5,800, 396 of them (roughly 7 percent) were hospitalized; 74 of the vaccinated people ultimately died. The report proves that the vaccines, though frequently touted by the government and the media, are not guaranteed to prevent everyone from contracting the virus.  
 “Vaccine breakthrough infections were reported among all people of all ages eligible for vaccination,” the CDC report details. “However, a little over 40 percent of the infections were in people 60 or more years of age.” Nearly two-thirds of the infections, 65 percent, were among women, while 29 percent of cases were asymptomatic.  
 The news is the latest setback for nationwide vaccination efforts. Earlier this week, both the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) formally recommended that the United States halt all distribution efforts with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, after at least six people who took the vaccine were found to develop rare and severe blood clots after vaccination; one person died, while another has been hospitalized in critical condition.  
 Nevertheless, the CDC still recommended that “all eligible people get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as one is available to them. CDC also continues to recommend people who have been fully vaccinated should keep taking precautions in public places, like wearing a mask, staying at least six feet apart from others, avoiding crowds and poorly-ventilated spaces, and washing their hands often.” <https://amgreatness.com/2021/04/15/cdc-nearly-6000-people-infected-with-covid-even-after-getting-vaccine/> [HUMMM?? You may not be sick and you may be young with a 99.9% survival rate but you still should take a shot that could kill you? Makers perfect sense? Are kidding me? This has nothing to do with a virus bug and everything to do with control of the population and probably ultimately depopulation. – rdb]   
   
**Commentary:  
More About Joe and the Jews**

*By* [*Joan Swirsky*](https://newswithviews.com/author/joan/)*|April 15th, 2021* Democrat Jimmy Carter became the U.S. president in 1977, only 32 years after six-million Jewish men, women, children and infants were savagely starved, tortured, shot in cold blood, buried in mass graves and gassed to death by Hitler’s bloodthirsty Nazi regime in Germany and other East European countries.  
 Yet, the longtime Sunday school teacher could not control himself when it came to [revealing his hatred of Jews and detestation of Israel](https://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2009/09/jimmy_carter_the_jewhater_who.html)––sentiments that ooze from his 96-year-old pores to this day.  
 This is who Democrats voted for. This is who Jewish Democrats voted for.  
 I thought that Carter would hold the [all-time record for in-your-face anti-Semitism](https://canadafreepress.com/article/why-jimmy-carter-really-is-an-anti-semite), but then along came Barack Obama, with his undisguised animus toward Israel and his appointment to influential positions of a huge number of career Jew haters and loathers of Israel. I listed all of them in my article “The Obama Voter––Not this Jew” (look it up).  
 As longtime journalist Ed Lasky of the American Thinker has written: “One seemingly consistent theme running throughout Barack Obama’s career is his comfort with aligning himself with people who are anti-Israel advocates.”  
 And, I would add, anti-American advocates!  
 This is who Democrats voted for. This is who Jewish Democrats voted for.  
**AS NIGHT FOLLOWS DAY**  
 Right by Obama’s side for his entire eight years in office was VP Joe Biden, consistently endorsing, approving of and applauding his boss’s policies, including the Iran deal, which pretended to delay the world’s most malign terrorist state from acquiring nuclear weapons that the mullahs said then––and say today––are intended to eliminate the State of Israel.  
 But really no surprise. Ole Joe’s antipathy toward Israel goes way back. According to writer David Israel, [in the summer of 1973](https://www.jewishpress.com/news/israel/revealed-a-young-senator-biden-delivered-egyptian-disinformation-to-israel-ahead-of-yom-kippur-war/2020/12/11/), only months after he defeated a Republican incumbent to become the junior U.S. senator from Delaware, Biden visited the highest-ranking Egyptian officials and then––with treachery aforethought––delivered *their disinformation* to Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir.  
 “Biden told Meir that all the Egyptian VIPS affirmed Israel’s military superiority and assured him that it would be impossible for Egypt to go to war against Israel. “We all know how that turned out,” writer Israel reminds us, of the [Yom Kippur War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_Kippur_War), with a decisive failure of U.S. Intelligence agencies (surprise, surprise!) and grave losses for our most reliable ally in the Middle East.  
 Ten years later, in June 1982, Senator Joe Biden banged the desk in front of him with his fist at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting and threatened then-Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin with cutting off aid to Israel.  
 Begin forcefully responded: “*Don’t threaten us with cutting off your aid. It will not work. I am not a Jew with trembling knees. I am a proud Jew with 3,700 years of civilized history. Nobody came to our aid when we were dying in the gas chambers and ovens. Nobody came to our aid when we were striving to create our country. We paid for it. We fought for it. We died for it. We will stand by our principles. We will defend them. And, when necessary, we will die for them again, with or without your aid.”*  
 In 2015, on the occasion of Israel’s 67th birthday, then-VP Joe Biden said the following: “…I’ve had the great privilege of knowing every Israeli Prime Minister since Golda Meir and more than just casually. And I’ve worked with many of you in this room for up to 40 years. You know me. You raised me. You educated me. And I know you.”  
 As journalist David Israel wrote: “And we know you, too, President Joe Biden. And as you put it in 1973, we have no delusions.”  
 And just the other day, on April 8th, Holocaust Remembrance Day––the day that commemorates the six-million Jews who perished in the Holocaust––the Biden regime released its push for gun confiscation, red-flag laws, and the end of the 2nd Amendment.  
 “So that very day,” writer Steven Neill points out, “we remembered the deaths of six-million Jews at the hands of a tyrannical government and at the same time [Biden’s] government is going full Nazi!”  
 And in keeping with their vicious antagonism toward Jews and Israel, [Joe Biden’s Democrat-run House Foreign Affairs Committee](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/299909) released a Yom HaShoah statement that omitted reference to the six-million Jews killed in the Holocaust and spelled Holocaust with a lowercase H.  
 Yet again, this is who Democrats voted for. This is who Jewish Democrats voted for.  
**RIGHT OUT OF THE BOX**  
 Less than two weeks after his inauguration on January 20th, 2021, ole Joe immediately made key appointments of longtime Jew- and Israel-loathers. Here is a synopsis of those early appointments from my recent article, “Joe’s Jews”:  
 **MAHER BITAR** for Senior Director for Intelligence of the National Security Council (NSC)…[according to Daniel Greenfield](https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/2021/01/biden-puts-anti-israel-bds-activist-charge-nsc-daniel-greenfield/), an aggressive anti-Israel activist and Boycott/Divest/Sanction (BDS) supporter who has called for the destruction of Israel.  
 **ANTHONY BLINKEN** for Secretary of State…he has [praised](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fobamawhitehouse.archives.gov%2Fblog%2F2012%2F03%2F26%2Fremarks-antony-blinken-j-street-conference&data=04%7C01%7CJShafer%40zoa.org%7C360df8046810491d5ad208d89510d99c%7C7b1e3d07d9cb45beb032abe13188b8cf%7C1%7C0%7C637423246892374303%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2ucY%2FZr1ebnr9O6mzI0Nimp1HCMg41WSfV%2BpWKVcNqI%3D&reserved=0) radical anti-Israel J Street as a ‘constructive force,’” and opposed designating the terrorist Iranian IRGC as a foreign terror organization.  
 **KRISTEN CLARKE** as head of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. Paul Miller, executive director of the Haym Salomon Center, [documents](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/the-lefts-mainstreaming-of-anti-semitism-continues-apace) that Clarke “has a troubling history of advocating for anti-Semites and representing anti-Semitic lies as ‘fact.’”  
 **REEMA DODIN** for Deputy Director of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs. According to the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), Dodin’s background as a Palestinian propagandist and supporter of suicide bombings is so egregious that she should be fired on the spot. Dodin also [organized](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fkeywiki.org%2FReema_Dodin&data=04%7C01%7CJShafer%40zoa.org%7C360df8046810491d5ad208d89510d99c%7C7b1e3d07d9cb45beb032abe13188b8cf%7C1%7C0%7C637423246892404292%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=TbSFShfmq2kyCIXn11VkwDUPMCA%2Fxa%2BYtal3sBqleXk%3D&reserved=0) anti-Israel rallies at UC Berkeley, and has spread Medieval-style blood libels…  
 **AVRIL HAINES** for Director of National Intelligence. Described as being [rabidly anti-Israel](https://www.israel365news.com/153904/bidens-foreign-policy-advisor-accused-of-being-rabidly-anti-israel/)…last May she signed a vicious J Street letter with 30 notoriously Israel-loathing former foreign-policy officials calling on the Democrat Party to oppose Israel’s lawful rights in Judea and Samaria.  
 **KARINE JEAN-PIERRE** for White House Press Secretary. The former head of MoveOn.org, a far-left anti-Israel group, she [has praised lawmakers for boycotting pro-Israel](https://freebeacon.com/democrats/biden-eyes-israel-critic-as-white-house-press-sec/) groups and has accused Israel of “war crimes.”  
 **JOHN KERRY** as Envoy for Climate. Adam Berkowitz [has written](https://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/07/flashback_john_kerry_and_israel.html) that “even the Israeli leftist newspaper Haaretz is appalled by John Kerry’s…[utter capitulation](http://www.timesofisrael.com/kerry-completely-capitulated-to-hamas-in-ceasefire-proposal-says-israel/) to Hamas.” And Joseph Klein [has written](https://mabatzion.com/john-kerrys-farewell-stab-at-israel-by-joseph-klein/) of Kerry’s farewell stab at Israel when he was Secretary of State under Obama.  
 **ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS** for *S*ecretary of the Department of Homeland Security, is a [board member of HIAS](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hias.org%2Fwho%2Fboard%2Falejandro-mayorkas&data=04%7C01%7CJShafer%40zoa.org%7C360df8046810491d5ad208d89510d99c%7C7b1e3d07d9cb45beb032abe13188b8cf%7C1%7C0%7C637423246892454276%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=f5%2BoZ22%2Bke8aBIPQiutzDZHE1VjCfS15IKDbEGdgVAM%3D&reserved=0), which [partners](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fzoa.org%2F2020%2F08%2F10441125-zoa-hias-must-end-partnership-with-terrorist-financier-islamic-relief-group-after-another-jew-hating-revelation-there%2F&data=04%7C01%7CJShafer%40zoa.org%7C360df8046810491d5ad208d89510d99c%7C7b1e3d07d9cb45beb032abe13188b8cf%7C1%7C1%7C637423246892464266%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=sMLP%2Bn9EM5XRf6ffCELe698N42nj1LOz7TRSnuDVzec%3D&reserved=0) with terrorism-financier Islamic Relief. He has [undermined](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jns.org%2Fopinion%2Fa-letter-to-the-conference-of-presidents-of-major-american-jewish-organizations%2F&data=04%7C01%7CJShafer%40zoa.org%7C360df8046810491d5ad208d89510d99c%7C7b1e3d07d9cb45beb032abe13188b8cf%7C1%7C0%7C637423246892474259%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=NEuAgQ26OQflhFpCVYO2Atk0X8apXUwEhjqfreGDi8s%3D&reserved=0) Israeli repatriation policies…and signed a letter [defending](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jns.org%2Fopinion%2Fa-letter-to-the-conference-of-presidents-of-major-american-jewish-organizations%2F&data=04%7C01%7CJShafer%40zoa.org%7C360df8046810491d5ad208d89510d99c%7C7b1e3d07d9cb45beb032abe13188b8cf%7C1%7C0%7C637423246892484259%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2zcfRRiEHKwoJgD5D19MazXIXT%2BglzfmSKIJ%2F9gCoeE%3D&reserved=0) and praising Jew-basher Linda Sarsour.  
**** **DENIS McDONOUGH** for Secretary of the Veterans Administration. He has spoken at the anti-Israel J Street convention and falsely condemned Israel’s “occupation.”  
 **SUSAN RICE** for Domestic Policy Advisor (aka Biden’s Valerie Jarrett). The [serial liar](https://lidblog.com/susan-rice-shadow-president/) and inveterate Israel basher was Obama’s senior foreign-policy advisor and also John Kerry’s chief foreign-policy adviser when he ran for President.  
 **WENDY SHERMAN** for Deputy Secretary of State. Sherman negotiated the disastrous Iran deal. Again, ZOA spokesmen [spell out](https://zoa.org/2021/01/10442045-zoa-another-bad-biden-nominee-wendy-sherman-brought-us-disastrous-iran-deal/) Sherman’s threat to Israel of consequences from the United Nations (aka the virulently anti-Israel cesspool in NY City) if Israel did not accept a Palestinian (terror) state.  
 **KEEPING UP THE DRUMBEAT**  
 Since then, Biden has expanded his anti-Israel appointments and policies significantly. Clearly, whoever is running the show behind the armed camp at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue believes that nothing is more important than undermining, sabotaging, and “getting” the Jews and Israel.  
 Space limitations prevent me from elaborating at length, but here are the cold hard facts of *some but not all* of the Jew-and-Israel-detesting people Biden has appointed in just the past four or five weeks.  
 **HADY AMR** for Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, to be in charge, [as Daniel Greenfield spells out](https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/2021/04/bidens-anti-israel-point-man-behind-plan-fund-daniel-greenfield/), of setting the Biden administration’s policy on Israel––the perfect pick given his former praise for the “Palestinian” intifada and former role as a Fellow of the Brookings’ Doha Center for Qatar, a “tiny Islamic tyranny allied with Iran, Al Qaeda, and the Muslim Brotherhood…and a backer of Hamas.”  
 **PETE BUTTIGIEG** for **Secretary of Transportation, the guy who now threatens to cut aid to Israel. As Greenfield explains, he is being advised by close associates of Obama and Soros, hence his wholehearted** [entrance into the anti-Israel echo chamber](https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/2019/06/how-buttigieg-entered-anti-israel-echo-chamber-daniel-greenfield/).  
 **DEB HAALAND** (D-NM) **for Secretary of the Interior.** In June 2020, she signed a vicious [letter](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhaaland.house.gov%2Fmedia%2Fpress-releases%2Fhaaland-members-congress-call-us-ambassador-israel-condemn-all-acts-violence&data=04%7C01%7Cmklein%40zoa.org%7C3863a5973cbd42b5bcf508d8b110378f%7C7b1e3d07d9cb45beb032abe13188b8cf%7C1%7C0%7C637454030579358474%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5ky8%2BAu1UwQ0bQhuKdDbt%2ByE3wonaP1zmb7RjHx0udo%3D&reserved=0)––along with anti-Semites Ilhan Omar (D-MN), Alexandria Ocasio Cortez (D-NY), and Democrat Betty McCollum (MN), et al––falsely accusing Israelis of violence against the people who call themselves Palestinians.  
 **COLIN KAHL** for Undersecretary of Defense. According to ZOA President Morton A. Klein and Chair Mark Levenson, Esq. Kahl has [a dismal record](https://zoa.org/2021/03/10442560-zoa-opposes-anti-israel-iran-appeaser-colin-kahls-confirmation-as-undersecretary-for-defense/) of advocating pro-Iranian regime positions, opposing Iran sanctions, advancing an anti-Israel resolution at the U.N, holding anti-Israel positions, and promoting anti-Semitic conspiracy theories.  
 **ROBERT MALLEY for U.S. Special Envoy on Iran.** Malley has a long and alarming record of anti-Israel hostility and appeasement of Iran, Hamas, the PLO, Yasser Arafat, Mahmoud Abbas, and Syria.  
 **BETTY McCOLLUM**, Democrat Representative from Minnesota, for the Chair of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. [The vocal anti-Israel lawmaker](https://worldisraelnews.com/democratic-lawmaker-who-supports-cutting-us-military-aid-to-israel-now-presides-over-defense-spending-subcommittee/) spews anti-Semitic tropes and aggressively supports cutting aid to Israel.  
 **DENIS McDONOUGH for Secretary of Veterans Affairs). According to the ZOA,** while serving as Obama’s chief-of-staff he gave a harsh, anti-Israel keynote speech at the anti-Israel group J Street’s convention and [falsely and maliciously](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fzoa.org%2F2015%2F03%2F10279468-zoa-criticizes-obama-c-of-s-mcdonough-for-demanding-end-of-occupation-not-pahamas-alliance-promotinghonoring-jew-killing%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cmklein%40zoa.org%7C3863a5973cbd42b5bcf508d8b110378f%7C7b1e3d07d9cb45beb032abe13188b8cf%7C1%7C0%7C637454030579258911%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=PIVrIydQ0JHkbKfohuWgGlFKYimhGJm8Lr7pveufs7g%3D&reserved=0) called Israel’s presence on historic Jewish lands guaranteed to the Jewish people under international law an “occupation of ‘Palestinian’ land.”  
 **ERIN PELTON** for Special Assistant to Biden and a Senior Adviser on Domestic Policy. She is a former lobbyist for Qatar, [which has close ties to Iran, is a central hub for terrorism financing](https://freebeacon.com/biden-administration/biden-hires-qatari-agent-as-senior-adviser/), and is also [suspected of funding](https://freebeacon.com/issues/trump-admin-quiet-on-qatars-alleged-role-in-financing-hezbollah/) Hezbollah.  
 **SAMANTHA POWER** for *head of* the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Obama’s U.S. ambassador to the United Nations has, according to the ZOA, an [“abominable anti-American, anti-Israel, pro-Iran record”…](https://zoa.org/2021/03/10442596-zoa-opposes-samantha-power-to-head-united-states-agency-for-international-development-usaid-and-sit-on-national-security-council/) **[and a] history of anti-Israel statements and actions….**Power indeed uses the mantra of ‘human rights’ to condemn and damage human rights-loving countries, especially the U.S. and Israel, and to instead support murderous hateful regimes.”  
 **JEN PSAKI**, White House Press Secretary, *A*s a State Dept. spokesperson [during the Obama-Biden regime](https://zoa.org/2021/01/10441865-more-bidens-hostile-to-israel-appts-press-secy-jen-psaki-called-plans-to-build-jewish-homes-in-jerusalem-poisoning-the-atmosphere-etc/), she *questioned Israel’s commitment to peace, d***efended the U.S. working with the Hamas-Fatah-Palestinian Authority “unity” government while** Hamas’ [charter](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mythsandfacts.org%2Fconflict%2Fstatute-treaties%2Fhamas_charter.htm&data=04%7C01%7CNLazaroff%40zoa.org%7C7aac928ad69741f5a18208d8b06ffc8f%7C7b1e3d07d9cb45beb032abe13188b8cf%7C1%7C0%7C637453342348502536%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=UHenP2tjp%2BSv4G4uE7xbb4DhGAc6s5GNOBTcDwC7D%2BE%3D&reserved=0)calls for Israel’s annihilation and murdering every Jew in existence, and [was incapable of saying yes](https://gellerreport.com/2021/02/watch-psaki-wont-answer-when-asked-if-israel-is-important-ally-of-u-s-she-doesnt-answer.html/) when asked if Israel was an important ally of the U.S.  
 **SYMONE SANDERS for Senior Advisor and Chief Spokesperson to the Vice President, a woman who gave a free pass to** *avowed Jew-hater Linda Sarsour after* Sarsour’s violence-inciting statements, such as notorious [tweet](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Flsarsour%2Fstatus%2F653370490434756608%3Flang%3Den&data=04%7C01%7Cmklein%40zoa.org%7C3863a5973cbd42b5bcf508d8b110378f%7C7b1e3d07d9cb45beb032abe13188b8cf%7C1%7C0%7C637454030579398300%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=TGBgLUdM%2FUovGv%2BX8ciAIkw%2B%2FlepyuYp6KQiu8BFeNE%3D&reserved=0) that throwing rocks at Israelis is “the definition of courage.”  
 **UZRA ZEYA**, [who has a long record of denouncing the “Israel lobby,”](https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/2021/03/biden-appoints-another-israel-hater-uzra-zeya-hugh-fitzgerald/) according to journalist Hugh Fitzgerald, as well as her full supporting of the despotic and corrupt regimes of Hamas in Gaza and the Palestinian Authority in Judea  and Samaria, and promoting claims about Jewish media control and dual loyalty to Israel.  
 Once again, this is who Democrats voted for. This is who Jewish Democrats voted for.  
**BIDEN’S** **JEW-HATING POLICIES**  
 [Biden erasing Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital](https://www.israel365news.com/187954/top-israeli-academic-biden-erasing-trumps-recognition-of-jerusalem-as-israels-capital/).  
 [Biden unveils a policy honoring Osama bin Laden’s old friend Khashoggi who hates Jews and America](https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/2021/03/biden-unveils-policy-honoring-osama-bin-ladens-old-daniel-greenfield/).  
 [Biden to restart “Palestinian” payments to terrorists and their families](https://freebeacon.com/national-security/biden-admin-to-restart-palestinian-aid-as-payments-to-terrorists-flow/).  
 In an act of stunning rudeness and blatant hostility, [Biden consciously refuses to call Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu](https://nypost.com/2021/02/16/biden-has-still-not-spoken-with-israeli-pm-netanyahu/) for well over a month since his oath of office.  
 In February, Politico exposed [a U.S. State Department official in the Biden Administration](https://worldisraelnews.com/brood-of-vipers-state-department-officers-anti-semitic-website-exposed/), Fritz Berggren, for *operating a website on which he refers to Jews as “the seed of the serpent” and a “brood of vipers.” To date, no word of sanctions or firing of Berggren.*  
 **While Iranian-backed Iraqi militias were likely behind**[a deadly rocket barrage](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/military/iranian-backed-militias-likely-behind-deadly-rocket-attack-u-s-n1258380)**on a U.S.-led coalition base in northern Iraq in February, that didn’t stop Biden from** [releasing $3 billion in Iranian funds that have been frozen in Iraq, Oman and South Korea due to Washington’s sanctions](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/03/biden-approves-release-3-billion-irans-funds-iraq-oman-south-korea/)**. According to Rabbi Yaacov Menken, managing director of the Coalition for Jewish values, this funding** violates the Taylor Force Act––signed by President Trump in 2018––which stops U.S. aid to the PA until it stops paying stipends to martyred terrorists. Every global terror organization is delighted to see President Biden in power,” Menken added.  
 Just as the Obama-Biden regime was infamous for leaking intelligence information that was horribly damaging to Israel, the Biden regime [is already doing the same](https://www.dailywire.com/news/biden-administration-leaks-info-about-israel-the-obama-biden-administration-was-infamous-for-that), leaking “to The New York Times that Israel attacked an Iranian ship in the Red Sea.”  
 Biden now intends [to reinstate funding](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnypost.com%2F2021%2F02%2F17%2Fnew-hate-mongering-scandals-at-un-agency-that-biden-means-to-send-millions%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C6e592f17074e4f34160d08d8d410b4ad%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637492515495447274%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ZGh3r%2BpiMcck1dE8r0iqOiMkXc8f0J9SxWrAnW%2FwRI4%3D&reserved=0) to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) — hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars a year for an agency that teaches “Palestinian” children to hate “the Enemy” Israel and believe “Jihad is the road of glory.”  
 The ZOA’s [recent report on the U.S. State Department](https://zoa.org/2021/04/10442653-zoa-major-analysis-u-s-state-dept-human-rights-report-is-biased-against-israel-relies-on-anti-israel-terror-connected-ngos-falsehoods/) concluded, not surprisingly,  that it “is strongly biased against the Jewish State of Israel, relies on falsehoods from anti-Israel and terror-connected Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and others, and resumed using the inaccurate term “occupied” to refer to the ‘West Bank,’ Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, and eastern Jerusalem. The Trump administration had correctly and appropriately dropped the inaccurate term “occupied.”  
 Joe Biden: “Jewish settlements are illegal”  
Bernie Sanders: “Jewish settlements are illegal”  
Elizabeth Warren: “Jewish settlements are illegal”  
Pete Buttigieg: “Jewish settlements are illegal”  
Illhan Omar: “Jewish settlements are illegal”  
Rashida Tlaib: “Jewish settlements are illegal”  
Jimmy Carter: “Jewish settlements are illegal”  
Barack Obama: “Jewish settlements are illegal”  
Jeremy Corbyn: “Jewish settlements are illegal”  
 Donald Trump: “No they aren’t. Jews have the right to live anywhere they choose”  
 American Jews: “Trump is an antisemite”   
 Once again, this is who Democrats voted for. This is who Jewish Democrats voted for.  
 How could that be? What kind of psychopathology drives people to support a political candidate whose worldview and political philosophy wishes them dead? As Eileen Toplansky [sagely asks](https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2021/02/when_will_american_jews_wake_up.html): “American Jewry–– when will you wake up?” <https://newswithviews.com/more-about-joe-and-the-jews/>   
  
**Who Really Has Privilege?**[*Dinesh D'Souza*](https://townhall.com/columnists/dineshdsouza/) *Posted: Apr 14, 2021 5:20 PM* Who really has privilege in our society today? Is it whites? Is it blacks? I'm talking about cultural privilege and legal privilege. I want to talk today about the issue of privilege. Not so much the issue of personal privilege because when we think about our lives we could be privileged in this way or that.   
 I think back, for example, I'm very privileged to have good parents, parents who loved me and took care of me. And I suppose since not everyone has that, that's a kind of privilege.   
 When I think of someone who's a very good athlete, they're privileged to have those inherent skills, to be tall enough or strong enough or fast enough and that's, I suppose, a kind of personal privilege. We can also speak of national privilege. It's a privilege to be born in America. That's why people try so hard to have an American passport because an American passport counts for more than any other kind of passport, at least today, around the world, that may not last forever, but it is true now.   
 So there's American privilege, but I want to talk about privilege in America, and I want to speak about the kind of two kinds of privilege that I think really matter. The first is cultural privilege, the way that you were seen in public space, the way that you're treated by others, by the culture, the way you're represented in culture. And the second is legal privilege, which is the law bending in your favor in various things.   
 Now, I think it's very clear that although we hear interminably about white privilege. The fact of the matter seems to be that when you look at the episodes of all this stuff going on in our culture and if you look at our laws, it's very clear that we have a lot of black privilege. Yes, black privilege, I know the term itself will cause some people to find it a little bit jarring, but black privilege here simply means that there is a cultural and legal preference for blacks.   
 Let's start with the legal privilege. There are no laws in the United States that I'm aware of that prefer whites over blacks, not one. Whereas, there are innumerable laws, you couldn't even count them, that benefit blacks and other minorities over whites. Let's start with laws that involve college admissions, preferences for blacks and other minorities over whites. We also have laws that give preferential treatment in terms of jobs and promotions and government contracts, and there are certain types of even COVID Relief packages that have been structured in such a way that they give legal preferences to minorities over whites, and this permeates our whole society everyone kind of knows about it, everyone accommodates to it. And, there it is, it's, it is a form of legal discrimination which another word for discrimination is of course privilege.  
 Now we can turn to cultural privilege, and this is a big question, but it's kind of easy to investigate by zooming in to some particular incidents. So let's just look at all these incidents of shootings that have been going on around us, which I've been watching kind of carefully. I just see a tweet here by Senator Tammy Baldwin,   
 "Today I pay my respects to Capitol Police Officer Billy Evans who was tragically killed, doing his job protecting the Capitol, my heart goes out to family and friends," blah blah blah. He was tragically killed by whom? Here Senator Baldwin is too reticent to say, why, because the killer was a black guy. He was a nation of Islam guy, and therefore the passive voice kicks in, he was tragically killed. If he had been killed by a Trumpster, by a white guy, we would have been horrified to note that a white Trumpster did this. So, somehow for whites, they're always granted agency, they're held responsible for what they do, particularly the bad things they do. When it comes to blacks there's a desire to sort of paper over that.   
 Look at the perpetrators of the carjacking of the Uber driver, by the way, a hard-working guy, an immigrant, he gets, he gets tasered and killed, his car crashes, and it's two black teens who do it. What happens to them, answer, pretty much nothing. They're getting a kind of sweetheart plea deal, and they're going to avoid all prison time, they don't even go to prison at all. Well, what do you call that if not black privilege? If that again had been two white guys who did that, I don't think they'd be getting the same deal. If two white guys had murdered a Pakistani immigrant can you imagine the torrential press coverage? So both on the cultural front and the legal front, you notice that the fact that these teenagers are black is key to the fact that they get off easy.   
 Now I turn to the Daunte Wright killing, a killing I'll discuss in a little more detail later in the podcast, but here I just want to note that when I look at the media portraits of Daunte Wright, they're almost devotional. You see for example a picture of Daunte Wright with this little kid. Now I've seen other pictures of Daunte Wright with a gun. I read, and again I've got to go across the, go over to Britain to find this out, Daunte Wright had a warrant out for his arrest for attempted aggravated robbery charges after choking and holding a woman at gunpoint to rob her $820 in rent money. Wright and another man were trying to basically rob this woman. And so, and Daunte Wright knew there was a warrant out for his arrest. Now when the cops stopped him, he called over to his mom and he goes, Oh yeah, they're pulling me over for my air freshener hanging out on my rearview mirror, obviously lying to his mom, and of course, his mom reports that to the media which then goes unbelievable the guy's being pulled over for an air freshener. No, he's not being pulled over for an air freshener. There's an outstanding warrant for a very serious crime that he is under investigation for. So again, the fact that this Daunte Wright is treated as if he were some kind of angel who was merely being harassed by these cops, you know, that would not be the case if Daunte Wright wasn't black.   
 So the essence of being black here is you, you essentially become exonerated for what you do, even if you're a really bad guy with really bad stuff behind your belt, that gets papered over in the media coverage and you also seem to get legal preferences. By the way, why do we know the name of the cop who shot Daunte Wright, but we still don't know the name of the cop who shot Ashli Babbitt. Well, I happen to know the name of that cop, but you really have to dig to find it. By the way, the guy is Lieutenant Michael Leroy Byrd. That's the guy who did it but you'll almost not see that in a single media report, you know why, because he's black. So if you see a black cop with a gun shooting a white woman through the neck, the media knows that really doesn't really fit our narrative, our narrative is white cops killing blacks, so they erase it, they don't show it, if they mentioned it, they try not to mention it at all, they've tried to essentially protect this man by not mentioning his name, and I noticed, essentially how quickly he's been exonerated.   
 Where's the trial, where's the investigation, where's the report on why this was a justified killing. Ashli Babbitt after all was unarmed. So what I'm trying to get at here is that if you're black and on the left, you really have a sort of pass in our culture. You can be a home invader and a guy whose passing out counterfeit bills, you can be shot up with drugs, but you'll still get five funerals, you'll still get a gold casket, you'll still get the Democratic leadership going down on one knee. You can loot a store, you can burn a building or a church, you can jump on top of a police car, you can block traffic and bridges, you can harass diners, you can pull people out of their automobiles and haze them and beat them, you can go into private residences and bang things, you can go into an Asian American nail salon and harass the owners and the people who work there, you can run, through groups like Black Lives Matter, a massive extortion scheme where you're collecting all this money to fight social justice, and then you go by five homes, you go essentially invest in property all over America, in the Bahamas and really the media stew they're not going to report it because it's okay, why, because you have black privilege.   
 You can even shoot members of your own race or other races, without the slightest fear that it will be described as a hate crime or reported widely in the newspapers. There's not going to be any national brouhaha about it. The only time you'll be in the newspapers if your hardened criminal with a long rap sheet, and a white cop pulls you over. That's the only time you're going to find yourself in the newspaper, and you're going to be lionized as a victim, and the other guy's going to be the one who, you know I could go on with this but I think you get the picture. The way you can sort of settle this matter about privilege is simply to ask this question. In the old days 100 years ago, you had a lot of mixed-race people, part white part Black, who tried to pass as white. Why, because the cultural privilege and the legal privilege was in doing that, in pretending you may say to be white, and there's a whole bunch of literature and novels, James Weldon Johnson's "the Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man," and many others that talk about this.   
 Charles Chesnutt's "the House Behind the Cedars," literature describing, if you will, mixed race blacks, passing as white because they're light-skinned enough to do that. They felt that's the way for me to live a normal life. Well, today it's the opposite if you'll notice, you hardly have any whites who pretend to be black, but you have lots of mixed-race people who pretend, who pretend to be white, but you have lots of mixed-race people who now move in the black direction. I'm thinking not just of the Rachel Dolezals who sort of says, you know, we're really white, but say I'm black, you have that in order to advance professionally perhaps in her case, but you also have people like Obama, or Kamala Harris, Megan Markel. People who are mixed race, but who decide to emphasize the black side of their identity. Why, because they know that culturally, politically, in terms of advancing their career, it's better for them.   
 So the bottom line of it is, there are certain respects, I suppose, in which there is white privilege. I think the most important respect is the privilege of the past. And so whites, for example, have greater wealth than blacks and that's passed on I guess from an era of white privilege, but at the same time, I think we are fools not to deny the reality that in today's America, in terms of culture and in terms of the law. Black privilege is also a very obvious reality. <https://townhall.com/columnists/dineshdsouza/2021/04/14/dinesh-who-has-privilege-n2587947>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA  
Dutch shop fined for omitting the word ‘settlement’ from label of Israeli wine  
*Dutch inspectors fire store for selling Israeli wine from Samaria without marking it as a "settlement" product.****Cnaan Liphshiz, JTA , Apr 15 , 2021 9:28 PM* Dutch government inspectors fined a store for labeling wine made in an Israeli town in Samaria as “a product from an Israeli village in Judea and Samaria.”  
 The Israel Products Center near Amsterdam received the $2,514 fine last week following its refusal to replace the label with one acceptable to the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, which requires such labels read “Product from the West Bank (Israeli settlement).”  
 The Israel Products Center, a shop and importer run by the pro-Israel group Christians for Israel, has had legal problems over labeling since 2019. The center’s director, Pieter van Oordt, wrote in a statement that he was “shocked” by the government’s actions, which he said were discriminatory.  
 At least four Dutch political parties have accused the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority of singling out Israeli products and ignoring controversial labels on products from other disputed areas, including Western Sahara and Northern Cyprus.  
 Medical Care Minister Tamara van Ark has rejected the claim, saying last year that the policy of enforcing EU regulations on labels is being applied across the board. However, the Center for Information on Documentation on Israel, a Jewish community watchdog, said Wednesday that it had no information on any action taken on country-of-origins labels on products that were not made by Israelis.  
 In 2015, the European Commission adopted regulations barring the labeling of products from areas it considers occupied by Israel as made in Israel, a decision it attributed to the consumer’s right to know the origins of products.  
<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304467>   
   
**Indianapolis shooting leaves eight dead**

***A mass shooting has been reported at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis, with multiple victims hospitalized.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 16 , 2021 10:21 AM | updated: 10:35 AM*

A shooting at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis has left at least eight people dead, local police said.

Quoting local police, CNN said the eight had injuries consistent with gunshot wounds and that they had been pronounced dead at the scene.

Local authorities also said that several other people had been injured in the shooting and were at hospitals.

Officer Genae Cook, a spokesperson for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, said she believes the shooter took his own life and that there is "no active threat to the community at this time."

*BBC* added that the shooter seemed to be acting alone.

Earlier, two employees inside the building at the time told *CNN* affiliate *WISH-TV* that they heard as many as ten gunshots.

*AFP* quoted Jeremiah Miller, a FedEx employee, as saying: "I saw a man with a sub-machine gun of some sort, an automatic rifle, and he was firing in the open. I immediately ducked down and got scared."

In an email to *CNN*, FedEx spokesperson Jim Masilak said the company was aware of the "tragic shooting," emphasizing: "Safety is our top priority, and our thoughts are with all those who are affected."

"We are working to gather more information and are cooperating with investigating authorities," he added. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304495> [HUMMM? This is getting most disconcerting. Is this rash of shootings which JUST happen to occur as there is a push by the Fed for control multiple incited false flags for them to push their point which is certainly a possibility or is it that the current mental and spiritual state of the world and the Satan gone wild. We know that in the end of days there will be a marked increase in satanic activity a point that would go with either explanation.. – rdb]

**Iranian parliament confirms uranium enrichment**

***The chairman of the Iranian parliament has confirmed that Iran is now enriching uranium to 60%.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 16 , 2021 11:36 AM*

The chairman of the Iranian parliament has confirmed that Iran is now enriching uranium to 60%.

In a Friday tweet, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf wrote: "I am proud to announce that at 00:40 last night ,and on the night of the pilgrimage of Sayyid al-Shuhada, young and pious Iranian scientists were able to obtain a 60% enriched uranium product."

"Congratulations to the brave people of Islamic Iran on this success; the will of the Iranian people is a miracle and will thwart any conspiracy."

On Wednesday, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) [said in a statement](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304405): "The Agency today verified that Iran had almost completed preparations to start producing UF6 enriched up to 60% U-235 at the Natanz Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant (PFEP)."

The agency added that Iran plans to add 1,024 first-generation IR-1 centrifuges to the plant

[On Tuesday](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304286), the state-run *IRNA* news agency reported that Iranian negotiator Abbas Araghchi said that the Islamic Republic would enrich uranium to 60% purity, far above the 20% it had been enriching uranium to previously. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304497>

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**04/15/2021 NEWS AM -Shorashim -** **YOM HAATZMAUT- ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY ISSUE 5781** <https://madmimi.com/p/8bf9321?pact=1003425-162833590-1683292940-fe5cc36611168114852a86c5a75c611e5799519c>

**– Today is Yom Ha’Autzmaut (Israeli Independence Day)** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqXg5e1sg5s>

**עוזיה צדוק - כנס ללב**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFByvvn-Pt8>

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| The heart feels what the eye does not see,  Do not be indifferent - if a tear falls here,  Life is not perfect and how we all fight.  We're all under the same sky,  So be one who does not give up,  And know that the heart is with you. | If the heart speaks, you will learn to listen,  Everyone falls, deep inside you too it hurts.  The complicated life, what do they promise?  We're all under the same sky,  Then be one who is not afraid to jump into the water first.  You will always be my hero. | So give the heart a conference for the heart,  Do not be afraid to say what you think.  People you know, looking to connect,  Everyone is going through a crisis  And should get to his feet,  Get out of it strong, strong with your hands  And the heart says it's harder it's hard and certainly easier to connect ..  Today the heart looks straight at the camera,  Everyone looks happy no matter what.  People live on Instagram - probably ... |

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| **"..the Bill of Rights does not come from the people and is not subject to change by majorities. It comes from the nature of things. It declares the inalienable rights of man not only against all government but also against the people collectively." -- Walter Lippmann (1889-1974) American writer, journalist, and political commentator** |

**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 AS – post knee replacement – some problems and another one scheduled.**  **Pray for TR – abnormal Mammogram having double biopsy – Mastectomy Scheduled**  **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 25:1And Abraham added and took a wife, and her name *was* Keturah. 2And she bore to him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. 3And Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim and Leummim. 4And the sons of Midian: Ephah, and Epher, and Hanoch, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these *were* the sons of Keturah. 5And Abraham gave all that was his to Isaac.**

**Watchdog says Iran has almost completed preparations for 60% uranium enrichment**

***IAEA confirms Natanz facility will begin increasing operations shortly, days after sabotage said to have damaged thousands of centrifuges***

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

The International Atomic Energy Agency announced Wednesday that Iran had “almost completed preparations” to begin enriching uranium to 60 percent purity at the Natanz nuclear facility.

“The Agency today verified that Iran had almost completed preparations to start producing UF6 enriched up to 60% U-235 at the Natanz Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant,” the nuclear watchdog said, according to [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-iaea/iran-has-almost-completed-preparations-to-enrich-uranium-to-60-iaea-idUSKBN2C12JN).

Iran had announced Tuesday it would ramp up uranium enrichment up to 60%, its highest level ever, in response to this [weekend’s sabotage](https://www.timesofisrael.com/natanz-blast-caused-by-remote-detonated-bomb-took-out-power-and-backup-report/) at the facility.

The attack, which reportedly damaged thousands of centrifuges at the facility, appeared to be part of an escalating shadow war between Israel and Iran. Israeli authorities have not commented on the attack, for which Tehran has vowed revenge.

The move to increase enrichment could draw further retaliation, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed never to allow Tehran to obtain a nuclear weapon. While Iran’s move keeps enrichment below weapons-grade levels of 90%, it is a short step away.



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, second right, is shown new centrifuges and listens to head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi, while visiting an exhibition of Iran’s new nuclear achievements in Tehran, Iran, April 10, 2021. (Iranian Presidency Office via AP)

Speaking to his cabinet, an impassioned President Hassan Rouhani said Wednesday that the first-generation IR-1 centrifuges that were damaged in the attack would be replaced by advanced IR-6 centrifuges that enrich uranium much faster.

Iran’s president called his country’s decision to dramatically increase its uranium enrichment after saboteurs attacked a nuclear site “an answer to your evilness.”

“You wanted to make our hands empty during the talks but our hands are full,” Rouhani said, accusing Israel of being behind the Natanz attack.

He was referring to ongoing talks in Vienna that are aimed at finding a way for the United States to reenter Tehran’s nuclear agreement with world powers and have Iran comply again with its limits. The accord, from which former president Donald Trump withdrew the US in 2018, prevented Iran from stockpiling enough high-enriched uranium to be able to pursue a nuclear weapon in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. MORE -<https://www.timesofisrael.com/watchdog-says-iran-has-almost-completed-preparations-for-60-uranium-enrichment/>

**Iran dismisses Vienna nuclear deal offers as ‘not worth looking at’**

***As negotiations thrown into disarray following Natanz facility sabotage, supreme leader Khamenei warns the US time could be running out***

*By* [*Jon Gambrell*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jon-gambrell/) *Today, 9:02 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP_21104566647357.jpg)

In this picture released by an official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, wearing a protective face mask, attends a meeting in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, April 14, 2021 (Office of the Iranian supreme leader via AP)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran’s supreme leader on Wednesday dismissed initial offers being made at talks in Vienna aimed at saving Tehran’s tattered nuclear deal with world powers. He described them as “not worth looking at” after an attack on an atomic site in his country.

The comments by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all matters of state in the Islamic Republic, come as informal talks in Vienna continue ahead of a planned formal round of negotiations.

The talks already have been thrown into disarray by a weekend attack on Iran’s main nuclear enrichment site suspected to have been carried out by Israel. Tehran retaliated by announcing it would enrich uranium up to 60%.

“The offers they provide are usually arrogant and humiliating (and) are not worth looking at,” Khamenei said in an address marking the first day of Ramadan in Iran.

While saying he remained positive about Iran’s negotiators, he criticized the US and warned time could be running out.

“The talks shouldn’t become talks of attrition,” Khamenei said. “They shouldn’t be in a way that parties drag on and prolong the talks. This is harmful to the country.”

Also on Wednesday, Iran’s president called his country’s decision to dramatically increase its uranium enrichment after saboteurs attacked a nuclear site “an answer to your evilness,” saying Israel hoped to derail ongoing talks aimed at reviving Tehran’s tattered nuclear deal with world powers.

This weekend’s sabotage at the Natanz nuclear facility appears to be part of an escalating shadow war between the two countries. Israeli authorities have not commented on the attack, but are widely suspected of having carried it out.

Iran announced Tuesday it would increase uranium enrichment up to 60%, its highest level ever, in response to the attack. That could draw further retaliation as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed never to allow Tehran to obtain a nuclear weapon. While Iran’s move keeps enrichment below weapons-grade levels of 90%, it is a short step away.

Speaking to his Cabinet, an impassioned President Hassan Rouhani said the first-generation IR-1 centrifuges that were damaged in the attack would be replaced by advanced IR-6 centrifuges that enrich uranium much faster.

“You wanted to make our hands empty during the talks but our hands are full,” Rouhani said.

He was referring to ongoing talks in Vienna that are aimed at finding a way for the United States to re-enter Tehran’s nuclear agreement with world powers and have Iran comply again with its limits. The accord, from which former President Donald Trump withdrew the US in 2018, prevented Iran from stockpiling enough high-enriched uranium to be able to pursue a nuclear weapon in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Rouhani added: “60% enrichment is an answer to your evilness. … We cut off both of your hands, one with IR-6 centrifuges and another one with 60%.”

Rouhani also accused Israel of being behind the Natanz attack.

“Apparently this is a crime by the Zionists. If the Zionists take an action against our nation, we will respond,” he said, without elaborating.

In Jerusalem at a Memorial Day commemoration, Netanyahu appeared to reference Iran.

“We must never remain apathetic to the threats of war and extermination of those who seek to eliminate us,” he said.

Rouhani in his comments Wednesday insisted Iran is still hoping that the Vienna talks lead to a negotiated settlement over its program — and the accompanying lifting of punishing sanctions.

France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, all parties to the nuclear deal, issued a joint statement Wednesday expressing their “grave concern” over Iran’s decision to increase enrichment.

“This is a serious development since the production of highly enriched uranium constitutes an important step in the production of a nuclear weapon,” the countries said. “Iran has no credible civilian need for enrichment at this level.”

Saudi Arabia, a regional rival to Iran, similarly issued a statement, saying enriching at that level “could not be considered a program intended for peaceful purposes.” MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-dismisses-vienna-nuclear-deal-offers-as-not-worth-looking-at/>

**Memorial Day sorrow fades into joy as Israel ushers in 73rd Independence Day**

***At celebratory event in Jerusalem, Netanyahu contravenes tradition by issuing video speech; Pfizer CEO hailed as a Jewish hero, lauds ‘groundbreaking’ vaccination campaign***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:31 pm*

Israel made the abrupt annual transition from mourning to jubilation on Wednesday night, as Memorial Day drew to a close and its 73rd Independence Day began.

Somber speeches, ceremonies in cemeteries and news reports on fallen soldiers and terror victims gave way to celebration as the annual state ceremony began at Jerusalem’s Mount Herzl.

Local authorities around the country held Independence Day events in person, after events last year were mostly canceled or went online due to the nationwide virus lockdown. Now, the plummeting infection rate has allowed for most restrictions to be lifted, though some limits on gatherings remain in place.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/Untitled-5-4.jpg)

Soldiers before the main rehearsal of the 73rd Independence Day ceremony, held at Mount Herzl, Jerusalem, on April 14, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

All participants will be required to carry a “Green Pass” — evidence of full vaccination against COVID-19 or of recovery from the coronavirus.

The Mount Herzl ceremony is led by the Knesset speaker, a position currently held by Yariv Levin of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud party. During his speech, Levin called for unity amid Israel’s stifling, years-long political impasse. Last month’s inconclusive elections were Israel’s fourth in two years.

“We went through four difficult election cycles. This long period of instability, of uncertainty, harms us all. This is the time to mend the rifts. Even when our opinions are at odds with each other we are still two sides of the same coin, one nation. This Independence Day is the right moment,” Levin said.

He also gave a statement in Arabic, saying, “This holiday is for all Israelis.”



Knesset Chairman Yariv Levin takes part in the main rehearsal of the 73rd Independence Day ceremony, held at Mount Herzl, Jerusalem, April 14, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

The prime minister does not usually speak at the official Independence Day event, but Netanyahu circumvented the traditional limitation by having organizers air a video he narrated, in which he feted the diminishing pandemic in Israel and a return to semi-normalcy.

“We’ve been through a difficult year of a pandemic and we got through it together. Again, we discovered how strong our nation is and how, at the moment of truth, we all came together to protect life, and return to life,” Netanyahu said.

“Let’s shine together for the life of the nation and how good it is, religious and secular, Jews and Arabs. Together we dreamed, together we fulfilled [those dreams], together we won,” he said.

Following last month’s inconclusive election, Israel’s fourth in two years, political leaders are widely believed to be jockeying for position ahead of another potential election cycle.

President Reuven Rivlin issued a message to Israelis and Jews around the world, thanking global Jewry “for all that you do for Israel and the Jewish people. For being side by side with Israel, for defending Israel, for defending Zionism and the Jewish people.”

“We must remember that we are one, strong, big and diverse family. We have a shared destiny. A new Israeli and Jewish Hope must be based on unity and diversity, on mutual understanding and shared experiences,” Rivlin said.

Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla spoke via video link and was hailed as a Jewish hero for his company’s vaccines during the pandemic. Israel relied on Pfizer shots almost exclusively in its world-leading vaccination campaign.

“I am honored that you have chosen to pay tribute to Pfizer at this Independence Day ceremony. Along with Jews around the world, I take immense pride in Israel,” Bourla said. “This year the partnership between Pfizer and Israel produced yet another groundbreaking achievement. Together we are demonstrating that through mass vaccination we can defeat the COVID-19 pandemic and save lives.”

Torch-lighters at the main event included doctors and nurses representing medical teams who have been at the frontlines of battling the coronavirus pandemic; Rabbi Eitan Schnerb, whose daughter Rina was murdered in a 2019 terror attack in the West Bank and who founded a non-profit aiding the needy in the city of Lod; Shira Isakov, who survived a murder attempt by her husband and has become a vocal advocate against violence toward women, alongside the neighbor who helped save her life; Abie Moses, head of an organization that helps victims of terror attacks; Major Maor Cohen, who volunteers with children with cancer; Zipi Harpenes, a school principal in Beersheba; Gabriela Sztrigler Lew, who volunteers in the Shalom Corps doing community work around the world; and others.

The main rehearsal of the 73rd Independence Day ceremony, held at Mount Herzl, Jerusalem on April 14, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

The celebrations will continue on Thursday with public events and private gatherings that typically include visits to beaches, parks and outdoor cookouts.

On Wednesday morning and early afternoon, Air Force aircraft will do a flyover of much of the country, a popular and iconic feature of celebrations.

This year’s flyover will [pass over more towns](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-air-forces-independence-day-flyover-returns-after-pandemic-break/) than usual, “to salute all the citizens of Israel,” a spokesperson for the military said.

Unlike last year, crowds will be allowed to gather to watch the jets and other military aircraft zoom by following the major lifting of coronavirus restrictions.

In 2020, during the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in Israel, the aerobatics performance saluted medical staff over the nation’s hospitals.

A flotilla will sail down the Mediterranean coastline between Herzliya and Tel Aviv.

Municipalities will be permitted to hold Independence Day celebrations for the vaccinated. In locales with limited risk of infection, depending on the size of the venue, up to 3,000 vaccinated people will be allowed to gather indoors, 5,000 outdoors.



Bereaved families, friends and soldiers visit the graves of fallen troops during Memorial Day at the Kiryat Shaul Military Cemetery in Tel Aviv, April 14, 2021. (Tomer Neuberg/Flash90)

The juxtaposition of Memorial Day and Independence Day is a key element of Israelis’ experience of their country’s anniversary, ensuring that no commemoration excludes the sacrifice of the fallen and their families, and that the elation of independence is never far removed from an awareness of its cost.

The sudden switch is seen as a difficult transition for many bereaved families.

This year’s Memorial Day had the bittersweet distinction of marking a year with [the fewest deaths](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-marks-memorial-day-after-year-with-fewest-ever-deaths-in-war-and-terror/) caused by nationalistic violence in Israel’s history, but was marred by a veteran’s self-immolation outside a Defense Ministry office.

Three Israelis — a soldier and two civilians — were killed in terrorism or defense of the country in the past year, by far the lowest annual toll in Israel’s history.

A total of 23,928 people were recognized as fallen on behalf of the state since 1873 on this year’s Memorial Day.

Over the past year, 112 names have been added to that list — 43 of them active service members and 69 who were recognized as having died of wounds sustained in wars or terror attacks. Those 112 people include those killed in accidents or who died of illness over the past year, as well as people who died years ago but have only now been officially recognized as having died of injuries related to their military service or an attack. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/memorial-day-sorrow-fades-into-joy-as-israel-ushers-in-73rd-independence-day/>

**Israel’s care for traumatized veterans is broken. Fixing it will be hard**

***After veteran with PTSD self-immolates in apparent protest against Defense Ministry, treatment options come under intense scrutiny***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 7:29 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/F200515YA06.jpg)

Illustrative: Golani Brigade soldiers stand guard near the grave of their comrade Amit Ben-Ygal, at the Be'er Ya'akov cemetery, on May 15, 2020. (Yossi Aloni/Flash90)

Israel’s existing mechanisms for finding and treating veterans coping with post-traumatic stress are woefully inadequate due to a notoriously invasive and byzantine Defense Ministry bureaucracy, structural issues that prevent people from requesting help they need, and generally ineffective treatment options.

Those issues came to the fore this week after 26-year-old Itzik Saidyan, a veteran of the brutal battle of Shejaiya in the 2014 Gaza war, dowsed himself in a flammable liquid and set himself on fire outside the offices of the Defense Ministry’s Rehabilitation Department in Petah Tikva, roughly 24 hours before the country brought in Memorial Day.

Saidyan remains in critical condition with burns over his entire body as of Wednesday afternoon, with doctors fighting to save his life in Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan.

Saidyan’s apparent protest prompted a flurry of statements of support for him and his family, as well as calls for action by politicians [and activists](https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-memorial-day-siren-blares-dozens-stand-where-idf-veteran-self-immolated/) to address the ministry’s methods of treating veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress.



Screen capture from video of IDF disabled veteran Itzik Saidyan talking about his struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder. (Channel 12 News)

A comprehensive solution for the issue would be no simple task and would require major overhauls not only in the military and Defense Ministry’s protocols, but in society’s understanding of trauma and the effects of combat service on soldiers’ brains.

“There is a lot of ‘black and white’ thinking about trauma. If you come out of the military and you’ve been through a lot of stuff, either you have PTSD or you have nothing. That is the idea. But the reality, of course, is that it’s a continuum,” said Danny Brom, the founding director of Metiv: The Israel Psychotrauma Center, which treats people suffering from PTSD. (Full disclosure: This reporter’s wife is the director of research for Metiv.)

 Not everyone who goes through a traumatic event or events will develop full-blown post-traumatic stress disorder, a condition that typically includes intrusive, recurring flashbacks, hypervigilance, avoidance of triggers, and varying emotional symptoms, like anger or depression.

Some people may only develop a few less-intense symptoms, which they may not even realize come from post-traumatic stress: avoiding sitting with their back toward a door, difficulty sleeping, or increased drug and alcohol use.

Others can have no lingering adverse reactions to trauma.

Dr. Danny Brom, founding director of Metiv: The Israel Psychotrauma Center (Facebook)

“When you go through trauma, people say you need treatment. But in my experience, people are able to cope with a lot of shit that’s happening in the world. Some people need treatment, others don’t,” Brom told The Times of Israel over the phone on Wednesday.

But finding those people who do require treatment and actually getting them the care they need can be difficult.

Though Israel Defense Forces officers can proactively bring in mental health professionals to speak with soldiers following a traumatic event, this is not a standard or required practice. And while there is increased awareness in the IDF and the Defense Ministry about post-traumatic stress, the current systems depend overwhelmingly on soldiers and veterans seeking out help themselves from the military’s Combat Stress Unit or the ministry’s Rehabilitation Department, rather than either of them actively providing it to veterans.

***Not getting help***

As of December 2020, some 5,000 people are recognized by the Defense Ministry as suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, roughly 200 of them veterans of the 2014 Gaza war — a number that is likely far, far lower than the actual number of veterans with the condition.

A 2018 study, conducted by the IDF itself, determined that of the soldiers who participated in fighting during the 2006 Second Lebanon War, only 2.19 percent sought treatment for post-traumatic stress from the military or Defense Ministry in the seven years following the conflict, while the actual estimated prevalence of post-traumatic stress was between 3% and 11%.

According to Brom, who has been researching trauma and PTSD since the 1980s, this gap is not particularly surprising as one of the main symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder is avoiding triggers, making it less likely that veterans will turn to the military — a major potential trigger — for the help they need.

MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israels-care-for-traumatized-veterans-is-broken-fixing-it-will-be-hard/>

**Hamas picks former chief Khaled Meshaal to head foreign political bureau**

***Veteran leader will work to repair ties with Saudi Arabia, other countries in region***

*By MOHAMMAD AL-KASSIM/THE MEDIA LINE   APRIL 14, 2021 23:12*



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (L) and Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal (R) walk with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani

(photo credit: REUTERS)

Former Hamas leader [Khaled Meshaal](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/khaled-mashaal-set-to-make-hamas-leadership-comeback-backed-by-qatar-612283) has been elected to head the Islamist group’s foreign political bureau, a signal that the movement will shift some of its focus to foreign policy.

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

Hamas made the announcement of Meshaal’s election on Monday.

Meshaal, 64, lives in exile in Qatar. He was head of the movement’s political bureau for close to 25 years and was able to build many important relationships with regional and international personalities. He met former US President Jimmy Carter in 2008, raising the profiles of both Hamas and Meshaal.

Meshaal survived an assassination attempt in Amman in 1997, when Israeli [Mossad](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/sources-in-iraq-deny-iran-media-claims-of-attack-on-israelis-665078) agents posing as Canadian tourists injected him with a mysterious poison. Jordan arrested two of the attackers, creating a diplomatic crisis with Israel. The country’s leader at the time, King Hussein, demanded Israel hand over an antidote if it wanted its agents back, and Israel complied.

Hamas has widespread support in its home base, the Gaza Strip, which it wrested away from Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas’s Fatah forces in a bloody takeover in 2007. The group has considerable support among Palestinian refugees scattered throughout the Middle East.

Dr. Mukhaimer Abu Saada, head of the department of political science at Al-Azhar University in Gaza City, told The Media Line that Meshaal has not left the political scene.

“Even during the past four years, during which Ismail Haniyeh was head of the political bureau of Hamas, he was involved in some capacity,” Abu Saada said of Meshaal.

Meshaal accumulated massive experience in the time he spent as head of the organization, Abu Saada says.

“The creation of this new position has to do with the capabilities that Khaled Meshaal may offer to Hamas during the next phase,” he added.

During Meshaal’s tenure as head of the organization, Hamas’ relationship with its ally, Syria, where the movement’s leadership was headquartered, ended because of Hamas support of the Syrian opposition.

Consequently, its ties with Hizbullah and Iran, Damascus’ staunchest supporters, cooled off.

“Syria and Iran consider Khaled Meshaal the reason behind Hamas’ exit from Syria in 2012, which led to the deterioration of relations with the Iran-Syria-Hizbullah axis. Haniyeh and the Qassam leaders are more acceptable to the Axis than Meshaal,” Abu Saada says. Qassam refers to the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas.

Talal Okel, a Gaza-based Palestinian analyst, told The Media Line that “Meshaal still enjoys extensive relationships inside Hamas, and outside it.”

He does not think that the new appointment will cause tension between Haniyeh and Meshaal.

“The two are on the same page on many issues and viewed as the more pragmatic figures within the group,” Okel said.

Islamist movements throughout the Middle East, including Hamas, were targeted after the coup in Egypt in 2013 that overthrew the country’s first democratically elected president, Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood, and brought President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to power.

And Hamas lost financial and moral support as its ties with Gulf states worsened. MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/hamas-picks-former-chief-khaled-meshaal-to-head-foreign-political-bureau-665164>

**Explosive drone targets Erbil airport in Iraq**

***Explosions were heard in the area and a warning siren sounded at the US consulate in Erbil, according to Arabic media.***

*By* [*TZVI JOFFRE*](https://www.jpost.com/author/tzvi-joffre) *APRIL 14, 2021 23:50*

A drone carrying explosives targeted the [Erbil International Airport](http://665128:%20Ukraine:%20Russia%20may%20store%20nuclear%20weapons%20in%20Crimea), causing damage to a building, but did not cause any injuries, the Interior Ministry of Kurdistan announced on Wednesday night, according to Arabic media.

Explosions were heard in the area and a warning siren sounded at the US consulate in Erbil, according to Arabic media.

A fire broke out at the airport after the attack, with video shared reportedly from the scene showing flames and smoke rising from the area.

The governor of Erbil announced that an investigation into the attack had been launched and that no injuries or damage were reported.

Rocket strikes in Iraq are often launched by Iranian-backed militias against sites hosting US forces, with the Biden administration launching airstrikes in sites belonging to the militias in response to such rocket strikes in February.

Shortly before the US strikes in February, a non-American contractor was killed at a US military base at Erbil International Airport in Kurdish-run northern [Iraq](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/sources-in-iraq-deny-iran-media-claims-of-attack-on-israelis-665078) on Feb. 15 and, in the days that followed, rockets were fired at a base hosting US forces, and near the US Embassy in Baghdad. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/explosions-heard-in-erbil-iraq-665163>

**China Sends 25 Warplanes Into Taiwanese Airspace**

[Jack Beyrer](https://freebeacon.com/author/jack-beyrer/) • April 13, 2021 1:00 pm

China sent 25 military planes into Taiwanese airspace on Monday, escalating tensions between the United States and Beijing.

The Chinese flight mission [included](https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/12/china/china-taiwan-jets-defense-zone-incursion-intl-hnk-ml/index.html) 18 fighter jets, 4 bombers, 2 anti-submarine planes, and an airborne radar plane entering Taiwan’s defensive air zone, an act in violation of Taiwanese sovereignty. The aircrafts' incursion marked the largest operation in Taiwan since it began regular flights over the country in September, according to Taiwan's Defense Ministry.

The air-based military exercises from China come as Beijing ratchets up its pressure by sea, with some U.S. territories [open to attack](https://www.airforcemag.com/indopacom-nominee-highlights-need-for-improved-missile-defense/). On Sunday, the Chinese aircraft carrier *Liaoning* [sailed](https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3129122/us-navy-warns-china-were-watching-you-destroyer-shadows) through waters neighboring Taiwan, prompting the USS *Mustin* to tail the ship until it left the contested territory. In March, some 220 Chinese vessels [landed](https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/commentary/2021/04/09/beijing-has-pierced-washingtons-deterrence-bubble-how-can-the-us-recover/) at Whitsun Reef, an area claimed by the Philippines and within one of the U.S. Navy’s defense perimeters. China’s aggressive actions have led top American military personnel to [say](https://news.usni.org/2021/03/09/davidson-china-could-try-to-take-control-of-taiwan-in-next-six-years) China may invade Taiwan in the next six years.

China claims Taiwan is within its borders, a claim challenged by the separate democratic governance of Taiwan and support from Washington during dangerous standoffs with China since the Cold War era. Some analysts [say](https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-03-21/niall-ferguson-a-taiwan-crisis-may-end-the-american-empire) the capture of Taiwan by communist forces would mark the end of an American-led world order and that the island is the most dangerous [flashpoint](https://www.americanpurpose.com/articles/the-single-most-dangerous-place-in-the-world/#:~:text=That%20makes%20the%20Taiwan%20Strait,wars%20fought%20seven%20decades%20ago.) in an extended standoff with Beijing.

The Trump administration acted forcefully on the Taiwan issue, lifting sanctions on diplomatic visits to the country, authorizing arms deals for the country’s self-defense, and sending the highest-level cabinet member to Taiwan in decades. Early signs from the Biden administration indicate a similar approach. Under pressure from congressional Republicans, Secretary of State Antony Blinken has expressed concern about China's behavior toward Taiwan with senior Chinese officials and has upheld loosened diplomatic restrictions on future island visits. In March, the United States [made](https://freebeacon.com/national-security/biden-upholds-trump-action-on-taiwan/) its first trip to Taiwan by a U.S. ambassador since 1979. <https://freebeacon.com/national-security/china-sends-25-warplanes-into-taiwanese-airspace/> [China is aware of the fact that “Bi-dumb” and his corps de dingbats are paper tigers and are aware that they will be most unlikely to do much of anything. There are way too many relationships with “Bi-dumb” and China. They have him in their control as well as a host of other DC rats who have sold their soul to the devil. – rdb]

**Ukraine: Russia may store nuclear weapons in Crimea**

***Ukraine's defense minister said on Wednesday that Russia is preparing Crimea for potentially storing nuclear weapons.***

*By REUTERS   APRIL 14, 2021 23:58*

Ukraine's defense minister said on Wednesday that Russia is preparing Crimea for potentially storing nuclear weapons and warned that Moscow could attack [Ukraine](https://www.jpost.com/tags/ukraine) to ensure water supplies for the annexed peninsula.

Andrii Taran, speaking to the European Parliament's defense sub-committee in Brussels, also said he could not rule out that Russia forces in [Crimea](https://www.jpost.com/international/russia-warns-donbass-conflict-could-destroy-ukraine-nato-rebukes-moscow-663901) could "undertake substantive military provocations" in 2021.

He did not immediately provide evidence for his assertions. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/ukraine-russia-may-store-nuclear-weapons-in-crimea-665128> [The situation at the Russia Ukrainian border is tenuous at best. – rdb]

**'Russia is threatening us with destruction': Ukraine warns Putin he will 'bear very painful consequences' if troops cross the border as build-up continues in defiance of President Biden's call for restraint**

* **Russian assault vehicles seen painted with 'invasion stripes' in Astrakhan as Putin masses forces near Ukraine**
* **Stripes were used during 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia and during Cold War to help Moscow's forces distinguish friend from foe while fighting nations which used similar Soviet-made vehicles**
* **Sight has jangled nerves in highly-tense region as Putin ignores Biden's calls to 'de-escalate' the situation**
* **Putin has already stationed 80,000 troops near Ukraine with report suggesting 30,000 more may be coming**
* **Meanwhile Ukraine's defence minister yesterday warned NATO that nukes could be stationed in Crimea**

*By* [*Chris Pleasance*](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/search.html?s=&authornamef=Chris+Pleasance) *and* [*Ross Ibbetson For Mailonline*](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/search.html?s=&authornamef=Ross+Ibbetson+For+Mailonline) *and* [*Mark Nicol For The Daily Mail*](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/search.html?s=&authornamef=Mark+Nicol+For+The+Daily+Mail) *Published: 20:54 EDT, 14 April 2021 | Updated: 07:08 EDT, 15 April 2021*

Ukraine has warned Russia that it will bear 'very painful' consequences if it invades as Vladimir Putin continues to mass his forces in eastern Europe.

Dmytro Kuleba, the country's foreign minister, added that Moscow is 'openly' threatening Ukraine with 'destruction' by stationing 80,000 troops along its border - with more arriving every day.

He issued the warning following a meeting with the foreign ministers of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia - NATO allies in the region - saying 'the four of us condemn the exacerbation of the situation by Russia.'

'The world is on the side of Ukraine and international law, and this is one of the elements of restraining Russia from reckless actions,' he added.

He spoke as Joe Biden prepares to slap sanctions on Russia in response to bounties put on American troops in Afghanistan, attempts to interfere in US elections, and the SolarWinds cyber attack of federal government data which US intelligence services blame on Moscow.

Sanctions are likely to include the expulsion of 10 Russians from the US including diplomats, extending a ban on US banks trading Russian sovereign debt, and targeted measures against 30 Russian entities, US media reported, saying the move could happen as soon as today.

In response, Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov warned that Mosow will respond in kind to any 'illegal' sanctions, adding that it 'will not help' the prospect of talks between Biden and Putin.

He added that it is 'too early' to talk about de-escalating tensions along the Ukraine border despite Biden's calls for restraint earlier in the week.



Ukraine fears more than 100,000 Russian troops will be in place on its borders, ready to invade, by the end of the month <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9472661/Russian-troops-paint-assault-vehicles-invasion-stripes-Putins-force-grows.html?ito=native_share_article-masthead> **[This is a rather long and involved article but MOST ominous. – rdb]**

**Researcher cautions against vaccinating people who already had COVID**

***Previous infections might have caused blood clotting***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published April 14, 2021 at 8:10pm*

A prominent physician-scientist is warning that the indiscriminate vaccination of people with previous or recent COVID-19 infections might have caused the blood clotting complications that resulted in the pause in the distribution of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Dr. Hooman Noorchashm said in an interview Tuesday on "Tucker Carlson Tonight" that such complications aren't isolated to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, noting cases entered in the federal database, VAERS, regarding the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

Carlson noted that Noorchashm previously has said that while he has high confidence in the vaccines, not everyone should take them. He particularly is concerned about people with high levels of antibodies from a previous COVID-19 infection.

The Fox News host asked if the government is taking his warning seriously now.

"Well, I haven't seen any evidence that they are taking it seriously, frankly," Noorchashm replied.

"We shouldn't underestimate what the effect of a vaccine-driven immune response is on the tissues of people who have been previously infected."

He urges the FDA and the CDC to inform the American people as to whether or not the six young women who had severe adverse reactions to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine had antibodies in their blood.

"I think it's a major mistake to assume that you can put this vaccine into people who have been recently or currently infected and expect that no complications will result," he said.

*See the interview*:

Noorchashm, who specializes in cardiothoracic surgery, has taught and practiced medicine for nearly two decades. He has held faculty positions at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and the Philadelphia VA Hospital.

As a researcher and scientist, he assisted in and acquired grants from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

He's the author of more than 65 articles, abstracts and reviews in peer-reviewed medical journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of Immunology, Nature Medicine, American Journal of Transplantation, Critical Care Medicine and Diabetes. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/researcher-cautions-vaccinating-people-already-covid/>

**No charges, no identity of shooting officer: Feds close probe of Ashli Babbitt's death**

***No explanation for killing of U.S. veteran at Capitol on Jan. 6***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 14, 2021 at 4:00pm*



***Ashli Babbitt***

The federal government said on Wednesday it has shut down its investigation into the shooting death of 35-year-old Ashli Babbitt, a U.S. military veteran who was among hundreds protesting at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

Without charges. And without even identifying who shot her.

The [Department of Justice](https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/department-justice-closes-investigation-death-ashli-babbitt) issued a statement that did reveal it will "not pursue criminal charges against the U.S. Capitol Police officer."

"The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia’s Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section and the Civil Rights Division, with the Metropolitan Police Department’s Internal Affairs Division (IAD), conducted a thorough investigation of Ms. Babbitt’s shooting" the statement said.

Investigators looked at video footage, reviewed statements from the officer involved and other officers and witnesses, looked at physical evidence and more.

"Officials determined that there is insufficient evidence to support a criminal prosecution," the DOJ said.

The statement explained that, essentially, prosecutors did not feel they could prove the officer used unreasonable force, and did so willfully.

The DOJ said the Supreme Court has decided that means prosecutors would have had to prove "that the officer acted with a bad purpose to disregard the law. As this requirement has been interpreted by the courts, evidence that an officer act out of fear, mistake, panic, misperception, negligence, or even poor judgment cannot establish the high level of intent required."

The DOJ said "no evidence" established that the officer, whose name was withheld, "did not reasonably believe that it was necessary to do so in self-defense or in defense of the members and Congress and others evacuating the House chamber."

The DOJ charged that Babbitt was with a crowd that gathered at the Capitol "to protest the results of the 2020 presidential election."

Some members of the crowd eventually "forced" their way into the building, and a congressional session to formalize Joe Biden's election victory was halted.

Babbitt, the report said, tried to climb through a glass door that was broken, and "an officer" shot and killed her.

WND founder and Editor Joseph Farah explained in a commentary that Babbitt was "the one and only gunshot victim at the Capitol that day. We still don't know why. No one has been arrested. No one can provide an explanation or the name of the officer who shot her. There was no good reason for her death."

He explained Babbitt was a 14-year Air Force veteran, "an unarmed woman who attended the protest of the inexplicable election snafu."

Her family's lawyer, Terrell Roberts, explained on "Tucker Carlson Tonight," "We don't know why she was shot, there's no good reason why she was shot. I mean, this is not a case where deadly force should have been used. All the officer had to do was step forward, establish his presence, give her a verbal warning, and if she didn't comply and he had grounds to arrest her, arrest her. He could have arrested this 5-foot-2, 110 pound woman easily. But instead, he shot her."

Roberts explained, "You don't use deadly force unless you are confronted with a threat to your life or the threat to somebody else's life. There was no immediate threat to the officer or to anyone else. That corridor was clear of congressmen, there wasn't even a congressman close to Ashli Babbitt. She was not a threat, and it's baffling why he would go ahead and shoot her first instead of taking the other steps like just merely arresting her."

The lawyer said it was unlikely Babbitt could have heard a warning from the officer, since she was "on the other side of the room."

The commentary noted that the lawyer for the "unnamed officer" said the shooter was uncomfortable with Babbitt because she wore a backpack, which contained a sweater and a scarf.

Farah wrote, "But Officer X, we'll call him, decided that his most prudent course of action was to fire a shot at Ashli Babbitt in a crowded room because she wore a backpack. In the off chance it contained a bomb or weapon, Officer X would take her out."

[USA Today](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2021/04/14/capitol-police-officer-cleared-ashli-babbitt-riot-shooting/7223329002/) explained that the DOJ decided the officer reasonably could have thought shooting and killing Babbitt, of San Diego, was in "defense." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/no-charges-no-identity-shooting-officer-feds-close-probe-ashli-babbitts-death/> [So who is surprise? Not me! This is just one of the myriad of coverups that this administration will perpetrate as they continue the destruction of this country. – rdb]

**Merchants of Revolution**

***California’s ethnic studies initiatives train children in Marxist theory—and opposition to the American system.***

[*Christopher F. Rufo*](https://www.city-journal.org/contributor/christopher-f-rufo_1334) *April 13, 2021*

California public schools are embarking on a new experiment: education as social justice. Earlier this year, the state Department of Education approved an ethnic studies model [curriculum](https://www.city-journal.org/calif-ethnic-studies-curriculum-accuses-christianity-of-theocide), and individual school districts have begun to implement programs that advocate “decolonizing” the United States and “liberating” students from capitalism, patriarchy, and settler colonialism.

This will likely come as a surprise to most California residents, who may be familiar with the movement’s euphemisms—“ethnic studies,” “educational equity,” “culturally responsive teaching”—but do not understand the philosophical and political premises of these programs. As the state and many school districts begin to implement the state ethnic studies curriculum, however, details are emerging.

I have obtained documents from one such program, the Santa Clara County Office of Education’s Ethnic Studies Initiative, that paint a disturbing picture of the ethnic studies curriculum and the activists leading the charge. According to the documents and to sources within the district, the Office of Education held a series of teacher-training sessions on how to deploy ethnic studies in the classroom. The leaders, including district staff, an advisor for the state Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, and a professor from San Jose State University, encouraged teachers to inject left-wing politics into the classroom and to hide controversial materials from parents.

According to slides and contemporaneous notes from the session, the Santa Clara Office of Education began the presentation with a “land acknowledgement,” claiming that Santa Clara County and the public school system “occupy the unceded territory of the Muwekma Ohlone Nation, the sovereign nation and original people of the skies, land, and waters.” The premise of this ritual, which has become common in progressive organizations, is that the American government, founded by white settlers, is an illegitimate colonial power that should return the land to the Native American tribes. MORE -<https://www.city-journal.org/california-ethnic-studies-programs-merchants-of-revolution> [In case you hadn’t discerned why the USA is in such a bad shape this should provide some clues. These ‘educators’ if you want to call them that should be eliminated at all costs. Their goal is destruction of the nation. – rdb]

**New Arizona law bans outside money to help run elections**

***'It's clear our elections must be above reproach'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published April 13, 2021 at 9:24pm* ***By Rachel del Guidice*** *The Daily Signal*

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey has signed significant election integrity legislation into law.

“With public confidence in our elections in peril, it’s clear our elections must be pristine and above reproach—and the sole purview of government,” Ducey [said](https://apnews.com/article/legislature-arizona-phoenix-legislation-elections-7f0b8661f5d7b673a3927bf7b4995586) Friday in a signing letter.

Arizona’s new law prevents private funding from going into elections, such as the [$419 million](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/12/18/report-mark-zuckerbergs-419-million-non-profit-contributions-improperly-influenced-2020-presidential-election/) in donations [made by Facebook](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/tag/facebook?utm_campaign=autolink&utm_source=internal&utm_medium=autolink) CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan.

The Zuckerbergs [gave](https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/03/23/election-safety-grants-may-have-swung-arizona-to-biden-report-finds/) a total of [$350 million](https://www.npr.org/2020/12/08/943242106/how-private-money-from-facebooks-ceo-saved-the-2020-election) to the [Center for Tech and Civic Life](https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/center-for-tech-and-civic-life/), a left-leaning technology group, that in turn issued grants to 2,500 election offices in 49 states. The spending included $5 million for Arizona, according to preliminary data from the Foundation for Government Accountability, The Daily Signal reported March 23.

In a statement to The Daily Signal, Arizona state Rep. Jake Hoffman said that “the passage and signing of House Bill 2569 makes Arizona the first in the nation to fully ban billionaires from influencing the administration and management of Arizona elections.” [YES! -rdb]

Hoffman, a sponsor of the bill, referred to [donations](https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/03/11/zuckerberg-grant-allowed-outsider-to-infiltrate-presidential-election-in-wisconsin/) such as those [made by the Zuckerbergs](https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/04/05/zuckerbucks-in-pennsylvania-reveal-impact-of-corporate-influence-in-elections/) before the presidential election.

“In 2020, our nation saw a concerning new political tactic wherein big tech billionaires spent nearly half a billion dollars influencing the administration of the general election through a series of nonprofits operated by Democrat political operatives,” Hoffman said, adding:

Arizonans don’t want Democrat billionaires or Republican billionaires influencing the process of our elections.

We have sent a clear message that it doesn’t matter how much money you have, Arizona elections are not for sale.

State Sen. Juan Mendez, D-Tempe, said outside funds are used because Arizona does not have adequate funding for elections, The Associated Press reported.

“It’s easy to make a boogeyman out of billionaires. I don’t like them either. But we put ourselves in this situation,” Mendez said of the Legislature’s budgeting decisions. “Our elections are so underfunded we’ve got counties out there asking for money to do voter outreach.” [Perhaps the state sen should go door to door and meet his constituents. – rdb]

In a statement provided to The Daily Signal, Jessica Anderson, executive director of Heritage Action for America, said the new Arizona law will help keep the state’s elections free of outside influencers.

“Arizona lawmakers, including Gov. Doug Ducey and [state] Rep. Jake Hoffman, have been hard at work securing Arizona’s elections,” Anderson said, adding:

The latest bill signed into law, HB 2569, will prevent outside groups and individuals from pouring private money directly into Arizona’s election systems. Arizonans deserve elections free from outside interference, and this law will help restore voters’ trust in their state’s elections.

Heritage Action is the lobbying arm of The Heritage Foundation, which is the parent organization of The Daily Signal. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/new-arizona-law-bans-outside-money-help-run-elections/> [This is great and should be the standard throughout the land. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**On Iran, Biden Administration Ready to Undo Former Administration's Work, whether It is Good for the World or Not?**

***by*** [***Majid Rafizadeh***](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Majid+Rafizadeh) ***April 14, 2021 at 5:00 am***A basic rule in negotiations is to keep or gain leverage against the other party. The Biden administration, mystifyingly, is [doing](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-usa-sanctions/u-s-prepared-to-lift-sanctions-inconsistent-with-iran-nuclear-deal-idUSKBN2BU39F) exactly the opposite in its negotiations with the regime of Iran.  
 Right before heading to Vienna to negotiate rejoining the disastrous 2015 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), US State Department spokesman Ned Price dropped a bombshell when he [told](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-usa-sanctions/u-s-prepared-to-lift-sanctions-inconsistent-with-iran-nuclear-deal-idUSKBN2BU39F) reporters that the US is prepared to lift sanctions against Iran:  
 "We are prepared to take the steps necessary to return to compliance with the JCPOA, including by lifting sanctions that are inconsistent with the JCPOA. I am not in a position here to give you chapter and verse on what those might be".  
 Why on earth would the administration tell the Iranian leaders before negotiations that it is ready to lift sanctions while it has not yet received anything in return from the mullahs? The Iranian regime, of course, immediately scented weakness and desperation and began [increasing](https://www.wsj.com/articles/iran-nuclear-deal-participants-including-u-s-to-meet-in-vienna-next-week-11617361429) its demands. The Biden administration then [offered](https://www.wsj.com/articles/iran-nuclear-deal-participants-including-u-s-to-meet-in-vienna-next-week-11617361429) $1 billion to the mullahs in exchange for the regime freezing its production of 20% uranium enrichment. No, Iran wants more. Its leaders [demanded](https://www.wsj.com/articles/iran-nuclear-deal-participants-including-u-s-to-meet-in-vienna-next-week-11617361429) $30 billion for *one month* of freeze.  
 Presumably to gain additional leverage and extort more concessions, the regime [announced](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/04/10/iran-testing-advanced-nuclear-centrifuge-that-would-allow-faster-uranium-enrichment.html) during those negotiations that it had begun testing its newest advanced nuclear centrifuges.  
 The Biden administration does not seem to understand that it is the Iranian regime that is desperate for the nuclear deal, *not* the US.  
 After the former administration began imposing pressure on the Iranian regime during the last few years, the mullahs saw two major uprisings. Iran's regime is now [bankrupt](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iranian-economy-on-verge-of-collapse-due-to-american-sanctions-pandemic-645638) both politically and economically, and with a version of elections -- in which candidates are vetted and approved by Iran's Supreme Guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei -- are scheduled for June 18.  
 Currently, the regime appears to be finding it extremely difficult to maintain funding for its militias and all its forces both inside and outside Iran. For the first time in more than three decades, Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, an Iranian proxy [designated](https://www.idf.il/en/minisites/hezbollah/hezbollah/hezbollah-a-recognized-terrorist-organization/) as a [terrorist organization](https://www.cnn.com/2018/08/17/opinions/west-should-ban-hezbollah-opinion-intl/index.html) by the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Arab League and Israel, among other countries, [made](https://yalibnan.com/2019/03/10/lebanons-hezbollah-asks-for-donations-to-combat-sanctions/) a public statement asking people to donate money to his group. "The sanctions and terror lists," he [pointed](https://yalibnan.com/2019/03/10/lebanons-hezbollah-asks-for-donations-to-combat-sanctions/) out, "are a form of warfare against the resistance and we must deal with them as such. I announce today that we are in need of the support of our popular base. It is the responsibility of the Lebanese resistance, its popular base, its milieu," to battle these measures.  
 Iran's currency, the rial, [lost](https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2020/10/17/the-tale-of-irans-stockmarket-bubble-is-familiar-but-also-strange) more than half its value just in 2020 - a decline that makes it one of the world's most worthless currencies. As of April 10, the rial traded on unofficial markets at 25,500 to the US dollar. The ruling mullahs are also [facing](https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/104065/iran-gov-t-running-200m-budget-deficit-per-week) one of the worst budget deficits in the four decades since they seized power. Iran's regime is currently [running](https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/104065/iran-gov-t-running-200m-budget-deficit-per-week) a $200 million budget deficit per *week* and it is estimated that if the pressure on Tehran continues, the deficit will [hit](https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/104065/iran-gov-t-running-200m-budget-deficit-per-week) roughly $10 billion by March 2021. This deficit will, in return, increase inflation and devalue the currency even further.  
 The regime has also signed a 25-year secret deal with China that grants China significant rights over Iran's resources. China will reportedly be investing nearly $400 billion in Iran's oil, gas and petrochemicals industries. In return, China will receive priority to bid on any new project in Iran that is linked to these sectors. China will also [deploy](https://tsarizm.com/news/middle-east/2020/07/19/clutching-at-straws-iran-deal-with-china-for-regime-survival/) 5,000 members of its security forces on the ground in Iran. The [deal](https://www.theepochtimes.com/iran-not-for-sale-china-get-out-iranians-protest-over-iran-china-25-year-deal_3762900.html) -- the terms of which have not been made public, only leaked -- will apparently include discounted Iranian oil and gas for China for 25 years. The agreement, which also appears aimed at undermining US position in the region, has drawn harsh [protests](https://www.theepochtimes.com/iran-not-for-sale-china-get-out-iranians-protest-over-iran-china-25-year-deal_3762900.html) from the Iranian public.  
 At the regional level, the regime is also extremely isolated as Israel and the Arab states have become closer.  
 Iran's leaders, possibly desperate, are currently attacking American bases in [Iraq](https://www.wsj.com/articles/rockets-hit-iraq-base-hosting-u-s-troops-11614768729) and [Afghanistan](https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/08/politics/taliban-attack-afghanistan-covert-base-biden-withdrawal-decision/index.html) in a seeming attempt to force the U.S. to negotiate on their terms.  
 The Biden administration, meanwhile, has been forging ahead with the failed "nuclear deal" -- which permits Iran to become a legitimate, full-blown nuclear power in just a few years -- in spite of massive opposition from the US Congress. Some Republican lawmakers in the Congress have [put](https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/americas/1615819737-congressional-republicans-attempt-to-apply-brake-to-biden-admin-s-iran-deal-reentry) forward *eight* plans to prevent the U.S. government from returning to the JCPOA agreement. These proposals include tightening sanctions against Iran, declaring non-support for the JCPOA, and opposing the easing of sanctions -- all part of an effort to prevent the United States from rejoining an agreement they presumably consider toxic, not just for the Middle East and Europe, but also for South America, where, as in Venezuela, Hezbollah has been "creat[ing] mischief" on [America's southern front](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/10/06/iran-sees-venezuelas-unrest-chance-create-mischief-us-general-says.html).  
 The main criticism from congressional Republicans and Democrats in 2015 was related to the nuclear deal's deadlines. According to the agreement's framework, all restrictions imposed on Iran's nuclear and missile program were to be lifted in a few years. In 2030, Iran would be able to [enrich](https://www.c-span.org/video/?509465-1/senate-foreign-relations-hearing-state-department-confirmations&live) uranium indefinitely and increase the number and quality of its centrifuges indefinitely -- as it is already begun doing. Iran enriching uranium at *any* level -- it is a negligibly small step to enrich uranium from "acceptable levels" to "nuclear" levels -- puts the world at risk, especially as other countries in the region could understandably feel compelled to start *their* nuclear programs as a deterrent.  
 The US and the UN Security Council also would do well to impose sanctions on Tehran for its [violation](https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Security-Council-Resolutions-on-Iran) of Resolution 2231, which "calls upon Iran not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology."  
 Meanwhile, Iran's leaders are further enriching uranium to build their nuclear bombs, fine-tuning ballistic missiles to carry them, and have continued to chant "[Death to America!](https://pjmedia.com/columns/robert-spencer/2020/06/30/iranian-ayatollah-does-victory-lap-now-even-americans-are-shouting-death-to-america-n590471)" and "[Death to Israel!](https://www.themideastbeast.com/iran-to-hold-first-death-to-israel-zoom-meeting/)"  
 *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/17273/iran-biden-administration>

**Biden, You’re Not A President. You’re Just An Old Fool!***By* [*Ron Ewart*](https://newswithviews.com/author/ronewart/)*|April 14th, 2021* ***“No drug, not even alcohol, causes the fundamental ills of society.  If we’re looking for the source of our troubles, we shouldn’t test people for drugs, we should test them for stupidity, ignorance, greed, [senility] and love of power.”  —****P. J. O’Rourke, a contemporary American political satirist and journalist*  
 Somehow the people manage to elect the dimmest Democrat politicians to public office who seem to be disconnected from reality, devoid of logic and reason and without a lick of common sense.  The electorate is so stupid it votes for party over substance, it votes for government dependence instead of independence and self-reliance, it votes for race over character and it votes for socialism over constitutional freedom.  Now just how smart is that?  
 But Americans get what they vote for and they are about to get a nasty taste of what they voted for in President Joe “***Jim Crow Obsessed***” Biden; Kamala “***Socialist hair brain***” Harris; Chuck “***I want my mommy***” Schumer and Nancy, “***I sure got a big freezer***” Pelosi.  
 Who in their right mind would undo the highly successful immigration controls established under the previous administration and open up the southern border to every ignorant, diseased Juan, Jose’ and Miguel peasant from Central and South America and about 190 other nations on this earth, many of which would like to destroy our way of life and blow us up?  What Biden has done is not just grossly negligent.  It is criminal, if not treasonous.  
 Anyone with half a brain knows that Joe Biden, by executive action, let the evil immigration genie out of the bottle and now, because of pride or politics or both, won’t or refuses to corral the genie and put her back in the bottle.  The rest of America must now pay for Joe’s lame brain politically driven stupidity and our culture will be forever altered from its constitutional foundation.  Meanwhile, illegal aliens are literally getting away with murder while the rest of legal Americans are slaves to the law and subject to ever-rising taxes to pay for it all.  
 What possible reason could there be to waive all or a portion of student loan debt, except to buy votes from ignorant Americans while responsible Americans paid or are paying off their debt?  On what planet do these nut cases live to think that providing free college tuition is a great idea other than to buy votes from prepubescent college kids and their parents?  That’s what Joe and his cadre of Democrat misfits want to do.  
 What motive must President Biden and the socialist Democrats have for burying the next several generations in un-payable debt with two trillion here and a couple of more trillion there?  To buy more votes of course.  However, virtually every economist will tell you, too many dollars in circulation can lead to run-away inflation where everyone, including the poor, pay the inflation tax in higher prices.  Why do we let these imbeciles anywhere near our money?  
 What evil occupies the minds of the inventors of Critical Race Theory, (CRT) a theory that is designed to tick off 70% of the population and divide us even more than we are divided now?  It’s diabolical!  Behind our backs CRT has found its way into all of our institutions, including our schools and colleges and even our military.  How did CRT get there?  A black college professor, lawyer and civil rights activist by the name of Derrick Bell, along with Allan Freeman and Richard Delgado, another professor-lawyer, came up with this theory in the 1970’s because they were obsessed with racial inequality.  So to correct racial inequality through CRT they pitted the white race against the black race in what can only be called nothing less than reverse racism.  Are they trying their best to start a civil war?  
 In New York state they are planning to use taxpayer money, $2 billion of it, to pay illegal aliens that lost their jobs during the pandemic at the rate of $15,600 per alien, illegal aliens that are being rewarded for braking our laws to get here.  Why aren’t legal, incensed Americans rushing the capitol of New York in Albany and tarring and feathering the stupid politicians who came up with this idea.  And it’s not just New York that came up with this vile boondoggle.  Joe and his merry band of socialist Democrat cutthroats wants to pay illegal aliens taxpayer dollars and free health care, along with granting them all amnesty.  Have Democrat politicians gone stark raving mad, or do they have a death wish?  
 But one of the worst Joe Biden insanities and obscenities is attempting to shut down fossil fuels and trying to replace them with intermittent, inefficient wind and solar power in the name of man-caused global warming.   First, it can’t be done without papering the entire continent with wind farms and solar arrays.  Second, such an attempt will drive the cost of energy up by several factors on those that can least afford it.  Third, the environmental damage and human rights abuses to obtain the raw materials for wind and solar far exceed their benefit.  (Read it all here at: “[***Climate***](http://www.narlo.org/climate.html)”)  
 Approximately 80% of all American energy comes from fossil fuels.   It runs our cars, buses, trucks, trains and airplanes.  It heats our homes, it creates electricity for lighting, appliances and charging our electric vehicles.  It provides the raw materials for plastics, resins, synthetics and products for nylon stockings, paint, etc.  A modern society could not run without fossil fuels and not only would abandoning fossil fuels throw us back to pioneer days and outhouses, it would send the current American society into absolute chaos.  *(Read “*[***Back To The Future***](http://www.narlo.org/articles/022413.html)*”)*  And yet the deranged idiots that are now running this asylum believe we can somehow eliminate fossil fuels and still maintain our current standard of living.  Abandoning fossil fuels isn’t progress and it won’t solve climate change.  It is unnecessarily punitive on the general population and in fact it is grossly negligent if not just plain stupid.  Not only that, the reasons for doing so, are a fraud.  
 Now Joe and the gun-control nuts want to restrict the right of gun ownership even more by saying that “***no amendment is absolute,***” meaning the Second Amendment of course.  With a stroke of his pen, an offhanded remark and his utterance as his Holiness God, Joe and his socialist cohorts finally came clean about the intent of government to relieve you of those pesky Bill of Rights that get in the way of the government to govern and more particularly the Second Amendment.  
 If Joe was trying to invoke insurrection, he is getting mighty close.  If government keeps nipping away at the Second Amendment such that it no longer has any effect in law as a God-given right, can a revolution be just around the corner?  There are tens of millions of Americans who won’t give up their guns without a fight.  America isn’t Great Britain or Australia.  The Second Amendment is enshrined in the psyche’ of almost 100,000,000 patriotic Americans.   It WILL NOT be repealed in the hearts and minds of the American people because government says it is so.  
 After getting the socialist Democrats in Congress to vote for a massive $1.9 Trillion Covid rescue bill that wasn’t Covid rescue at all, without a single Republican vote, Joe now wants the socialist Democrats in Congress to pass an infrastructure bill where just a small portion of it is for infrastructure.  90% of the bill is to buy votes and make the people more dependent on government, just like socialist Democrats Wilson, Roosevelt, Johnson and Obama have done.  
 But this alleged infrastructure bill requires a 60% majority vote.  To get around the 60% threshold, the socialist Democrats are seriously considering the repeal of the Senate filibuster rule, giving the Democrats the power to pass any socialist legislation they want by a simple majority.  They won’t ever need Republicans again to pass legislation as long as the Senate maintains at least a 50-50 split or better between Democrats and Republicans.  
 If you will remember, when the Democrats were in control of both houses and Obama was president, that is how we got Obama Care.  Not a single Republican voted for this nationalization of 20% of our economy and as the Republicans quickly found out, Obama Care can’t be repealed.  This 1,000-page law is now set in stone even though it was hopelessly flawed from the beginning.  
 There are many actions that Joe Biden and the Democrats have in-acted or are attempting to in-act, that are the antithesis of a free society and a Constitutional Republic.  Each one is designed to tear apart the fabric of liberty and force us all under the huge umbrella of unbridled, out-of-control government.  Each one has the specific, premeditated goal of reducing the entire population to nothing but serfs and slaves to an almighty, centralized government, the founding father’s worst nightmare. That is precisely because “***the people manage to elect the dimmest Democrat politicians to public office who seem to be disconnected from reality, devoid of logic and reason and without a lick of common sense***.”  Some Republicans fit that category as well.  Joe Biden is just one of those dim bulbs *(and we do mean dim)* that got elected by fraud, deceit and unconstitutional acts, aided and abetted by the corrupt news media and the hopelessly and even more corrupt social media.  
 Much of what Joe and the Democrats have done, can be undone by implementing “[***The Mandate***](http://www.narlo.org/themandate.html).”  But that would require that millions of Americans get up off their dead butts and take up the fight against the evil that has overtaken our Republic.  We don’t have a lot of time to mess around.  “[***We Can’t Wait For The 2022 Mid Terms***](http://www.narlo.org/idarchives/021421.html)” to take action.  
 Ladies and gentlemen, if slow Joe is not just plain stupid, senile, or insane, that only leaves two other possibilities.  He must either be an out-and-out traitor, or an agent for one or more malicious foreign powers, or both.  He should be impeached and then tried for treason even if he is “***just a doddering old fool***.” <https://newswithviews.com/biden-youre-not-a-president-youre-just-an-old-fool/>

**While America Slept: The Story of a Distracted Military and a Rising China**[*Congressman Mark Green*](https://townhall.com/capitol-voices/congressmanmarkgreen/) *Posted: Apr 13, 2021 9:00 AM* President Biden has diverted our military away from its mission. Instead of prioritizing military readiness, our new Commander in Chief is redirecting the military’s focus from fighting and winning wars, to using the military as a vehicle to advance the radical left’s agenda.  
 Redirecting precious time and resources to appease the woke mob is dangerous to our national security, and it’s putting America at risk.   
 It began in January when the Biden Administration[announced](https://www.defensenews.com/pentagon/2021/01/27/climate-change-is-now-a-national-security-priority-for-the-pentagon/) that climate change is now a national security priority. Instead of focusing on growing threats to our country from foreign adversaries such as China, North Korea, Iran, and Russia, President Biden will now direct our military’s resources to combat climate change, including replacing 173,000 gas-powered military vehicles with ones powered by electricity. While electric Humvees sound tempting, after three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, I know how dangerous active duty can be. The last thing I ever want to hear is that a unit got stranded in the middle of the desert because their vehicle ran out of electricity—all to appease the left’s woke agenda.  
 Then, the Biden Administration reinstated controversial Critical Race Theory seminars, forcing servicemembers to participate in hours of training, teaching them that they are either victims or oppressors. President Trump rightly disbanded these seminars throughout the Federal government because they promote division over unity. He understood that when soldiers put their uniform on, the only color they should see are the colors of our flag. Yet the Biden Administration has brought them back in full force—promoting a leftist ideology that poisons our combat effectiveness and unit morale.  
 The Biden Administration’s radical woke agenda for the military didn’t stop there. Under President Biden, the military will also divert precious resources from mission-critical goals, like a new cyber security infrastructure and modernizing an aging nuclear arsenal, to something as controversial as using taxpayer dollars for expensive gender reassignment surgery.   
 Our military budget is already stretched thin. Our Navy is short 100 battle force ships, and many of the Army’s main battle tanks are over 40 years old. Every dollar spent on this ideologically-driven agenda is a dollar taken away from mission-critical training and resources. The Biden Administration’s woke focus is a distraction from the military’s true purpose—our national defense.   
 Today’s distractions echo those that Winston Churchill witnessed when Great Britain’s military largely disarmed after World War I. Churchill’s book, *While England Slept*, chronicles his pleas for Great Britain to wake up to the threat of the German military’s rearmament. No one bothered to listen until it was too late.   
 Our leadership is distracted right now. While the Biden Administration diverts critical resources to advance domestic Democrat priorities, China is rapidly building its military, and foreign adversaries are becoming more aggressive.  
 According to a 2020 Department of Defense [report](https://media.defense.gov/2020/Sep/01/2002488689/-1/-1/1/2020-DOD-CHINA-MILITARY-POWER-REPORT-FINAL.PDF), China has spent the last twenty years modernizing and strengthening its military. They have been so successful that in some cases, they have already surpassed the United States. As of last year, the People’s Republic of China has the largest navy in the world, with 350 ships and submarines. While radical Democrats are pushing to cut our military’s funding by 10%, China recently [announced](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-03-05/china-s-defense-budget-climbs-6-8-as-economy-recovers) they will expand its defense budget in 2022 to $208.6 billion, an increase of 6.8 percent.    
 The U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander, Admiral Philip Davidson, [testified](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/us-losing-military-edge-in-asia-as-china-looks-like-planning-for-war-admiral) to me and other Members of the House Armed Services Committee last month that the U.S. is losing its military edge against China. Even more concerning are China’s plans to double the size of its nuclear arsenal in the next ten years, surpassing the U.S. stockpile by 2030.  
 The Biden Administration should be giving our servicemembers the resources they need to meet this threat. Instead, officials in the highest echelons of power can’t even stand up for our great country. This travesty was on full display at the Biden Administration’s meeting with Chinese Communist Party officials in Anchorage. CCP officials openly mocked the U.S., and claimed we have no right to criticize their treatment of Uighur Muslims because of American racism. Where did the CCP get this narrative? From the radical left’s endorsement of the idea that the U.S. is systemically racist. America still has work to do to become a more perfect union, but preaching that America is irredeemably racist will hurt our efforts to eradicate racism and combat human rights abuses around the world.   
 The left today may be woke, but they sure aren’t awake. Right now, too many in the Biden Administration are asleep to the real threat that China poses to our national security. The military’s mission creep into radical leftist policies will only politicize the Armed Forces and keep the United States from being able to defend itself from growing national security threats <https://townhall.com/capitol-voices/congressmanmarkgreen/2021/04/13/while-america-slept-the-story-of-a-distracted-military-and-a-rising-china-n2587805>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Denmark first country to stop using AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine**

***Country looking to other vaccines to continue is vaccine rollout campaign.***

*Dan Verbin , Apr 14 , 2021 11:00 PM*

On Wednesday, Denmark announced that it would halt usage of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine due to its possible link to a rare form of blood clots, becoming the first country to do so.

The move will push back the country's vaccine schedule from July 25 to early August, reported Reuters. That timeline may also be in doubt as it was crafted with the assumption that Denmark will throw into the mix the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which has been hit with similar concerns of blood clots occurring.

The Danish Health Agency, in a press conference, said that an investigation into the AstraZeneca vaccine found that blood clots posed "real and serious side effects."

"We have therefore chosen to continue the vaccination program for all target groups without this vaccine," the agency stated.

Last week, the EU drug watchdog agency found that there may be a link between the vaccine and a rare brain blood clot disorder known as CVST.

Most EU countries have since started using the AstraZeneca vaccine again. But they are restricting it to those over the age of 50.

Denmark was first to suspend the use of the vaccine in March when the safety issues arose.

Almost one million of the country's 5.8 million have been vaccinated, according to Reuters.

Denmark's infection rate is going down and the country is easing some restrictions. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304390>

**Biden canceling Trump’s COVID food relief program**

***USDA Farmers to Families Food Box took fresh produce, dairy and meat unneeded by companies and gave it to food banks.***

*Dan Verbin , Apr 14 , 2021 6:08 PM*

The Biden administration has announced that it will be cancelling former President Donald Trump’s USDA Farmers to Families Food Box, a pandemic program which worked with farmers, farm associations and food distributors to purchase unneeded food that would otherwise be thrown away, including fresh produce, dairy and meat, to give to nonprofit organizations such as food banks and shelters.

Last spring the US government hired hundreds of private companies to buy up food no longer needed by restaurants, schools, cruise ships and other companies and deliver it to food banks. However, the $4 billion program faced high costs and some of the food spoiled, according to Reuters. There were also issues with some of the contractors.

Upon a program review, the Biden administration decided to cancel the program after May, USDA communications director Matt Herrick said in an interview with Reuters.

The USDA will instead focus on expanding food stamps and increasing the budgets of its other existing food distribution programs.

Greg Ibach, who was the USDA undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs for the Trump White House, was one of the designers of the program. He said that the Farmers to Families Food Box, which was designed in only one month, worked as well as other agency programs that took years to come to fruition.

“We got a lot of food out the door and in peoples’ hands,” he said. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304375>

**French court upholds decision not to try Muslim man who killed Jewish woman Sarah Halimi**

***Top court upholds lower court rulings saying killer was too high on marijuana to be criminally responsible for his actions.***

*Cnaan Liphshiz, JTA , Apr 14 , 2021 5:36 PM*

Relatives of a Paris woman who was killed by her neighbor while he spewed anti-Semitic slurs and was high on marijuana have lost their final appeal to have the killer tried.

In its decision Wednesday, the Court of Cassation’s Supreme Court of Appeals upheld rulings by lower tribunals that Kobili Traore cannot stand trial in the 2017 killing of Sarah Halimi because he was too high on marijuana to be criminally responsible for his actions.

The handling of Halimi’s slaying has been a watershed event for many French Jews, who say it underlines the French state’s failures in dealing with anti-Semitism.

Traore broke into the third-story apartment of Halimi, a physician and educator in her 60s, shouted about Allah, called her a demon and pummeled Halimi. The intruder then threw Halimi out the window.

Traore then shouted out the window, “A lady has fallen out the window,” and fled the scene, witnesses said. Police caught him nearby.

An appeals court said Traore, now in his early 30s, had anti-Semitic bias and that the killing was partly connected to it. But it also accepted the defense claims that Traore was too high to be tried for his actions and he was placed at a psychiatric facility.

The CRIF umbrella group of French Jewish communities called it a “miscarriage of justice.” The founder of the National Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism, a communal watchdog known as BNVCA, said he “no longer had full confidence that anti-Semitic hate crimes in France are handled properly.” <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304374> {So if you get drunk or high and happen to kill someone you are no longer responsible. Way to go France! – rdb]

**Ship that ran aground in Suez Canal impounded due to financial dispute**

***Massive cargo vessel being prevented from leaving Egypt until owner pays a reported $900 million in compensation.***

*Dan Verbin , Apr 14 , 2021 5:15 PM*

On Tuesday, the Egyptian government impounded the massive cargo ship that last month ran aground in the Suez Canal, triggering a lengthy shutdown of the shipway and causing hefty financial loses.

The Associated Press reported that Lt. Gen. Osama Rabie stated the Ever Given vessel would be prevented from leaving Egypt until the owner, Japanese company Shoei Kisen Kaisha Ltd. agreed to a compensation amount with the Egyptian government.

The vessel is now officially impounded," he told Egypt's state-run television late Monday. "They do not want to pay anything."

Rabie did not elaborate on the amount of money the Egyptian canal authority was seeking in order to release the ship. A judicial official pegged the figure at minimum $900 million, according to reports that were confirmed by Egypt’s state daily Ahram. The figure covers the salvage of the vessel, the financial losses incurred from backed up traffic, and a week of lost transit fees.

The Ever Given is owned by a Japanese company but operated by a Taiwanese shipping firm and flies a Panamanian flag.

It had been carrying $3.5 billion worth of cargo between Asia and Europe when it [ran aground in the canal](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/299372), with the front and back ends of the ship becoming lodged, a historical first for the artificial waterway. It took days for teams to [free the ship](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/299321), costing billions of dollars in shipping delays.

Rabie placed fault with the ship’s owner, saying “Of course, yes” when asked if they were to blame. He added that the canal authority’s investigation would be concluded by Thursday <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304373>

**Gilad Avrahamoff announced World Bible Quiz winner**

***16 youths from around the world compete in final round of quiz, which takes place in presence of PM and Education Minister.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 15 , 2021 12:00 PM | updated: 1:02 PM*

The World Bible Quiz for Youth 2021 took place this morning in Jerusalem, with the participation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Minister of Education Yoav Galant.

This year's winner was Gilad Avrahamoff, of the Yeshivat Bnei Akiva Netanya.

This year, for the second time, Yoav Schlossberg was the author of the questions in the Bible quiz.

16 boys and girls from all over the world qualified for the World Bible Quiz:

1. Gilad Avrahamoff - Israel

2. Amit Algazar - Israel

3. Magli Buenos - Argentina

4. Uriel Binyamini - Israel

5. Dvir Barahad - Israel

6. Jacob Widman - Canada

7. Orly Meirovich - England

8. Sarah Solomon - England

9. Gila Sathon - Argentina

10. Ariel Chicoral - Mexico

11. Leah Kalmus - England

12. Shiri Kaplan - South Africa

13. Ilana Rosenblatt - United States

14. Benjamin Rom - United States

15. Sarah Shea - United States

16. Gabriel Sharam - Mexico

Last year's World Bible Quiz winner was 16-year-old Ruth Cohen from Merkaz Shapira, a student at the Baharan girl’s school. Second place went to Moshe Glidai of Alon Shvut, a student at Mekor Haim yeshiva. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304432>

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**04/14/2021 NEWS AM – Today is Yom HaZikaron(Israel’s day of remembrance for soldiers and civilians killed by terrorists) and tonight begins Yom Ha’Atzmaut(Israel’s Independence day)** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMeVUgtu7tk>

**שלמה ארצי עם ישי ריבו - והאמת קליפ - Shlomo Artzi**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUPP10SvO3g**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUPP10SvO3g)

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| The truth /  That there is no one truth  And justice flew between the hands.  I'm going to  On the Bat Yam border alone,  And the truth deceives me.  Tears covers wants to come back,  To the house where I started long ago,  Like a good boy in his mother's arms,  To the truth in which I dived. | And the truth /  That there is no one or two truths,  A bird escaped my hands,  And the lie is fleeting.  And the truth /  That you are our God  And you are our Savior  And my love at the end.  And the truth /  That you are the only one  And the beauty and sadness  So who controls  Time is a riddle writer  And the truth explodes again. | And the truth /  That there is no one or two truths,  A bird escaped my hands,  And the lie is fleeting.  And the truth /  That you are our God,  And you are our Savior,  And my love at the end. | And the truth /  That there is no one truth  So looking for you in the rain,  Time eludes the culture of anger,  And the truth is already blurred.  And the truth /  That there is no one or two truths,  A bird escaped my hands,  And the lie is fleeting.  And the truth /  That you are our God,  And you are our Savior,  And my love at the end. |

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| **"If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter." -- George Washington (1732-1799) Founding Father, 1st US President, 'Father of the Country'** |

**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 AS – post knee replacement – some problems and another one scheduled.**  **Pray for TR – abnormal Mammogram having double biopsy – Mastectomy Scheduled**  **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 24:62And Isaac had come from the gate of the Well of the Living One My Beholder. And he was dwelling in the land of the Negeb. 63And Isaac had gone out to meditate in the field as *it* turned evening. And he raised his eyes and looked. And behold, camels were coming. 64And Rebekah lifted her eyes and she saw Isaac. And she dismounted from the camel. 65And she said to the slave, Who *is* this man walking in the field to meet us? And the slave said, It *is* my master. And she took the veil and covered herself. 66And the slave told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67And Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah. And he took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. And Isaac was comforted after his mother.**

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| **Interview with Vera Sharav- A holocaust survivor on today’s medical situation.**  [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2dmpCH\_Sfg&t=16s**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2dmpCH_Sfg&t=16s)  **This is a bit long but you would do well to listen. She is providing a chilling account of what occurred in Germany and what is going on today.**  **This is a literal OMG of the highest order!** |

**Israeli-owned ship said attacked off UAE coast amid sky-high tensions with Iran**

**No injuries as vessel comes under fire in Gulf of Oman; Iran had threatened retaliation over attack on Natanz nuclear site blamed on Israel**

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:48 pm*

An Israeli-owned ship reportedly came under missile fire on Tuesday near the United Arab Emirates, in the third attack of its kind in months.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the strike, but officials in Jerusalem believe Iran is responsible, according to Hebrew media reports.

The Lebanese Al Mayadeen news outlet, which is affiliated with the Iran-backed Hezbollah terror group, said the ship was targeted near Fujairah on the coast of the Gulf of Oman.

The Iranian-backed al-Alam TV said the Israeli vessel was the cargo ship Hyperion Ray, which sails under the Bahamas flag but is Israeli-owned.

Channel 12 said the missile strike caused a small amount of damage to the ship, but no injuries. The ship was en route to the UAE from Kuwait, according to the network.

A spokesperson for the Hyperion Ray, however, said there was no damage and the ship continued on its route.

The Emirate of Fujairah is on the UAE’s eastern coast, on the Gulf of Oman, opposite the Persian Gulf and near the Strait of Hormuz.

The reported strike came as Iran threatened to avenge an attack on its Natanz nuclear site that it blamed on Israel.

Tehran and Jerusalem are engaged in a maritime shadow war, with both sides blaming the other for explosions on vessels, marking a new front in the conflict that was previously carried out on land, by air, and with alleged espionage and cyberattacks.

The MV Saviz, an Iranian cargo ship said to serve as a floating base for Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard forces off the coast of Yemen, was struck by an explosion last Tuesday, likely from a limpet mine.

In recent months, at least two Israeli-owned cargo ships have been damaged in alleged Iranian attacks, one in the Gulf of Oman and the other as it was sailing to India.

Iran’s Natanz nuclear facility was hit by a suspected attack on Sunday. Israel is widely believed to have carried out the assault that damaged centrifuges, though it has not claimed it.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Tuesday that if Iran determines the Jewish state was behind the strike on Natanz, “then Israel will get its response and will see what a stupid thing it has done.”

The incident threatened to derail ongoing negotiations between Iran and world powers aimed at rescuing its tattered 2015 nuclear deal. The Biden administration opened indirect talks with Iran over the deal last week.

Following the Natanz attack, Iran on Tuesday said it will begin [enriching uranium to 60 percent purity](https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-informs-un-it-will-raise-enrichment-to-60-its-highest-ever-levels/), higher than the program ever has before. Iranian nuclear negotiator Abbas Araghchi was quoted by the state-run IRNA news agency as saying that Iran would increase its enrichment from its current rate of 20% in response to the weekend attack. That would put Iran a short technical step away from weapons-grade levels.

The broadcaster also quoted Araghchi as saying Iran would install another 1,000 centrifuges at Natanz, without elaborating. Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful.

Details remained scarce about what happened at Natanz. The event was initially described only as a blackout in the electrical grid feeding above-ground workshops and underground enrichment halls — but later Iranian officials began referring to it as an attack.

The extent of the damage at Natanz also remains unclear, though Iran’s Foreign Ministry said it damaged some of Iran’s first-generation IR-1 centrifuges, the workhorse of its nuclear program. A former Iranian Revolutionary Guard chief said Tuesday that the assault set off a fire while a civilian nuclear program spokesman mentioned a “possible minor explosion.”

In remarks aired late Monday by state television, the former head of the country’s civilian nuclear arm called the attack’s design “very beautiful.” It appeared to target both the power grid at Natanz and the facility’s emergency backup power, Fereydoun Abbasi said.

Abbasi said a similar attack targeted Iran’s underground Fordo facility in 2012 with two explosions: One 30 kilometers (18.5 miles) away at a power station and the other at Fordo’s emergency battery system.

“We had predicted that, and we were using a separate power grid,” Abbasi said. “They hit but nothing happened for our machines.”

An American official told the New York Times that Israel called the strike on Natanz a retaliation for the several attacks on Israeli-owned shipping vessels in recent weeks.

Earlier Tuesday, a Channel 12 report said Israel’s security establishment was bracing for a possible Iranian revenge attack and had raised security levels in embassies around the world. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-owned-ship-said-attacked-off-uae-coast-amid-sky-high-tensions-with-iran/>

**Iranian media spreads report of attack on alleged Mossad center in Iraq**

***Casualties were reported in the alleged attack, Iraqi sources told Iranian media***

*By* [*TZVI JOFFRE*](https://www.jpost.com/author/tzvi-joffre) *APRIL 13, 2021 23:49*

An intelligence and special operations center in northern Iraq allegedly belonging to the [Mossad](https://www.jpost.com/tags/mossad) was attacked by an "unidentified group," according to a report shared by a number of semi-official and official Iranian media sources. The report remains unconfirmed by any official source.

Casualties were reported in the alleged attack, Iraqi sources told Iranian media, which claimed that more details and footage would be released soon. The Iranian reports claimed that the casualties were "Israeli forces," although it's unclear if they were referring to Israeli citizens or foreigners working with Israel.  
 A report on the alleged incident shared by the semi-official Iranian Fars News Agency claimed that "Iraqi media and sources have repeatedly warned about the activities of Zionist elements" in the Iraqi Kurdistan area.  
 The news came just hours after Israel began commemorating Remembrance Day, when the country remembers and honors fallen soldiers and victims of terror.  
 The report has not been confirmed by any official sources, but has been published by the semi-official Fars News Agency, Al-Alam News, which is owned by Iran's state media corporation, and Press TV, an English-language news network run by the Iranian government.  
 The report seems to have originated from a news source called Sabreen based on Telegram. The report cited an anonymous "security source."  
 The Iranian report comes after an alleged Israeli attack on Iran's [Natanz nuclear facility](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/incident-reported-in-iranian-natanz-nuclear-facility-664792) and reports of a number of strikes by Iran and Israel on each other's maritime vessels in the Red Sea and near the Persian Gulf in recent weeks.  
 An Israeli ship called the Hyperion and owned by an Israeli company was attacked near the shores of the Fujairah emirate in the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, according to reports in Lebanon.  
 Iranian officials have warned in recent days that they would respond to an alleged Israeli attack that hit an electrical substation at an underground uranium enrichment facility at Natanz.

Tensions were already high between the two nations after the alleged Israeli assassination of top Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh and reported attempts by Iran to carry out revenge attacks on Israeli embassies around the world. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/alleged-mossad-center-struck-in-northern-iraq-iranian-report-665070> [The ME situation is like a bomb waiting to explode. The concept is flying that there is actually an ‘undertow” of a warm not quit hot war going on which if you look a bit you can really see the evidence of that. Put that together with the Chinese actions in the Taiwan area and the Russian buildup at the Ukrainian border and you have a potential war of “Biblical proportions”. – rdb]

**Israel comes to a standstill to remember 23,928 fallen**

***Country plunges into mourning as sirens mark start of Memorial Day; 43 soldiers and civilians killed since last year; Rivlin entreats nation: Israel must not be ‘taken for granted’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:44 pmUpdated at 8:00 pm*

Israelis paid tribute to the country’s 23,928 fallen soldiers and terror victims starting on Tuesday evening, bowing their heads for a minute of silence as sirens sounded around the country to mark the start of Memorial Day.

The one-minute siren at 8 p.m. was immediately followed by the state ceremony at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. On Tuesday night, additional public memorials will be held, including at Tel Aviv’s Hayarkon Park and in the Knesset in Jerusalem.

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| Israeli soldiers stand still as a memorial siren sounds during the ceremony marking Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror, at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City, on April 13, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)  Israeli soldiers stand still as a memorial siren sounds during the ceremony marking Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror, at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City, on April 13, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90) | Israeli soldiers lay flowers and Israeli flags on the graves of fallen soldiers at the Kiryat Shaul Military Cemetery on April 13, 2021, ahead of Israeli Memorial Day, which begins tonight. Photo by Miriam Alster/Flash90. *** Local Caption *** יום הזיכרון בית קברות חיילים דגלים חללים קרית שאול  זיכרון  בית קברות  Israeli soldiers lay flowers and Israeli flags on the graves of fallen soldiers at the Kiryat Shaul Military Cemetery on April 13, 2021, ahead of Israeli Memorial Day, which begins tonight. Photo by Miriam Alster/Flash90. \*\*\* Local Caption \*\*\* יום הזיכרון בית קברות חיילים דגלים חללים קרית שאול זיכרון בית קברות |
| President Reuven Rivlin speaks at a ceremony marking Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror, at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City, on April 13, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)  President Reuven Rivlin speaks at a ceremony marking Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror, at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City, on April 13, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash9 | People stand still as one minutre siren sounded across Israel, marking Memorial Day which commemorates the fallen Israeli soldiers and victims of terror in Ayalon highway, Tel Aviv, April 13, 2021. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)  People stand still as one minutre siren sounded across Israel, marking Memorial Day which commemorates the fallen Israeli soldiers and victims of terror in Ayalon highway, Tel Aviv, April 13, 2021. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90) |
| An Israeli soldier places flowers on the graves of fallen Israeli soldiers at the Mount Herzl military cemetery hours before the start of Memorial Day, in Jerusalem on April 20, 2020. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)  An Israeli soldier places flowers on the graves of fallen Israeli soldiers at the Mount Herzl military cemetery hours before the start of Memorial Day, in Jerusalem on April 20, 2020. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90) | Israeli soldiers visit graves of fallen soldiers in Mount Herzl Military Cemetery in Jerusalem, on April 13, 2021, ahead of Israeli Memorial Day, which begins tonight. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)  Israeli soldiers visit graves of fallen soldiers in Mount Herzl Military Cemetery in Jerusalem, on April 13, 2021, ahead of Israeli Memorial Day, which begins tonight. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90) |

 During the siren, traffic around the country came to an abrupt halt, as Israelis stopped driving to stand beside their cars and people at home stood in somber silence on their balconies or in their yards.

An Israeli man looks at wall with names of fallen soldiers of the armored corps in Latrun's Military memorial, April 13, 2021, ahead of Israeli Memorial Day, which begins tonight. (Yossi Aloni/Flash90)

A second, two-minute, siren will go off at 11 a.m. Wednesday, which will be followed by the main Memorial Day ceremony at Mount Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem, and smaller events at cemeteries across the country.

The Memorial Day events officially began at the Yad LaBanim center in Jerusalem on Tuesday afternoon, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Knesset Speaker Yariv Levin and Chief Justice Esther Hayut in attendance.

Speaking at the ceremony, Netanyahu said Israel will make “every effort” to return its captives, which include two civilians and the bodies of two IDF soldiers believed to be held by the Hamas terror group in Gaza.

 “This is a sacred mission that we’re not letting go of,” he said.

People stand for a two-minute silence in Jerusalem’s Machane Yehuda market on Memorial Day, Yom Hazikaron, April 28, 2020 April 28, 2020. (Nati Shohat/Flash90)

Speaking at the official state ceremony held at the Western Wall, President Reuven Rivlin said the message of the day was that citizens of the Jewish state must not take it for granted.

“From here, I want to speak to you, the commanders, the soldiers, those soon to enlist, the young generation. I grew up as a child at a time when we did not have a state. For me, for those of my generation, the State of Israel is not something to be taken for granted. This strong and powerful country you see was established by the heroism and dedication of young people of your age,” Rivlin said.

“Today, the task of protecting the State of Israel, is on your shoulders. Remember, without love of the homeland, dedication to mission, aiming for victory, comradeship, purpose, personal example and the purity of weapons, a free people will not be established here. The Israel Defense Force and the State of Israel, we, need you young, strong, united, united, united, determined to lend a hand, determined to continue to prevail, ready when necessary, to pay a price,” he entreated.

 IDF chief Aviv Kohavi said, “Out of a commitment to the current generation of soldiers and their families, we will do everything to only send them on worthy missions.” “We will improve the IDF’s capabilities: first of all, its ability to successfully carry out missions, but no less, to protect and defend the soldiers,” he said.

IDF chief Aviv Kochavi speaks at a ceremony marking Memorial Day at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, on April 13, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)

Forty-three soldiers and civilians were killed since last Memorial Day and the total number of Israeli casualties of war stands at 23,928, according to figures released by the Defense Ministry on Friday.

Since last Memorial Day, 112 new names were added to the roster of those who died defending the country since 1860.

Forty-three were IDF soldiers, police officers, and civilians, and 69 were disabled veterans who passed away due to complications of injuries sustained during their service.

The figures include all soldiers and police who died during their service over the past year, including as a result of accidents, suicide, or illness.

In a stark reminder of the toll of Israel’s wars, a former soldier suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder set himself on fire on Monday outside the Defense Ministry’s rehabilitation center, setting off a national reckoning. Itzik Saidyan, 26, remains in critical condition.

Unlike last year, when the pandemic saw all Memorial Day ceremonies held without audiences and smaller events planned for municipal cemeteries across the country were canceled, this year’s events will be held under few health restrictions.

On Wednesday, [ministers approved](https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministers-ease-outdoor-gathering-restrictions-as-virus-rates-continue-to-slide/) removing some Memorial Day rules which included allowing relatives of the fallen who do not have the Green Pass to attend ceremonies.

The Green Pass is given to those who are fully vaccinated or have recovered from the coronavirus, granting them entry to public venues not open to others.

The new measures, effective as of Thursday, include raising the number of people allowed to gather outdoors from 50 to 100.  The current limit of 20 people indoors remains in place.



A nurse stands at a grave at the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery as Israel marks Memorial Day, Yom Hazikaron, April 28, 2020. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)

Memorial Day is one of Israel’s few national, non-religious holidays, during which large swaths of the Israeli public typically visit the graves of loved ones and comrades.

The general public has been encouraged to visit the graves of fallen soldiers over the next few days to avoid crowding on Memorial Day itself when close relatives are expected to attend.

The commemoration day, established in 1951 by then-prime minister and defense minister David Ben-Gurion, was set for the 4th of Iyar on the Jewish calendar, the day before Independence Day, which begins immediately after Memorial Day.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-set-to-come-to-standstill-to-remember-23928-fallen/> [Yom HaZikaron is an emotional day for all of Israel. I watched part of the ceremony and President Rivlin’s speech and though I could understand on a small part of it his meaning was obvious. I then began to think how dreadfully sad it is in the USA. As a youth I well remember Memorial day and armistice day which later became Veteran’s day being observed in a very dignified and somber even reverent manner. There was an extraordinary sense of obligation to remember and memorialize the many who had offered their lives and suffered injuries for the sake of preserving this nation.

I look today and the focus is on what sales are going on at the local big box store and where is the party. In the Hebrew the name for the observance is HaZikaron. It comes from the Hebrew זָכַר (zāḵar) which means to remember. There is even a service that is observed on certain holidays called Yizkor from the same root word. When you look at the Decalogue or 10 commandments the fifth commandment is to honor our father and mother. It doesn’t even say you need to love them, but honor them. In the Hebrew and Christian tradition the ‘greatest commandment is to “love they Lord thy God with all your heart all your mind and all your being and love your neighbor as yourself.” If a man or woman had freely given their life so that we can have a nation isn’t that worthy of honoring and remembering? Perhaps our country would do well to stop the focus on self and party and learn about honoring others. – rdb]

**In strategic talks with Israel, US vows to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran**

***Israeli and US officials hold bilateral group meeting on Iranian threat as tensions spiral; White House national security adviser invites Israeli counterpart to Washington***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:59 pm*

***[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/02/Blah.jpg)Israeli National Security Council chairman Meir Ben-Shabbat (right), and US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan. (Flash90, AP)***

The Biden administration stressed its commitment to preventing a nuclear-armed Iran during a strategic meeting with Israeli officials on Tuesday, as Middle East tensions rose and Iran announced it was stepping up uranium enrichment to unprecedented levels.

Israeli and White House officials on Tuesday held the second session of a bilateral strategic group aimed at collaborating in the effort to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

The teams, led by US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and his Israeli counterpart, Meir Ben-Shabbat, held the meeting virtually after a previous discussion in March.

A White House statement on the US-Israel Strategic Consultative Group meeting said the two sides had discussed “opportunities to promote stability and security in the face of shared regional threats and challenges.”

“Sullivan reaffirmed the Biden-Harris administration’s unwavering commitment to Israel’s security and to ensuring that Iran will never obtain a nuclear weapon,” the statement said. [I can only think of the meme that is going around now with the Indian chief who says “the government broke every agreement that had with us and now they are breaking that of the constitution with their people. – rdb]

Sullivan invited Ben-Shabbat to Washington in the coming weeks for follow-up talks, the statement said.

The meeting came as a flurry of escalations in Iran and at sea threaten to derail ongoing talks aimed at rescuing Iran’s 2015 nuclear deal. The Biden administration opened indirect talks with Iran over the deal last week.

Iran’s Natanz nuclear facility was [hit by a suspected attack](https://www.timesofisrael.com/blast-at-natanz-was-caused-by-bomb-planted-near-main-electric-line-israeli-tv/) on Sunday. Israel is widely believed to have carried out the assault that shut down the facility and damaged centrifuges, though it has not claimed it. Washington has denied any involvement. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-vows-to-prevent-a-nuclear-armed-iran-in-strategic-talks-with-israel/>

**AG: Security cabinet can’t hold votes until permanent justice minister appointed**

***Amid tensions with Iran, Avichai Mandelblit’s ruling hamstrings high-level panel that approves military operations; order also ties hands of coronavirus cabinet***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:10 pm*

Amid an ongoing rift between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Benny Gantz, Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit issued a legal opinion Wednesday night saying the high-level security cabinet and coronavirus cabinet cannot hold votes until a full-time justice minister has been appointed.

Israel has been without a justice minister since early this month after Gantz’s maximal 3-month term as acting justice minister expired. Netanyahu can’t take the role since he is a criminal defendant, and has blocked attempts to approve another candidate.

Gantz has been demanding that he be tapped as full-time minister, with Netanyahu refusing, in yet another political spat to affect the country under the current power-sharing government.

 According to Mandelblit, the lack of a permanent justice minister violates the laws passed by the government to ensure equal representation of Netanyahu and Gantz’s respective blocs within the so-called national unity government.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) and Defense Minister Benny Gantz face away from each other during the swearing-in of the 24th Knesset (Knesset spokesperson’s office)**[This photo pretty well sums up the situation in Israel’s government and what it has been for the past 2 years. NO ONE can agree on anything – rdb]**

“As long as the members of the security cabinet do not comply with the provision of equality between the number of ministers who are members of each of the blocs, it will not be able to exercise its powers by means of valid decisions,” Mandelblit wrote to cabinet secretary Tzachi Braverman.

He did, however, state that the security cabinet, which decides on launching military operations, may convene in “urgent situations.” The ruling comes amid soaring tensions between Israel and Iran.

Last week, Mandelblit warned Netanyahu and Gantz that the continued lack of a justice minister will have “far-reaching consequences from a public health point of view.”

In the letter to the two leaders, Mandelblit said that starting April 21, thousands of detainees and prisoners will have to be physically brought to court for arrest and remand hearings, since video conferencing won’t be allowed due to the lack of a minister. Since many detainees and prisoners aren’t vaccinated against COVID-19, bringing them to court could pose a health risk.

Additionally, some aspects of the pandemic response will be harmed, Mandelblit warned.

His warning came after two separate petitions were filed last week with the High Court of Justice by good governance groups seeking to push the cabinet to nominate a justice minister or explain why it will not.

The lack of a justice minister has [serious ramifications](https://www.timesofisrael.com/no-justice-minister-no-peace-and-forget-about-pardons-or-bill-proposals/) for the ability of the judicial system to function properly in some areas, including signing off on sentence reductions for inmates or extradition orders. It also affects the ability of the interim government to pass any new legislation, as government bills must first be okayed by the justice minister, who heads the Ministerial Committee for Legislation. This would even potentially affect urgent legislation regarding peace agreements and the battle against COVID-19.

Last month, Gantz castigated Netanyahu for blocking the appointment and said he had written to Mandelblit to ask whether the premier should be required to step down as prime minister over the decision.

The prime minister’s move to leave Israel without a justice minister represented a “clear instance of conflict of interest,” said Gantz, intimating that Netanyahu was interfering in the state legal establishment for personal reasons because he is on trial.

The first hearings in the evidentiary phase of Netanyahu’s trial for alleged bribery, fraud and breach of trust were held last week. The thrice-weekly hearings are set to resume on Monday.

Netanyahu, the first Israeli premier to be indicted while in office, denies any wrongdoing and has railed against the courts, prosecution and media for what he terms a “witch hunt.” He alleges the state prosecution, police, media and opposition are framing him in an attempted political coup.

Netanyahu cannot serve as justice minister himself due to the criminal charges against him, and last month the High Court of Justice ruled that he must abide by conflict of interest rules laid out by Mandelblit preventing him from appointing senior law enforcement and justice officials.

Under Mandelblit’s arrangement, Netanyahu cannot be involved in any matters that affect witnesses or other defendants in his graft trial, or in legislation that would impact the legal proceedings against him. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ag-security-cabinet-cant-hold-votes-until-permanent-justice-minister-appointed/> [In Israeli terms this is a real Belagan (total mess)- rdb

**Netanyahu, Bennett finish 4th meeting in coalition talks**

***Bennett said the blocs in Israel are no longer Right and Left or for or against Netanyahu remaining in power.***

*By* [*GIL HOFFMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/gil-hoffman) *APRIL 13, 2021 20:47*

Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](https://www.jpost.com/Tags/Benjamin-Netanyahu) and Yamina leader Naftali Bennett met on Wednesday for the fourth time since President Reuven Rivlin granted Netanyahu the mandate to form a government.

Likud and Yamina coalition negotiating teams took part in the meeting at the Prime Minister’s Office in Jerusalem and also met separately from the leaders.

Netanyahu’s goal is to reach agreements with Yamina, Shas and United Torah Judaism and then pressure Religious Zionist Party head Bezalel Smotrich, who continues to refuse to sit in a government backed by Ra’am (the United Arab List).

Netanyahu’s mandate ends on May 4. If he does not form a government by then, Rivlin is expected to give a mandate to Bennett to build a coalition with Yesh Atid leader [Yair Lapid](https://www.jpost.com/tags/yair-lapid), who returned from the US on Tuesday. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/netanyahu-bennett-finish-4th-meeting-in-coalition-talks-665009> [Looks like something is about to hatch in this deal. – rdb]

**Walla owner told CEO: ‘Give Sara everything, Netanyahu’s killing himself for me’**

***Former chief of news site recalls Elovitch telling him PM was going ‘above and beyond’ to help the company and ‘we have to find a way to repay him’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:05 pm*

The former CEO of the Walla news site on Tuesday continued his key testimony in one of the cases against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying that he was told to pander to the premier’s wife because the company was receiving help with regulatory benefits.

At the Jerusalem District Court, the prosecution presented a message from Walla owner Shaul Elovitch to ex-CEO Ilan Yeshua, which showed the extent of the influence on the editorial process.

“Give the lady everything, he is killing himself for me,” the message from Elovitch read.

Yeshua told the court that the “lady” referred to in the message was Sara Netanyahu and that “he” was the prime minister.

Former Walla CEO Ilan Yeshua at the Jerusalem District Court for Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu’s corruption trial, April 13, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)



“He was helping Shaul [Elovitch] with things important to him in terms of regulatory benefits,” Yeshua said.

In the case, Netanyahu is alleged to have used his powers when he served as both premier and communications minister from 2014 to 2017 to illicitly and immensely lucratively advance the business interests of telecommunications magnate Elovitch, the controlling shareholder of Bezeq, in exchange for positive coverage of the prime minister and his family by Walla.

In a separate exchange with Elovitch, Yeshua said his wife had noticed an article about the prime minister’s wife on the website.

“My wife said, ‘I see you worked today. I see a beautiful article about Sara.’ For that I went to work today. In the end we are a friendly organization,” Yeshua wrote to Elovitch.

On another occasion, Elovitch passed on a message to Yeshua from Netanyahu aide Ze’ev Rubinstein, who said that Sara was unhappy about the site.

“She is angry, grumbling, something must be done, Shaul [Elovitch], every article or news must go through Ilan [Yeshua]. Must wait if there are negative things about her husband. Taking care of what I asked for now is very important,” Rubinstein told Elovitch.

Yeshua said that the Netanyahus’ son Yair also played a role by showing his mother stories to anger her. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/walla-owner-told-ceo-give-sara-everything-netanyahus-killing-himself-for-me/> [Sounds like a bad case of ‘over indulgence of the family’ in a public officer. – rdb]

**Sudan due to send first delegation to Israel next week, sources say**

***Khartoum said to be preparing to send its first-ever diplomatic delegation to Israel, comprised of security and intelligence officials, as both nations move to solidify last year's normalization deal***

*Reuters | Published: 04.13.21 , 23:01*

Sudan provisionally plans to send a first official delegation to Israel next week to firm up bilateral ties that were established last year under U.S. mediation, two sources said on Tuesday.

One of the sources, who could not be identified by name or nationality, said the Sudanese delegation would comprise security and intelligence officials. The specific date for next week's visit had yet to be finalized, the source added.

Sudanese and Israeli government spokesmen had no immediate comment on the arrival of the delegation.

Israel has previously sent a delegation to Sudan headed by Intelligence Minister Eli Cohen that also featured representatives from the country's National Security Council.

The delegation discussed a variety of issues, including regional security and stability in addition to potential economic cooperation between the two countries with an emphasis on water resources, agriculture, renewable energy, health and aviation.

Sudan joined the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco in agreeing to move toward normal relations with Israel in the 2020 Abraham Accords deals brokered by the Trump administration. The Biden administration has pledged to pursue such outreach.

The normalization is seen in Sudan as an initiative led by the military which has welcomed visits by Israeli officials in recent months. In a related measure, the Khartoum cabinet voted last week to repeal a 1958 law that forbade diplomatic and business relations with Israel. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/S1mHWLmIu>

**6 injured, 5 arrested as hundreds riot in East Jerusalem after Ramadan prayer**

***Police says crowd of Muslim worshipers hurled rocks, glass bottles and firecrackers at officers and buses near Damascus Gate, injuring a cop and 5 civilians***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:48 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2020/04/000_1QP1C5-e1587539313625.jpg)

***People walk under lights decorating the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City on April 19, 2020, as Muslims around the world prepare for the holy Muslim month of Ramadan amid the coronavirus pandemic. (Ahmad Gharabli/AFP)***

Five people were arrested Tuesday night as hundreds rioted in East Jerusalem after returning from prayers on the first night of Ramadan, police said Wednesday.

Muslim worshipers gathered near the Old City’s Damascus Gate and clashed with cops stationed there, according to police.

Some hurled rocks at passing buses, causing minor injuries to two drivers and three passengers who required medical attention.

Additionally, rocks, glass bottles and firecrackers were thrown at police officers, mildly injuring one of them.

Police said forces dispersed the crowd using riot control means, adding that the clashes occurred shortly before worshipers were required to end their *taraweeh* Ramadan prayers and leave the area.

Five suspects have been arrested.

The month of Ramadan normally sees increased tensions around Jerusalem’s Old City, which houses the flashpoint Temple Mount site, holy to both Jews and Muslims.

Israel’s military liaison to the Palestinians, COGAT, said Tuesday that up to 10,000 vaccinated Palestinians will be allowed to pray Friday at the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount to mark the first Friday of Ramadan. MORE -<https://www.timesofisrael.com/6-injured-5-arrested-as-hundreds-riot-in-east-jerusalem-after-ramadan-prayer/>

**Ahead of Palestinian elections, West Bank homes of 2 candidates hit by gunfire**

***Separately, Israel arrests Hamas candidate for parliament, angering terror group***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 7:39 pm*

Tensions in the West Bank city of Hebron have risen over the past two days, with the homes of two local politicians sprayed with bullets ahead of the Palestinian legislative elections in May.

Armed gunmen allegedly opened fire on the home and office of parliamentary candidate Hatem Shaheen early on Monday morning. Shaheen, a lawyer, is currently running on a list sponsored by former Fatah security chief Mohammad Dahlan.

Dahlan is a bitter rival of the current leadership in Ramallah, including Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. He was exiled to the United Arab Emirates in 2013, but has hinted that he may use the Palestinian vote to launch a comeback in the West Bank.

“Around 2:30 before dawn, we awoke to the sound of heavy shooting towards our home. We rushed to see what was happening, and saw a white car fleeing the scene,” Shaheen told reporters outside his home in Hebron.

[#فلسطين](https://twitter.com/hashtag/%D9%81%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%8A%D9%86?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) : تيار الإصلاح الديمقراطي في حركة فتح: ندين الجريمة النكراء التي قامت بها أيادي عابثة ومنفلتة بإطلاق الرصاص على منزل ومكتب وسيارة المحامي حاتم شاهين، المرشح على قائمة المستقبل في محافظة الخليل لانتخابات المجلس التشريعي. [pic.twitter.com/M7o0NdqnNO](https://t.co/M7o0NdqnNO)

— شبكة فلسطين للأنباء (@shfanews\_net) [April 12, 2021](https://twitter.com/shfanews_net/status/1381530586263736322?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Following the incident, Dahlan’s supporters accused the Palestinian leadership, including Abbas, of creating an “unfree” environment for elections.

Another shooting incident took place early Tuesday morning, when gunmen allegedly fired at the house of Hebron Fatah party chairman Emad Kharwat.

Kharwat appeared to blame Dahlan’s faction for the gunfire, telling Palestinian media: “We know well that Dahlan, and his people, and his supporters are wreaking havoc. We will not allow anyone to cause chaos in my city of Hebron.”

Hebron mayor Tayseer Abu Sneineh described the Hebron shootings as reflecting “a security vacuum and the chaos of the spread of weaponry in our homeland generally, and in Hebron in particular.”

“This shooting was an attempt to create internal discord on the eve of the elections,” Abu Sneineh, a Fatah member, wrote in a signed statement.

Palestinian security officials told The Times of Israel they could not confirm whether the two incidents were related.

Separately, Israeli forces arrested Hamas parliamentary candidate Najih Asi early on Tuesday morning. According to the terror group, Asi is the director of Hamas’s parliamentary campaign in the West Bank.

تصريح صحفي للناطق باسم قائمة "القدس موعدنا" علاء حميدان: ندين ما أقدمت عليه قوات الاحتلال من اختطاف لممثل القائمة الأخ ناجح عاصي من منزله في مدينة رام الله.

حملات الاعتقال المستمرة منذ سنوات ستفشل في كسر عزيمة أبناء الشعب الفلسطيني. [pic.twitter.com/aQ4aoYlyEx](https://t.co/aQ4aoYlyEx)

— فلسطين الآن (@paltimes2015) [April 13, 2021](https://twitter.com/paltimes2015/status/1381864208590077954?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Hamas has charged numerous times in recent weeks that Israel has called senior Hamas officials for interrogation and issued stern warnings not to participate in the upcoming elections.

“Clearly, Israel is concerned about the ongoing elections, which it knows will end the Palestinian state of division,” a spokesperson for Hamas’s slate of candidates, “Jerusalem Our Destination,” told reporters at a press conference in Ramallah.

The Shin Bet security service declined to comment on the allegations on the record. A security official told The Times of Israel that such claims “have no connection to reality,” without elaborating.

“[Asi] was arrested for involvement in recent terrorist activity. There is no connection between his arrest and his political activities,” the security official said. MORE -<https://www.timesofisrael.com/ahead-of-palestinian-vote-west-bank-homes-of-2-candidates-hit-by-gunfire/>

**Senior Iran official confirms ‘thousands of centrifuges damaged and destroyed’**

***Admission of scale of damage at Natanz casts doubts on Tehran’s ability to ramp up uranium enrichment to 60%, as threatened; Israeli report says whole plant still out of commission***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *14 April 2021, 1:15 am*

A senior Iranian official confirmed Tuesday that the blast at the Natanz nuclear facility, which Tehran blames on Israel, destroyed or damaged thousands of centrifuges used to enrich uranium.

Alireza Zakani, the hard-line head of the Iranian parliament’s research center, referred to “several thousand centrifuges damaged and destroyed” in a state TV interview. However, no other official has offered that figure and no images of the aftermath have been released.

His comments came as Iran said it was stepping up uranium enrichment to an [unprecedented 60%](https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-iran-ramps-up-enrichment-white-house-says-diplomacy-the-only-way-forward/) — bringing Iran closer to the 90% purity threshold for military use, and shortening its potential “breakout time” to the bomb — and installing new centrifuges in response to the Sunday attack.

The remarks appear to confirm Israeli reports indicating the damage was widespread and Iran will have significant difficulty restoring its enrichment to previous levels in the coming months.

An Israeli TV report on Tuesday night said that Iran will only be able to enrich very small quantities of uranium to 60% since Natanz is still out of commission following the Sunday attack.

Channel 13 analyst Alon Ben David said that despite Iranian officials’ vow to start preparing Wednesday to begin the higher enrichment process, they cannot do it at Natanz, since the 6,000 centrifuges there remain “out of action.”

There are 1,000 centrifuges at Iran’s Fordo nuclear facility that can enrich to 60% in very small quantities, the Israeli analyst said, describing the Iranian threat of higher enrichment, therefore, as unlikely to be significant. MORE -

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/senior-iran-official-confirms-thousands-of-centrifuges-damaged-and-destroyed/>

**Jen Psaki bizarrely stereotypes white conservatives, gets brutally mocked in response**

*By* [*Kipp Jones, The Western Journal*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wj/) *Published April 13, 2021 at 8:18pm*

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said something so brazenly racist when speaking of white, red-state Americans during her Monday media briefing that she should have been fired immediately.  
 That of course won’t happen. Nonwhite and white leftists alike are free to say whatever they’d like about the deplorable [white Americans](https://www.westernjournal.com/international-peer-sees-worrying-trend-us-warns-growing-anti-white-racism/) who they hold in such contempt. But the current administration's contempt for rural Americans is apparently unparalleled.  
 When explaining the federal government’s efforts to vaccinate people so they can go on being told they still have to wear two masks, Psaki [went low](https://www.westernjournal.com/biden-admin-working-nascar-country-music-tv-push-vaccines-white-conservative-communities/). She actually said the White House hopes to convince rural, red-state Americans to accept the government’s COVID vaccines and has resorted to racial stereotyping in a particularly elitist fashion to spread the message.  
 [Psaki](https://www.westernjournal.com/watch-foxs-doocy-confronts-psaki-bidens-words-doesnt-like/) implied that people in states such as Mississippi, Ohio and Oklahoma can only be reached through targeted ads on television — and during events such as NASCAR races and TV programs about deep-sea fishing.  
 “The New York Times, last week, came out with a story that Mississippi was having a hard time getting folks vaccinated,” Psaki was told by a reporter, according to an official White House transcript. “But it’s not just Mississippi; it’s a bunch of other rural states — Ohio, Oklahoma. They’re at 34 percent vaccination rate.” “Has the White House been in touch with these governors to see what they can do now?” Psaki was asked. “Because, of course, this impacts herd immunity and the goals of the White House just to get these shots in arms.”  
 Psaki’s answer was a doozy. No circling back was necessary, as she was armed and ready to generalize millions of people as racing fans in cowboy hats. In what would become a racist screed, Psaki announced steps to reach “local messengers” and others to pass along how safe vaccines are.

.[@PressSec](https://twitter.com/PressSec) on White House efforts to strengthen vaccine confidence in "white conservative communities":  
 "We've run PSAs on the Deadliest Catch, we're engaged with NASCAR and Country Music TV" [pic.twitter.com/yX51FkuSOH](https://t.co/yX51FkuSOH)  
 — Daily Caller (@DailyCaller) [April 12, 2021](https://twitter.com/DailyCaller/status/1381724632559054855)

“We’re also investing $3 billion to states and community-based organizations to strengthen vaccine confidence in the highest-risk and hardest-hit communities,” she said. “And often, people think of that as just black and brown communities, and that is not. As you’ve noted, that is also conservative communities, white evangelicals. It’s a range of communities around the country.”  
 Psaki then showed the world in a few despicable sentences how she views those who live far away from the overrated coasts and their [mask-polluted](https://www.westernjournal.com/disposable-covid-gear-ending-ocean-diver-warns-soon-see-masks-jellyfish/) beaches.  
 “We’ve also had a number of our members of our COVID team, from Dr. Fauci and Dr. Collins — participate, as an example, participate in a range of media interviews,” she said. “You know, an example is Dr. Collins participated in ‘The 700 Club.’ Dr. Nunez-Smith hosted a faith leaders roundtable. We’re also looking for — we’ve run PSAs on the 'Deadliest Catch.' We’re engaged with NASCAR and Country Music TV.”  
 What?  
 Establishment media darling Dr. [Anthony Fauci](https://www.westernjournal.com/fire-fauci-act-officially-introduced-house/) is going to convince white Christians to vax up with an ad blitz during a show about fishing? These ideologues in Washington intend to reach us deplorable Christians by catching us between country music videos and NASCAR races?  
 This writer has proudly lived for decades in Oklahoma. Fans of "Deadliest Catch" aren’t holding watch parties in churches and country music died when we lost Merle.  
 What an incredibly derogatory thing to say. Now, imagine the question and answer from Monday’s briefing were directed at black Americans. Imagine this statement from Psaki: “We’re also looking for — we’ve run PSAs on ‘Black-ish.’ We’re engaged with the NBA and BET.”  
 Psaki would rightly be out of a job, as she should be now.  
 Twitter users shredded the inept press secretary over her comments stereotyping white conservatives and Christians: MORE -<https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/jen-psaki-bizarrely-stereotypes-white-conservatives-gets-brutally-mocked-response/>

**Shocking state plan opens door for 'doxxing' of voters**

***'This is a dangerous and reckless bill'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 13, 2021 at 7:16pm*

A California bill would make the millions of citizens who have engaged in the democratic process of signing a petition to recall Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom vulnerable to retaliation, according to a state lawmaker.

Republican Assemblyman Kevin Kiley explained [the bill](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB663) would "expose the name and address of everyone who signs a Recall petition."

It's called "doxxing," and in the internet age it means releasing the private information of opponents.

The plan already has been approved by the Senate Elections Committee.

[The Associated Press reported](https://ktla.com/news/california/california-bill-that-would-let-recall-targets-see-who-signed-petition-to-oust-them-clears-senate-committee/) it would allow politicians facing removal "to see the names of people who sign the petitions to oust them."

Critics say that while the names are not supposed to be used for inappropriate activities, such as intimidation, the law "would discourage people from signing future petitions for fear of retaliation."

Orrin Heatlie, an organizer of the Newsom recall, warned: "This is a dangerous and reckless bill. It would stifle the process."

The proposal comes from Democratic state Sen. Josh Newman, who once was recalled and eventually reelected. Bottom of Form

He claims it would allow politicians to make sure voters "weren't duped" into signing the petitions. His plan is to let politicians explain to voters how to withdraw their signatures.

The AP said: "California is one of 19 states that allow citizens to recall politicians, which means they are removed from office before their terms are up. In California, recalls can be used to remove governors and other statewide elected officials, state lawmakers and local elected officials. The pending recall against Newsom, which has not yet qualified for the ballot, is likely to be the second gubernatorial recall election in state history."

Currently, the names of Californians who sign recall petitions can be seen only by signature collectors, election officials and state lawyers.

Newman's plan allows the target of the recall to have access to the name of every signer.

The targets then would be allowed "to determine whether signers understood the petition and want their names removed."

[Victoria Taft of PJ,Media said](https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/victoria-taft/2021/04/12/chilling-california-senate-committee-votes-to-make-it-easier-to-dox-citizens-who-sign-recall-petitions-n1439402) the bill would leave signers "vulnerable to the partisan wolves." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/shocking-state-plan-opens-door-doxxing-voters/> [Anyone who signs on to that bill needs to be doxed with the private address phone number email and that of their mistresses as well. The state of CA has trash for legislators. From these last two articles you can see just what the elitists around the country think of people who are the workers and backbone of this country and those who are people of faith. They despise those who are the core of America – rdb]

**Hidden video: Network exec brags, 'We got Trump out'**

***'I wanted to be a part of that'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 13, 2021 at 2:06pm*

A CNN executive has been caught on video confessing that the network aired "propaganda" during President Trump's term in office to convince voters to oppose him and bragging that he and his colleagues succeeded.

The hidden-camera expose of CNN Technical Director Charlie Chester was [published Tuesday by James O'Keefe's Project Veritas](https://www.projectveritas.com/news/part-1-cnn-director-admits-network-engaged-in-propaganda-to-remove-trump/).

"Look what we did, [CNN] got Trump out," Chester said. "I am 100% going to say it, and I 100% believe that if it wasn't for CNN, I don't know that Trump would have got voted out … I came to CNN because I wanted to be a part of that." [Actually it wasn’t that it was the crooked conniving demon-rat party with their fake votes that got him out. – rdb]

Chester boasted of bringing in "medical people to tell a story that was all speculation" about Trump's health – "that he was neurologically damaged, and he was losing it."

O'Keefe said: "We were creating a story there that we didn't know anything about. That's what -- I think that’s propaganda."

CNN's coverage was entirely the opposite for the noticeably aging Democratic candidate Joe Biden, who repeatedly has flubbed speech lines, forgotten names, forgotten institutions such as the Defense Department and mixed up the names of his grandchildren.

For him, Chester said, "We would always show shots of him jogging and that [he’s] healthy, you know, and him in aviator shades. Like you paint him as a young geriatric."

The next agenda item for CNN, he said, is global warming.

"They've already announced in our office that once the public is -- will be open to it -- we're going to start focusing mainly on climate," he said. "It's going to be our [CNN’s] focus. Like our focus was to get Trump out of office, right? Without saying it, that's what it was, right? So, our next thing is going to be for climate change awareness."

*See the Project Veritas video:*

Chester admitted "that his network engaged in propaganda to benefit Biden’s candidacy during the 2020 election to the detriment of then-President Trump."

He said "COVID-19 media coverage" should be coming to an end soon and the network will focus on "climate."

What will that be like?

Chester replied: "I don't know. I'm not sure. I have a feeling that it’s going to be like, constantly showing videos of decline in ice, and weather warming up, and like the effects it’s having on the economy."

After the pandemic gets "beat to death," he said, climate change "can take years, so [CNN will] probably be able to milk that quite a bit."

What will the message be?

Fear, Chester said.

"Fear sells,” he explained. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/hidden-video-network-exec-brags-got-trump/> [Does this clarify it a bit that there is a coordinated concerted program of deceitful lies to control the narrative and the public in order for the one world globalist group to accomplish their agenda?? – rdb]

**BLM co-founder's firm goes offline as her multimillion-dollar real-estate buying spree exposed**

**'We are trained Marxists'**

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published April 13, 2021 at 12:31pm* ***By Andrew Kerr*** *Daily Caller News Foundation*

***Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Khan-Cullors (Video screenshot)***

* **The website for a consulting firm owned and operated by Black Lives Matter Global Network co-founder Patrisse Khan-Cullors went offline during the weekend.**
* **The firm’s website stated Khan-Cullors and her spouse “specialize in strategic planning, media and narrative building and intervention and culture shift work within organizations and institutions.”**
* **Khan-Cullors, a self-described “trained Marxist,” purchased a $1.4 million home in a majority-white Los Angeles neighborhood on March 30 through a corporate entity under her control, according to a celebrity real estate news site.**
* **It’s unclear if Khan-Cullors consulting firm, Janaya and Patrisse Consulting, LLC, was involved with the purchase of the home.**
* **Khan-Cullors has purchased four homes across the U.S. for a total of $3.2 million since 2016, according to the New York Post.**

The website for a consulting firm owned and operated by Black Lives Matter Global Network co-founder and executive director Patrisse Khan-Cullors went offline recently amid reports that she’s in the midst of a multimillion-dollar real estate buying spree.

The firm, Janaya and Patrisse Consulting, LLC, is named after Khan-Cullors and her spouse, Janaya Khan. The firm stated on its website, which the Daily Caller News Foundation reviewed on Friday, that it specialized in “Transforming Organizations One Strategic Planning Session at a Time.”

Khan-Cullors, a self-described “trained Marxist,” has [purchased](https://dailycaller.com/2021/04/12/black-lives-matter-georgia-los-angeles/) four homes across the U.S. since 2016 for a total of $3.2 million, according to the New York Post. Her latest acquirement came on March 30 with the purchase of a $1.4 million home in the Topanga Canyon neighborhood in Los Angeles through a corporate entity under her control, according to a [celebrity real estate](https://www.dirt.com/gallery/more-dirt/politicians/black-lives-matter-co-founder-patrisse-khan-cullors-lands-topanga-canyon-compound-1203374803/) news site. MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/blm-co-founders-firm-goes-offline-multimillion-dollar-real-estate-buying-spree-exposed/> [Crooked as a dog’s hind leg. Someone needs to audit that firm and find out how much money was obtained from Soros funded groups. – rdb]

**'Throw away your masks and burn your vaccine passport': Rand Paul**

***'It's absolutely unconstitutional – not to mention, it's absurd'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published April 13, 2021 at 5:54pm*

U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, a practicing physician, is urging Americans to throw away their face masks and burn vaccine passports.

"The left has gone completely COVID crazy," the Kentucky Republican says in a new fundraising pitch.

"They want government-enforced shutdowns, mask mandates, school closures, forced vaccines, and now they're talking about a COVID vaccine passport. It's absolutely unconstitutional – not to mention, it's absurd."

The ophthalmologist wrote:

*Throughout the COVID crisis, these radicals have embraced theatrics, abandoned science, and the longer it goes on, the more they double down.*

*The newest power grab comes in the form of an alleged "Vaccine Passport" which would determine whether or not you're "ALLOWED" to engage in your everyday life.*

*Want to go to the store? Show your vaccine card.*

*Want to go to a restaurant or concert? Did you tell the government what vaccines you've had?*

*Bottom of Form*

*Want to travel? VACCINE PAPERS PLEASE.*

*This is the slippery slope I warned about and it's exactly what I'm fighting to defeat in Washington. ...*

*... this passport idea from these hypocrites in Washington is just completely unacceptable.*

*Let's not forget: these are the same people who are boycotting states like Georgia for implementing common-sense policies like voter ID.*

*Let me tell you something ... if you think voter ID is racist, but the vaccine passport is just fine, you need some serious help thinking through public policy.*

*I will never be in favor of this COVID hysteria and I will never support a COVID passport.*

*It's time to say enough is enough.*

*I urge everyone to get the vaccine if you need or want it. And then I urge everyone in America to throw away their masks, demand their schools be open, and burn your vaccine passport if they try to give it to you.*

Last month, as [WND reported](https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/4901132/), Paul blasted presidential COVID adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci, asking him what scientific studies he could cite that indicated people who have had the infection or a vaccine will spread the coronavirus.

"If we're not spreading the infection, isn't it just theater? You've had the vaccine and you wearing two masks, isn't that just theater?" the senator asked.

"No. Here we go again with the theater. Let's get down to the facts," Fauci responded.

Paul also portrayed Fauci as a [wannabe philosopher](https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/rand-paul-savages-dr-fauci-wannabe-philosopher-spins-noble-lies/) who spins "noble lies."

He told Fox News' Laura Ingraham: "You have to remember that his lies are noble lies, Laura. He's not telling you this because he’s a mean man."

"He's telling you this because he feels sorry for you because you don't understand, and Americans aren't smart enough to make an informed decision. So, he fashions himself some sort of Greek philosopher. He tells you these noble lies." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/throw-away-masks-burn-vaccine-passport-rand-paul/> [Ameyn Brother! Fauci is a media hog and is making a bundle on the side from all this trash with his relations with Gates and others for keeping the vaccine thrust going and all the other hype to sell the idea of control and he is the only savior with his vaccine which is literally poison. – rdb]

**Mike Lindell Will Launch “MyStore” And Plans To Make It Rival “Amazon”**

*by* [*Anthony T*](https://welovetrump.com/members/anthony_t/) *18 hours ago12 hours ago*

CEO of MyPillow Mike Lindell has just announced some big news.

In an interview with Steve Bannon, Mike Lindell announced that he will be launching a patriotic rival to Amazon called MyStore.

Lindell stated that “MyStore” will be an online marketplace for entrepreneurs who will be able to sell a wide range of products.

That’s not the only thing Lindell has been up to, he also has his new social media platform “Frank” coming out soon too!

BREAKING REPORT: MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell announces he launching 'MY STORE" a Patriotic Rival to AMAZON..

— Chuck Callesto (@ChuckCallesto) [April 13, 2021](https://twitter.com/ChuckCallesto/status/1381785817912328193?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Mike Lindell states that he is creating MyStore as a competitor to Amazon. [pic.twitter.com/2mWERqPnim](https://t.co/2mWERqPnim)

— PatriotTakes 🇺🇸 (@patriottakes) [April 12, 2021](https://twitter.com/patriottakes/status/1381628155958489092?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) MORE -

<https://welovetrump.com/2021/04/13/mike-lindell-will-launch-mystore-and-plans-to-make-it-rival-amazon/>

**Commentary:**

**Nation of Lawyers, Not Laws***By* [*Lex Greene*](https://newswithviews.com/author/lex/)*|April 13th, 2021* On April 8, 2021 in a speech pertaining to his maniacal “gun grab” agenda, pseudo-president Joe Biden plainly proclaimed that *“*[*no amendment to the Constitution is absolute*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3Kqx4tvHDM)*,”* meaning, that nothing in the Constitution or Bill of Rights is absolute, all of it, subject to change via the whims of Executive Orders.  
 Not only does Joe Biden think he has the power to make laws by the stroke of his pen, but he also believes he is not restrained in any way by the text of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. He believes he can amend or overrule the Constitution itself, by mere Executive Order. These are the ramblings of a tyrannical madman who sees himself as a God, a totally unbridled dictator!  
 Biden is a lawyer, and like most modern lawyers, he believes not in a nation of laws as created by the sole lawmaking branch of government, the legislature…but rather in the unconstitutional lawmaking authority of lawyers, by way of Court opinions and Executive Orders. They believe that the Constitution creates an Executive dictatorship, or an unelected oligarchy of rulers from the bench, or a convenient combination of the two.  
 Since seizing federal power on January 20, 2021, the pseudo-Biden administration has issued and signed at least [38 new Executive Orders](https://www.federalregister.gov/presidential-documents/executive-orders/joe-biden/2021), all of them treated as if they are “laws.” For any Oval Office occupant to be able to create laws by the mere stroke of their pen, they would have to be a dictator, a one-man lawmaker, and we would have to be living in a pure dictatorship, not a Constitutional Republic.  
 But contrary to modern unconstitutional indoctrinations, Executive Orders are NOT law, even though today’s legal profession may insist that they are. This is the fundamental undermining of Constitutional Law via British Common Law tactics, which Jefferson warned of, not long after the adoption of the U.S. Constitution in 1787.  
 *“Our Constitution . . . intending to establish three departments, co-ordinate and independent that they might check and balance one another, it has given—according to this opinion to one of them alone the right to prescribe rules for the government of others; and to that one, too, which is unelected by and independent of the nation. . . . The Constitution, on this hypothesis, is a mere thing of wax in the hands of the judiciary, which they may twist and shape into any form they please.”* (Jefferson letter to Judge Spencer Roane, Sept. 6, 1819)  
 The lawyer lies and the courts swear to it… and this is exactly how the most fraudulent election in U.S. history is still allowed to stand as of today, as even the U.S. Supreme Court refused to allow any evidence of fraud to be presented in its chambers.  
 Meanwhile, a growing number of State Supreme Courts are hearing the evidence and ruling that the 2020 elections were “unlawful and unconstitutional” within their own states. If the election processes were unlawful and unconstitutional, then so are the results of that election, hence, the use of the term “pseudo-president.”  
 Righting the wrongs in the 2020 election is critical to the survival of the U.S. Constitutional Republic. No one should have any doubts about that at this point. But just as critical, is preventing the use of Executive Orders that are also unlawful and unconstitutional.  
 **SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED** is very plain language. It’s intentionally extremely broad in nature and it’s not listed as a Right of the people, but rather a prohibition of government, to ever institute any laws which infringe in any manner, upon the natural Rights of the people to keep and bear arms. The language is broad, because this Right is equally broad.  
 To “[infringe](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/infringe)” is to *“act so as to limit or undermine (something); encroach on.”* In this case, it’s the natural Right of all American citizens to “keep” (possess) and “bear” (carry) firearms, as protected by the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution, by which, all other natural Rights are protected.  
 Any law, policy, order, or rule which *“acts so as to limit, undermine or encroach”* upon this God-given natural Right, is a direct violation of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. By definition, it’s “unconstitutional.”  
 That which is unconstitutional on its face, is unlawful and carries with it, no force of law whatsoever. This is the fundamental difference between a Constitutional Republic and a tyrannical dictatorship.  
 Jefferson was right in the early 1800s when he could already see the dangers of the Article III judicial branch, to ever expand the power of itself and the Executive branch by fiat, until we were no longer a nation of laws, but a mere nation of lawyers working around the clock to undermine and subvert the Constitution and Bill of Rights.  
 *“The judiciary of the United States is the subtle corps of sappers and miners constantly working under ground to undermine the foundations of our confederated fabric. They are construing our constitution from a co-ordination of a general and special government to a general and supreme one alone. This will lay all things at their feet, and they are too well versed in English law to forget the maxim, ‘boni judicis est ampliare jurisdictionem’ [good judges have ample jurisdiction]. . . . A judiciary independent of a king or executive alone, is a good thing; but independence of the will of the nation is a solecism, at least in a republican government.”* (Jefferson letter to Thomas Ritchie, Dec. 25, 1820)  
 Fortunately, the Founding documents of the United States of America were not written in legalese or even old English, requiring a lawyer to properly interpret and explain their contents. They were all purposefully written in plain modern English, so that every citizen with a 3rd grade reading comprehension level could properly interpret the documents on their own.  
 This is also why the USA never was and was never intended to be a “democracy,” but rather a Constitutional Republic instead. A democracy can use the will of the majority to run roughshod over the minority, 50.1 over 49.9… But a Constitutional Republic prevents the will of any majority from running roughshod over any minority, so long as the Constitution remains the Supreme Law of the Land.  
 And this, is why no President can be allowed to rule from on high by mere stroke of the pen, like some tin-horn dictator in a 3rd world commune. It’s also why only the constitutionally empowered legislative branch has any lawmaking authority at all.  
 Mass non-compliance of unlawful and unconstitutional mandates, of any form or any subject, is the first line and means of defense. American citizens have no legal, moral, or ethical obligation to follow or live under any unlawful or unconstitutional acts of government, and when they stand up together, there is nothing more powerful.  
 However, our silence is recorded as our consent… and that’s how we got here. Be silent no more…consent no more…stand together, not alone, and reclaim our Right as the true power of a self-governed people under the Supreme Law of this land, the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. <https://newswithviews.com/nation-of-lawyers-not-laws/>

And…

**Why the Left Ignores the Killing of a Pakistani Immigrant Uber Driver**[Dennis Prager](https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/) Posted: Apr 13, 2021 12:01 AM  
 On March 23, Mohammad Anwar of Springfield, Virginia, a 66-year-old immigrant from Pakistan earning his living as an Uber Eats driver, was killed by two girls, ages 13 and 15. They carjacked Anwar, Tasered him and then, as he held on to the car (the source of his livelihood) in an attempt to stop them from stealing it, floored the gas pedal and crashed the car, killing him when he was thrown from the vehicle.  
 As [reported](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/teen-girls-carjacking-charges/2021/03/24/50c29dee-8c96-11eb-a6bd-0eb91c03305a_story.html) the next day in The Washington Post:  
 "Anwar tried to force his way back into the car by climbing on top of the teen in the driver's seat, (Detective Chad Leo of the Washington, D.C., police homicide unit) said. Before he could get all the way in, though, the 13-year-old reached over from the passenger seat, turned on the ignition and 'manipulated' the gear shift, Leo said. With Anwar 'hanging outside the car' through the open driver's door, Leo said, the vehicle lurched forward and accelerated down the block, made a sharp right turn, struck a curb and overturned, landing passenger side up. Anwar was ejected and suffered broken bones and injury to his head."  
 After the unharmed girls climbed out and joined the onlookers milling around the car, one of them could be heard yelling, "My phone is in there!" (The Washington Post, March 31) and, "He has my phone!" (CBS News, March 30).  
 I found no mainstream media that identified the girls as black.  
 In The Washington Post report cited above, there was no mention of the girls' race, just, "Two girls ages 13 and 15 have been charged with felony murder."  
 CNN's report on March 27 made no mention of race: "Two teenage girls have been charged in the carjacking death of an Uber Eats driver ... The girls, 13 and 15, assaulted Anwar with a Taser while carjacking him ... The younger girl is from the southeast section of DC, the older from Fort Washington, Maryland, police said."  
 In a March 31 Washington Post editorial on the subject, there was no mention of the girls' race.  
 The New York Times never even reported the incident.  
 Why is this significant? Because white perpetrators of violence are always identified as such. When a white man engages in a mass killing, the first thing we learn, and are told over and over, is that he is white. If a white policeman kills a black man, no matter how justified (as in Ferguson, Missouri) or morally ambiguous (as in most other cases), we are reminded in every news story that the officer was white. In the very first New York Times report on the Atlanta massage parlor killings, the Times reported, "The suspect in custody is white."  
 The mainstream media have a mission that has nothing to do with reporting truth. Along with the Democratic Party and the rest of the left, their mission is to portray America -- that is, its white population -- as racist. Reporting that nonwhites have perpetrated violence -- particularly against nonwhites -- undermines that narrative, and these inconvenient facts are therefore consciously omitted. Or worse: The implication placed in people's minds is that whites are the perpetrators.  
 This was my point in a previous column when I wrote: "Another New York Times article (about anti-Asian-American violence), under the headline 'A Tense Lunar New Year for the Bay Area After Attacks on Asian-Americans,' opens with this: 'The videos are graphic and shocking. In January, a local television station showed footage of a young man sprinting toward, then violently shoving to the ground, a man identified as Vicha Ratanapakdee, 84, who had been out for a morning walk in the Anza Vista neighborhood of San Francisco. He later died.' The Times piece never reveals the name or race of the perpetrator: Antoine Watson, a 19-year-old black man."

Why? Because the Times wanted its readers to believe that Ratanapakdee, the elderly Asian American, was murdered by a white.  
 Truth, it is necessary to say again and again, is a liberal value and a conservative value, but it has never been a left-wing value.  
 Here is another example from just the past two weeks:  
 Last week, anti-black and anti-Semitic graffiti were discovered at Albion College, a school about 100 miles to the west of Detroit. As is usually the case with such incidents, police soon discovered that the culprit was not a white racist but a black person seeking to inflame anti-white hatred. Yet, here was how the Detroit Free Press headlined the discovery: "Albion Student Suspended Over Racist Graffiti."  
 Nowhere in the article did the Detroit Free Press note that the suspended student was black.  
 America is drowning in left-wing lies. And it is being asphyxiated by the left's substitution of "social justice" for justice. The two girls, who committed a very adult crime, will not be charged as adults, will likely not be imprisoned and very possibly will not even be punished. And the Albion student -- whose name has not been released -- most likely won't be punished either. <https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/2021/04/13/why-the-left-ignores-the-killing-of-a-pakistani-immigrant-uber-driver-n2587820>

And then…

**China: Compromising U.S. Elected Officials**

***by*** [***Peter Schweizer***](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Peter+Schweizer) ***April 13, 2021 at 5:00 am***Mitch McConnell and his wife, Elaine Chao, have operated for decades at the highest levels of American government. As the Senate Republican leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky has long been a part of the power elite. His wife has been a member of the cabinets of two Republican presidents: secretary of labor in the George W. Bush administration and, most recently, as transportation secretary under President Donald Trump.  
 In the past dozen years, McConnell's and Chao's wealth has grown dramatically. In 2004, the couple was worth an average of $3.1 million, according to their required financial disclosures. Ten years later, they had a net worth of between $9.2 million and $36.5 million. The key to that growth was a 2008 gift from Chao's father, James, who immigrated from China to continue his education in 1958, then brought his wife and three young daughters, including Elaine, to join him in 1961.  
 The Chao family's fortune comes from their ownership of the Foremost Group, a shipping firm founded in 1964 and still run by her father and her youngest sister, Christine. "Shipping is our family tradition," Elaine Chao said [in a speech](https://www.propublica.org/article/familys-shipping-company-could-pose-problems-for-trumps-transportation-pick) at National Taiwan Ocean University in 2016.  
 The source of this money is China. The Foremost Group operates bulk shipping vessels built in China and which primarily operate under the watchful eye of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and through contracts with it. The Chaos operate through agreements with the CCP and their business depends on these agreements to thrive.  
 The book *Secret Empires*, published in 2018, devoted an entire chapter to the McConnell/Chao family and their personal wealth through these connections. Yet, most of the press attention the book received was focused on the Chinese business dealings of Hunter Biden that happened while his father Joe served as Vice President and as President Barack Obama's "point man" on foreign policy with China. In a recent television appearance, Maria Bartiromo of Fox News asked some of the first questions I have ever gotten about the McConnell-Chao financial connections with China.  
 Recently, the Inspector General of the transportation department released a report commissioned by Democrats on the House Transportation Committee that investigated aspects of Chao's leadership. The [report](https://www.oig.dot.gov/sites/default/files/DOT%20OIG%20Letter%20to%20Chairman%20Peter%20DeFazio_2021-03-02.pdf) found there was no evidence she had used her position unethically to advance her family's shipping interests in China, or to intervene on behalf of Kentucky interests as secretary of the department. But this approach looks at the problem *backwards*. It is not that Chao misused her position to benefit her family's interests, but that the Chinese government has such powerful control over the personal financial interests of a senior senator and a cabinet secretary.  
 Rep. Peter DeFazio, (D-OR) and chairman of the House transportation committee, reacted to the report by saying public officials "must know that they serve the public and not their family's private commercial [interests](https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/03/the-character-assassination-of-elaine-chao/)." He is correct only when there is evidence of corruption by a public official. But in this case, the real corruption threat is posed by the communist government of China, not the actions of the public officials whose fortunes they have so much control over.  
 When Hunter Biden was making deals in China and Ukraine while his father was Vice President, he had nothing to offer besides selling influence. At least in the case of Elaine Chao, her family's business is real and legitimate, and was well established long before she got into public life.  
 Yet the question remains: What leverage does this give China over policy choices and decisions made in the U.S? None of the information about the Chinese government connections to the Foremost Group have been hidden away -- it is available to any reporter who peruses the required personal financial disclosure forms that Senators and cabinet officers must file every year. What is puzzling to me is why so few people were interested before.  
 China is certainly not the only foreign government that has made American politicians wealthy, either directly or indirectly. Given the size of their economy and the wealth of commercial ties between U.S. business and China, however, they do it bigger and more broadly than anyone else. This beneficence, I believe, poses potentially serious questions about China's influence, China's access to American policy makers, and China's activities in the halls of power. Further, it shows the toothlessness of American ethics watchdogs that these issues have not been more thoroughly reviewed and challenged previously.  
 The financial relationship between the McConnell-Chao family and the Chinese government has since only deepened. In 2017, as Elaine Chao joined the Trump administration, the Chinese government signed several new agreements with the Chao family. The Foremost Group signed contracts with a subsidiary of the state-owned China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) to build four bulk cargo ships in July and September 2017. In December 2017, Chao's company signed another contract with state-owned CSSC at Foremost's New York office for another two massive 210,000-ton [ships](http://www.eworldship.com/html/2017/NewOrder_1221/134940.html). The signing ceremony included her father and two of Elaine's sisters, as well as the Consul General of China and representatives from the CSSC.  
 The terms of this deal were not disclosed, but similar CSSC deals with other companies have recently cost about $47 million per vessel, which would place the total value of the deals Foremost has with the Chinese at nearly half a billion dollars. Under current disclosure laws, which do not apply to adult relatives, neither then-Secretary Chao nor Senator McConnell was required to report her family's dealings with a major foreign military contractor.  
 James Chao also visited China in 2017 to promote his Chinese language memoir. The event was sponsored by Xinhua, a Chinese state-owned media outlet, and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), a branch of the CCP known to be active in foreign influence operations. Sponsors praised James Chao as a great promoter of China abroad, referring to him as "vanguard of China-US [exchanges](http://www.chinanews.com/hr/2017/12-13/8399761.shtml)."  
 These closer Chinese financial ties benefitting one of America's most powerful political families happened during an aggressive push by Beijing for infrastructure deals around the globe. These deals are part of the strategic "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR) initiative, a massive plan to expand China's influence across Asia and Africa. US analysts view OBOR as both an economic and military challenge to the United States, using the pretext of commercial port facilities to extend the reach of the Chinese Navy. One detailed study called it a "state-sponsored effort to bolster Chinese political influence and extend its military reach from Indonesia to [East Africa](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/2018/04/17/one-belt-one-road-one-happy-chinese-navy/)."  
 The Chao family, though, describes One Belt, One Road in much more benign terms. In a March 2017 statement, Angela Chao, Elaine's sister and chairman and CEO of Foremost Group, [said](https://www.angelachao.org/2017/04/26/meeting-with-ms-angela-chao-and-her-husband-mr-jim-breyer/):  
 "The 'One Belt, One Road' initiative is very important not only to China's development, but for the many surrounding and neighboring countries, and thus the world, and the impact is being felt already. I hope to also be able to contribute to this important initiative that has the potential to raise the standard of living for so many."  
 Clearly, the connections run much deeper with the McConnell/Chao family than the usual type of influence schemes we see by foreign actors on American politicians. They are built on family money that depends on good commercial relations between the U.S. and China. Yet this is precisely the reason we have disclosure laws in the first place -- to surface exactly the kinds of conflict-of-interest vulnerabilities that such an international family will have when they are in authority in U.S. politics.  
 America is finally recognizing the many threats posed by the Chinese government. Compromising our elected officials joins the stealing of intellectual property, commission of cyberwarfare against American companies and government systems, and the undermining of American institutions in their nefarious arsenal. All of these seek to weaken U.S. resolve in international affairs. They must not succeed.

*Peter Schweizer, President of the Governmental Accountability Institute, is a Gatestone Institute Distinguished Senior Fellow and author of the best-selling books* Profiles in Corruption*,* Secret Empires *and* Clinton Cash*, among others.*

https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/17204/china-compromising-elected-officials

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Biden to proceed with UAE arms sale**

***Biden administration tells Congress it is proceeding with deal to sell more than $23 billion in weapons to the United Arab Emirates, including advanced F-35 aircraft.***

*Elad Benari , Apr 14 , 2021 3:58 AM*

US President Joe Biden's administration has told Congress it is proceeding with a deal to sell more than $23 billion in weapons to the United Arab Emirates, including advanced F-35 aircraft, armed drones and other equipment, congressional aides said on Tuesday, according to Reuters.

A State Department spokesperson said the administration would move forward with the proposed sales to the UAE, "even as we continue reviewing details and consulting with Emirati officials" related to the use of the weapons.

The Trump administration [agreed to sell](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/295310) advanced aircraft to the UAE following the signing of the Abraham Accords. The deal was signed in former President Donald Trump’s final day in office.

The Biden administration later decided to halt the sale. Secretary of State [Antony Blinken explained](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/295738) at the time that when it comes to arms sales, “It is typical at the start of an administration to review any pending sales, to make sure that what is being considered is something that advances our strategic objectives and advances our foreign policy, so that's what we're doing at this moment.”

The $23.37 billion package contained products from General Atomics, Lockheed Martin Corp and Raytheon Technologies Corp, including 50 F-35 Lighting II aircraft, up to 18 MQ-9B Unmanned Aerial Systems and a package of air-to-air and air-to-ground munitions.

While Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Benny Gantz have announced [that Israel would not oppose](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/289723) a US sale of advanced weapons systems to the United Arab Emirates, Israel Air Force commander Amikam Norkin [indicated recently](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/294034) he was opposed to the sale. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304317>

**UAE ambassador to the US Yousef Al Otaiba to speak at J Street conference**

***The ambassador will discuss the recent normalization brought forward via the Abraham Accords.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 14 , 2021 1:38 PM*

Haaretz has reported following a conversation with J Street president Jeremy Ben-Ami that UAE ambassador to the US Yousef Al Otaiba will discuss Israel-UAE normalization as a means to address the" Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

J Street sent out the following statement on August 13th, 2020: "Comprehensive peace between Israel and its neighbors in the Arab world, however, will only be achieved through an agreement that resolves the issues at the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and leads to the establishment of a viable and independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. Steps toward normalization with the UAE are a positive development, but no substitute for a full and comprehensive agreement, bringing peace to Israel and its neighbors".

J Street has been vocal regarding its objection to annexation as well as to the Trump administration's approach towards the Middle East.

The J Street has previously hosted Ehud Barak, Ayman Odeh, Bernie Sanders and more. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304351>

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<https://madmimi.com/p/5077321?pact=1000897-162804108-6934041546-ac3a2c76d52c92b25d87eb521f7b94ff27831cd8>

**A Yid - Benny Friedman**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGz\_eVHddfo**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGz_eVHddfo)

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| --- |
| **"Freedom of religion means the right of the individual to choose and to adhere to whichever religious beliefs he may prefer, to join with others in religious associations to express these beliefs, and to incur no civil disabilities because of his choice..." -- Joseph L. Blau (1909-1986) Professor Emeritus of Religion, Columbia University** |

**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 AS – post knee replacement – some problems and another one scheduled.**  **Pray for TR – abnormal Mammogram having double biopsy – Mastectomy Scheduled**  **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 24:57And they said, we will call the girl and ask of her mouth. 58And they called Rebekah and said to her, Will you go with this man? And she said, I will go. 59And they sent away their sister Rebekah, and her nurse, and Abraham's slave and his men. 60And they blessed Rebekah, and said to her, Our sister, may you become myriads of thousands, and may your seed possess the gate of *ones* hating them. 61And Rebekah and her young women rose up, and they rode on the camels and went after the man. And the slave took Rebekah and went.**

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| **Interview with Vera Sharav- A holocaust survivor on today’s medical situation.**  [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2dmpCH\_Sfg&t=16s**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2dmpCH_Sfg&t=16s)  **This is a bit long but you would do well to listen. She is providing a chilling account of what occurred in Germany and what is going on today.**  **This is a literal OMG of the highest order!** |

**Blast at Natanz was caused by bomb planted near main electric line – Israeli TV**

***Unsourced report says enrichment facility stopped functioning after explosion, estimates attack set back Iran’s nuclear program by months***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 11:24 pm*

A blast at Iran’s Natanz nuclear enrichment facility that has been attributed to Israel was caused by a bomb planted at the site in advance, an Israeli television report said Monday.

According to Channel 13 news, the bomb went off Sunday at 4 a.m., when some 1,000 workers were at Natanz. The facility was reportedly evacuated immediately after the blast over fears of further bombs, but no other explosives were found.

The report, which did not cite a source, said the explosive was placed near the main electricity line at Natanz and that when it detonated, the entire facility stopped functioning, with the program set back by months.

“All the signs point to this being the worst attack that Iran’s nuclear program has suffered… at the most important Iranian nuclear facility,” said Alon Ben-David, the network’s military analyst.

Natanz has previously been targeted, including by an explosion that rocked the facility last summer, in what was also said to have been an Israeli attack aimed at disrupting uranium enrichment and research at the site. In 2010, the United States and Israel allegedly halted Iran’s nuclear program with the Stuxnet virus, which caused Iranian centrifuges to tear themselves apart, reportedly destroying a fifth of the country’s machines.

Israel is anticipating Iran will respond to the latest attack but not necessarily right away, according to Ben-David. He said such retaliation could come in the form of a cyberattack on civilian infrastructure, an attack on Israeli-owned ships, missile fire from Syria or Yemen, or cruise missile or drone attacks on strategic Israeli targets.

“Yesterday signifies that the faceoff between Israel and Iran has escalated to a higher level,” he said.

The network also said Iran may now try to expand its operation at the underground Fordo plant, where it has over 1,000 centrifuges. There were some 6,000 centrifuges at Natanz.

Separately, the Kan public broadcaster reported that advanced centrifuges were damaged in the blast at Natanz. The report, which cited an intelligence source, did not specify which model of centrifuges were targeted. Iran publicly inaugurated the advanced IR-5 and IR-6 centrifuges at the facility on Saturday.

The television reports came after the Iranians downplayed the extent of the attack, with a spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran saying Monday that the blast was caused by a “[small explosion](https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-natanz-was-hit-by-small-explosion-claims-damage-quickly-repairable/)” but insisting the damage could be quickly repaired.

Iran initially reported a power blackout had hit Natanz on Sunday, a day after it announced it had started up advanced uranium enrichment centrifuges banned under the 2015 deal limiting its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

Iran [blamed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-blames-israel-for-natanz-attack-vows-to-take-revenge-on-the-zionists/) Israel for the incident at Natanz, which according to The New York Times was caused by a massive blast at the centrifuges’ power supply. Israeli and US media quoted unnamed intelligence sources as saying it was believed to have caused significant damage to the centrifuges and set back Iran’s uranium enrichment ability by at least nine months.

The Islamic Republic has called the attack an act of “nuclear terrorism” and vowed “revenge on the Zionist regime.”

Sunday’s incident came as US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin landed in Israel for talks with Prime Minister Benjamin [Netanyahu](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-to-visiting-us-defense-secretary-we-wont-let-iran-obtain-nukes/) and Defense Minister Benny [Gantz](https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-a-future-iran-nuclear-deal-cant-have-expiration-dates/). The US, Israel’s main security partner, is seeking to reenter the 2015 atomic accord aimed at limiting Tehran’s program so that it cannot pursue a nuclear weapon — a move staunchly opposed by Israel, particularly Netanyahu.

The US [denied Monday](https://www.timesofisrael.com/white-house-no-us-involvement-in-attack-on-iran-nuclear-site/) that it was involved in the incident at Natanz. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/blast-at-natanz-was-caused-by-bomb-planted-near-main-electric-line-israeli-tv/>

**Ex-national security adviser warns: ‘Iran has ability to harm us significantly’**

***Amid tensions, Yaakov Amidror says Tehran’s willingness to use its military capabilities against Israel ‘depends on what level they want to produce this encounter’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:34 pm*

Amid a build-up in tensions, former national security adviser Yaakov Amidor warned on Monday that Tehran has the capability to inflict serious damage on Israel, which he said must work with the new US administration on tackling the threat.

“Yes, Iran has the potential to harm us significantly. It depends on what level they want to produce this encounter,” Amidror, who is currently a senior fellow at the Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies, told Radio 103 FM.

“They can kidnap, and this will not be the first time; they can harm Israelis and Israeli institutions abroad, and this too will not be the first time; they can try what they are trying to do to Israeli-owned ships, and this too will not be the first time. At the highest level, they can fire missiles at the State of Israel.”

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2013/08/F081209OF171.jpg)

***Former Israeli national security adviser Yaakov Amidror. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)***

His comments come amid indications the Israel-Iran conflict is increasingly being waged at sea, marking a change in the conflict that previously took place primarily via airstrikes, cyberattacks, alleged espionage activities, and on land. Meanwhile, Israel’s intelligence agencies warned Monday of Iranian [efforts to lure Israelis abroad](https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-seeking-to-lure-israelis-abroad-could-kidnap-or-harm-them-intel-agencies/) to kidnap or otherwise harm them.

Speaking days after an apparent attack on the Iranian Natanz nuclear facility, which has been [linked to Israel](https://www.timesofisrael.com/ex-mossad-head-political-leaders-want-iran-sabotage-attributed-to-israel/), Amidror rejected claims that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu may be stirring up the tensions with Tehran for his own political benefit.

“I can say from my experience with the prime minister that he was very serious on this issue during the time I worked with him,” Amidror said. “I can’t see what he will gain in the political sphere from bragging about the Iranian issue.”

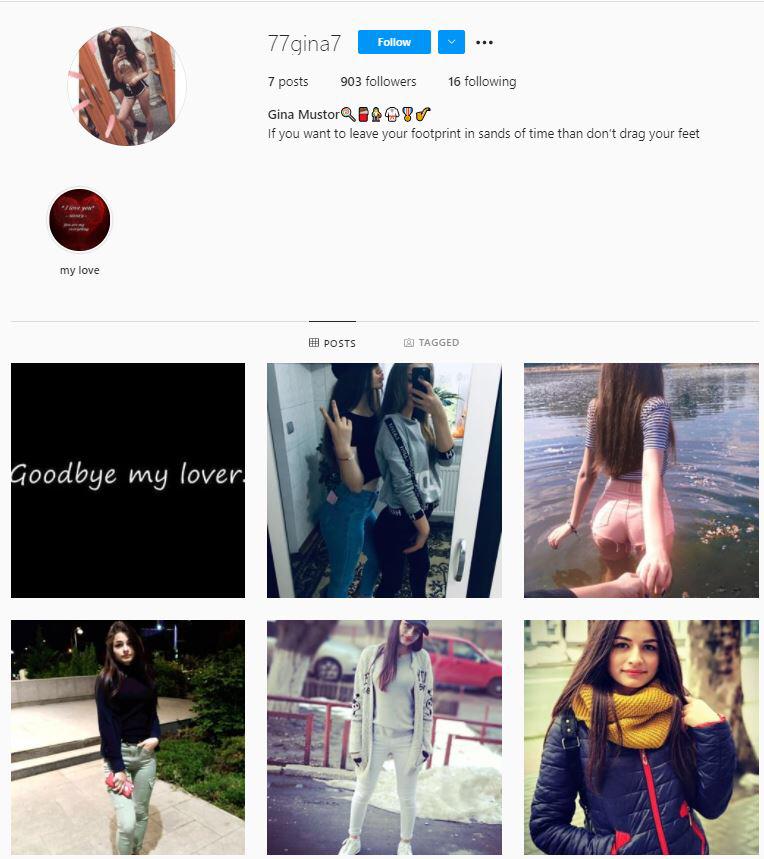
Earlier Monday, Defense Minister Benny Gantz [called for a high-level investigation](https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-leaks-gantz-orders-probe-into-chatter-on-alleged-israeli-strikes-on-iran/) into recent apparent leaks to the press by Israeli officials regarding the recent attacks, saying they were “damaging to our troops, to our security and to the interests of the State of Israel.”

Asked if he harbored any concerns that Netanyahu, whose office directly controls the Mossad, was acting not out of national security considerations but out of his own political interests, raising the specter of war in order to pressure potential allies into joining his government coalition, Gantz said: “I think the prime minister has extensive experience in the political-diplomatic field and I wouldn’t belittle that. I think that all other considerations must be removed, and I hope that is what he is doing.”

Over the weekend, reports emerged from Iran that its Natanz nuclear site had suffered a total power cut in what was widely assumed to be the result of an Israeli cyberattack. Jerusalem refused to comment on the matter, while Iran has blamed Israel, with its foreign minister vowing on Monday to “take revenge on the Zionists.” MORE -<https://www.timesofisrael.com/ex-national-security-adviser-warns-iran-has-ability-to-harm-us-significantly/>

**Iran seeking to lure Israelis abroad, could kidnap or harm them – intel agencies**

***Shin Bet, Mossad say Iranian agents are using fake Instagram accounts to draw Israelis overseas with business offers, romantic propositions***

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/ISA2.jpg)*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:32 pm*

Iranian agents have been attempting to lure Israelis abroad to meet, in an effort to kidnap or otherwise harm them, Israeli intelligence agencies warned Monday.

The Iranian intelligence operatives set up fake Instagram profiles, usually of women in the tourism business, and contacted Israelis. They attempted to draw Israelis to meetings abroad with business propositions or offers of romantic rendezvouses, the Shin Bet security service and Mossad intelligence agency said in a joint statement.

Examples of fictitious profiles used by Iranian operatives to lure Israelis (courtesy of ISA).

They warned Israelis who conduct business abroad to be wary of queries from social media accounts.

“Security officials call on Israeli citizens who maintain business ties abroad to be aware and vigilant about inquiries on social networks from profiles they do not recognize, and to avoid contact with them,” the agencies said.

The countries named by the agencies include Arab countries, Turkey, the Gulf states, and countries in the Caucasus, Africa and Europe.

The Shin Bet and Mossad also said there was a “real concern” that the Iranian intelligence effort could lead to attempts to hurt or kidnap Israeli citizens overseas.

השב"כ והמוסד חושפים: כך מנסים גורמי המודיעין האיראני "למשוך" ישראלים ברשתות החברתיות למפגשים בחו"ל שעלולים להביא לחטיפתם[@ela1949](https://twitter.com/ela1949?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) (צילום: דוברות שב"כ) [pic.twitter.com/Hn3PD2YNaL](https://t.co/Hn3PD2YNaL)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [April 12, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1381588727470907396?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Last month, with international travel again picking up amid Israel’s rapid vaccination drive, the National Security Council [issued a travel advisory](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-warns-citizens-they-could-be-targeted-by-iran-as-outbound-tourism-renews/) warning that Iran may still try to attack Israelis overseas.

The warning from the intelligence agencies followed an apparent act of sabotage Sunday at Iran’s Natanz uranium enrichment site. The incident, which reportedly caused massive damage to the facility, came as the Biden administration moves to rejoin the 2015 nuclear deal limiting Iran’s nuclear program, with Israel opposing a US return to the original accord.

It also came as Israel and Iran are engaged in a maritime shadow war, with both sides blaming the other for explosions on vessels. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-seeking-to-lure-israelis-abroad-could-kidnap-or-harm-them-intel-agencies/>

**PTSD-afflicted IDF veteran sets himself alight, suffers serious burns**

***A day before annual Memorial Day eve, Itzik Saidyan, 26, self-immolates at entrance to Defense Ministry office for rehabilitation of injured former soldiers***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *12 April 2021, 9:07 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/itzik.jpg)

***IDF veteran Itzik Saidyan, who set himself alight outside a Defense Ministry office on April 12, 2021 (screenshot: Channel 12)***

An IDF veteran diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder set himself on fire Monday outside a Defense Ministry office that handles the rehabilitation of injured soldiers in central Israel, the ministry said in a statement.

The man, 26, was seriously injured, sustaining burns all over his body. He was identified by Channel 12 as Itzik Saidyan, who had been interviewed by the television station two years prior as part of a story on soldiers with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The IDF Veteran’s Association said that the man was frustrated at his treatment by authorities. He was recognized by the Defense Ministry as having 25 percent disability from his post-traumatic stress disorder, but had requested 50 percent recognition. The ministry had refused, saying at least a portion of his illness was due to childhood trauma, not his military service.

According to the ministry, the man arrived at the Rehabilitation Department’s offices in Petah Tikva with a bottle full of a flammable liquid, doused himself with it, and then set himself on fire in the entryway.

“Defense Ministry security guards acted immediately, using fire extinguishers, in order to give him first aid; and, at the same time, called rescue services,” the ministry said.

Magen David Adom paramedics took the man to Sheba Medical Center for treatment in serious condition.

The ministry said it knew the identity of the man, who had been recognized as disabled due to his PTSD following his service in the military during the 2014 Gaza war, but was not releasing the information in order to preserve the man’s privacy.

The ministry added that it did not yet know why he lit himself on fire.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Defense Ministry Director-General Amir Eshel ordered an investigation of the incident in order to determine what prompted the man’s actions and what steps the ministry can take immediately, the ministry said.

The incident came a day before Israel begins marking its annual Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and terror victims, which starts on Tuesday night. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ptsd-afflicted-idf-veteran-sets-himself-alight-suffers-serious-burns/> [Just one more very sad demonstration of the problems that soldiers from all countries face. Even if they have a difficult background as they claim this person had the stresses and traumas that are confronted in war and military situations certainly aggravate those problems. The numbers of chronically debilitated relatively young men and women who have enormous scars from what they have encountered in war situations is really beyond belief. The US has been at war literally for years, even if they want to call it a monitoring or patrol action and not a war. These folks are taken and taught how to kill and then given parameters which are unworkable to make the war “politically correct’ and then the mental conflict that ensues literally eats them from inside out. The number of suicides in US vets is atrocious and remains so. Obviously similar situations occur in Israel even though the numbers may not be as big. This is just dreadfully sad. – rdb]

**Netanyahu to visiting US defense secretary: We won’t let Iran obtain nukes**

***Following attack on Iran’s Natanz facility, which has been blamed on Israel, PM says US-Israeli cooperation is ‘crucial’ to combat threats facing both countries***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:53 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/PM-Netanyahu-and-US-Secy.-of-Defense-Lloyd-Austin-e1618242601361.jpeg)

***Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) and US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin at a press conference at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on April 12, 2021. (Kobi Gideon/GPO)***

Hosting US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin at his office in Jerusalem, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that Israel and the US agree on never allowing Iran to obtain nuclear weapons.

“As you know, the US-Israel defense partnership has continually expanded over successive administrations and our cooperation is crucial in dealing with the many threats confronting both the United States and Israel,” Netanyahu said at a press conference alongside Austin.

“In the Middle East, there is no threat more dangerous, serious and pressing than that posed by the fanatical regime in Iran,” said Netanyahu, citing Iran’s pursuit of nuclear weapons, arming of terror groups, and calls for Israel’s annihilation.

“Mr. Secretary, we both know the horrors of war. We both understand the importance of preventing war. And we both agree that Iran must never possess nuclear weapons. My policy as prime minister of Israel is clear — I will never allow Iran to obtain the nuclear capability to carry out its genocidal goal of eliminating Israel.

Speaking days after an apparent attack on the Iranian Natanz nuclear facility, which Tehran has blamed on Israel, Netanyahu concluded by saying that “Israel will continue to defend itself against Iran’s aggression and terrorism,” the prime minister added.

Austin, speaking after Netanyahu, refrained from explicitly mentioning Iran but said he had decided to travel to Israel to “express our desire for earnest consultations with Israel, as we address shared challenges in the region.”

With his two-day visit, the first official visit to the Jewish state by an American secretary of defense since 2017, Austin is the first member of US President Joe Biden’s administration to pay an official visit to Israel.

Affirming the Biden administration’s support for Israel’s security and qualitative military edge in the region, Austin said he and Netanyahu discussed “ways to deepen our longstanding defense relationship in the face of regional threats and other security challenges, and I affirm the department’s support for our ongoing diplomatic efforts to normalize relations between Israel and Arab and Muslim-majority nations,” he says.

“I am confident that together we can chart a path toward enduring peace in this region and advance open and stable order — now, and in the years ahead,” Austin said.

Austin’s visit comes amid ongoing talks in Vienna regarding a return to the 2015 nuclear deal by both Iran and the United States, a move that is staunchly opposed by Israel, particularly by Netanyahu.

On Wednesday, [Netanyahu warned](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-we-wont-be-bound-by-iran-deal-that-threatens-us-with-annihilation/) that Israel will not be bound by a revitalized nuclear deal between world powers and Iran. Israeli defense analysts have warned that there is a growing rift between Jerusalem and Washington on the issue of Iran and its nuclear program, which may have significant ramifications on Israel’s security.

Austin arrived in Israel Sunday as reports emerged from Iran that its Natanz nuclear site had suffered a total power cut in what was widely assumed to be the result of an Israeli cyberattack. Jerusalem refused to comment on the matter, while Iran has blamed Israel, with its foreign minister vowing on Monday to “take revenge on the Zionists.” MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-to-visiting-us-defense-secretary-we-wont-let-iran-obtain-nukes/>

**Amid leaks, Gantz orders probe into ‘chatter’ on alleged Israeli strikes on Iran**

***Defense minister requests attorney general look into intelligence officials quoted by Israeli, foreign press on strike at Iran’s Natanz nuclear site***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 5:04 pmUpdated at 6:44 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/DSCF3353.jpg)

Defense Minister Benny Gantz stands in front of an F-35 fighter jet at the Nevatim air base on April 12, 2021. (Judah Ari Gross/Times of Israel)

Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Monday called for a high-level investigation into recent apparent leaks to the press by Israeli officials regarding recent attacks on Iran that have been widely attributed to Israel’s Mossad spy service, saying they were “damaging to our troops, to our security and to the interests of the State of Israel.”

Gantz referred specifically to comments regarding Sunday’s alleged attack on Iran’s Natanz nuclear facility that were attributed to unnamed “intelligence officials” and “Western officials,” whom the defense minister indicated he believed were in fact Israeli officials.

“This ‘Western officials’ is nonsense,” Gantz told reporters on Monday, following meetings with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who is visiting Israel this week.

The defense minister’s comments also came days after the Haaretz newspaper reported that an Israeli official had accidentally informed a foreign news outlet about an Israeli special forces operation in advance, not aware that the date of the mission had been changed at the last minute. That reportedly prompted a frantic effort to get the outlet to refrain from reporting on the incident in order to avoid putting the soldiers at risk.

“This is damaging to our forces, to our security and to the interests of the State of Israel, and I think that there needs to be a deep investigation,” he said.

Gantz was also asked if he harbored any concerns that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose office directly controls the Mossad, was acting not out of national security considerations but out of his own political interests, raising the specter of war in order to pressure potential allies into joining his government coalition.

“I think the prime minister has extensive experience in the political-diplomatic field and I wouldn’t belittle that. I think that all other considerations must be removed, and I hope that is what he is doing,” Gantz said.

The defense minister said he was calling for a probe “at the highest possible level” by the Shin Bet security service and by Military Intelligence’s Information Security Department. Asked who he believed was responsible for the leaks, the defense minister said he “did not specifically where it’s coming from, but I know where it’s not coming from (Gantz’s office), and it has to stop.”

“We cannot act when everyone is chattering on with their opinion. We cannot accept these winks and fairytales from ‘Western officials,'” Gantz said.

Later on Monday, the defense minister’s office said he had officially filed a request with Attorney General Avichai Mandelblitt, who it said was the appropriate figure to conduct such a probe.

Gantz stressed that he would not comment on the veracity of the claims or discuss any Israeli operations “if there were any, weren’t any or will be any.”

Israel officially maintains a policy of ambiguity regarding its activities against Iran, generally save for those that are in direct retaliation for attacks initiated by Tehran or its proxies.

 The morning after the unidentified intelligence officials told the press that the Mossad was responsible for the issues at Natanz, Iran publicly accused Israel of carrying out the attack and threatened retaliation.

Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif speaks at a conference in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

“The Zionists want to take revenge on the Iranian people for their success in lifting the oppressive sanctions,” Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was quoted by Iranian press as saying, “but we will not allow it and take revenge on the Zionists themselves.”

Zarif added that older, first-generation centrifuges at the site that were damaged in the alleged Israeli attack would be replaced with newer, more powerful machines, some of which Iran has already been using in breach of the 2015 nuclear deal.

“If they think our hand in the negotiations has weakened, this will happen to strengthen our position… The negotiating parties should know if they faced an enrichment facility with 1st generation centrifuges, now Natanz can be full of advanced centrifuges.”

In addition to an ongoing, largely covert fight on the nuclear front, Tehran and Jerusalem are engaged in a maritime shadow war, with both sides blaming the other for explosions on vessels.

In recent months, at least two Israeli-owned cargo ships have been damaged in alleged Iranian attacks, one in the Gulf of Oman and the other as it was sailing to India.

Apparently in response, last week, Israeli commandos allegedly attacked a suspected Iranian military command ship, the MV Saviz, off the coast of Yemen, damaging it with limpet mines. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-leaks-gantz-orders-probe-into-chatter-on-alleged-israeli-strikes-on-iran/>

**Bennett says Likud can count on his party to back a right-wing government**

***But Yamina leader warns he will do everything to prevent fifth elections, leaving open option of joining anti-Netanyahu bloc if PM fails to set up a coalition***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:04 pmUpdated at 5:48 pm*

Yamina leader Naftali Bennett said Monday his party supports the formation of a right-wing government with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud, but stressed that averting a fifth round of elections in two years was his overarching goal.

Shortly after making the remarks during his party’s weekly faction meeting at the Knesset, Bennett met with Netanyahu for further coalition negotiations, which lasted some two hours.

“I told Netanyahu and I will say it here, too — Likud can count on the votes of the Yamina party in favor of forming a right-wing government,” Bennett said.

But, he added, “We will work with all our might to prevent the disaster of a fifth round of elections — there are creative ways.” It was an apparent hint that if Netanyahu fails to form a coalition he would instead work with the prime minister’s rivals to establish a government. [This has to make you wonder if Bibi put some beautiful plumbs on the table so he could get his support. Perhaps a dominance in the premiership? – rdb]

Bennett also rejected [media reports](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-bennett-said-haggling-over-when-yamina-chief-would-become-pm/) that his ambitions for a rotation agreement that would see him assume the premiership were keeping Yamina from committing to the Netanyahu-led bloc of parties to form a coalition.

“No position for me is a barrier to establishing a government,” he said. “If my goal was to sit in the prime minister’s chair I could already have done it.”

Yamina, which won seven seats, has been negotiating with Likud over the creation of a government following last month’s inconclusive election, the fourth in two years. Even with its support, a coalition remains unlikely, as such a government would need the support of the Islamist Ra’am party, a prospect utterly rejected by Netanyahu’s allies in the far-right Religious Zionism party.

Bennett and Netanyahu last sat together on Thursday.

Channel 12 news reported Friday that Bennett has agreed to rotate the premiership with Netanyahu in a government backed by Ra’am, but only if Religious Zionism leader MK Bezalel Smotrich is on board. The network said, however, that Likud sources were denying Yamina’s assertion that Netanyahu had made Bennett such an offer.

It also reported that, despite all the machinations, Netanyahu believes that Bennett is only going through the motions with him and has already decided to join forces with opposition chief Yair Lapid.

Unnamed senior officials from the Likud party told Kan news on Monday that Netanyahu has given up on the possibility of persuading Religious Zionism to join a coalition supported in any way by the Ra’am party.

According to the report, Netanyahu is now convinced that [Smotrich has no intention of changing his mind](https://www.timesofisrael.com/report-netanyahu-gives-up-hope-of-smotrich-joining-abbas-backed-coalition/) and agreeing to join a government that would have even the outside backing of Ra’am, and the prime minister will instead turn his attentions to persuading New Hope’s Gideon Sa’ar to join his government.

The right-wing New Hope has not ruled out Likud as a party, only Netanyahu, giving rise to scenarios in which Netanyahu relinquishes power and becomes either president or alternate prime minister, enabling Sa’ar’s party to join and form a right-wing majority coalition headed by another Likud member.

President Reuven Rivlin tasked Netanyahu with forming a government last week, after the premier received more recommendations than any other lawmaker from parties that won representation in the Knesset in the March 23 vote.

Netanyahu, with 52 recommendations, still did not receive a majority of backers in the 120-seat Knesset, however, and neither he nor the bloc of parties opposing his continued rule have a clear path to a governing coalition, leading to fears of a fifth rapid-fire election.

Multiple — and mostly improbable — scenarios have been floated on how to reach the magic number of 61, including relying on outside support from Ra’am, despite the opposition of right-wing lawmakers; trying to recruit “defectors” from other parties; and trying to get Sa’ar’s New Hope to join such a coalition. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-says-likud-can-count-on-his-party-to-back-a-right-wing-government/>

**Courted by Likud, Ra’am adamant it will not back away from anti-Zionist charter**

***Islamist party official says Netanyahu and Abbas have not spoken since election, calls reported overture for fresh Abbas speech to soften up Religious Zionism ‘very strange’***

*By* [*Tal Schneider*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/tal-schneider/) *and* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 4:17 pm*

The Islamist Ra’am political party, positioned as a likely linchpin for any prospective governing coalition, is standing by its foundational charter, which forbids any allegiance to Israel and deems Zionism a “racist, occupying project,” a senior party official told The Times of Israel this week.

The faction is being wooed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who needs the support of Ra’am to pass the 61-seat threshold for forming a majority coalition, or the party’s outside backing for a minority coalition. The party could also help an anti-Netanyahu bloc led by Yesh Atid head Yair Lapid. But some right-wing politicians, both in the pro- and anti-Netanyahu camps, have ruled out basing a coalition on the party’s support, due to what they say is an anti-Zionist stance; others, like the far-right Religious Zionism, have accused Ra’am of supporting terrorists.

Ra’am is the political wing of the Southern Islamic Movement, an organization inspired by the Muslim Brotherhood. Updated in 2018 and reviewed at a 2019 conference in Nazareth which was reportedly chaired by Ra’am leader Mansour Abbas, the Southern Islamic Movement’s 80-page charter takes positions considered anathema by most Jewish Israelis.

It calls for the so-called right of return for Palestinian refugees who left or were expelled in 1948, widely seen as a red line by most Zionist Israelis, who view an influx of potentially millions of Palestinians to Israel as spelling the demographic end of the Jewish state. It compares the status quo in Israel and the territories to the short-lived Crusader kingdoms built by European invaders in the Holy Land in the Middle Ages.

“There can be no allegiance to [Israel], nor any identification with its Zionist, racist, occupier thought, nor any acceptance of any of the various forms of ‘Israelification,’ which would shed us of our identity and particularity and rights,” says the charter, [provided to The Times of Israel last week](https://www.timesofisrael.com/raams-guiding-charter-backs-palestinian-right-of-return-calls-zionism-racist/) by a senior figure in Ra’am.

Ra’am party officials have in recent months avoided discussing the charter or how their movement views controversial final-status issues relating to Israel and the Palestinians as party leader Mansour Abbas has openly broached the possibility of cooperating with Netanyahu in order to win concessions for the Arab community aimed at fighting organized crime and improving quality of life.

Islamic Movement lawmakers campaigned in Arab towns and cities ahead of the March 23 elections on improving quality of life for Arab Israelis, winning four seats for the party, which had previously been part of the Joint List of Arab parties. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/courted-by-likud-raam-adamant-it-will-not-back-away-from-anti-zionist-charter/>

**IDF is only 22% protected from drone attacks - comptroller report**

***IDF intelligence suffering because of the move from North to South.***

*By* [*YONAH JEREMY BOB*](https://www.jpost.com/author/yonah-jeremy-bob) *APRIL 12, 2021 20:05*

***An Iranian Shahed 171 drone dropping a bomb as part of a military exercise in the Gulf, in Iran (photo credit: REUTERS)***

Only 22% of the [IDF](https://www.jpost.com/tags/idf) has any protection from drone attacks, State Comptroller Matanyahu Englman said in a report on Monday.

Covering the time period of October 2019 – June 2020, the report fleshes out in grim numbers and details how poorly defended Israel is from drone strikes, despite an earlier 2017 report sounding the alarm.

In fact, Englman said that as of July 2020, there were 30,000 drones operating in Israel which had undertaken 90,000 flights in the Tel Aviv region alone over the last year.

The vast majority of them are unregistered – and there is no widespread technological solution to follow them or enforce limits on them.

There is anti-drone [technology](https://www.jpost.com/tags/technology), which has only developed in the last few years. But beyond possibly the IDF, Israel has been slower than the US and some other countries in taking advantage of some of its own native companies’ capabilities in this area.

The Israel Prisons Service (IPS) reported that it has had dozens of incidents of its facilities being penetrated or observed by drones.

Out of NIS 150 million allotted to work on technological means to combat the drone threat, the state has only used NIS 87m.

This means that the country’s failure to address the threat is both a failure of conception as well as follow-through, even when there is some level of commitment.

Englman wrote that, “broadening the use of drones carries with it many advantages, but the constant advancement in technology and ease of acquiring it carries with it an obligation to deal with the developing security, criminal and safety threat, which includes dangers to the lives of human beings and national security.”

AS MUCH as the IDF may be unprepared, the report found that the state has overwhelmingly ignored the needs of the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency), the police and the IPS regarding the drone threat.

Further, the comptroller said that ignoring this issue was a repeat problem, given that it had been raised by a prior report in 2017 and again more recently by the Israeli Air Force’s defense arm.

One cause of the slow adjustment of many of Israel’s authorities to the drone threat has been continuous unresolved disagreements about lines of authority.

The IDF, the Shin Bet and the police have had disagreements dating back to before the 2017 comptroller report. More recently, the Air Force and Israel’s civilian aviation authority have disagreed about dividing up responsibility for the threat. [Sounds like the Israeli political game going on in the security games. – rdb]

Another front where the comptroller found shortcomings in cooperation to combat drones was by the Israel Electric Company.

More specifically, Englman said that the police and the Israel aviation authority must cooperate to establish the real infrastructure for charging individuals for drone-related crimes.

In fact, the report said that the Police did not even follow through on its own program which it had prepared for addressing the drone threat.

Next, the comptroller expresses some hope that as of September 2020, some of these issues and the registration issues may be on the road to being addressed.

Another problem flagged by the report was a failure from the many authorities involved in the issue to share information.

The comptroller called on all of the authorities involved to quickly jump on handling the threat and cooperating at a much more efficient level.

MEANWHILE, the comptroller also criticized the government for harming the IDF intelligence’s capabilities by moving large portions of its units to the Beersheba area without following through on commitments to make the move smoother for IDF intelligence personnel.

For example, the report said that 93% of IDF intelligence staff who are meant to work in the South do not currently live there. This includes thousands of officers, many of whom have families and cannot easily relocate or easily commute all the way to Beersheba.

The problem derives from the fact that many planned out where they would live around the assumption that they would serve in the Tel Aviv corridor, since that is where IDF intelligence has historically been located.

Recent years have seen rampant reports that top IDF intelligence officers are leaving for the private sector in order to avoid having to move to the South, though they would have been happy to continue to serve without the move.

The background for the move has been long-term government efforts to open up popular areas in the Tel Aviv corridor and the middle of the country to public housing in order to bring down housing prices nationwide.

Regarding moving IDF intelligence to the South, as well as its logistics command, the report covers the period from October 2019 until May 2020. MUCH MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/idf-is-only-22-percent-protected-from-drone-attacks-comptroller-report-664906> [This is really disturbing for there to be such a gap in the protection against possible drone attack in multiple areas because the “PA” and Syria and Lebanon could well penetrate Israel with multiple drones and do some serious damage. – rdb]

**Ministers vote to fully reopen schools, scrapping pods, starting Sunday**

***Health Ministry plan will end distance learning for 5-9 graders, introduce an ‘expansive testing and monitoring system’ at educational institutions***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:51 pmUpdated at 11:44 pm*

Cabinet ministers voted Monday night to fully reopen Israeli schools starting next Sunday, ending the requirement that some grades still learn in smaller class sizes. Children in grades 5-9 were the only remaining students required to study in socially distanced “capsules,” or pods.

The plan, put forth by the Health Ministry, will include an “expansive testing and monitoring system” at educational institutions.

Under the plan, if a child tests positive for the coronavirus, all students and teaching staff in that grade will be tested before returning to the classroom. They will also be subject to quarantine requirements, according to the Health Ministry.

The ministry said the decision to further reopen schools was due to the low infection rates in the country.

“After two weeks of stability in the morbidity figures… including low morbidity among children, it is possible to move forward with opening the education system more broadly,” a ministry statement said.

Education Minister Yoav Gallant hailed the move and said children’s “natural place” was in the classroom.

“The health system finally came to its senses and understood the importance of learning in the class for students and their families,” Gallant wrote on Twitter. “Better late than never.”

Earlier Monday, the Education Ministry reported a 30 percent drop in first- to third-graders’ language and reading skills over the past year and a 25% decline in math and language skills among students in grades 4-6. A ministry official quoted by Haaretz said the figures underlined the need to swiftly reopen all schools to identify learning, social and emotional gaps. [What do you expect. If you close the schools and have limited support for parents who aren’t trained for it to be their teachers you are pretty likely to fall behind. Couple that with the tremendous financial and emotional problems that the lockdowns created and you are simply on a path to destroying kids ability to stay at grade level. – rdb]

 Ministers last week canceled the requirement for fourth graders to study in pods, as well as the requirement for students to present a health declaration signed by their parents to enter the classroom.

Israelis in Tel Aviv on April 11, 2021. (Miriam Alster/Flash90)

Israel in recent months has significantly rolled back coronavirus restrictions by opening businesses, event venues, and other activities, as morbidity levels have dropped amid the country’s rapid vaccination drive. I am not hearing that too much from the information I am seeing from Israel. It seems that there is a concerted effort to establish a major dichotomy in society with the abed and the nonJabbed. I have not heard that has changed much. Those with their passports fare much better than those without. – rdb]

According to the latest Health Ministry figures, released Monday evening, 138 new coronavirus cases were recorded Sunday and another 136 since midnight, with 836,128 total infections confirmed since the pandemic began.

The death toll stood at 6,304.

There were 3,343 active cases, including 250 patients in serious condition, 132 of whom were on ventilators.

Of the 38,952 tests performed Sunday, 0.4% came back positive.

The ministry also said 5,325,058 Israelis have received at least one coronavirus vaccine dose and 4,944,397 have received two shots <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministers-set-to-vote-on-fully-reopening-schools-scrapping-pods/>

**Israeli lab ‘cures’ mice of COVID-style inflammation using yogurt molecules**

***Researchers say probiotics have antibacterial properties, as well as preventing inflammation, could be used as basis for drugs of the future***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 8:30 pm*

An Israeli lab has “cured” mice suffering from an immune reaction like that found in serious coronavirus patients, using molecules from probiotic yoghurt.

The lab triggered a cytokine storm — the immune reaction that causes the extreme inflammations suffered by many serious COVID-19 patients — in dozens of mice.

“We induced aggressive cytokine storms in mice, akin to those of COVID-19 patients who are in very critical condition, and healed 100 percent of those that received the molecules,” Prof. Raz Jelinek of Ben Gurion University told The Times of Israel. “But the other mice all died within two to three days of the cytokine storm being induced.

“Among those who received the molecules, clinical conditions and clinical markers improved to normal levels, and they lived. If it turns out that this could be given to critical people, and have the same effect, that would be wonderful.”

The cytokine storm research is one of a string of experiments conducted by Jelinek, his PhD student Orit Malka, and their colleagues, after they identified two molecules in a fermented milk drink called kefir that they say deliver major therapeutic benefits and could be used to make drugs of the future.

“The research leads us to believe that we can make drugs and therapeutics based on these molecules that are extracted from yoghurt,” he said. “They will utilize both the anti-inflammatory qualities of the molecules, that fight the cytokine storm, and antibacterial qualities that we identified.”

Microbiome expert Eran Segal, who has expressed skepticism for popular claims promoting probiotics, said the new research is a “step forward” elevating the discussion by providing peer-reviewed scientific insights. [But it isn’t a vaccine and Gates and Fauci and friends may not make a bundle off it and it might not depopulate the world. – rdb]

 “The fact that they found molecules that are relevant is definitely plausible and could be important,” said Segal, a Weizmann Institute computational biologist who was not connected to the study, adding that he takes seriously the claim that they could form the basis of drugs.

“This could be a source of future therapeutics,” he said.

Prof. Raz Jelinek of Ben Gurion University (courtesy of Ben Gurion University)

Probiotics, from yoghurt or in pill form, are often lauded for their health value, but there is [limited hard evidence](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/probiotics/) to back up claims, little understanding of how exactly they may work, and [conflicting clinical results.](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-019-0439-x) So, four years ago Jelinek’s lab started to see whether they could document particular benefits. They made their own kefir, ensuring it had very high levels of a particular probiotic yeast, and started analyzing it on a molecular level.

“After years of research we succeeded in identifying two molecules that have very unusual therapeutic qualities,” said Jelinek. “This is one of the most concrete cases of scientists outlining a molecular mechanism by which probiotic foods have good health benefits.”

He said his findings, and hopes for probiotic-based drugs, are limited at this point to the specific molecules he identified in his kefir. However, he believes they suggest that some of the health claims associated with probiotic foods may be valid.

Some of his experiments focused on the anti-inflammatory qualities of the molecules, which are thought to have caused the improvement in the mice with cytokine storms, while others focused on the question of whether the molecules can help fight bacteria.

The bacterial aspect of the research has [just been published](https://link.springer.com/epdf/10.1186/s40168-021-01027-8?sharing_token=damq5G5WCdA8Tcg1Dw_XdG_BpE1tBhCbnbw3BuzI2RNGe2gO4UDVFStW0AfHzNB8R9XSxEZHlWBCheAhDU_YFWFKnIZ3r9bVjYvitmUj5bcIO-oCOu-wVvTsNimyLqxqu20SsXEajBUGmvY5ssmbfsmv3ZFQazsKsZr0Lwo5mYk%3D) in the peer-reviewed journal Microbiome, and a Ben Gurion’s business arm BGN Technologies has established a startup to explore the potential for commercializing the molecules.

“We found that there is an antibacterial mechanism, and that the way it works is that the molecules actually block bacteria from communicating with each other. In other words, they block an essential part of how bacteria become virulent inside the human body,” said Jelinek.

“This is important because [it] offers new potential for fighting bacteria. and because the mechanism doesn’t risk bacteria becoming resistant to it, as they do to many antibiotics,” he added.

“While antibiotic resistance is a real problem, these molecules don’t directly attack bacteria, but rather block the communication between them, meaning that the bacteria won’t have [a] chance to develop resistance mechanisms,” Jelinek said.

“In confronting antibiotic resistance, this could prove important.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/using-yogurt-molecules-israeli-lab-cures-mice-of-covid-style-inflammation/> [This is more amazing technology and another good reason to look and some of the common chemicals available as therapeutics instead of remaking the wheel. – rdb]

**Ramadan decorations up in Jerusalem as Palestinians prepare for holy month**

***Although Jerusalem is still without foreign tourists, far more people were roaming the Old City, where shops reported brisk business.***

*By REUTERS   APRIL 12, 2021 15:42*

Colourful lanterns and ornate [Ramadan](https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/palestinians-optimistic-about-resumption-of-peace-process-664748) decorations filled the streets of Jerusalem on Monday as Palestinians prepared for a holy month freer of COVID-19 restrictions than at the height of the pandemic.

Ahead of Ramadan's expected start on Tuesday, the mood in the Old City was far more joyful than last year when prayers were suspended at the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam’s third holiest site.

Although [Jerusalem](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/eu-funds-unapproved-palestinian-school-in-jordan-valley-nature-reserve-664865) is still without foreign tourists, far more people were roaming the Old City, where shops reported brisk business.

"Because of coronavirus, the situation has been bad for the merchants and the people. Now with coronavirus vaccination, the situation got better," said one shopper, Mohammad Abu Sbeih.

Israel has included Palestinians in East Jerusalem in its swift rollout of vaccines. It annexed the eastern half of the city after capturing it along with the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war.

But it is unclear if Palestinians from the occupied West Bank will be able to come to Al-Aqsa during Ramadan, as in previous years. An Israeli military official said no decision had been made on holiday permits.

The situation may be complicated by the far slower pace of vaccinations carried out by the Palestinian authorities than in Israel, which has faced international calls to ensure that Palestinians are inoculated.

In the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Authority said it would allow more shops to open at night and for Ramadan night prayers to be held in mosques, except on the busiest day of the week, Friday, when they would take place outside.

But it imposed a COVID night-time curfew on movements between cities, villages and refugee camps.

It also banned restaurants from holding ifthars - the breaking of the fast at sunset - and stores selling sweet pastries from opening their doors to customers, saying they could only make deliveries.

In Gaza, shoppers filled markets despite a recent threefold increase in daily infections. That forced the Gaza health authorities to close schools, impose night curfews and ban large gatherings, but fell short of a total lockdown.

"This year, we brought goods from Egypt and China, and there is a massive turnout by people," said storekeeper Hatem El-Helo as loudspeakers echoed with Egyptian songs celebrating Ramadan. "People want to bring joy into their homes."   <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/ramadan-decorations-up-in-jerusalem-as-palestinians-prepare-for-holy-month-664915>

**Biden administration says UNRWA commits to ‘zero tolerance’ for anti-Semitism**

***US resumed aid to controversial Palestinian refugee agency last week, which Israel accuses of providing education that incites against Jewish state, perpetuates hatred***

*By* [*Ron Kampeas*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ron-kampeas/) *Today, 1:36 am*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Days after [resuming US funding](https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-restoring-aid-to-palestinians-biden-endorses-two-state-solution/) for the troubled UN agency that administers to Palestinian refugees and their descendants, the Biden administration says it has the commitment of UNRWA to “zero tolerance” for anti-Semitism, racism or discrimination.

“UNWRA has made clear their rock-solid commitments to the United States on the issues of transparency, accountability, and neutrality in all its operations,” a senior US official said in an interview this weekend, describing the process that led last week to the administration announcing the resumption of funding for the agency. “And what neutrality means in the context of the United Nations is zero tolerance for racism, discrimination, and anti-Semitism.” [If sleepy Joe “Bi-dumb” believes that he is dumber and more out to lunch than I thought he was. There is a big bridge in NY you can buy for ‘cheap’ called the Brooklyn Bridge. UNRWA is ALMOST as crooked and big a liar as the DNC. – rdb]

The official said the resumption of aid was consistent with a Biden administration policy of favoring a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

A UNRWA spokesman did not reply by late Monday afternoon to a Jewish Telegraphic Agency request seeking comment.

UNRWA has been plagued for years by reports of mismanagement and of anti-Semitic content in the textbooks used by the agency in the school it administers. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-administration-says-unrwa-commits-to-zero-tolerance-for-anti-semitism/>

**Pentagon scientist unveils new COVID biochip implanted under the skin**

*By* [*Jack Davis, The Western Journal*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wj/) *Published April 12, 2021 at 12:33pm*

Technology and medicine could produce an implant that allows a person's health to be tracked.

Retired [Army](https://www.westernjournal.com/ap-free-world-salutes-wwii-army-medic-hailed-d-day-heroism-dies-100/) Col. Matt Hepburn, who worked for years with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, talked about the project in an interview that aired Sunday on the [CBS](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/last-pandemic-science-military-60-minutes-2021-04-11/?ftag=CNM-00-10aab7d&linkId=115939030) show "60 Minutes."

Hepburn -- who still works for the Army as a physician and as "joint product lead," according to his [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/in/matthew-hepburn-b46617b6) page -- showed off the implant to Bill Whitaker of CBS, who noted how the device could be used.

"Consider a ship like the USS Theodore Roosevelt -- hobbled last year when 1,271 crew members tested positive for the coronavirus. What if everyone on board had their health monitored with this subdermal implant, now in late-stage testing?" Whitaker said. "It's not some dreaded government microchip to track your every move, but a tissue-like gel engineered to continuously test your blood."

"It's a sensor," Hepburn said, displaying one of the creations. [REALLY? So what else are they potentially put there? Gates and Microsoft have already experimented with implantable microchips to track???? Vaccine status and other demographic data. That was displayed and discussed well over a year or more ago. Put not your trust in princes or mankind or medicine or politics or anything but The GOD that created you. HEALTHY SCEPTICISM is mandatory today. Read the book of Daniel and Revelation. – rdb]

"That tiny green thing in there, you put it underneath your skin and what that tells you is that there are chemical reactions going on inside the body and that signal means you are going to have symptoms tomorrow," he said.

Hepburn likened the sensor to the "check engine" light on a [car](https://www.westernjournal.com/gas-station-thief-knows-man-runs-car-comes-back-pistol/).

"Sailors would get the signal, then self-administer a blood draw and test themselves on site," he said.

Results would be almost instant, he said.

"We can have that information in three to five minutes," Hepburn said.

"As you truncate that time, as you diagnose and treat, what you do is you stop the infection in its tracks."

The news outlet [Defense One](https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2020/03/military-funded-biosensor-could-be-future-pandemic-detection/163497/) outlined how an implanted sensor developed by the company Profusa, which is funded by DARPA, would work.

American technology company Profusa is awating FDA approval of an injectable, permanent under-the-skin biochip sensor made of advanced hydrogel by early next year. The chip is meant to detect COVID infections as soon as the body begins to show symptoms

[Thread] [pic.twitter.com/hdnEhfrAK3](https://t.co/hdnEhfrAK3)

— Sizwe sikaMusi (@SizweLo) [November 25, 2020](https://twitter.com/SizweLo/status/1331586478183485444)

"The sensor has two parts. One is a 3mm string of hydrogel, a material whose network of polymer chains is used in some contact lenses and other implants. Inserted under the skin with a syringe, the string includes a specially engineered molecule that sends a fluorescent signal outside of the body when the body begins to fight an infection," the report said.

"The other part is an electronic component attached to the skin. It sends light through the skin, detects the fluorescent signal and generates another signal that the wearer can send to a doctor, website, etc. It’s like a blood lab on the skin that can pick up the body’s response to illness before the presence of other symptoms, like coughing."

Last year, many social media users spread claims that Microsoft founder [Bill Gates](https://www.westernjournal.com/billionaire-bill-gates-advocates-shutdown-small-businesses-claims-covid-impact-will-continue-2022/) proposed implanting microchips in everyone to stop the coronavirus. [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-coronavirus-bill-gates-micr/false-claim-bill-gates-planning-to-use-microchip-implants-to-fight-coronavirus-idUSKBN21I3EC) later ruled that claim was false. [Sorry folks I saw Gates discussing the microchips on more that one media outlet. Reuters is lying and they do it often. – r db]

This article appeared originally on [The Western Journal](https://www.westernjournal.com/). <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/pentagon-scientist-reveals-new-covid-monitoring-device-gets-implanted-skin/> [You should have seen some articles I posted last week concerning artificial intelligence (AI). This is simply one more step in that process and again I say run don’t walk. – rdb]

**Fox defends Tucker Carlson after ADL urges his firing for white supremacist view**

***Network CEO Lachlan Murdoch claims host was actually rejecting the anti-Semitic ‘replacement theory;’ ADL rejects response, saying Carlson routinely employs racist rhetoric***

*By* [*Ben Sales*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ben-sales/) *Today, 3:04 am*

JTA — Lachlan Murdoch, the CEO of the Fox Corporation, wrote in a letter to the Anti-Defamation League that Fox News will not be firing Tucker Carlson for endorsing “replacement theory,” a white supremacist conspiracy.

The ADL had called for Carlson to be fired because, in a segment on the right-wing cable news channel last week, Carlson endorsed the idea that there is a coordinated campaign to replace the population of the United States with immigrants from the “third world.”

The conspiracy theory that Jews are orchestrating a “great replacement” of white westerners with nonwhite immigrants is popular among white supremacists and fueled the 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, among other attacks.

In explaining his response, Murdoch cited Carlson’s statement, later in the segment, that he wasn’t referring to race but to a question of voting rights. “A full review of the guest interview indicates that Mr. Carlson decried and rejected replacement theory,” Murdoch wrote in the letter on Sunday to ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt. “As Mr. Carlson himself stated during the guest interview: ‘White replacement theory? No, no, this is a voting rights question.’”

In a response letter sent Monday, Greenblatt wrote that citing voting rights “does not give [Carlson] free license to invoke a white supremacist trope. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/fox-defends-tucker-carlson-after-adl-urges-his-firing-for-white-supremacist-view/> [If Greenblatt is so stupid that he can’t understand the thesis of Carlson’s presentation then he has no business being in the ADL.I watched Carlson that night and knew perfectly well what he was talking about and he had more information on it tonight. It had nothing to do with ‘white supremacy’ and was anything but racist. Obviously Greenblatt missed the classes in high school about literary analysis and reading comprehension. Greenblatt is simply an ignorant leftist rabble rouser trying to create problems so he can hold his job. Seems to me Greenblatt is just playing more of the Cancel Culture role to justify his carping. – rdb]

**'This shadow government ran the election': City 'gave 2020 to private activist groups'**

***'Now it is time those involved come clean'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 12, 2021 at 8:44pm*

Officials in Green Bay, Wisconsin, during the 2020 presidential election turned over some of their operations and responsibilities to "private activist groups," a complaint filed by a national elections watchdog group charges.

"Hundreds of millions of dollars purchased local election offices in 2020 to benefit one political candidate, paying salaries of election officials and literally dictating the manner in which the election should be managed," Phill Kline, director of The Amistad Project, said, according to a [report](https://wisconsinspotlight.com/election-integrity-complaint/) from Wisconsin Spotlight.

"Evidence in Green Bay proves this shadow government ran the election and now it is time those involved come clean."

The complaint, filed with the Wisconsin Elections Commission on behalf of five Green Bay residents, charges city officials let "private activist groups to control significant aspects of the 2020 election, including ballot ‘curing’ and vote counting."

It was the Chicago-based Center for Tech and Civic Life, flush with cash from Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg's $350 million payout, that gave more than $8 million in "election safety and security" grants to Wisconsin’s five largest and most heavily Democratic cities — Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Kenosha and Racine.

The Spotlight reported it found that the CTCL demanded the Wisconsin cities sign contracts that included provisions to return the grant money if they didn't do want CTCL demanded.

"Local elections officials had to work with the center’s partner organizations, like the National Vote at Home Institute. Emails show longtime Democratic operative Michael Spitzer-Rubenstein, Wisconsin lead for the institute, was intricately involved in the administration of Green Bay’s and Milwaukee’s elections, even offering to 'cure' or correct absentee ballots," the report said.

"This is about safeguarding future elections and establishing the precedent that private corporations and tech oligarchs should not be calling the shots,” said Erick Kaardal, special counsel for The Amistad Project. “Wisconsin law puts city clerks in charge of administering elections at the local level, yet internal emails show that Green Bay’s city clerk was boxed out by the mayor’s office, which handed over the keys to the counting room to Michael Spitzer-Rubenstein."

Green Bay officials claimed they followed election law, but the Spotlight found emails showing how Green Bay Clerk Kris Teske became so worried about the third-party influence operations and bullying by outsiders that she resigned.

The Spotlight reported, "According to the complaint, Internal emails obtained by The Amistad Project show several other left-leaning political advisors and lawyers involved in deciding Green Bay’s internal counting room policy and the city’s targeting specific voter demographics favorable to Democrat Party candidates for outreach and voter turnout efforts."

"Private interests dictating how government manages elections ensures public doubt about election outcomes and involves government in playing favorites," Kline explained.

One of the individuals named was James Fitzgerald. He said, "I’m here today for several reasons, but most importantly for integrity, restoring integrity of the elections at the ballot box here in Green Bay."

Kaardal also confirmed plans to take the allegations to court, especially since the Wisconsin Elections Commission is led by a highly partisan chairwoman appointed by Democrats.

Kaardal said the situation "raises serious doubts regarding the objectivity of the commission in conducting an investigation."

In final official results in Wisconsin, Democrat nominee Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump by 49.6% to 48.9% of the vote, flipping a state that Trump won in 2016.

The CTCL gave about $6.3 million to the five cities, ostensibly for election administration.

Kaardal said, "What’s critical to understand is how legally unauthorized all of this is." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/shadow-government-ran-election-city-gave-race-private-activist-groups/>

**100 top executives meet to plot against election-integrity laws**

***Pepsi, American Airlines, Starbucks, PayPal, Twitter, Walmart among companies***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published April 12, 2021 at 6:02pm*

Building on Democrats' claim that election-integrity laws like Georgia's are intended to suppress the minority vote, more than 100 of the nation's top corporate leaders held a Zoom meeting to organize opposition to similar laws that have been introduced in 47 states.

"The gathering was an enthusiastic voluntary statement of defiance against threats of reprisals for exercising their patriotic voices," said Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, a Yale University management professor who helped organize the event, [CBS News reported](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/georgia-voting-law-response-corporate-ceos-meeting/).

Sonnenfeld said the corporate leaders who met Saturday "recognize that they need to step up to the plate and are not fearful of these reprisals."

"They're showing a disdain for these political attacks. Not only are they fortifying each other, but they see that this spreading of disease of voter restrictions from Georgia to up to possibly 46 other states is based on a false premise and its' anti-democratic," he said.

Lawmakers in 47 states have introduced 361 bills to bolster election integrity, according to the nonpartisan Brennan Center. Of those, at least 55 are moving through legislatures in 24 states. Georgia's is among five bills that have been signed into law.

Proponents of Georgia's law argue it actually expands ballot access, and other measures are in the U.S. legal mainstream. Democrats complain that voter ID laws suppress the black vote in particular. But many black leaders consider that notion condescending at best, built on the assumption that blacks lack the ability to obtain a photo ID, which is necessary to function in so many other areas of public life.

Reacting to the corporate confab Saturday, Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., asked on Twitter: "How many of these CEOs that are so concerned that Georgia requires ID to vote are also sponsoring the #GenocideGames in communist China next winter?"Bottom of Form

Sonnenfeld said he invited 120 CEOs with about 50 hours notice, "praying" that 25 would show up, CBS reported. But he got 90, along with another 30 invited guests, "including legal experts, technology experts and historians."

Many of the leaders are part of an alliance of more than 1,000 corporations that, in effect, have identified themselves as opponents of election integrity, [WND reported last week](https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/4905837/).

MORE -<https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/100-top-executives-meet-plot-election-integrity-laws/> [Sounds to me that there are a lot of companies that we who are truly conservative need to avoid if at all possible, particularly Wally’s world and the ‘soda jerk’ companies(bad for your health anyway). Since most of the airlines demand a mask if you fly, my philosophy is if you can’t drive it don’t go. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**Forced Masking Is Behavioral Science, Not Medical, And They’ve Been Playing Us The Whole Time**

[*Scott Morefield*](https://townhall.com/columnists/scottmorefield/) *Posted: Apr 12, 2021 12:01 AM*  
 Most people probably think of epidemiologists as simply doctors who specialize in contagious illness, but that would be only part of the story. Indeed, rather than studying and finding cures for diseases, arguably the most important component of the field is increasingly being viewed as something else entirely - the molding of public behavior. This explains why so many who go into epidemiology hold undergraduate degrees in public health, which focuses on the social and behavioral sciences, instead of the more hard-core sciency stuff studied by their medical doctor peers, like biology or biochemistry.   
 So when epidemiologists like Dr. Anthony Fauci make pronouncements from on-high, one must always be aware of the motive behind their messaging - to get YOU to do what THEY tell you to do, purportedly in an effort to “stop the spread” of whatever contagion they are fighting. Except, if you do a deep dive into the nature of most of the world’s response to today’s particular disease du jour, COVID-19, you’ll see that little of it ever had to do with actual science or data. Instead, the bulk of it has focused on implementing and forcing the public to comply with certain non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), like lockdowns and masking, settled upon early on in the pandemic.  
 While discussing his [epic bestseller](https://www.amazon.com/Faucian-Bargain-Powerful-Dangerous-Bureaucrat/dp/1637581114) “Faucian Bargain: The Most Powerful and Dangerous Bureaucrat in American History” with Fox News host Tucker Carlson, radio host Steve Deace[described perhaps](https://twitter.com/SKMorefield/status/1377444723078610947) the most critical 11 days in recent U.S. history:   
 “On February 28 of last year, Fauci wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine that when he analyzed the data for COVID-19, he thought it would be just about as bad as a pandemic-level flu,” said Deace. “And then 11 days later, he went to Congress and told everybody that this was gonna be Captain Trips [the name for the ultra-deadly antigen that exterminates 99.4% of the human population in Stephen King’s “The Stand”], and that’s what shut the country down.”  
 Citing the known case and infection fatality rates - at around 1.8 percent and .18 percent respectively - Deace described Fauci’s “original cautious and modest expectations” as having turned out to be true. “So why did he abandon those for the fear porn we’ve seen the past year?” he asked. “We must get answers to questions like that … What changed those 11 days, because it changed the fate of America.”  
 At one point during those 11 days, on March 8, Fauci also gave his now-infamous interview to “60 Minutes” in which he declared that the general public should not “be walking around with a mask.” The next month, of course, the CDC did a complete 180-degree reversal, and Fauci later attributed his earlier stand, which was based on sound science and is still provably correct a year later, to a ‘noble lie’ of sorts, that he was merely saving PPE for healthcare workers. Riiight. As if there wasn’t enough T-shirt material, bandanas, and neck gaiters to go around, or something. The ‘good’ doctor also hilariously [claimed](https://www.businessinsider.com/fauci-doesnt-regret-advising-against-masks-early-in-pandemic-2020-7) that the possibility of asymptomatic spread wasn’t “clear” in March, even though the news-following public, including myself, [was well aware](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/study-reports-first-case-of-coronavirus-spread-by-asymptomatic-person/) of the claim as early as January 2020.  
 No, the man knew the science then, he stated it, and he was right … then. But, again, something changed. Something happened during February and April/May 2020 that made Anthony Fauci and virtually the entire medical establishment reverse course on how to instruct the public to deal with COVID-19. It wasn’t asymptomatic spread. It wasn’t ‘droplets.’ So what was it? Not being privy to any of their discussions, I don’t know for sure. But I can render an educated guess, and mine has a lot to do with the last section of [this NPR article](https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/04/03/826996154/coronavirus-faqs-is-a-homemade-mask-effective-and-whats-the-best-way-to-wear-one) from April 3, 2020, one of the first major pieces to tout mask use as a way to fight COVID-19:  
 “And for the others around you, it's a warning. ‘It says: Watch out. There's a public health crisis right now, there's a virus going around, we need to be on top guard,’ says [Dr. Michael] Klompas. "I think it can actually be a **reinforcer, a reminder of the state of crisis that we face in society."**  
 Another example comes from this May [Health Affairs article](https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hblog20200508.769108/full/) about mask use during the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic: “The lessons from the 1918 influenza epidemic for local, state, and federal health officials are clear: Masks must be constructed and worn correctly, wearing masks in public must be part of a comprehensive social distancing strategy, masks are essential for certain care-taking occupations, and the **psychological benefits of seeing everyone wearing masks helps raise awareness about disease transmission**.”  
 By May and most certainly June and beyond, masks had become a tool for compliance, a totem to help ‘force’ the public to stay afraid and do the things the medical establishment felt would fight the spread of the pandemic. To them, it likely mattered little to nothing whether the masks actually did anything in and of themselves to accomplish this. Sure, they seized on some bogus one-off hairdresser ‘study’ and some perceived, cherry-picked correlation in Kansas counties to give a sciency tint to the madness, but the strategy after that was obviously to press on and ignore or dismiss any data to the contrary. Suddenly, in the span of a few weeks, decades of science was tossed aside and “masks work!” became ‘settled science’ that wasn’t to be questioned.  
 This could explain much of the mixed messaging given over time by the CDC and WHO. In June, when a WHO official [said](https://www.statnews.com/2020/06/09/who-comments-asymptomatic-spread-covid-19/) the much-ballyhooed asymptomatic virus spread was “very rare,” she was quickly made to backtrack and withdraw her statement. I submit that this wasn’t because she was inaccurate, but because the powers-that-be quickly perceived that this information would be a severe blow to those who wanted widespread forced public masking to continue.  
 More recently, the CDC can’t get its [own messaging](https://reason.com/2021/04/02/cdc-rochelle-walensky-travel-covid-19-coronavirus/) straight. Should vaccinated people travel or should they not? Can they transmit the virus? Hints and statements that they can’t are quickly suppressed, and my guess, again, is that the shuffling here has far more to do with their cult-like devotion to masks than anything else. If vaccinated people can travel and aren’t transmitting, why should they continue to wear masks? The only conceivable answer is that none of this has ever been about science, only behavior modification.   
 Viewing it through this lens, you can see the drama play out in stunning detail in the exchanges last month between Sen. Rand Paul, who aptly pointed out the “viral theater” of requiring the vaccinated to continue to mask up, and Fauci, who gets visibly frustrated and increasingly illogical trying to keep the lid on the deception. Weeks later, [when asked](https://twitter.com/SKMorefield/status/1379448215121059841) by MSNBC why states that have lifted mask mandates, like Texas and Mississippi, [aren’t spiking](https://twitter.com/SKMorefield/status/1376619090857582598) like New York, Michigan, and other places, Fauci admits, “I’m not really quite sure.”    
 Indeed, from the ridiculous ‘masked walk of shame’ from the doors of a restaurant past unmasked patrons talking and dining, to the vaccinated being expected to continue masking up indefinitely, to the viral theater of leaders and media figures donning masks for the cameras only to remove them when they think nobody is looking, to the forced muzzling of children despite the fact that they aren’t statistically at risk and aren’t a major transmission source, all the way to a New Hampshire track coach literally [being fired](https://www.facebook.com/1274345186/videos/10224404007029128/) for refusing to force his athletes to wear masks WHILE THEY ARE RUNNING, real science and data have long ago taken a back seat to COVID theater.  
 Bottom line: Medical science is one thing, behavioral science is quite another. And our overlords, led by epidemiologists like Dr. Anthony Fauci, have been deeply involved in behavioral ‘science’ for more than a year. Such an approach, however, cannot long coexist with our Constitution or any freedom-loving democracy. It may be a ‘noble lie,’ but it’s still a lie that’s being used to manipulate the public on a massive, destructive scale.  
 (Many thanks to former lobbyist and political consultant Nate Gorman of The Gorman Group for opening my eyes to this paradigm.) <https://townhall.com/columnists/scottmorefield/2021/04/12/forced-masking-is-behavioral-science-not-medical-and-theyve-been-playing-us-the-whole-time-n2587746>

And then…

**To Save The Republic, Destroy Democrats**

[*Derek Hunter*](https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/) *Posted: Apr 12, 2021 12:01 AM*  
 One thing enemies of the United States fail to understand is not that we will not be defeated by them, it’s that they don’t have to waste their time trying. For all the bluster hostile world leaders spew towards us, they’ve missed the real secret to destroying the United States: they don’t have to do anything but wait, Democrats will do it for them.  
 It’s true that many of our enemies would like the bragging rights of being “the one” who did us in, but bragging rights don’t really apply when you lose. And they’d lose. Patience is the only tactic that will work for those who’d like to do us harm, and the Democratic Party is their weapon.   
 There is nothing the Democratic Party is fighting to impose on the country or any tactic they’re employing that will actually strengthen our position in the world. Of all the damaging “progressive” ideas they’re advancing – profligate spending through the printing of money, taking over of the health care system, destruction of individual liberties, etc. – it is infecting society with critical race theory garbage and identity politics that are doing the most damage.   
 Democrats have turned victimhood into something to aspire to – it’s the Bitcoin of American politics now, the coin of the realm. And who doesn’t wish they’d gotten into Bitcoin early?  
 Now, being a “social justice warrior” can be the fast-track to enormous wealth. One of the co-founders of Black Lives Matter is so oppressed they she picked up a $1.4 million compound in Los Angeles. So “down with the struggle” that [she’s moving to an 88 percent white](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9456145/Shell-pick-white-people-complain-BLM-founder-buys-1-4M-LA-home.html) neighborhood. If I had known “helping the poor and oppressed” was so lucrative, I might’ve tried a different vocation. Meanwhile, every weekend more people are shot in Chicago, including children, they go unremarked upon without even a small piece of that purchase price being broken off as a reward for information to bring those perpetrators to justice.  
 Sean Combs, known professionally (this week) as “Diddy,” is busy painting himself as a victim too. His net worth is $740 million, and he seems mad that he hasn’t achieved the third comma to make him a billionaire. He penned a letter to corporate America demanding they spend more on advertising on “black owned media.”  
 “[If you love us, pay us](https://www.revolt.tv/news/2021/4/8/22373418/sean-diddy-combs-general-motors-corporate-america-letter),” Combs’ letter is titled. He argues that black owned media is owed a bigger slice of what is spent on advertising. “No longer can Corporate America manipulate our community into believing that incremental progress is acceptable action,” he whines.   
 Combs owns “Revolt TV,” an awful, wildly unpopular “network,” if you can call it that. Without viewers, he feels wronged that companies aren’t paying him for ad time like he has an audience. Meanwhile, [last July he proudly announced](https://twitter.com/diddy/status/1279404214221975552?lang=en), “THE HONORABLE MINISTER FARRAKHAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE WORLD!!!! TODAY ON” Revolt. If you want to be embraced by corporate America, [maybe don’t sing the praises of the country’s leading racist and anti-Semite](https://www.showbiz411.com/2020/07/03/sean-puffy-combss-revolt-tv-will-broadcast-noted-anti-semite-louis-farrakhans-fourth-of-july-address-to-nation-of-islam)?   
 There are, of course, no downsides to doing so on the left, which means the popular culture now.   
 Administration officials are chosen for their irrelevant characteristics more than their qualifications. There is no rational explanation for the appointment of someone like [Rachel Levine to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services](https://www.revolt.tv/news/2021/4/8/22373418/sean-diddy-combs-general-motors-corporate-america-letter) other than that she was born Richard Levine, unless you want someone responsible for thousands of deaths in Pennsylvania nursing homes to spread that incompetence nationwide. Unless you want to check a box, virtue signal, and congratulate yourself on how “progressive” you are.  
 That’s what the left is now – the world’s longest virtue signal; an emergency flair of wokeness. Reality be damned. And it must be destroyed.   
 It can’t just be beaten, if it’s beaten it will be repackaged and be back, it has to be humiliated beyond repair.   
 Progressivism was dominant at the beginning of the 20th century in both parties – the idea that government, run by elites, knew best how people should live their lives was all the rage. But Germany and Italy’s aggression, coupled with the Soviet Union, caused the open embrace of it to recede.   
 Now it’s back, with a vengeance. And it’s just as damaging to the cause of liberty as it ever was. What the allies did in World War II, what the United States did in the Cold War, must be done again, domestically this time by voters. Because, make no mistake about it, domestically is from where the greatest threat against this country is coming.  
<https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/2021/04/12/to-save-the-republic-destroy-democrats-n2587737>   
   
and why not…

**Why Biden is Erasing America**[*Kevin McCullough*](https://townhall.com/columnists/kevinmccullough/) *| Posted: Apr 11, 2021 1:25 PM* Not even a full four months into office and President\* Biden is desperately attempting to erase America.  
 This isn’t like his former boss’ “fundamental transformation” style of change. No President\* Biden is racing at blinding speed to destroy every vestige of our representative republic.  
 Which in itself is a bit brilliant because those who aren’t paying attention believe he is incapable of doing anything faster than eating his lunch time jello.  
 He’s attempting to undo American accountability in elections through his support of HR1. He’s attempting to undo our economic foundations with massive printing (read that: devaluing) of our currency. He’s attempting to destroy free enterprise and job growth with coming massive tax increases. He’s attempting to take away individual liberties with proposed mask mandates, and desired lockdowns. He supports any attempt to end the Senate filibuster—in order to push through horrific laws by the thinnest margins ever attempted. He’s attempting to overwhelm our security at our borders by encouraging 100’s of 1000’s of unverifiable persons of unknown origins to cross our borders without scrutiny nor penalty. He wants the police weakened. He is pledging to take guns away from law abiding owners. And he wants to pervert the justice system so dramatically that the Constitution becomes unrecognizable.  
 Friday was his latest strategic ploy. By signing what seems as though might be his 500th executive order, he officially commenced a process to attempt to “reform the Supreme Court.”  
 His basis for why?  
 Because the judicial system is “out of whack.”  
 Which I can only presume is very technical language for, “my executive orders appear to be headed for trouble once they are challenged.”  
 This is a legitimate worry to someone who is illegitimately writing laws as a dictator and expecting the plebs to kneel in obedience. One of his predecessor’s most pronounced accomplishments was placing hundreds of originalist jurists at every level of the federal courts.  
 Shockingly President\* Biden’s former boss had left hundreds of vacancies open, and President Trump plugged the holes in a little over three years.  
 The left witnessed how quickly the progressive agenda can be stopped in a healthy constitutional republic. It’s why they exploited the CoVid19 crisis to change election standards by any means necessary in swing states. And it’s why they are calling every election reform attempting to bring transparency and integrity back to the process as “racist.”  
 They literally have nothing else.  
 They didn’t win the state assemblies in 2020. They lost seats in the House of Representatives. They lost Gubernatorial seats. And they only gained the Senate by relying on the same faulty election system in the State of Georgia that had corrupted the Presidential race only a handful of weeks earlier.

President\* Biden and the puppet master who controls him knows it is a short runway to 2022. America has too many checks and balances in the way she was created. Therefore erasing America, by erasing that transparency, accountability, and integrity is the only option to create the top down government controlled dream they’ve always thirsted for.  
 Short of a violent overthrow, the removal of the checks and balances is the fastest way forward. And unlike Cuba & Venezuela—Americans own in excess of 300,000,000 firearms.  
 He may talk slow, genuinely appear confused and dazed, but beneath the Mr. Magoo act is a machine keenly aimed at and doing away with everything we hold dear.  
 It is time that Americans who truly cherish the God-given freedoms we’ve always enjoyed engage. Get active. Refuse to roll over. Defend the integrity of the good.  
 I pray daily that we still have enough will power to turn the tide.  
 But no one can say they weren’t warned.  
 They are attempting it in plain sight.  
 Every single day! <https://townhall.com/columnists/kevinmccullough/2021/04/11/why-biden-is-erasing-america-n2587733>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Elkin on protesters outside his home: A group of lunatics**

***New Hope MK furious after Netanyahu supporters demonstrate outside his home.***

*Hezki Baruch , Apr 13 , 2021 1:58 AM*

New Hope MK Ze'ev Elkin on Monday evening responded to a demonstration that was held outside his home calling for him to support the formation of a right-wing government led by Benjamin Netanyahu.

"For the information of the group of lunatics who came tonight to demonstrate near my house on behalf of Netanyahu, who frightened my five-year-old girl, shouted at her that her father was a leftist and a criminal and demanded that my wife go out to them: Thank you for the reminder of what the culture of discourse looks like today in the home, to which you are urging me to return. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for the additional encouragement to work towards a government of change," said Elkin.

Meanwhile, *Channel 12 News* reported on Monday evening that Likud officials approached New Hope chairman Gideon Sa'ar and offered to appoint him as President, in the hope that, as a result, the members of his parties would be scattered everywhere, with some of them joining Netanyahu.

Sa'ar rejected the proposal, according to the report. The Likud denied that such an offer was made. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304232>

**Hikind: The ADL should just officially fold into the Democratic Party**

***Former New York State Assemblyman blasts ADL's hypocrisy in condemning racism and anti-Semitism only when it comes from the right.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 13 , 2021 12:08 AM*

Former New York State Assemblyman and founder of Americans Against Anti-Semitism, Dov Hikind, on Monday fired back at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) [after it called](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/299975) for Fox News host Tucker Carlson to be dismissed over a controversial claim regarding illegal immigration.

“Ever since a member of the Obama administration, Jonathan Greenblatt, took over as leader of the ADL, their stance on racism and anti-Semitism has been politicized,” Hikind said in a video posted to social media.

“Yes, there’s a White Supremacist conspiracy theory called ‘The Great Replacement’ but that is about minority races replacing the white race. Tucker Carlson spoke of non-citizens being brought in large numbers to dilute the voting power of all citizens, regardless of color,” he added.

“Greenblatt’s attack on Carlson is nothing but a politicized witch hunt meant to neutralize another prominent Conservative,” continued Hikind. “When the alleged racism or anti-Semitism comes from someone on the left, or a minority, the ADL calls them to get educated.”

Noting the incident in which Saturday Night Live host Michael Che joked that Israel only vaccinated “the Jewish half” of its population, Hikind pointed out that in this case, “the ADL didn’t come for his job. They didn’t even get an apology from NBC. But when the alleged racism comes from someone on the right, ‘off with their heads!’ Leftists get schooled, rightists get cancelled.”

“One can disagree with [Carlson’s] position, but he can’t be made into a racist because of it. At this point, the ADL should just officially fold into the Democratic Party because they seem to be doing their exclusive bidding,” said Hikind. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304231>

**Bill: Rivlin to remain President until replacement is elected**

***Yesh Atid proposes bill to keep Pres. Rivlin in office, even after term ends, until Knesset elects replacement.***

***Tags:***[*President Reuven Rivlin*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/tags/President_Reuven_Rivlin)[*Reuven Rivlin*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/tags/Reuven_Rivlin)

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 13 , 2021 11:06 AM*

The center-left Yesh Atid party is working to ensure that Israeli President Reuven Rivlin will remain in his seat until a new president is elected, Is*rael Hayom* reported. The bill, which will be submitted Tuesday to the Knesset by MK Boaz Toporovsky (Yesh Atid), aims to avoid a situation in which Rivlin's responsibilities will be transferred to Knesset Speaker Yariv Levin (Likud).

"In order to prevent a lacuna in which the Knesset Speaker has the power to prevent a new president from beginning his term...it is proposed that as long as this is the situation, the outgoing President will continue to serve until a new president begins his term," the bill states.

Toporovsky added that the bill was not submitted for personal reasons: "It is not personal, but comes to prevent elected officials from making an embarrassment of the process of electing a president, taking control of his responsibilities, and misusing them against the opinion of the majority." MORE - . <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304250>

**MK Yakov Asher: 'Knesset paralysis is only due to personal boycotts'**

***MK Yakov Asher calls on Knesset members to stop baseless hatred, end Knesset paralysis. 'We've turned hatred into a tool to be used for almost anything.'***

Michal Levi , Apr 13 , 2021 12:18 P

MK Yakov Asher (United Torah Judaism) spoke in a Knesset session about the political issues which have been paralyzing the Knesset.

"It is all because of personal boycotts and baseless hatred," he said. "During these days of counting the Omer, we need to add in baseless love."

There are seven weeks, or 49 days, between the second day of Passover and Shavuot, the Holiday of Weeks. Jews count each of these days, and on the fiftieth day celebrate Shavuot. This "counting" period is called Sefirat Ha'omer, or the Counting of the Omer.

"We are currently counting the Omer, during which Rabbi Akiva's students died as punishment for a lack of love towards each other," Asher said. "Rabbi Akiva taught us to 'love your fellow as yourself' because that is a major rule in the Torah. But we have reached a situation in which not only do we not add in love for each other, but we have turned the hatred into a tool, so to speak, to be used for almost anything."

Regarding the current situation, in which the Knesset is essentially paralyzed, Asher said: "The Knesset is not functioning, only due to personal boycotts. It is happening because the discourse is not focusing on world views, right or left, a Jewish state or not, it's all personal boycotts and baseless hatred. For this we have paid a very high price, and today the price is that public systems are paralyzed and cannot help the citizen MORE -<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304264> [Great parallel. Will they learn from the past? – rdb]

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**04/12/2021 NEWS AM –**

**Wake Me Up - Avicii (violin/cello/bass cover) - Simply Three**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSs2cR2Tvuk**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSs2cR2Tvuk)

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| **"The only part of the conduct of anyone for which he is amenable to society is that which concerns others. In the part which merely concerns himself, his independence is, of right, absolute.**  **Over himself, over his own body and mind, the individual is sovereign." -- John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) English philosopher and economist** |

**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 AS – post knee replacement – some problems and another one scheduled.**  **Pray for TR – abnormal Mammogram having double biopsy – Mastectomy Scheduled**  **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 24:54And they ate and drank, he and the men who were with him; and they stayed the night. And they rose up in the morning, and he said, Send me away to my master. 55And her brother and her mother said, Let the girl stay with us, perhaps ten days. Afterwards she may go. 56And he said to them, Do not delay me, for Jehovah has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master.**

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| **Interview with Vera Sharav- A holocaust survivor on today’s medical situation.**  [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2dmpCH\_Sfg&t=16s**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2dmpCH_Sfg&t=16s)  **This is a bit long but you would do well to listen. She is providing a chilling account of what occurred in Germany and what is going on today.**  **This is a literal OMG of the highest order!** |

**Intel officials say Mossad behind Natanz power cut; Iran calls it ‘terrorism’**

***Alleged Israeli cyberattack said to strike serious blow to Iranian atomic program; security cabinet to meet next week to discuss recent exchanges with Tehran***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 8:34 pm*

Israel’s Mossad security service was behind a major power cut that halted uranium enrichment at Iran’s Natanz nuclear facility on Sunday, unidentified intelligence sources told Hebrew media outlets, in what Iran described as an act of “nuclear terrorism.”

In the early hours of Sunday morning, the underground Natanz facility suffered an electrical disruption in what was widely speculated to be an Israeli cyberattack. Iran said the attack did not cause any casualties and did not cause radioactive pollution. Israel has officially refrained from commenting on the matter, and Iran has not specifically accused the Jewish state of being responsible for the incident.

On Sunday evening, unnamed intelligence sources were cited by a number of Hebrew news outlets as saying that the Mossad was involved in the attack, which was reportedly more severe than Iran had indicated.

According to Channel 13 news, the cyberattack caused “severe damage at the heart of Iran’s enrichment program.”

The timing of the attack was also said to not be incidental, coming the day after Iran celebrated its National Nuclear Technology Day; the day after Iranian scientists began operating more powerful centrifuges; and amid ongoing talks in Vienna aimed at revitalizing the flagging 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and world powers, which Israel fiercely opposes.

The disruption at Natanz appears to have been designed to counter Iran’s efforts to raise pressure on the United States by amassing greater quantities of uranium and enriching it to higher levels as the two sides negotiate a return to the 2015 nuclear deal.

The spokesman for Iran’s atomic program, Ali Akbar Salehi, confirmed that the electrical disruption at Natanz was a deliberate act of sabotage, calling it “nuclear terrorism.”

In comments carried by Iranian state news, Salehi refrained from identifying a perpetrator, but said the attack was carried out by those who oppose Iran’s ongoing negotiations with the West to remove the sanctions against Tehran through the nuclear deal.

“To thwart the goals of this terrorist movement, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to seriously improve nuclear technology on the one hand and to lift oppressive sanctions on the other hand,” Salehi said, according to state TV.

He added: “While condemning this desperate move, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the need for a confrontation by the international bodies and the (International Atomic Energy Agency) against this nuclear terrorism.”

On Sunday, Israel’s government announced that the high-level security cabinet is scheduled to meet next week for the first time since early February, reportedly to discuss the Iran issue. The meeting was reportedly called at the request of Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit, in light of the recent exchanges between Israel and Iran.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared to refer to the recent events in Iran at a ceremony honoring the country’s security forces on Sunday night, saying the fight against the Islamic Republic was a massive undertaking.

“The fight against Iran and its proxies and the Iranian armament is a giant mission. The situation that exists today doesn’t say anything about the situation that will exist tomorrow,” Netanyahu said.

Last Tuesday, an Iranian cargo ship said to serve as a floating base for Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard forces off the coast of Yemen was struck by an explosion, likely from a limpet mine. Iran has blamed Israel for the blast. An American official told the New York times that Israel was behind the attack.

A private Israeli intelligence firm released a satellite photograph of the ship from Sunday, showing that the vessel has not moved since last week’s attack and remained anchored in the Red Sea, directly between Yemen and Eritrea.

The [#Iran](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Iran?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)|ian [#Saviz](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Saviz?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw). Today (11 April 2021). Same place at the [#RedSea](https://twitter.com/hashtag/RedSea?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw). [pic.twitter.com/0nTvCRc4HA](https://t.co/0nTvCRc4HA)

— ImageSat Intl. (@ImageSatIntl) [April 11, 2021](https://twitter.com/ImageSatIntl/status/1381279543131013121?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The Natanz nuclear facility, which maintains aboveground workshops and subterranean uranium enrichment halls, is considered a major facet of Iran’s atomic program. The alleged Israeli attack against it came hours after scientists at the site turned on a chain of 164 advanced IR-6 centrifuges that threatened to shorten the amount of time it would take for Iran to amass the highly enriched uranium needed for a nuclear bomb.

[On Saturday](https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-starts-up-advanced-centrifuges-in-new-nuclear-deal-breach/), officials also began testing the IR-9 centrifuge, which they say will enrich uranium 50 times faster than Iran’s first-generation centrifuges, the IR-1. The nuclear deal limited Iran to using only IR-1s for enrichment.

Natanz was largely built underground to withstand enemy airstrikes. It became a flashpoint for Western fears about Iran’s nuclear program in 2002, when satellite photos showed Iran building its underground centrifuges facility at the site, some 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of the capital, Tehran.

Last summer, an explosion rocked the Natanz facility, in what was also said to have been an Israeli attack aimed at disrupting uranium enrichment and research at the site.

In 2010, the United States and Israel allegedly halted Iran’s nuclear program with the Stuxnet virus, which caused Iranian centrifuges to tear themselves apart, reportedly destroying a fifth of the country’s machines.

Iran has also blamed Israel for the killing last year of scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who began the country’s military nuclear program decades earlier.

[Sunday’s incident](https://www.timesofisrael.com/accident-hits-irans-natanz-nuclear-site-day-after-advanced-centrifuges-start/) came as US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin landed in Israel for talks with Netanyahu and Gantz. The US, Israel’s main security partner, is seeking to reenter the 2015 atomic accord aimed at limiting Tehran’s program so that it cannot pursue a nuclear weapon — a move staunchly opposed by Israel, particularly Netanyahu.

Meeting with Austin on Sunday, Gantz said Israel viewed America as an ally against all threats, including Iran.

“The Tehran of today poses a strategic threat to international security, to the entire Middle East and to the State of Israel,” Gantz said. “And we will work closely with our American allies to ensure that any new agreement with Iran will secure the vital interests of the world, of the United States, prevent a dangerous arms race in our region, and protect the State of Israel.”

In addition to an ongoing, largely covert fight on the nuclear front, Tehran and Jerusalem are engaged in a maritime shadow war, with both sides blaming the other for explosions on vessels.

In recent months, at least two Israeli-owned cargo ships have been damaged in alleged Iranian attacks, one in the Gulf of Oman and the other as it was sailing to India.

IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi [appeared to reference the recent tensions between Israel and Iran](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-chief-hints-at-israeli-involvement-in-recent-alleged-attacks-on-iran/) in a speech on Sunday.

The Israeli military’s “operations in the Middle East are not hidden from the eyes of the enemy,” Kohavi said. “They are watching us, seeing [our] abilities and weighing their steps with caution.”

Since then-US president Donald Trump’s withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018, Tehran has abandoned all the limits of its uranium stockpile. It now enriches up to 20 percent purity, a technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%. Iran maintains that its atomic program is for peaceful purposes — despite its leaders regularly threatening to destroy Israel and the Mossad stealing and publicizing Iranian documents showing plans to affix a nuclear device onto a missile — but fears about Tehran having the ability to make a bomb saw world powers reach the deal with the Islamic Republic in 2015.

The deal lifted economic sanctions on Iran in exchange for it limiting its program and allowing IAEA inspectors to keep a close watch on its work, though not at military sites and some other locations — a key sticking point for critics of the deal.

US President Joe Biden hopes to return to the 2015 agreement, which his predecessor Trump abandoned in favor of a “maximum pressure” campaign in hopes of bringing Tehran to its knees. However, Biden has maintained that he will remove sanctions on Iran only after it returns to compliance with the nuclear deal. Iran, meanwhile, is demanding full sanctions relief before it returns to the negotiating table. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/western-officials-say-mossad-behind-natanz-power-cut-iran-calls-it-terrorism/>

**Defense officials call to probe leak of alleged Israeli op. against Iran**

***The revelation of this alleged Israeli involvement was unusual in that generally Israel prefers to keep a low profile if it undertakes such attacks.***

*By* [*YONAH JEREMY BOB*](https://www.jpost.com/author/yonah-jeremy-bob)*,* [*TOBIAS SIEGAL*](https://www.jpost.com/author/tobias-siegal) *APRIL 11, 2021 00:34*

There were calls over the weekend by Israeli defense officials to probe the leak of an alleged sensitive IDF operation against Iran to foreign media.

Earlier this week, The New York Times [reported](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/iranian-ship-attacked-in-the-red-sea-unconfirmed-report-664311) that Israel notified the US that it was responsible for Tuesday’s attack on an Iranian cargo ship which was a central pillar of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps intelligence apparatus in the region.

Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman [confirmed](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/iran-blames-israel-us-for-saviz-cargo-ship-attack-664567) on Wednesday that the Saviz was slightly damaged in the Red Sea off the coast of Djibouti around 6 a.m. on Tuesday due to an explosion, though they had not reached a conclusion about the cause.

The revelation of this alleged Israeli involvement was unusual in that generally Israel prefers to keep a low profile if it undertakes such attacks in order to provide the attacked-side, here Iran, an alibi to save face and avoid needing to retaliate.

While leaks months after an explosion at a key Iranian nuclear facility in July 2020 eventually seems to have led to Israel, there was an elaborate public relations campaign to point the finger in other directions.

In contrast, such a quick almost real-time taking credit increases the prospect of retaliation by the Islamic Republic.

*Haaretz* and others have reported that an individual who leaked the operation’s details asked the reporter to wait with its publication, after the defense establishment had decided to postpone it by one day.

The operation was reportedly classified as high-risk for the soldiers involved and was planned as part of a wider strategy by the Defense Ministry to prevent Iran’s further establishment in Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East.

The fact that such a sensitive operation was leaked raised concerns among Israel’s top security officials, which stressed that publishing any information about the operation beforehand would put lives at risk.

Eventually, the operation was successfully carried out a day after its original date. Its details were then published by the media outlet that originally received the leaked information – presumed to be The New York Times.

There appear to be two versions of the leak.

In one version, an Israeli official updated a counterpart American official with the understanding that the US would keep the information confidential.

This was based on understandings followed in recent years as a condition for Israel being more open with the US.

In another version, the Israeli leak to the US, or in some other fashion to the media, was illegal, and may need to be investigated.

Some sources are pointing fingers at the US, while others are implying rival defense or intelligence officials within Israel.

The Prime Minister’s Office and Defense Minister Benny Gantz had not commented by press time. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/sensitive-idf-operation-leaked-to-foreign-media-haaretz-664746>

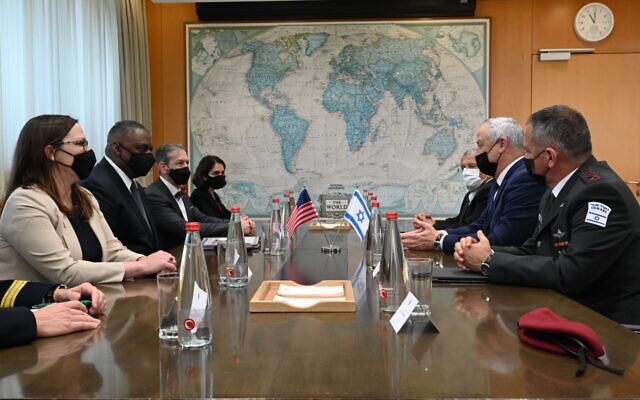
**Hosting US defense chief, Gantz says Iran nuclear deal must protect Israel**

***Defense minister says US is a ‘full partner across all operational theaters’; Austin doesn’t mention Tehran, pledges consultations to ensure Israel’s regional military superiority***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 3:56 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/WhatsApp-Image-2021-04-11-at-12.28.34.jpeg)

Defense Minister Benny Gantz, right, walks alongside US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin during an honor guard ceremony at Israel's military headquarters in Tel Aviv on April 11, 2021. (Ariel Hermoni)

 US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin touched down in Israel on Sunday, kicking off a two-day visit with a meeting with his Israeli counterpart, Defense Minister Benny Gantz, at military headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Following the meeting, Gantz said the two had discussed the threat posed to Israel by Iran and its nuclear program, as well as plans to ensure the Jewish state’s military superiority in the region.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz, center-right, alongside Israeli defense officials meets with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, left, and a number of American defense officials at Israel’s military headquarters in Tel Aviv on April 11, 2021. (Ariel Hermoni)

“During our conversations I emphasized to Secretary Austin that Israel views the United States as a full partner across all operational theaters — not least Iran,” Gantz said.

“We will work closely with our American allies to ensure that any new agreement with Iran will secure the vital interests of the world and the United States, prevent a dangerous arms race in our region, and protect the State of Israel,” he said.

Austin was the first member of US President Joe Biden’s administration to pay an official visit to Israel, and this was the first official visit to the Jewish state by an American secretary of defense since 2017.

Austin refrained from discussing the Iranian issue directly in his official remarks, saying only that he and Gantz had discussed “regional security challenges.”

“I was tremendously pleased on our discussion of a number of security issues which are important to our two countries,” Austin said in Defense Ministry headquarters following the meeting.

“I appreciated hearing Minister Gantz’s perspectives about the challenges in this region,” he said.

I just arrived in Israel where I’m looking forward to a series of robust discussions with our Israeli friends on regional security issues. I’m grateful to call Israel a major strategic partner. [pic.twitter.com/DgPBtGvb0M](https://t.co/DgPBtGvb0M)

— Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III (@SecDef) [April 11, 2021](https://twitter.com/SecDef/status/1381179342454161416?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The meeting came amid ongoing talks in Vienna regarding a return to the 2015 nuclear deal by both Iran and the United States, a move that is staunchly opposed by Israel, particularly by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

On Wednesday, [Netanyahu warned](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-we-wont-be-bound-by-iran-deal-that-threatens-us-with-annihilation/) that Israel will not be bound by a revitalized nuclear deal between world powers and Iran. Israeli defense analysts have warned that there is a growing rift between Jerusalem and Washington on the issue of Iran and its nuclear program, which may have significant ramifications on Israel’s security.

The two defense chiefs also said they had discussed ensuring Israel’s so-called qualitative military edge, or QME, a technical term referring to the country’s military superiority in the region, which the United States is legally obligated to maintain. Austin also stressed the close ties between US and Israel, despite the apparent tensions between the countries over the Iran nuclear issue.

“I reaffirmed to Minister Gantz: Our commitment to Israel is enduring and it is ironclad, and I pledged to ensure close consultation to ensure Israel’s qualitative military edge and to strengthen Israel’s security,” Austin said.



Defense Minister Benny Gantz, left, meets with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, right, at Israel’s military headquarters in Tel Aviv on April 11, 2021. (Ariel Hermoni)

“This is a relationship built on trust, which has developed over decades of cooperation, and I look forward to building upon that trust in the years ahead,” he added.

Concerns were raised this past summer regarding Israel’s QME in light of plans by the Trump administration to sell F-35 fighter jets and other advanced weaponry to the United Arab Emirates following Abu Dhabi’s decision to normalize ties with Jerusalem. Gantz flew to the United States in October after the proposal was announced in order to shore up Israel’s military advantage through additional weapons purchases from the United States, which he said at the time accounted for a “major leap forward” in Israel’s national security.

“I also expressed our commitment to continuing to working closely with the United States, with true bipartisan support, on Israel’s long-term planning for defense acquisitions, to maintain Israel’s QME — essential not only as a guarantee for Israel’s security, but as a guarantor of Middle Eastern stability,” Gantz said.

Austin was scheduled to hold additional meetings with Israeli officials throughout the day on Sunday, including Netanyahu; IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi; Maj. Gen. Tal Kalman, who holds the military’s Iran portfolio; Defense Ministry Director-General Amir Eshel; and the head of the ministry’s Political-Defense Directorate, Zohar Palti.

On Monday, Austin plans to fly to the Nevatim Air Base in the northern Negev, where the F-35 stealth fighter jet and other aircraft are housed, in order to meet Israeli Air Force chief Amikam Norkin and representatives from Israeli defense contractors regarding various weapons systems that have been developed in Israel.

On Monday evening, Austin was scheduled to visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum and to lay a wreath at the Mount Herzl national cemetery ahead of Israel’s Memorial Day on Wednesday.

Austin’s visit to Israel is part of a larger trip in which he will also meet with leaders in Germany, Britain and the NATO headquarters in Belgium for talks with government and military officials, the Pentagon said Thursday.



This satellite photo from Planet Labs Inc. shows Iran’s Natanz nuclear facility on April 7, 2021 (Planet Labs Inc. via AP)

Austin arrived in Israel as reports emerged from Iran that its Natanz nuclear site had suffered a total power cut in what was widely assumed to be the result of an Israeli cyber attack. Jerusalem refused to comment on the matter, and Iran said it had not yet determined the source of the electrical disruption but was investigating the matter.

The electrical glitch came hours after Tehran began using a new, more powerful centrifuge that could reportedly enrich uranium at a much faster rate than its existing equipment.

Austin’s visit also came as representatives of the remaining parties to the troubled 2015 nuclear deal launched talks in Vienna last week on bringing the United States back into the agreement. Former president Donald Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018, prompting Iran to systematically violate the agreement. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hosting-us-defense-chief-gantz-says-iran-nuclear-deal-must-protect-israel/>

**Netanyahu taps Likud fixer Miki Zohar to head key Knesset steering panel**

***Party stalwart to head powerful Arrangements Committee, which controls legislative agenda until a new government is formed***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Raoul Wootliff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/raoul-wootliff/) *Today, 5:40 pm*

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has tapped his party’s former coalition whip Miki Zohar to head the powerful Knesset Arrangements Committee, a move made possible after President Reuven Rivlin chose the premier to form a coalition following last month’s election.

The Arrangements Committee, the first in the Knesset to be formed after an election, determines which parliamentary committees will be formed and who will sit on them. Crucially, it also controls the legislative agenda in the new parliament until a new government is formed.

Netanyahu’s Likud party took control of the committee since it must be chaired by the party of the current prime minister-designate.

Zohar is a raucous and loyal defender of Netanyahu and Likud, and has forcefully backed the premier amid his ongoing legal troubles.

He often lashes government institutions such as [the state prosecution](https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-implicit-threat-netanyahu-ally-urges-ag-to-resign-says-more-dirt-will-air/) and the High Court of Justice and backs the prime minister’s claims that he is the victim of a witch hunt amid his trial on graft charges.

In 2019, Zohar [submitted legislation](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-loyalist-refiles-bill-to-grant-pm-immunity-from-prosecution/) aimed at granting the prime minister immunity from prosecution.

In recent months, he has called Likud’s political opponents racist, compared pro-Trump insurrectionists to leftist protesters opposing Netanyahu, and said Reform Judaism is a threat to Israel.

Rivlin tasked Netanyahu with forming a government last week after he received more recommendations than any other lawmaker from parties that won representation in the Knesset in the March 23 vote.

Netanyahu, with 52 recommendations, still did not receive a majority of backers in the 120-seat Knesset, however, and neither he nor the bloc of parties opposing his continued rule have a clear path to a governing coalition, leading to fears of a fifth rapid-fire election. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-taps-likud-fixer-miki-zohar-to-head-key-knesset-steering-panel/>

**Joint List MK files complaint over police beating at protest**

***Ofer Cassif says violence against him was a symptom, a violation of the sovereignty and dignity of the Knesset***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:33 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/F210411NRF10.jpg)

Joint List MK Ofer Cassif who was allegedly attacked by Israeli police officers during a protest, arrives to file a complaint at the Police Internal Investigations Department, in Jerusalem on April 11, 2021. (Noam Revkin Fenton/Flash90)

Joint List MK Ofer Cassif on Sunday filed an official complaint against police, after he was beaten by officers on Friday during a protest in East Jerusalem, rejecting the force’s claim that he was to blame for the violence.

Cassif, the only Jewish Knesset member in the predominantly Arab Joint List party, arrived at the Justice Ministry’s Police Internal Investigations Department to lodge the complaint.

Before entering, he declared, “The violence against me is a symptom.”

Cassif added that the beating was “a violation of the sovereignty and dignity of the Knesset.”

Cassif was participating in a weekly demonstration in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood against planned evictions when the violence broke out.

Officers initially said that Cassif had hit them first. The most recent version of events offered by police said that the Knesset member had incited the officers to beat him, allegedly saying that he dared them to hit him.

Speaking to the Kan public broadcaster Sunday morning, Cassif described the police claim as “a string of lies.”

He said that aside from filing a complaint with the PIID, he will ask Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit to open his own investigation into the incident.

Cassif said that was necessary “due to the possibility of attempts to obstruct the [Police Internal Investigations Department] investigation.”

Additionally, Cassif said he would file a complaint with the Knesset Guard about death threats he had received in the wake of the incident.

עכשיו בשיח ג'ראח השוטרים משתגעים, זורקים רימוני הלם ומפוצצים במכות את ח"כ [@ofercass](https://twitter.com/ofercass?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

די לכיבוש! [pic.twitter.com/V6py9UU2J2](https://t.co/V6py9UU2J2)

— Nitsan Ron (@Nitske1) [April 9, 2021](https://twitter.com/Nitske1/status/1380528440118542342?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

In footage of the Friday incident, Cassif can be seen arguing with police officers amid a crowd, before one officer pushes him.

A mask-clad Cassif appeared to say something, with the officers proceeding to strike and violently grab him.

Cassif then reached his hand toward the face of one of the officers, who punched the MK on top of the head.

After wrestling Cassif to the ground, some of the officers appeared to continue beating him, as shouts of “shame” could be heard from the demonstrators.

In another clip, an officer can be seen kneeling on Cassif’s face as he was on the ground.

Cassif sustained light injuries, his glasses were broken and his shirt was ripped during the scuffle. Police used stun grenades to clear protesters.

Footage shows nearby protesters shouting at officers, telling them to stop and identifying Cassif as a lawmaker.

“He’s an MK. Are you psychopaths?” one person can be heard asking in the video shown on Channel 12 news on Saturday. “You’re a group of psychopaths!” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/joint-list-mk-files-complaint-over-police-beating-at-protest/> [This is once again some very bad police action PR. I am very aware of their oftentimes rough behaviors in the past with the group Women in Green who are promotors of Israeli sovereignty. There are also many other events. While I am a strong supporter of our boys in blue there are times that they need to strongly temper their actions. – rdb]

**Entry permits for foreign nationals now being granted, applicants say**

***Previously, unvaccinated foreign nationals could get entry permits provided they quarantined for the requisite amount of time.***

*By* [*JEREMY SHARON*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jeremy-sharon) *APRIL 11, 2021 22:00*

Following a change to government regulations made last week, [non-Israelis](https://www.jpost.com/tags/ben-gurion-airport) who are vaccinated against COVID-19 have begun receiving entry permits to visit first-degree relatives living in Israel.

This represents the first time since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic that foreign nationals, as long as they are vaccinated, have been able to obtain entry permits into Israel to [visit](https://www.jpost.com/j-spot/traveling-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic-664551) parents, children and siblings for any reason at all. [As long as they are vaccinated! Note that. It didn’t say had a negative test it said vaccinated. One more episode of their division of society in Israel. – rdb]

Since the beginning of the pandemic it has been impossible for the foreign-national relatives of Israeli citizens to visit without good reason, such as weddings, births and other milestones.

And since the end of January this year, it has been extremely difficult for foreign-nationals to visit their close relatives in Israel even for such critical life cycle events, as reported on in depth by The Jerusalem Post.

But last week, after activists and government ministers including Aliyah and Integration Minister Pnina Tamano-Shata lobbied for a change, the Population and Immigration Authority of the Interior Ministry relaxed these restrictions.

And Israelis – olim (immigrants) for the most part – are now reporting that requests by parents and children are being approved.

Activists dealing with the issue, as well as applicants for such entry permits, are also reporting that the application process, while complex and relatively burdensome, is actually working and applications are being approved.

According to former MK Dov Lipman, who has played an outsized role in assisting Israelis and their foreign-national relatives to enter the country in recent months, the system for obtaining approvals for non-Israelis to visit their relatives is working relatively smoothly.

Lipman said that most Israeli consulates are processing the applications efficiently and, leading to entry permit approvals issued in a timely fashion for those who qualify.

Likewise, branches of the Population and Immigration Authority in Israel, where Israelis can submit the documentation of their relatives, are also for the most part dealing efficiently with the applications.

In some situations, Lipman said that the authority’s branches are more efficient and streamlined in their application approval process than the consulates abroad.

DEENA MOSKOWITZ-HIKRI, an immigrant from the US who is pregnant and has a two-year-old child, filed an application with a local branch of the Population and Immigration Authority on Thursday through the New York consulate for her parents.

On Saturday night, their entry permits were already approved.

Moskowitz-Hikri, a resident of Tel Aviv, said she was very happy with the speedy processing and approval of the request, but noted that the amount of documentation required to apply was extremely burdensome, likening it to applying for college in the US.

She also pointed out that the requirement for documents proving the relationship between herself and her parents for apostille, a legal tool to verify official documents, was onerous and unnecessary since Israeli marriage licenses and identification documents specify the details of a citizen’s parents, obtained through previously verified documentation.

Seth, an immigrant from the US who preferred not to give his full name, said he had also submitted an application for his parents through the New York consulate but without all the requisite documentation, and that the application was denied without information about what else is needed.

Seth said Lipman helped him complete the application which he then physically submitted via an authority branch in Jerusalem – and it was approved within 20 minutes.

One problem Lipman highlighted, however, was that the new criteria for entry permits means that it is currently not possible for grandparents to come to the wedding of a grandchild since they are not first-degree relatives, nor is it possible for an under-16 sibling of a bride or groom, or of new parents, to gain an entry permit since they cannot be vaccinated yet.

Previously, unvaccinated foreign nationals could get entry permits provided they quarantined for the requisite amount of time.

“So far the system is working OK,” said Lipman.

“Most consulates are being responsive and people are getting approvals. The number of requests for help has actually increased as people seek help navigating the new rules,” he said.

“Those who want to apply in Israel should for sure reach out and I can guide them through the process,” Lipman said. There still are aspects which we are working to change – the apostille requirement, not allowing unvaccinated siblings to weddings, not allowing unvaccinated parents for births.

“But step by step. Progress has been made and we are continuing to work for better rules.” <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/entry-permits-for-foreign-nationals-now-being-granted-applicants-say-664838>

**Tel Aviv University reveals major breakthrough in battle against brain cancer**

***Researchers were able to inhibit secretion of a special protein to neutralize failure of the immune system caused by Glioblastoma, making first headway in possible future treatment***

*i24NEWS | Published: 04.11.21 , 19:45*

Tel Aviv University (TAU) announced a major breakthrough Sunday in understanding and treating one of the most aggressive forms of brain cancer — Glioblastoma.

"Glioblastoma is the deadliest type of cancer in the central nervous system, accounting for most malignant brain tumors," said Prof. Ronit Satchi-Fainaro, Director of the Cancer Biology Research Center and the Head of the Cancer Research and Nanomedicine Laboratory at Tel Aviv University's Sackler Faculty of Medicine.

"It is aggressive, invasive, and fast-growing, making it resistant to existing treatments, with patients dying within a year of the cancer's onset. Moreover, Glioblastoma is defined as a 'cold tumor', which means that it does not respond to immunotherapeutic attempts to activate the immune system against it," she added.

Initially, the researchers identified an unusual failure in the brain's immune system, which not only did not inhibit the cancer, it actually amplified the cell division and spread of Glioblastoma cancer cells. This is due to the presence of a protein - P-Selectin (SELP).

Researchers were able to inhibit the secretion of the SELP protein, thereby neutralizing the failure in the immune system, restoring its normal activity, and blocking the spread of this incurable cancer.

The Tel Aviv Unversity team collaborated with neurosurgeons from the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center (Ichilov) who supplied Glioblastoma tissue samples removed during surgery and also with neurosurgeons from Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Maryland) and the Lieber Institute in the U.S.A, who supplied healthy brain tissues from autopsies.

Satchi-Fainaro emphasized that the new study may have lifesaving therapeutic implications. She hoped that the fact that the treatment inhibiting SELP has been proven safe in humans, will pave the way for relatively rapid approval of a clinical trial repurposing the new treatment for Glioblastoma.

"Unfortunately, Glioblastoma patients need new treatments immediately. Our treatment may be the needed breakthrough in the battle against the most daunting cancer of all," she said according to a TAU statement.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/HkSedteIO>

**KKL-JNF approves West Bank land purchases, pending final authorization**

***Back in February, the KKL-JNF Board of Directors voted to approve – in principle – KKL-JNF land purchases in the West Bank, for the first time in the organization’s history.***

*By* [*JEREMY SHARON*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jeremy-sharon) *APRIL 11, 2021 22:35*

Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael - Jewish National Fund Executive Committee has narrowly approved a previous decision to purchase land in the [West Bank](https://www.jpost.com/tags/west-bank), paving the way for final approval of the new policy later this month.

Back in February, the [KKL-JNF](https://www.jpost.com/tags/jnf) Board of Directors voted to approve – in principle – KKL-JNF land purchases in the West Bank, for the first time in the organization’s history.

The decision caused consternation among liberal and left-wing groups in Israel and the Jewish world, who argued that KKL-JNF funds should be used for goals and projects which have consensus-backing from the Jewish people both in Israel and around the world, bearing in mind that the organization is funded by donations from the Diaspora as well as by the Israeli government.

Right-wing and religious officials in KKL-JNF however, have lauded the proposals, said they will strengthen the settlement movement, and insisted that the decision is a democratic one based on the narrow majority enjoyed by the right-wing in the national institutions.

On Sunday, KKL-JNF’s executive committee approved the specific land purchases detailed in a proposal to buy property close to and abutting existing settlements in Judea and Samaria, in order to allow them to expand.

The vote on the proposal was tied six votes to six, but due to a clause within the recent World Zionist Organization’s coalition agreement as to what happens in the event of a tied vote, the vote of one of the committee members from the left-wing, liberal block was discounted, allowing the motion to be passed.

Discussion of the proposal on Sunday lasted about an hour.

A final decision on the land purchases will now be made by the KKL-JNF board of directors on April 22. MORE -<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/kkl-jnf-approves-west-bank-land-purchases-pending-final-authorization-664849>

**Lebanese minister expands claim over disputed maritime area with Israel**

***Michel Najjar tells news conference amendment would add around 1,400 square kilometers to the exclusive economic zone claimed by Lebanon, throwing negotiations with Israel into jeopardy***

Reuters | Published: 04.12.21 , 14:20

Lebanon's caretaker public works and transport minister said on Monday he had signed a document expanding Lebanon's claims in its maritime border dispute with Israel.

The amendment would add around 1,400 square kilometers to the exclusive economic zone claimed by Lebanon in its original submission to the United Nations.

The document now needs to be signed off by Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, minister of defense and president ahead of submission to the U.N. for a formal claim to register the new coordinates for the area.

"I expect it will be signed as everyone, the minister of defense and the prime minister and the president are concerned about this," minister Michel Najjar told a news conference.

Negotiations between old foes Lebanon and Israel were launched in October to try to resolve the dispute about their maritime border that has held up hydrocarbon exploration in the potentially gas-rich area.

The talks, a culmination of three years of diplomacy by Washington, have since stalled.

Israel already pumps gas from huge offshore fields but Lebanon has yet to find commercial gas reserves in its own waters.

Lebanon, in the throes of a deep financial meltdown that is threatening its stability, is desperate for cash as it faces the worst economic crisis since its 1975-1990 civil war.

"We will not give up any inch of our homeland or a drop of its waters or an inch of its dignity," Najjar said. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/BJW69jZI00> [HUMM. This could cause another conflict. – rdb]

**Jordanian king and Prince Hamzah appear together for 1st time since palace feud**

***Hamzah seen for first time since he was placed under a form of house arrest amid accusations he was involved in a ‘malicious plot’ to destabilize kingdom***

*By* [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) *Today, 3:45 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP21101417820127.jpg)

***This photo from the Royal Court twitter account, shows Jordan’s King Abdullah II, center, Prince Hamzah bin Al Hussein, second left, and others during a visit to the tomb of the late King Hussein. Members of the Jordanian royal family Sunday marked the centenary of the establishment of the Emirate of Transjordan, a British protectorate that preceded the kingdom. (Royal Court Twitter Account via AP)***

Jordan’s King Abdullah II and his half brother Prince Hamzah made their first joint public appearance Sunday since a palace feud last week.

Members of the Jordanian royal family marked the centenary of the establishment of the Emirate of Transjordan, a British protectorate that preceded the kingdom. The royal palace released a photo with Abdullah II, Prince Hamzah, Crown Prince Hussein and other dignitaries at the grave of King Talal in Amman, Jordan’s capital.

Hamzah was seen for the first time since he was placed under a form of house arrest amid accusations he was involved in a plot to destabilize the kingdom.

The king and prince had a rare public rift last week, with Abdullah II portraying it as an act of sedition involving his half-brother. At least 18 other people were detained in connection with the plot.

HM King Abdullah II, HRH Crown Prince Al Hussein, and TRH Princes El Hassan bin Talal, Feisal bin Al Hussein, Ali bin Al Hussein, Hamzah bin Al Hussein, Hashim bin Al Hussein, Talal bin Muhammed, Ghazi bin Muhammed, Rashid bin El Hassan visit tomb of HM the late King Abdullah I [pic.twitter.com/pmnqN1YILV](https://t.co/pmnqN1YILV)

— RHC (@RHCJO) [April 11, 2021](https://twitter.com/RHCJO/status/1381209241369903104?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Jordanian authorities had accused Hamzah, the former crown prince, of involvement in a “malicious plot” along with two other senior officials. Hamzah denied the allegations.

Abdullah and Hamzah are both sons of the late King Hussein, who ruled for almost a half-century until his death in 1999.

Jordan has long been seen as a relatively stable western ally in the Middle East in a turbulent region. But the past year of the coronavirus has rocked the country’s largely tourism-dependent economy. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jordanian-king-and-prince-hamzah-appear-together-for-1st-time-since-palace-feud/> [Jordam may have been ”Stable” but there has been an almost constant sub rosa quiet conflict going on for years. There are frequent demonstrations in Amman and many of the King’s detractors have been quite open and verbal about the leaders abuses of the system and desire to have him removed and their governance restructured. – rdb]

**Muslims sue Facebook for allowing sites exposing jihad violence**

***Web page operator warns internet about to be cleansed of such information***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 11, 2021 at 12:54pm*

Robert Spencer, whose [Jihad Watch](https://jihadwatch.org) website documents the violence inflicted by Muslim extremists, is warning that such information may be cleansed from the internet.

He explains it's because of a new lawsuit against Facebook complaining of "anti-Muslim hate groups."

And the problem, [writes Spencer,](https://www.jihadwatch.org/2021/04/anti-free-speech-muslim-group-sues-facebook-for-not-removing-jihad-watch-and-other-sites-opposing-jihad-violence) is that an Islamic activist group with influence on Capitol Hill is describing as "hate" groups legitimate organizations such as Jihad Watch, the David Horowitz Freedom Center and the Center for Security Policy.

"Anyone who has been paying attention can see what is coming. This site and the others targeted will disappear from Facebook and ultimately from the Internet altogether, whether as a result of this suit or some other. This suit itself has a very good chance of succeeding, as Muslim Advocates is extremely powerful and influential," Spencer wrote.

He cited a [report from tech news site Engadget](https://www.engadget.com/muslim-advocates-sues-facebook-183132654.html) of a "consumer protection lawsuit" accusing Facebook executives Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg of misleading Congress and falsely stating the company "removes content that violates its policies.'

It is an organization called Muslim Advocates that alleges "anti-Muslim hate" is all Facebook, causing "real-world harm."

Spencer wrote: "As one example of Facebook’s failures on the matter, the organization points to a list of 26 anti-Muslim hate groups it shared with the company. Of those, 19 still have a presence on the network, and many have names with obvious anti-Muslim connotations, such as 'Jihad Watch' and 'Understanding the Threat.'"Bottom of Form

Mary Bauer, a lawyer for Muslim Advocates, charged Facebook allows "pervasive content that persists despite academics pointing it out.

"Facebook has made a decision to not take this material down," he said.

Facebook's policy states: "We do not allow hate speech on Facebook and regularly work with experts, nonprofits, and stakeholders to help make sure Facebook is a safe place for everyone, recognizing anti-Muslim rhetoric can take different forms." [Recording terrorism is not hate speech it is factual reporting. If you don’t want it on facebook then tell your terrorist Islamic friends to stop it. – rdb]

Spencer noted Engadget "never even for a moment considers the possibility that some or all of these groups have been unfairly characterized, and neither does any other media story I have seen on this suit."

"Neither Engadget nor any other 'news site' reached out to me for comment, or, apparently, to anyone else involved with the targeted groups, as none of the stories about this suit contain a single quote from anyone except Muslim Advocates and Facebook." MORE -<https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/muslims-sue-facebook-allowing-sites-exposing-jihad-violence/>

**Federal government at heart of 'vaccine passport' movement**

***'This kind of system will play a role in multiple aspects of life'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published April 10, 2021 at 3:10pm*

(AMERICAN THINKER) – The Biden administration – arguably the most extremist executive regime in terms of its threat to civil liberties in recent history – is currently engaged in a coordinated effort to develop and introduce "vaccine passports" to the American public: "[The Biden administration is] currently working with a range of companies on the standards, including non-profits and tech companies[.] ... Multiple government agencies are engaged in conversations and planning, coordinated by the White House, as this kind of system will play a role in multiple aspects of life."

Specifically, the federal Department of Health and Human Services has been at the helm of the coordination of the "vaccine passport" program: "The administration's initiative has been driven largely by arms of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including an office devoted to health information technology, said five officials who spoke to the Post on the condition of anonymity." <https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2021/04/federal_government_at_the_heart_of_vaccine_passport_development.html> [In case you thought this was just a ‘consideration’ you need to ‘consider’ that again. Israel has devastated people who chose NOT to vaccinate. In case you are interested you would do well to listen to part of this video (start at 58 minutes lasts about 50 minutes but worth it)with Israeli Rabbi Chananya Weissman testifying to the Corona Investigative Committee Germany (a German legal rights group) )[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqYSx4mskVA&t=3507s**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqYSx4mskVA&t=3507s)-rdb]

**Getting Frank: Mike Lindell's new social-media site debuts this week**

***'Americans are craving news and information that is not filtered'***

*By* [*Joe Kovacs*](https://www.wnd.com/author/jkovacs/) *Published April 11, 2021 at 6:59pm*

PALM BEACH, Florida – Mike Lindell's new social-media site called "Frank" is set to debut this week, according to the inventor of MyPillow and supporter of former President Donald Trump.

Last Tuesday, Lindell said on [Gab](https://gab.com/RealMikeLindell/posts/106015943847516506), another free-speech site: "Coming next week ... a social media platform like no other!"

As of Sunday evening, the [site](http://frankspeech.com) was displaying a "coming soon" page, with a message stating:

"Free speech is one of the hallmarks of our Constitutional Republic, as enshrined in the Bill of Rights. It is no coincidence that nations that have free speech also have a free enterprise system and freedom of religion.

"Inversely, nations that deny free speech tread upon the free enterprise system and freedom of religion. Americans want to remain free. Americans are craving news and information that is not filtered through the radical worldview of today’s liberal media intelligentsia, or deep state actors.

"Frank, the voice of free speech, will be the platform for Americans who want to defend life, liberty, and all the freedoms that have marked America as the longest running Constitutional Republic in the history of the world. On this platform you will find a home where you can post videos, livestream television, distribute news and information, and find community and fellowship with likeminded Americans.

"Frank will be a home for major influencers, to micro influencers, to average Americans wanting to share in the constitutional right of freedom of speech and freedom of expression. We hope you will join our community and let freedom ring."

It also includes a link to [LindellTV](https://lindelltv.com/), where the pillow entrepreneur has videos maintaining his claim there is scientific proof that the 2020 presidential election was illegally stolen from President Trump.

Charisma News [reported](https://www.charismanews.com/culture/84849-mike-lindell-announces-new-social-media-platform-frank) one aspect of Lindell's Frank platform will be dedicated to investigation regarding the 2020 race.

"We have hired the best investigators and resources and are working hard to backtrack the various aspects of the election," Lindell said.

"When we get through this, we will see the greatest revival in history that will restore our beloved America, and this is why we have hope. ... Buckle up, chin up and get ready. And do all you can from where you are, beginning with prayer efforts where you live. Let's all start believing God for what He is doing and be proactive in standing for the Lord Jesus Christ!"

Frank will have plenty of competition in the marketplace of sites rebelling from left-leaning Big Tech sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Among right-leaning, free-speech sites that have emerged in recent years are Gab, Parler, Find.com and USA.life.

And, as [WND reported](https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/hottest-ticket-social-media-trump-launch-platform/) last month, Trump himself, one of the most prolific users of social media in American history, will soon be launching his own social platform, according to one his representatives.

"I do think that we're going to see President Trump returning to social media in probably about two or three months here, with his own platform," Trump senior adviser Jason Miller told Fox News' "#MediaBuzz."

"And this is something that I think will be the hottest ticket in social media, it's going to completely redefine the game, and everybody is going to be waiting and watching to see what exactly President Trump does." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/getting-frank-mike-lindells-new-social-media-site-debuts-week/> [This could be most interesting. Reading the ‘rule’ when you sign up could be most informative. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**Biden Spends 4 Times More to House Illegal Aliens Than on Troops**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*April 11, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/04/biden-spends-4-times-more-to-house.html)

When the Democrats decided to launch their unconstitutional military occupation of Washington D.C., they summoned 26,000 National Guard troops from all over the country to serve as a captive audience for Biden’s inauguration in an empty city living in fear. Those troops were made to sleep on cold marble floors in the Capitol and later in a cold parking garage. They were fed tainted meat, food with metal shavings and worms, resulting in illnesses and hospitalization.

The bill for this disastrous mess came to $483 million. Nothing but the best for the troops.  
 As the massive flood of illegal alien migrants poured across the border, some wearing Biden t-shirts, coming to receive the illegal amnesty that he had promised them, they got a better deal.  
 No cold parking garage floors for future Democrat voters and no food with metal shavings.  
 Instead, Biden delivered a $86.9 million contract to house 1,200 illegal migrants in hotels.  
 That’s nearly four times as much money being spent per migrant compared to the total amount of spending per soldier. And since only a portion of that $483 million even went to providing for the troops, the actual discrepancy behind those numbers is much higher than it appears.  
 In the past, Best Western, Comfort Suites, and Hampton Inn hotels have been used to house illegal migrant invaders. But the Biden administration and its Democrat allies sent 5,000 troops to rest on the floor of a parking garage with only two bathrooms in cold weather.  
 The Democrats tried to do as little as they could for the troops. Only when photos of soldiers sleeping on the floor in Congress went viral were cots actually provided for them. Then they were banished as an embarrassment, and only when the photos of the parking garage went viral was the order rescinded. Then again, only when photos of rotten food went viral, were there some feeble promises of an investigation, but no one was actually held accountable.  
 Unlike drug dealers, vagrant junkies, and illegal aliens, the Dems don’t care about the troops.  
 "The Guard is 90 some-odd-percent male, and only about 20% of white males voted for Biden," one Democrat House member told CNN "They're probably not more than 25% of the people that are there protecting us who voted for Biden.  
 Statistically, amnestied illegal aliens are going to provide much better voting returns than 25%. Why bother providing for Republican voters, when you can provide for Democrats instead?  
 The $86.9 million illegal alien contract spends an estimated $12,000 per migrant every month.  
 Or almost $400 a day.  
 Even those troops that were staying in hotels were getting $149 hotel rooms. That doesn’t buy you much in Washington D.C. Meanwhile illegal aliens are costing a fantastic $398 a day.  
 When President Trump brought in the troops to protect the White House from the Black Lives Matter hateful mob, they stayed at the Marriott Marquis for [$256 a night](https://viewfromthewing.com/5-hotel-facts-about-national-guard-troops-sent-to-d-c-for-the-protests/). And the illegal alien migrant mobs were staying in Mexico: instead of being dumped in small towns in Texas.  
 Under Biden, our soldiers get the worst, and the invaders from across the border get the best.  
 What are the illegal aliens getting for $398 a day? Aside from the digs and the food, there are the social services. It’s their first taste of the generous free welfare system that brought them here. And which they’ll be encouraged to keep voting for, legally or illegally, by the Democrats.  
 When Bill Clinton took office, there were bumper stickers reading, “There are homeless vets on the street and a draft dodger in the White House.” These days, Joe Biden, who got five draft deferments for asthma despite being a high school and college football player, is in the White House, while soldiers were sent to take breaks outside, and illegal aliens are housed in hotels.  
 Biden’s illegal amnesty push even included eliminating the term “illegal alien”. You can’t criticise Open Borders Biden for favoring illegal aliens when the term can’t even be used.  
 "Would you have tried to do this when Donald Trump was president?" ABC News' Martha Raddatz asked an illegal alien invader from Brazil.  
 "Definitely not," he replied. "We have a chance now."  
 “So did you come here because Joe Biden was elected president?" she inquired.  
 "Basically," he replied.  
 Illegal aliens are a key Democrat demographic. Even when they don’t vote, they prop up the ghost districts that wrongly provide Democrats with legislative seats. It’s why Democrats and their media fought so hard against reforming the census to inquire about citizenship.  
 The Democrat culture of corruption begins with fake districts, fake votes, and fake news.  
 Biden and the Democrats know who their supporters are. It’s why they’re fighting for amnesty and it’s why they treat their illegal alien invaders so much better than our soldiers.  
 The border crisis is not unexpected. It was inevitable.  
 The Democrats want to pretend that the arrival of the illegal alien mobs caught them by surprise. That’s a lie. And they want to pretend to be helpless in the face of their crisis even while they dump hordes of future Democrats in red states without even giving them a court date.  
 And when they’re not dumping them in red states in a bid to flip them down the road, they’re spending $12,000 a month to house them, feed them, and take the best possible care of them.  
 At taxpayer expense.  
 While millions of Americans are still suffering from the pandemic and its lockdowns, the Biden administration is conspiring to bring infected migrants into this country. While millions of Americans are out of work, Biden is giving away their jobs to newly arrived illegal aliens.  
 And while millions of Americans had their votes stolen, Biden is giving their votes to illegals.  
 That’s not just a crime: it’s a declaration of war on America.  
 Why is Biden spending far more on illegal aliens than on the troops? Because the illegal aliens marching to the border in Biden t-shirts are his real army. They’re the electoral army of a political invasion that is inflicting the will of D.C., Wall Street, and Big Tech on America.  
 The Democrats built walls in D.C. while shutting them down on the border. A Silicon Curtain has fallen over the free speech of America under the administration of contractors like Amazon and Google. Meanwhile the border between America and the world is as wide open as it gets.  
 The future of the Democrats isn’t in the small towns and farmlands of America they once claimed. Democrats revile the coal miners and factory workers they promised to defend. They loathe the ordinary working class people and the small business owners who built this country.  
 In their new Red Dawn, the socialists who imposed a military occupation on Washington D.C. now look to an invasion from south of the border to protect their tyrannical grip on power.  
 Biden’s army isn’t in Washington D.C. It’s not in any of the forts he’s determined to rename.  
 It’s coming across the border one vote and $398 a day at a time.  
 America’s soldiers sleep in the cold while the forces of the Democrat invasion sleep in hotels.

[*Daniel 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/2021/04/biden-spends-4-times-more-to-house.html>

**When ‘Science’ Conflicts With Reality**[*Derek Hunter*](https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/) *Posted: Apr 11, 2021 12:01 AM* If it weren’t so sad and devastating to people’s lives, we would be living in the middle of one of the greatest comedies of all time. Democrats are scrambling to understand why their policies related to COVID are failing while Republican policies are succeeding. There is no explanation they can see, none they can accept, because leftists are incapable of even entertaining the possibility that they could be wrong. About anything.   
 Infection rates are surging to near record levels…in states with lockdowns and mask mandates, and they are sinking in states without them. So-called experts like Dr. Anthony Fauci can’t explain this, which means no one in media can either since he’s the only person they believe on the subject, no matter what evidence contradicts him.  
 “Call it a ‘COVID conundrum,’ in states with the strictest measures in the country, like Michigan, Pennsylvania, and much of New England, cases are on the rise,” [a Today Show report this week started](https://twitter.com/TODAYshow/status/1380134029765263360). “While in the south, states like Arkansas and Texas that have reopened businesses and ripped away mask mandates are seeing their numbers drop.”   
 It’s like watching a child slowing beginning to question the existence of Santa Claus…but not quite get there. At least not yet.   
 How can it be that Texas, a state roundly condemned by Democrats and the media when they announced an end to mask mandates, hasn’t transformed into a killing field? How could cases drop? They still run stories about how bad things are in Florida, which never closed schools or issued mask mandates, even though they’ve never come close to the number of cases and deaths of New York, a state with 2 million fewer residents.   
 Narrative has overtaken reality with the left and they won’t let it go.   
 “So what might explain the apparent contradiction?” the Today Show asked. “Difference is testing rates?” they wondered.   
 Alabama’s infection rates have dropped, “more than 50 percent in the last 2 weeks,” they report. How did it happen? “But it’s also dead last in the US for COVID testing,” they said, with “only 56 tests per 100,000 people. That’s a fraction of what you’ll find in places like Vermont (1420 per 100,000), Massachusetts (1259 per 100,000), and New York (1084 per 100,000) where numbers are surging.”   
 Those numbers are all true, but it makes no sense that a lack of testing is the issue, unless Alabama is overrun with people who are sick but not being tested. If this were the case, someone would notice. Someone would notice that hospitals in Alabama, or any of these states, are full of people with a mysterious, undiagnosed respiratory ailment, wouldn’t they? Might it be something else?  
 “When you don’t test, you’re blind. And when you’re not testing, you have a false sense of what the real problem is in your community,” an “expert” they interviewed said.   
 But this assumes something that doesn’t make any sense: that there are a lot of people, thousands or tens of thousands, in Alabama and these other states who are sick who aren’t bothering to get tested or seek medical care. You only need to get tested if you feel ill or have been exposed to someone who is, and neither is happening in the “free” states. In the middle of a pandemic, where testing is free and easy, and the possibility of death, while remote, is still very real, why would that happen?  
 The “experts” don’t know, and they’re not interested in speculating or even acknowledging.   
 There is another possibility, one that will get you banned from Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and all other online platforms: that lockdowns and masks don’t work.   
 I’m not saying that masks don’t work for anything, the flu was non-existent this winter and you don’t hear anything about someone getting a cold, but COVID does not seem to have been impacted.   
 I’m no doctor, but maybe having to inhale harder than normal draws the virus deeper into lungs? Maybe masks can’t filter out a virus as small as COVID? Maybe restricting people to confined spaces inside, with little air circulation, isn’t the way to defeat this virus? Maybe it’s a way to make things worse? I don’t know the answer, but I do know the people who are supposed to be looking for the answers are not.   
 Science is the asking of questions and the pursuit of the answers, no matter where that pursuit leads. The COVID “experts” are married to the decisions they made at the start of this thing, unopened to the possibility that they were wrong; that there could be a different, even better, way. That’s a lot of things, none of which would be considered science. And they certainly wouldn’t get you booked on TV.  
 *Derek Hunter is the host of a free daily podcast (subscribe!), host of a daily radio show on WCBM in Maryland, and author of the book, Outrage, INC., which exposes how liberals use fear and hatred to manipulate the masses. Follow him on Twitter at @DerekAHunter.* <https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/2021/04/11/when-science-conflicts-with-reality-n2587717>

**The Truth About Energy, Part 2***By* [*Roger Anghis*](https://newswithviews.com/author/roger/)*|April 11th, 2021* Looking at our energy today we saw the disaster in Texas with the windmills and the solar that supports about 18% of their total power.  If it snows hard neither are reliable.  Liberals are pushing for alternative sources for energy which I don’t think is bad but until we have an alternative source that is reliable 100% of the time as fossil fuels are, we shouldn’t even consider replacing fossil fuels.  In the United States, 80% of our power comes from fossil fuels and only about 3.4% comes from wind and solar combined even though there have been decades of government subsidies to encourage their use.[1] Texas proved that neither are reliable during the winter months.  Keep in mind that these green new deal proponents actually believe that if the government is allowed to control the energy which also means they will have to control transportation, manufacturing, and agriculture that wind and solar will miraculously be able to supply 100% of our power.  They also believe that taxing companies that produce a lot of CO2 will reduce the amount of CO2 being introduced into the atmosphere.  Yes, they are that stupid.  
 We’ve been hearing for decades that rising water levels will literally bury nations if not stopped.  In 1989 the UN produced a report stating that very thing would happen by 2000 if global warming wasn’t stopped.[2]  Well, 2000 came and went and no nation was wiped off the face of the Earth because of rising sea levels or any other reason.  Man’s use of CO2 has added some CO2 to the atmosphere and from the mid-1900s to today we’ve gone from .03% to .04% in the atmosphere but we have to understand that man isn’t the only one putting CO2 into the atmosphere.  The Earth itself produces CO2 primarily from active volcanoes.  One volcano can produce as much CO2 as 250 million to 300 million automobiles but this information has been scrubbed from the internet because it destroys their man-made global warming narrative.  There are over 1500 active volcanoes above ground and 30,000 on the continental ridge in the Atlantic ocean.  One that has been dormant for over 4000 years just became active last week.  Man’s input to the CO2 ‘nightmare’, .0036%.  This means that we have literally no significant effect on ‘climate change’ at all.  If we stopped emitting CO2 there would be no change in climate change whatsoever.  Facts our liberal friends ignore and refuse to tell you.  
 Other CO2 facts they don’t tell us is that in that same period of time we have experienced global greening.  That is because CO2 is plant food.  When plants are exposed to higher contents of CO2 their root system increases and fruit output increases.  Elevated CO2 enhances plant growth. Carbon dioxide is the substrate for photosynthesis and, when elevated, both carbon assimilation and water use efficiency generally increases. ***Stimulation of root system development associated with increased growth implies more rooting, which, in turn, implies the possibility of increased water and nutrient capture. Microbes mediate carbon and nutrient flows within the soil, and CO2-induced changes in the structure and function of plant root systems may lead to changes in the microbiology of both rhizosphere and soil. Enhanced plant growth further suggests greater delivery of carbon to soil, and thus, potentially greater soil carbon storage. Soil is a vital reservoir in the global carbon cycle. Sequestration of soil carbon is closely linked to nutrient cycling. Root growth, rhizosphere microbiology, nutrient cycling and availability, and carbon storage in soils are integrally linked and have important implications for plant health***.[3] Many have suggested that greenhouses that grow food would be wise to add a CO2 machine because the higher levels of CO2 could give you 30%-50% higher yields. ***Plants can actually use much more than the naturally occurring carbon dioxide – as much as up to 1000-1200ppm – and using additional carbon dioxide to enrich your grow room’s air can have a brilliant effect on plant growth. Your plants will grow stronger and faster, and you can expect a 30-50% rise in yields as long as all your other growing conditions are at the optimal level.***  
 ***However it should be noted that using too much can also be harmful – don’t go overboard! Too much and the ability to transpire is reduced, affecting photosynthesis and the amount of nutrients that the plant can access. You can check CO2 levels in a few different ways, one of them being with the***[***Evolution Digital Carbon Dioxide Controller***](http://www.hydroponics.co.uk/co2-controller-6799.html)***. This controller will tell you just how much is present in the air and will help you to control the amounts easily***.[4]  
 Looking back through history science can prove that at one point in time we had ten times the CO2 levels of today and the average temperature was 25 degrees higher than we have now.  More facts the climate change fear mongers conveniently forget to tell you.  Then there’s the report from the International Disaster Data Base states that climate-related deaths from floods, storms, extreme heat, and drought have been plummeting as CO2 levels have been rising.  It was the fossil fuels that empowered us to properly heat and cool our buildings, build stronger buildings, develop mass irrigation and weather warning systems.  We should continue to look for lower-carbon energy but it should provide more energy than fossil fuels not less as wind and solar do.[5]  
 We do have an energy source that is carbon-free and provides much more energy than fossil fuels and that is nuclear power.  It has been given a bad reputation because of some man-made accidents but is by far the most efficient energy source we have at this time; Sweden gets 40% of its power from nuclear and France gets 70%.  No other source can provide the dependable energy we must have to keep America running as fossil fuels and nuclear power.  Both are in the sites of the organizers of the New Green Deal because neither of them will give these groups the money and power they are demanding to control every person on the planet which is their goal.  And they don’t care what it costs you for them to attain that power.  
 **Foot Notes**  
 <https://www.prageru.com/video/whats-the-deal-with-the-green-new-deal/>  
 <https://www.prageru.com/video/whats-the-deal-with-the-green-new-deal/>  
 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780124603707500097>  
 <https://www.hydroponics.co.uk/news/the-importance-of-co2-in-your-hydroponic-grow-room/>  
 <https://www.prageru.com/video/whats-the-deal-with-the-green-new-deal/>  
 <https://newswithviews.com/the-truth-about-energy-part-2/>

You might do well to read this one as well concerning France. You have to figure it will be coming to the US…

**France: Macron Gave Up Fighting Radicalism***by* [*Guy Millière*](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Guy+Milli%C3%A8re) *April 11, 2021 at 5:00 am* November 1, 2020. Didier Lemaire, a high school teacher who works in Trappes, a small town west of Paris, published an [open letter](https://www.nouvelobs.com/societe/20201101.OBS35509/lettre-ouverte-d-un-prof-de-trappes-comment-pallier-l-absence-de-strategie-de-l-etat-pour-vaincre-l-islamisme.html) in the left-wing magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur*. He spoke of the murder of Samuel Paty, another teacher, savagely [beheaded](https://www.parismatch.com/Actu/Societe/Prof-d-histoire-decapite-l-assaillant-etait-un-Russe-tchetchene-de-18-ans-ne-a-Moscou-1707848) two weeks earlier by a Muslim extremist. He denounced the submission of the French authorities to religious intimidation and the impossibility of the French school system being able to transmit any real knowledge of history or to give students the intellectual means to think freely. He said that in just a few years, the situation in the city where he worked has [deteriorated](https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/2018/03/11/01016-20180311ARTFIG00158-trappes-l-islamisation-toujours-galopante.php) markedly. Lemaire wrote:  
 "The year I arrived in the high school where I teach, the city's [synagogue](https://www.leparisien.fr/yvelines-78/incendie-de-la-synagogue-l-enquete-repart-19-03-2002-2002907715.php) had just been burned down and Jewish families forced to leave. After the 2015 and 2016 attacks in France, I got involved in preventive actions.... In 2018, seeing that my efforts collided with forces much more powerful than me, I wrote to the President of the Republic to ask him to act urgently to protect our students from the ideological and social pressure exerted on them, a pressure which gradually withdraws them from the national community. Unfortunately, no action was taken.... MORE -

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/17270/france-macron-radicalism>

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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**

**Iranian FM Zarif promises 'revenge' for Natanz incidents**

***'Zionists want to take revenge for success in lifting sanctions,' Iran FM Mohammad Javad Zarif claims.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 12 , 2021 9:00 AM*

Iran Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has blamed Israel for the incident at Iran's nuclear facility, promising revenge.

"Zionists want to take revenge for the success in the path of lifting the oppressive sanctions, but we will not allow it," Zarif said.

He promised: "We will take revenge for these actions from Zionists themselves."

On Sunday, [an electrical disruption](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304119) at the Natanz nuclear facility was reported to have destroyed the facility's internal power system.

Two intelligence officials told *The New York Times* on Sunday that it could take [at least nine months](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304153) to restore Natanz’s production, since the explosion had dealt a severe blow to Iran’s ability to enrich uranium. They also claimed there had been an "Israeli role" in the incident. https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304166

**Report: Iran will retaliate for Natanz explosion - but not directly**

***Iran's response to the Natanz events will be to indirectly attack Israel, Israeli security organizations estimate.***

*Kobi Finkler , Apr 12 , 2021 12:15 PM*

Israel's defense establishment is holding discussions on how Iran might respond to the recent events at its Natanz nuclear facility.

On Sunday, an explosion at the facility led to the [disruption of its electrical grid](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304119) and the cessation of production of IR-6 centrifuges.

All of Israel's security organizations agree that Iran will respond to the two latest attacks attributed to Israel - one of which [occurred earlier this month](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/299751) in the Red Sea - and this estimate will be presented to the Diplomatic-Security Cabinet next week.

However, according to the estimates, Iran will search, and is currently searching, for ways to react that will not implicate them.

The attack may be on Israeli representatives abroad, embassies or Israeli facilities, or it may be a cyber attack on Israeli infrastructure such as water, electricity, banks, and so on. Another option would be a focused operation including several missiles fired from the Golan Heights, similar to what happened [in 2019.](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/264296)

Regardless, the estimate is that there will be no direct conflict in the immediate future, both because of Iran's upcoming elections in June and because of the nuclear talks in Vienna.

At the same time, the defense establishment is not taking chances, and Israeli representatives around the globe have been ordered to remain on high alert. Israel is also taking many actions on the ground, such as placing batteries, reinforcing security in the air, and many diplomatic actions such as speaking with US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and his staff.

"We are not resting on our laurels and praise," a security source said. "Every week, operations are conducted in both close and far-off areas, to distance the danger from us. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304181>

**Former MK Anat Berko: Israel will continue to disrupt Iran's attempts at nuclear power**

***The former MK and security expert stresses the importance of disrupting Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, as the regime continues to wreak havoc in the Middle East.***

*Akiva Spiegelman , Apr 12 , 2021 10:03 AM*



ח"כ ענת ברקו צילום: לשכת ח"כ ברקו

Following [threats made by Iran Foreign Minister Zarif](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304166), Arutz Sheva reached out to former MK and retired IDF lieutenant colonel Anat Berko, previous Head of the Cyber Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, for her response regarding recent events.

"The State of Israel will not accept threats from Iran," Berko said. "Just days after Holocaust Remembrance and Heroism Day, we carry the existential threat with us, so anyone who wants to harm us must pay attention. The historical lesson was acknowledged by us all."

"Therefore, we will do everything possible to stop the Iranian regime from reaching nuclear weapons. Iran is led by a radical Shiite regime, which has undermined stability in the Middle East and collapsed and harmed Sunni Arab countries. It has acted as a constant disruptive force. What will happen when it carries out the subversive terrorist activities under a nuclear umbrella?

"Everything that Israel does in this matter, and I do not claim that Israel is responsible for the latest actions, are actions of self-defense. This is an extremist and apocalyptic Iranian regime that seeks to eliminate the Jewish state, so it is important that our allies understand this and stand by our side."

Dr. Berko served in the IDF for 25 years where she achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel. Dr. Berko holds a PhD in criminology from Bar-Ilan University and is the author of The Path to Paradise: The Inner World of Suicide Bombers and Their Dispatchers, and The Smarter Bomb: Women and Children as Suicide Bombers. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304168>

**Shots fired at Palestinian Arab carjacker in Samaria**

***Arab suspect steals car, flees from police in central Samaria - only to crash into other vehicles during chase. Shots reported.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 11 , 2021 10:59 PM*

**ירי לעבר גנב רכב פלסטיני בשומרון** **צילום:**צבי שמשי

A Palestinian Arab carjacker stole a car in Samaria Sunday night and led police on a chase before crashing into other vehicles.

The incident occurred near the Giti Avishar Junction west of Ariel, when the suspect stole a car and fled the scene.

Police pursued the suspect, who eventually crashed the vehicle into several other cars.

Witnesses reported that shots were fired during the incident.

IDF forces have been dispatched to the scene, along with additional police units and MDA emergency first responders. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304147>

**Officials: It will take Iran 9 months to fix damage at Natanz**

***Intelligence officials tell New York Times that the fire at Iran's Natanz nuclear facility was caused by a large explosion that completely destroyed its internal power system.***

*Elad Benari , Apr 12 , 2021 4:12 AM*



***Natanz nuclear facility in Iran Reuters***

Two intelligence officials told The New York Times on Sunday that [the fire at the Natanz nuclear facility](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304132) in Iran was caused by a large explosion that completely destroyed the independent — and heavily protected — internal power system that supplies the underground centrifuges that enrich uranium.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the explosion had dealt a severe blow to Iran’s ability to enrich uranium and that it could take at least nine months to restore Natanz’s production.

The intelligence officials said there had been an “Israeli role” in the incident. Israel has not publicly confirmed or denied involvement in the incident.

It was not immediately clear how much advance word — if any — the Biden administration received about the Natanz operation, which happened on the same morning that US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was visiting Israel, noted *The New York Times*.

Earlier on Sunday, [an Iranian official blamed "sabotage"](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304119) for the disruption of the electrical distribution grid of the Natanz nuclear facility.

Malek Shariati Niasar, the spokesman for the Iranian parliament’s energy committee, wrote on Twitter that the accident, which occurred one day after the plant began enriching uranium, was "very suspicious" and speculated that it was caused by “sabotage and infiltration.”

Iran has stated that there were no casualties or radiation leakage from the incident.

Iran’s top nuclear official [condemned the attack](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304140) on the country’s uranium enrichment plant at Natanz as an act of “nuclear terrorism”, and hinted that Iran may retaliate. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304153>

**Deri, Smotrich and Gafni refusing to give rotation to Bennett**

***Channel 12 News commentator Amit Segal: Even if Netanyahu and Bennett go together, Smotrich vehemently refuses to go to a government that relies on Ra'am.***

*Ben Ariel , Apr 12 , 2021 12:08 AM*

Aryeh Deri, Moshe Gafni and Bezalel Smotrich, the leaders of the parties in the bloc with supports Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, are not prepared that in the negotiations on the formation of a government, Netanyahu will propose to Yamina chairman, Naftali Bennett, a rotation in the role of Prime Minister, *Channel 12 News* reported on Sunday.

Deri, Gafni and Smotrich argue that it is inconceivable to give Bennett a rotation - when they have more power than he does or the same power as he does.

*Channel 12 News* political commentator Amit Segal said, "Even if Netanyahu and Bennett go together definitively, the problem is Smotrich, who vehemently refuses to go to a government that relies on the votes of Ra'am - so in such a situation, Netanyahu cannot form a government - and the dates on which the mandate to form a government is still in his hands are running out without any significant progress on the horizon."

And if Netanyahu does reach a dead end in the contacts and sees that he has no government - will he choose to realize the scenario of his election as the next President? According to *Channel 12 News*, Netanyahu will choose to run for President only if it becomes clear to him that he has no ability to form a government and that his opponents intend to form an alternative government.

In such a case, in order to prevent the loss of the Likud's power, he may "step aside" in order to enter the Presidential Residence, but he will not take on the role without first leading a move that would stop his trial. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304148>

**Ramadan kareem: UAE Issues do's and don'ts for Israeli tourists during month of Ramadan**

***The friendly reminder was issued to the UAE Hebrew Twitter page in cooperation with the local Chabad branch.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 11 , 2021 5:25 PM*

Earlier today (Sunday), and in preparation for the month long Ramadan during which Muslims are expected to put more effort into following the teachings of Islam, the United Arab Emirates has issued guidelines specifically meant for Israeli tourists visiting the region during this time span.

The guidelines, written in Hebrew via the Hebrew language UAE Twitter page, features a Chabad graphic design showcasing do's and don'ts to be acknowledged and followed closely.

The post calls to greet Muslim encounters between April 12th and May 12th with 'Ramadan Kareem' or 'Ramadan Nadiv'. It also calls to dress in modest clothes covering ones knees and shoulders. Lastly, the post invites all visitors to enjoy the night coming to life with the traditional end of fast feasts.

The post warns to refrain from drinking and eating in public unless located in designated areas. In order to avoid confusion they recommend eating meals at the hotels. It is requested not to chew gum in public during the entire Ramadan. Lastly, it is requested visitors not listen to loud music, as it may be interpreted as hurtful towards those observing the holiday.

The end of the post features a subtle warning, explaining the Ramadan is a calm and quiet period of time. The post is cross-shared with the page of the Alliance Rabbis Islamic States. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304129>

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**04/11/2021 NEWS AM –**

**SIMCHA LEINER | Ribono**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pTpdY6\_oBY**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pTpdY6_oBY)

Master of the world, I plead to You with all my heart in this prayer… That You lead me to a righteous path and teach me the way of the Torah That You guide me with Your truth and I and my household should merit to serve You with love and awe. I plead to You…

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| **"It is, therefore, a fact of law and of practical necessity that individuals are responsible for their own personal safety, and that of their loved ones. Police protection must be recognized for what it is: only an auxiliary general deterrent." -- Peter Alan Kasler Author Source: SELF-RELIANCE FOR SELF-PROTECTION (Sonoma, CA, Mesquite Mountain Press, 1991)** |

**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 AS – post knee replacement – some problems and another one scheduled.**  **Pray for TR – abnormal Mammogram having double biopsy – Mastectomy Scheduled**  **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 24:51Behold! Rebekah *is* before you, take *her* and go. And let her become the wife of the son of your master, as Jehovah has spoken. 52And it happened when the slave of Abraham heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth to Jehovah. 53And the slave brought out vessels of silver and vessels of gold and garments, and he gave to Rebekah. And he gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.**

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| **Interview with Vera Sharav- A holocaust survivor on today’s medical situation.**  [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2dmpCH\_Sfg&t=16s**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2dmpCH_Sfg&t=16s)  **This is a bit long but you would do well to listen. She is providing a chilling account of what occurred in Germany and what is going on today.**  **This is a literal OMG of the highest order!** |

**Accident’ hits Iran’s Natanz nuclear site, day after advanced centrifuges start**

***State TV provides few details about electrical problem; on Saturday, Rouhani inaugurated cascades of IR-6s and IR-5s at same plant, in open breach of nuclear deal***

*By* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:38 am*

Iran’s Natanz nuclear site suffered a problem Sunday involving its electrical distribution grid just hours after starting up new advanced centrifuges that more quickly enrich uranium, state TV reported. It was the latest incident to strike one of Tehran’s most-secured sites amid negotiations over the tattered atomic accord with world powers.

State TV quoted Behrouz Kamalvandi, a spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), announcing the incident. Kamalvandi said there were no injuries or pollution caused by the incident.

The word state television used in its report attributed to Kamalvandi in Farsi can be used for both “accident” and “incident.” It didn’t immediately clarify the report, which ran at the bottom of its screen on its live broadcast.

The AEOI did not immediately issue a formal statement about the incident on its website.

Israel has been blamed for [an attack](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israels-alleged-natanz-strike-as-complex-as-stuxnet-a-major-blow-to-iran/) on an advanced centrifuge development and assembly plant at Natanz in July. It has also been blamed, together with the US, for the Stuxnet virus that sabotaged Iranian enrichment centrifuges a decade ago.

Tehran and Jerusalem are currently believed to be engaged in a maritime shadow war, with both sides blaming the other for explosions on vessels. MORE -<https://www.timesofisrael.com/accident-hits-irans-natanz-nuclear-site-day-after-advanced-centrifuges-start/> [My oh my! Iran seems to have more accidents. – rdb]

**On its ‘National Nuclear Technology Day,’ Iran starts up advanced centrifuges**

***In open breach of nuclear deal, Rouhani inaugurates cascades of IR-6s and IR-5s at Natanz uranium enrichment plant, warns the West will be ‘big loser’ if sanctions aren’t lifted***

*By* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 12:47 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP21100417551393.jpg)

In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Presidency, President Hassan Rouhani, second right, listens to head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi while visiting an exhibition of Iran's new nuclear achievements in Tehran, Iran, Saturday, April 10, 2021. (Iranian Presidency Office via AP)

Iran announced on Saturday that it has started up advanced IR-6 and IR-5 centrifuges that enrich uranium more quickly, in a new breach of its undertakings under the troubled 2015 nuclear agreement.

It also said it has begun mechanical tests on an even faster nuclear centrifuge: The output of Iran’s IR-9 centrifuge, when operational, would be 50 times quicker than the first Iranian centrifuge, the IR-1. Iran’s nuclear program is also developing IR-8 centrifuges.

President Hassan Rouhani officially inaugurated the cascades of 164 IR-6 centrifuges and 30 IR-5 devices at Iran’s Natanz uranium enrichment plant in a ceremony for National Nuclear Technology Day on Saturday broadcast by state television.

The broadcast aired no images of the cascades but broadcast a link with engineers at the plant who said they had introduced uranium hexafluoride gas to the cascades after receiving the order from Rouhani.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP21100417382817.jpg)

In this photo taken and released on Saturday, April 10, 2021, by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, a new IR-9 centrifuge is displayed in a ceremony to commemorate Iran’s new nuclear achievements in Tehran.(Atomic Energy Organization of Iran via AP)

The IR-5 and IR-6 centrifuges allow uranium to be enriched more quickly and in greater amounts than Iran’s first-generation devices, which are the only ones that the 2015 deal allows it to use.

Rouhani reiterated during the ceremony that Tehran’s nuclear program is solely for “peaceful and civilian” purposes. “If the West looks at the morals and beliefs that exist in our country, they will find that they should not be worried and sensitive about our nuclear technology, but because they themselves have used this technology [inappropriately], they think that we will do the same,” Rouhani said, according to Iran’s [Mehr news agency](https://en.mehrnews.com/news/171908/All-Iran-s-nuclear-activities-peaceful-civilian-Rouhani). [Really? If you believe that you are in need of some major educational efforts because your discernment of true and false and right and wrong is deficient. – rdb]

On Friday night, a spokesperson for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said the country was enriching material at a rapid pace — in violation of the nuclear deal — adding that should “Western parties” continue to delay the lifting of sanctions, they would be the “big loser.”

“The number of our centrifuges and the amount of enriched (nuclear) material are increasing rapidly,” said Behrouz Kamalvandi in comments broadcast on Instagram and [cited by the Tasnim news agency](https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2021/04/10/2481914/iran-s-centrifuges-enriched-nuclear-material-rising-spokesman) Saturday.

[#Iran](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Iran?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)'s state TV today broadcast first images of the country's advanced IR-9 centrifuges, with atomic energy chief Salehi explaining to President Rouhani what the "s" in IR-9s means.

The IR-9 machines are undergoing mechanical testing and are not yet operational. [pic.twitter.com/DuRiEO6jlA](https://t.co/DuRiEO6jlA)

— Kian Sharifi (@KianSharifi) [April 10, 2021](https://twitter.com/KianSharifi/status/1380814108753281025?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The new violation comes amid a new report Friday by the UN’s nuclear watchdog indicated a fresh breach by Iran of its nuclear obligations and ongoing talks in Vienna this week to revive the nuclear accord. The Biden administration engaged in indirect dialogue with Iran for the first time this week by communicating with the Iranian delegation through European intermediaries. [For a group that is saying they want to revive an accord which puts limits on them, this is certainly a strange way to display your genuine intent. – rdb]

The talks broke for the weekend on Friday with a senior US official suggesting the US and Iran [may be at an impasse](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-official-suggests-possible-impasse-with-iran-on-nuclear-talks/) over Tehran’s demands to lift all sanctions imposed under the Trump administration since 2017.

Also Friday, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a report released Friday that Iran had again violated limits on its stockpile of enriched uranium, [according to Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-iaea/u-n-atomic-watchdog-reports-new-iranian-breach-of-nuclear-deal-idUSKBN2BW2VO?il=0).

The IAEA report does not explicitly say that Iran violated the deal’s terms, but the agency releases such reports when a breach occurs. Diplomatic sources told Reuters that the report indicated that a breach of the deal had occurred.

The 2015 deal placed strict limits on Iran’s uranium stockpile. The IAEA determined on Wednesday that Iran had violated those limits by recovering uranium from items called scrap fuel plates.

“On 7 April 2021, the Agency verified at the Fuel Plate Fabrication Plant at Esfahan that Iran had dissolved six unirradiated scrap fuel plates for the TRR [Tehran Research Reactor] containing 0.43 kg of uranium enriched up to 20% U-235,” the report said according to Reuters.

The amount of new enriched uranium is relatively small but threatens to derail talks being held to revive the deal.

Iran met with the deal’s signatories in Vienna this week. The talks broke Friday, with no clear signs of progress.

The US said it had offered “very serious” ideas on reviving the nuclear accord but was waiting for Tehran to reciprocate.

US President Joe Biden hopes to return to the 2015 agreement, which his predecessor Donald Trump had trashed as he launched a “maximum pressure” campaign in hopes of bringing Tehran to its knees. [“Bi-dumb” and his cohort are terminally evil they aren’t really stupid. They simply want to bring the world down so that the New World Order (thank you GHWBush) can rapidly come into play and begin the reset. Part of the reset is based on depopulation and what better way than with ‘an event’ like this. If you have been very careful and watching you will have noted that most of the “mega- players” in the world like the Gates, Schwab, the Musks, and many previous and present world leaders have sequestered for themselves significant long term ‘security arrangements’ for protection. Gates has a huge seed vault in northern glacial Norway. The Bush’s have a compound Paraguay. If you do your research you will find that the majority of these folks have been making plans for years for this kind of event. – rdb]

A US official told reporters Friday that the US team “put forward a very serious idea and demonstrated a seriousness of purpose on coming back into compliance if Iran comes back into compliance.”

But the official said the United States was waiting for its efforts to be “reciprocated” by Iran.

“We saw some signs of it but certainly not enough. There’s still question marks about whether Iran has the willingness to… take the pragmatic approach that the United States has taken to come back into compliance with its obligations under the deal,” he said.

Biden argues that the 2015 nuclear deal negotiated under former president Barack Obama had been successful, with UN inspectors saying Iran was meeting its promises to scale back nuclear work dramatically. [That is just one more of his lies. – rdb]

Iran has demanded that the United States first lift all sanctions imposed by Trump, which include a sweeping unilateral ban on its oil exports, before it falls back in line with obligations it suspended. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-starts-up-advanced-centrifuges-in-new-nuclear-deal-breach/> [while this sounds a bit strange, but when you think of it, by pushing their nuclear concentration program up to warp speed, the Iranians may well be placing a bet on the fact that the action will scare the DC crooks into submitting to their demands and releasing the sanctions immediately so that the DC crooks will think that will stop Iran from their plans. Iran’s last comments were that there will be no more conditions added to the accord which means that the IAEA would still have major roadblocks placed before them in order to try to do significant inspections. As I recall military locations and others were literally “SELF reporting” by the Iranians. – rdb]

**Iran boasts of '133 nuclear achievements' after Vienna talks**

***Tehran is saying it will do whatever it wants regarding the enrichment of uranium.***

By [SETH J. FRANTZMAN](https://www.jpost.com/author/seth-j-frantzman)   APRIL 10, 2021 18:45

Iran says that it has unveiled 133 new nuclear achievements made by the country’s experts in different areas of the nuclear industry.

The claim came amid a call from President Hassan Rouhani in which he “unveiled the nuclear achievements in the provinces of Tehran, Markazi, Isfahan, Alborz and Qom to mark the 15th anniversary of National Nuclear Technology Day,” Iran’s Press TV said. The achievements included quantum, enrichment, heavy water and deuterium compounds, radiopharmaceuticals, lasers, and other astounding successes, the Islamic Republic says.

“On Rouhani’s order, Iranian experts began injecting gas into a new generation of centrifuges at Natanz enrichment facility. Iran also began the mechanical testing of IR-9 centrifuges and launched an assembly line for its new generation of centrifuges,” Tehran says.

This is a major message to the US after the [Vienna talks](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/iran-nuclear-deal-participants-to-continue-talks-next-week-eu-664681) in which Tehran and Washington agreed to establish working groups. America could try to return to the 2015 JCPOA "Iran Deal" but Iran is driving a hard bargain. It has violated the deal through enrichment while the US walked away in 2018.

“Iran showed to the world the peaceful nature of its nuclear program by signing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with six world states – namely the US, Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China – in 2015,” it says. "The nuclear deal was also ratified in the form of a UN Security Council Resolution: 2231." [That is another Iranian muslim lie, which is aka Taqiya – telling a lie about anything if it advances your cause for the promulgation of Islam. – rdb]

That Iran claims its nuclear program is entirely peaceful and not aimed at a bomb leads to questions about why the US needed the 2015 deal in the first place. The deal was supposed to block Iran from developing a bomb for some 15 years in exchange for sanctions relief and giving it the right to enrich uranium and stockpile some of it over those years. Iran was also freed from sanctions on its proxy activities, financing terror and building long range missiles.

The Trump administration reversed these policies, slapping on sanctions and designating the IRGC as terrorists, shutting off some Iranian funding for groups like Hezbollah. Critics of the Biden administration are concerned that the US is running back to embrace Iran and a deal; the administration says it isn’t.

IN THIS context, Iran is saying it will do whatever it wants regarding enrichment. It started gas supply to a new generation of centrifuges in Natanz.

“On the 15th anniversary of National Nuclear Technology Day, by order of the President, gasification of new generation centrifuge machines was carried out in Natanz enrichment complex and also IR-9 centrifuge mechanical test was started and the new generation centrifuge assembly center was put into operation,” Iran says.

Fars News in Iran also had a front page story about these nuclear successes. Ali Akbar Salehi, head of the Atomic Energy Organization, also spoke at the ceremony today, stating that despite all restrictions and sanctions, various projects in the field of nuclear science and technology have been pursued with vigor.

Which achievements were unveiled and exploited? Design, construction and commissioning of the second phase of industrial production units of various compounds in Arak’s heavy water complex are one example, Fars says. In addition, there is the opening and operation of another facility in Arak. Six nuclear technology projects in the field of enrichment were created at Natanz. The facility was sabotaged last year and advanced centrifuges were allegedly damaged.

In addition Iran says it has completed “design, manufacture and operation of 5 kW and 10 kW fiber laser… Inauguration of the National Center for Quantum Technologies in Tehran; Inauguration of the National Center for Isolation and Development of the Application of Stable Isotopes in Fordow and Qom… Acquisition of knowledge and production of 110 isotopic biomolecules required in the neonatal screening kit… Production of uranium hexafluoride semi-industrial enzymes; production of four radiopharmaceuticals and diagnostics, design and manufacture of a spin-test machine; the construction and assembly of the first prototype of the IR-9S and IR-9IB centrifuges; and the design and construction of 3D laser printing of metals were among the projects that were inaugurated today by the order of the President.”

THIS IS quite a laundry list. “It is worth mentioning that these achievements were unveiled and exploited in Isfahan, Markazi, Alborz, Tehran and Qom provinces,” says Fars. This indicates the scale of the achievements. Some 164 IR-6 centrifuges are in operation with gas being injected into them, the article notes. Mechanical testing of IR-9 centrifuges is also taking place to test their separation capabilities.  According to Fars, the new generation centrifuge assembly center was also put into operation today.

According to reports, a study was begun two years ago at the Arak heavy water reactor that has led to a second phase of industrial production. Salehi also boasted last year about this, although Iran said much of the recent work relates to medical issues.

For instance, there were advances in a center in Arak for a hospital that could treat people with radiation burns and radiation accidents. It was not clear why Iran needs this unless its nuclear program has many accidents. Fars says that there was progress on “construction and equipment to provide services to burn patients and possible radiation accidents, and the second phase of the hospital has been designed near the emergency department.” [Planning for retaliation from other players when they send off their rockets which can carry nuclear material to most any capitol in Europe and the Middle East????? – rdb]

Regarding Natanz, the article notes that while work dates to 2015, last year there was a “terrorist act [and] part of the infrastructure of this center was destroyed.” However a new center for assembling centrifuges has now been completed. “With this measure, in which all the localization power of the country has been used, from now on, the production of new centrifuge machines will be done without any trouble and there will not be the slightest disturbance in this process,” Iran says.

It appears that Tehran believes its advanced centrifuges [could enrich uranium to higher amounts.](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/iran-begins-use-of-advanced-ir-6-centrifuges-report-664738) For instance, the IR-4 centrifuges had been enriching to 5% while advanced centrifuges were then put to use enriching to 20% by March 2021. Iran has some 19,000 centrifuges at Natanz and Fordow. It was enriching uranium to 3.4% for its Tehran research reactor. The higher level of enrichment is not necessary. Iran was also alleged to be producing 5% low-enriched uranium for the Arak reactor.

In November 2020, Iran had only around 1.7 tons of uranium enriched to 4.5%. Under the 2015 deal, it was supposed to not exceed 300 kg. of 3.67% enriched uranium. Iran appears to be saying it can exceed these levels much more in the coming months or years.   <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-boasts-of-133-nuclear-achievements-after-vienna-talks-664744> [Folks this is simply evil and extremely ominous. If you haven’t been reading your scriptures including the Prophets you need to get to work because there are too many things that should be raising your alert sensors with all this going on. Remember some of the scriptural descriptions are metaphorical so you have to think about what something may represent when reading it. – rdb]

**‘No 5th election’: Anti-Netanyahu protests return amid ongoing deadlock**

***Demonstrators urge party leaders to form a ‘change’ government in wake of inconclusive election results***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:55 pm*

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| [Israelis protest against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at a junction near Tlalim, southern Israel, on April 10, 2021 (Courtesy: The Black Flags)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/photo_2021-04-10_18-04-51.jpg)  Israelis protest against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at a junction near Tlalim, southern Israel, on April 10, 2021 (Courtesy: The Black Flags) | Israelis protest against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the entrance of Beersheba, on April 10, 2021 (Courtesy: The Black Flags) |

Protesters against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rallied across Israel on Saturday evening, calling upon politicians to unite against the long-serving leader and establish a new government, in order to prevent the country from heading into a possible fifth round of elections.

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.

“Yes to the change government — No to the incitement government,” was the slogan for Saturday’s demonstrations, the Black Flags protest group said in a statement.

“After four elections that wounded the people of Israel, there is a clear outcome — the people have determined they want a change government,” the group said.

With the March election results continuing the political deadlock of the past three elections over the last two years, it is unclear that either the bloc that supports Netanyahu or the bloc that opposes him will be able to form a government.

“We call on all party leaders who have promised change for the people of Israel — do everything to form a ‘change’ government, fifth elections are not an option” the Black Flags added.

Another protest group, Ein Matzav (“No Way” in Hebrew), which [dismantled](https://www.timesofisrael.com/protest-encampment-outside-netanyahus-residence-dismantled-before-elections/) its protest encampment outside the premier’s official residence in Jerusalem days before the election, told the Haaretz daily the encampment would return shortly.

The demonstrations in Jerusalem Saturday were mostly peaceful, as protestors marched from Prime Minister’s Residence to the President’s. Footage from the scene showed police forces attempting to clear the demonstrators away from President Ruvi Rivlin’s official residence, known as Beit HaNassi.

המשטרה מנסה לפנות מפגינים שהגיעו למחות מול בית הנשיא בירושלים[@SuleimanMas1](https://twitter.com/SuleimanMas1?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/Sw7RdLJdza](https://t.co/Sw7RdLJdza)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [April 10, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1380958354877583362?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

On Friday, 15 demonstrators who called upon Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit to remove Netanyahu from his position, a few dozen meters from Mandelblit’s home, were arrested for allegedly “disturbing the peace” within a residential neighborhood, Haaretz reported.

Demonstrators have been holding regular protests for months against Netanyahu, demanding he resign over his trial on charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust.

At its height in mid-summer 2020, the anti-Netanyahu protest movement saw tens of thousands take to the streets in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, with thousands more at bridges and intersections across the country.

One of the largest demonstrations so far was held on March 20, in what was the [final mass protest before the latest Knesset elections](https://www.timesofisrael.com/thousands-protest-against-netanyahu-in-final-pre-election-demonstration/). Tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered in Jerusalem on that Saturday evening.

Protesters have also criticized his government’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

[pic.twitter.com/9F7oGC3i29](https://t.co/9F7oGC3i29)

— קומי ישראל (@kumiiisrael) [April 10, 2021](https://twitter.com/kumiiisrael/status/1380911617815289858?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

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. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/no-5th-election-anti-netanyahu-protests-return-amid-ongoing-deadlock/>

**Amid coalition talks, Abbas said weighing new speech on commitment to Israel**

***Reports say Ra’am chief would also reject Hamas in bid to ease path to potential cooperation with the right; is also said to prefer Netanyahu-led government***

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

Ra’am party leader Mansour Abbas is considering making a political speech in which he will stress his commitment to Israel, in order to ease the path toward his acceptance by right-wing parties, according to a number of reports over the weekend.

Abbas’s support, likely from outside a government, is seen as crucial to the formation of any potential coalition following the March 23 election. But right-wing parties have been loath to cooperate with the Islamist, non-Zionist party. Religious Zionism, led by Bezalel Smotrich, has ruled out the possibility entirely. Some right-wingers accuse Abbas of being a supporter of the Hamas terror group.

According to reports on Channel 13 and Kan, Abbas is weighing a speech in which he would reject terrorism and assure the general public of his dedication to the country. According to Kan, it was Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud that was pressing for such a speech, in order to create pressure on Smotrich into agreeing to cooperate with Abbas.

Abbas already made a landmark [primetime speech](https://www.timesofisrael.com/raam-leader-abbas-calls-for-arab-jewish-coexistence-based-on-respect-equality/) on April 1, in which he called for Jewish-Arab coexistence in Israel “based on mutual respect and genuine equality.” [That in itself is amazing if he actually means it. – rdb]

According to Channel 13, in closed conversations, Abbas has said he prefers a right-wing government led by Netanyahu, which he thinks would be more capable of helping his constituency than one composed of parties from across the political spectrum.

Netanyahu was this week tasked with forming a government by President Reuven Rivlin. He currently has the support of 52 lawmakers, and is in discussions with Yamina’s Naftali Bennett. Bennett’s support would get him to 59, leaving him dependent on Abbas with Ra’am’s four seats to get a majority in the 120-sear Knesset. MORE -<https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-coalition-talks-abbas-said-weighing-new-speech-on-commitment-to-israel/> [The political wrangling will destroy Israel just as it has done in the past millennia. Both the first and second diaspora were largely the result of inter group political wrangling and backbiting. – rdb]

**Israel may have reached a ‘sort of herd immunity’ from COVID, expert says**

***Eran Segal says virus cases down 97% since January as result of successful vaccination drive, additional restrictions can safely be lifted***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *11 April 2021, 12:50 am*

Israel may have reached “a sort of herd immunity” and can safely ease further restrictions, a top expert said Saturday.

With over 4.9 million Israelis fully vaccinated, the number of daily coronavirus cases has plummeted by 97 percent, Eran Segal, a computational biologist at the Weizmann Institute of Science, told Channel 12.

“It is possible that Israel has reached a sort of herd immunity and regardless, we have a wide safety net,” Segal said. “I think that makes it possible to remove some of the restrictions immediately.”

 Segal underlined that with most Israelis immunized, the reopening of swathes of the economy and gatherings over the Purim and Passover holidays did not contribute to a spike in cases.

Eran Segal (courtesy of Eran Segal)

If confirmed, Israel could be the first country in the world to hit the milestone of herd immunity.

Last week, researchers at University College London said the United Kingdom would reach herd immunity by Friday, though the claim was immediately [disputed.](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/09/ucl-team-claim-covid-19-herd-immunity-achieved-uk-disputed-scientists)

Israel in recent months has significantly rolled back coronavirus restrictions by opening businesses, event venues and other activities, as morbidity levels have dropped amid the country’s world-leading vaccination drive.

The Health Ministry is widely expected to lift the outdoor mask mandate this month.

Some caps on gatherings and in schools remain in effect, however.

Israel also currently limits the number of people who can enter and exit the country each day, fearing the spread of variants that could undermine the effective vaccination program.

Government ministers on Thursday voted to further ease coronavirus restrictions at schools, scrapping the requirement that fourth graders learn in smaller class sizes. Ministers also ended the requirement for students to present a health declaration signed by their parents to enter the classroom, while allowing universities and colleges to hold all tests in-person. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-may-have-reached-a-sort-of-herd-immunity-expert-says/>

**Real-world Israeli data shows South African variant better at bypassing vaccine**

***Strain is more effective at ‘breaking through’ the Pfizer shot than others, Israeli scientists find, in first-of-its-kind study***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 8:08 pm*

The South African variant of the coronavirus is notably more adept at “breaking through” the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine than other variants are, Israeli scientists have found, in a first-of-its-kind real-world study.

Israel has used the Pfizer vaccine almost exclusively to vaccinate millions of citizens, with a version by Moderna, based on similar innovative mRNA technology, used minimally.

A team from Tel Aviv University and the Clalit healthcare organization sequenced the swabs of 150 Israelis who tested positive for COVID-19 despite having been vaccinated.

In their study, the prevalence of the South African strain among vaccinated individuals who were infected despite their inoculation was eight times higher than its prevalence in the unvaccinated infected population. Though the number of such infections among the vaccinated was relatively small, the findings indicated that this variant was far more successful in getting through vaccinated individuals’ defenses than other strains.

“Based on patterns in the general population, we would have expected just one case of the South African variant, but we saw eight,” Prof. Adi Stern, who headed the research, told The Times of Israel. “Obviously, this result didn’t make me happy.”

She said that the results show that the South African variant, compared to the original strain and the British variant, “is able to break through the vaccine’s protection.” However, she said that the sample size is too small to put a figure on its increased ability. [The next question is were the positive test patients actually sick? That is really all that matters and has ever mattered. The next question is when will Israel wake up and start treating people with early symptoms as outpatients with HCQ or Ivermectin so they don’t end up hospitalized and dead? – rdb]

“We can say it’s less effective, but more research is needed to establish exactly how much,” she said.



Professor Ran Balicer, head of innovation at Clalit, Israel’s biggest health services provider, in Tel Aviv, on June 10, 2020. (EMMANUEL DUNAND / AFP)

Prof. Ran Balicer, director of research at Clalit, said the study was “very important.” “It is the first in the world to be based on real-world data, showing that the vaccine is less effective against the South African variant, compared to both the original virus and the British variant,” he said.

 Balicer added that the results call for continued vigilance against the coronavirus, including social distancing and wearing masks in indoor spaces, to prevent infection.

“These preliminary findings necessitates close continued attention to the dissemination of this strain in Israel, emphasizing the need for epidemiological monitoring and systematic sequencing, in order to contain further spread of the South African variant in Israel,” he said.

Prof. Adi Stern of Tel Aviv University’s School of Molecular Cell Biology and Biotechnology (courtesy, Tel Aviv University)

The research, which has been posted online but not yet peer-reviewed, is likely to raise questions about [Pfizer’s own real-world study,](https://www.forbes.com/sites/palashghosh/2021/04/01/pfizer-biontech-vaccine-protects-against-south-african-variant-highly-effective-against-disease-for-six-months-updated-trial-data-shows/?sh=4b93641e6ff9) which found that in South Africa, despite the local strain being prevalent, the vaccine was 100 percent effective.

The Tel Aviv research appears to corroborate [a recent study from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev](https://www.timesofisrael.com/pfizer-vaccine-less-effective-against-south-african-variant-israeli-study-finds/), which found that the vaccine response is less effective against the South African variant. It drew its conclusion by analyzing blood samples, while the new research is based on actual sequenced test results.

Stern emphasized that the South African variant remains uncommon within the vaccinated population, and stressed that the study does not precisely indicate the level of protection against the variant, because its prevalence in Israel is very low – about 1% of all cases.

The study also examined the so-called British variant’s ability to break through the vaccine’s defenses, compared to the original strain. No difference was found in the UK variant’s ability to infect fully vaccinated individuals (after two doses). However, it was more able to infect partially vaccinated individuals than the original.

In Israel, the massive spread of the extra-contagious British variant starting in early January — to the point that it now accounts for more than 90% of COVID cases — is believed to have been responsible for a major wave in the first months of the year, slowing the exit from the pandemic.

But Stern said it may well have had a silver lining: In the battle between variants, the British is far stronger, and may well be keeping the South African at bay.

“It is possible that the extensive spread of the British variant is blocking the spread of the South African variant,” she said. “Because it spread so effectively, it basically didn’t allow the South African variant to spread — it won the competition.”

With more than half the population fully vaccinated, the pandemic is now on the decline, with new daily infections in the low hundreds. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/real-world-israeli-data-shows-south-african-variant-better-at-bypassing-vaccine/>

**Brain meshed with computer, a monkey plays ‘Pong’ hands-free**

***Elon Musk startup Neuralink puts chip in macaque’s brain that lets it play video game with its mind; system could be used to help paralyzed people, keep humanity ahead of AI***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 6:48 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/Untitled-18-2.jpg)

A macaque plays pong with its mind as a part of a project by Elon Musk startup Neuralink. (Screenshot/YouTube)

SAN FRANCISCO, California — Elon Musk’s startup devoted to meshing brains with computers was closer to its dream on Friday, having gotten a monkey to play video game Pong using only its mind.

Musk has long contended that merging minds with machines is vital if people are going to avoid being outpaced by artificial intelligence.

A video posted on YouTube by the entrepreneur’s Neuralink startup showed a macaque monkey named “Pager” playing Pong by essentially using thought to move paddles that bounce digital balls back and forth on screen.

“To control his paddle, Pager simply thinks about moving his hand up or down,” said a voice narrating the video. “As you can see, Pager is amazingly good at MindPong.”

Neuralink devices were implanted on two sides of Pager’s brain to sense neuron activity, then the monkey played the game a few minutes using a joystick to let software figure out the signals associated with hand movements.

Pager’s reward was banana smoothly served through a straw when he successfully batted the digital ball from one paddle to the other, according to the demonstration.

After a few minutes, the “decoder” program figured out what neuron signals to look for and the joystick was no longer needed for Pager to play the game.

“A monkey is literally playing a video game telepathically using a brain chip!!” Musk tweeted triumphantly.

The decoder could be calibrated to enable a person to guide a cursor on a computer screen, potentially letting them type emails, text messages, or browse the internet just by thinking, according to a blog post at neuralink.com.

“Our first goal is to give people with paralysis their digital freedom back,” the Neuralink team said in the post.

Members of the team last year shared a “wish list” that ranged from technology returning mobility to the paralyzed and sight to the blind, to enabling telepathy and the uploading of memories for later reference — or perhaps to be downloaded into replacement bodies. MORE -<https://www.timesofisrael.com/hands-free-elon-musk-startup-has-monkey-play-video-game-with-its-mind/> [Does this sound totally bizarre and freaky and impossible??? I have news for you it is NOT. One of the major topics of discussion by those in the World Economic Council is the use of Artificial Intelligence and the ability to literally “merge AI, and robotics with the human brain. They want a human – mechanical merger -WHICH they will be able to “NURTURE” a nice way to say control. Think of this a bit. If the eugenic concept which is prevalent in the WEC with the likes of Gates and Schwab (a former Nazi) and others is to occur (maybe like a nuclear war) they would need a smaller group of individuals to help control the production processed to help keep them living in the style to which they have been accustomed. You really need to start digging deep into some of the video’s which have been capture of these creeps where they have openly made comments concerning these issues. It is NOT a conspiracy theory because they openly have made such comments. The is a very evil agenda going on with these folks and as a matter of interest the demon-rats and a lot of the rino’s in the GOP have been aware of it and consider themselves to be part of the ruling class and therefore safe. . – rdb]

**St. Vincent Volcano: Only those vaccinated for COVID-19 can evacuate - PM**

***The decision does not appear to be his, but rather was made by the neighboring island nations of Barbados, Grenada, Antigua and St. Lucia, who said they would only accept fully vaccinated refugees.***

*By* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff)*, REUTERS   APRIL 11, 2021 02:43*

Only those who have received the COVID-19 vaccine will be able to safely evacuate from St. Vincent after the Caribbean island nation's [La Soufriere volcano erupted on Friday](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/explosive-volcanic-eruption-rocks-caribbean-island-st-vincent-664691), the country's Prime Minister Ralph Gosalves said in a press conference Saturday.

Giving a press conference with his face visibly welling up with tears, the Vincentian prime minister explained that cruise ships had volunteered to transport the island's residents to nearby Caribbean islands for shelter, but only vaccinated people would be allowed to board.

“The chief medical officer would be identifying the persons already [vaccinated](https://www.jpost.com/tags/coronavirus-vaccine) so that we can get them on the ship,” he told reporters.



***People walk on the side of a road as smoke and ash billow in the background from La Soufriere volcano after it erupted on the eastern Caribbean island of St. Vincent April 9, 2021. (photo credit: REUTERS/ROBERTSON S. HENRY)***

He explained the cruise ships "don't have enough personnel" to keep people on the ships, but can transport them.

The decision does not appear to be his, but rather was made by the neighboring island nations of Barbados, Grenada, Antigua and St. Lucia, who said they would only accept fully vaccinated refugees.

The island nation is home to some 100,000 people.

Last Thursday, the country began to take precautions, and had ordered the evacuation of homes in  the northern parts of the island due to a possible risk that La Soufriere could erupt.

The volcano had been dormant since 1979, with its last eruption causing around $100 million in damages. In 1902, an eruption killed over 1,000 people.

The Friday eruption caused ash and smoke and plunged the neighboring area into near total darkness, blotting out the bright morning sun, said a Reuters witness, who reported hearing the explosion from Rose Hall, a nearby village.

Smaller explosions continued throughout the day, Erouscilla Joseph, director at the University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre, told Reuters, adding that this kind of activity could go on for weeks if not months.

"This is just the beginning," she said.

The eruption column was estimated to reach 10 km (6 miles) high, the seismic research center said. Ash fall could affect the Grenadines, Barbados, St. Lucia and Grenada.[So much for all your global warming precaution stupid garbage. This will give more carbon emissions that a year’s worth from autos. – rdb]

Local media have in recent days also reported increased activity from Mount Pelee on the island of Martinique, which lies to the north of St. Vincent beyond St. Lucia. <https://www.jpost.com/international/st-vincent-volcano-only-those-vaccinated-for-covid-19-can-evacuate-pm-664781> [the fact that those countries would not allow evacuation the people is totally outrageous. The UN, WHO, WEC is killing the world by promulgation of fear. – rdb]

**Increased sunlight exposure linked to reduced coronavirus death risk**

***More exposure to sunlight seemingly lower the mortality risk of COVID-19, as there is a proven correlation between prolonged sunlight exposure in certain areas and a lower number of COVID deaths.***

*By* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff) *APRIL 10, 2021 12:32*

People who live in sunnier areas may have a lower risk of dying from the [coronavirus](https://www.jpost.com/health-science/israels-coronavirus-rules-changed-again-here-are-the-details-664626), a new observational study carried out in the US and replicated in Italy and [England](https://www.jpost.com/tags/england) suggests.

Researchers compared COVID-19 deaths with UV levels for the same period and found that sunnier areas are associated with fewer COVID-19 deaths.

The study, [published](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/bjd.20093) in The British Journal of Dermatology, found that the Mortality Risk Ratio – or the ratio between the likelihood of dying for a certain population group and the risk of death for all other population groups – in the US fell by 29% for every 100 KJ/meter squared increase in mean daily UVA. In Italy and England there was an estimated pooled decline of 32%.

Researchers are examining what could be behind this correlation with one possible explanation being nitric oxide that is released by the skin when it is exposed to sunlight. Some studies suggest that the skin's release of nitric oxide may reduce the ability of the SARS Coronavirus2 to replicate.

Another possible explanation is the fact that other studies have shown that increased exposure to sunlight is associated with fewer heart attacks and lower blood pressure, both factors that could possibly reduce the risk of dying from COVID-19.

This reduced risk could not be explained by vitamin D levels in the local population, according to the research. This is because the research was based in areas where UVB levels are to low to produce significant vitamin D levels in the body.

The study accounted for other known risk factors related to exposure and an increased risk of COVID death including age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, levels of infection in the area, air pollution, temperature and more.

Because the study is observational, it cannot establish cause and effect but researches say that if further studies determine that there is a causal effect, sunlight could act as a simple public health intervention. MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/health-science/increased-sunlight-exposure-linked-to-reduced-coronavirus-death-risk-664737> [SO get out in the sun and take vitamin D if you want to stay healthy and avoid the COV. – rdb]

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| **On the Vaccine**  This is short! This is Truth! Dr. Tenpenny on the vaccines and what it does and can do.  This lady does her research and is probably better educated on vaccines than 99.99 % of the docs in practice.  ONLY 4 minutes  [**https://brandnewtube.com/v/Zc624Y**](https://brandnewtube.com/v/Zc624Y)  **Leigh Dundas, Human Rights Attorney, Orange County, Vaccine, Covid, Testimony**  [**https://rumble.com/vfjsy9-leigh-dundas-human-rights-attorney-orange-county-vaccine-covid-testimony.html**](https://rumble.com/vfjsy9-leigh-dundas-human-rights-attorney-orange-county-vaccine-covid-testimony.html)  She speaks in rapid speed about the states trying to remove the consent for the jab - it is not a vaccine. Children are becoming the first victims.  Children cannot be sent to war, drink under age, drive underage, be drafted into the military because they are too young to give informed consent.  Informed consent can not be removed.  Parents better stand up for their kids.  The “vaccines” that are given in mass quantity to children has raised the level of autism to shocking numbers.  Autism is childhood vaccine related.  [This is about 2.5 minutes long Listen carefully! |

**YouTube purges DeSantis video with health experts on COVID-19**

***Panel featured Oxford, Stanford, Harvard scholars saying children don't need masks***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published April 9, 2021 at 8:47pm*

YouTube has purged a video of a panel discussion hosted by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis with health experts from Oxford, Harvard and Stanford whose advice informed his decision to ease COVID-19 restrictions last year.

The Google-owned video platform didn't like the fact that the experts thought children didn't need to wear masks, [reported The Wrap](https://www.thewrap.com/youtube-purges-florida-governor-video-over-claims-children-dont-need-to-wear-masks/). [More Cancel Culture and control the narrative. – rdb]

A YouTube representative said the position on masks violated YouTube's "COVID-19 medical misinformation" policies. [[Well YouTube has the wrong medical information/misinformation and has had for well over a year. – rdb]

The panel members at the forum in March were former White House coronvirus adviser Dr. Scott Atlas of Stanford University, Oxford epidemiologist Dr. Sunetra Gupta, Harvard professor Dr. Martin Kulldorff and Dr. Jay Bhattacharya of Stanford. [so YouTube knows more than these folks? Poppycock. – rdb]

The clip was posted on YouTube by the American Institute for Economic Research, which has [made the video available on its website](https://www.aier.org/article/great-barrington-declaration-scientists-with-gov-desantis-in-florida/).

The YouTube rep said the platform "has clear policies around COVID-19 medical misinformation to support the health and safety of our users." [MIND CONTROL – the hallmark of social media. – rdb]

“We removed AIER’s video because it included content that contradicts the consensus of local and global health authorities regarding the efficacy of masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19,” the rep said. “We allow videos that otherwise violate our policies to remain on the platform if they contain sufficient educational, documentary, scientific, or artistic context. Our policies apply to everyone, and focus on content regardless of the speaker or channel.”

***‘No scientific rationale’***

The YouTube’s censors didn't like an exchange in which Kulldorff, responding to a question by DeSantis, said "children should not wear face masks, no. "

"They don’t need it for their own protection and they don’t need it for protecting other people, either," the Harvard epidemiologist said.

Stanford's Bhattacharya said it is "developmentally inappropriate" for children to wear masks and it "just doesn’t help on the disease spread."

"I think it’s absolutely not the right thing to do," he said.

Bhattacharya said that "if we went back a year, a lot of experts would say that wearing masks for the general public is not evidence-based."

Later, Atlas said "there’s no scientific rationale or logic to have children wear masks in schools."

The World Health Organization’s guidance says children age 5 and under don't need to wear masks. It recommends that children between the ages of 6 and 11 wear them when they are in areas of “widespread transmission."  Children 12 and older "should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults," when they are indoors or within three feet of someone with whom they are talking.

However, one year ago, on April 6, 2020, the WHO said the "wide use of masks by healthy people in the community setting is not supported by current evidence and carries uncertainties and critical risks."

Just two months, later, however, as the pandemic surged, the WHO changed its stance without providing any evidence with randomized controlled trials.

On March 5, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control said masks "are usually not recommended in "non-health care settings."

But on Aug. 7, the CDC said it "recommends that people wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain."

The CDC's prior stance on masks was [once shared by White House coronavirus adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci, who said in a March 2020 "60 Minutes" interview](https://www.wnd.com/2020/05/mask-confusion-now-says-healthy-not-wear/) that in general, "people should not be walking around with masks."

"Right now in the United States, people should not be walking around with masks.

"You’re sure of it? Because people are listening really closely to this," he was asked.

"There’s no reason to be walking around with a mask. When you’re in the middle of an outbreak, wearing a mask might make people feel a little bit better and it might even block a droplet, but it’s not providing the perfect protection that people think that it is. And, often, there are unintended consequences – people keep fiddling with the mask and they keep touching their face."

Fauci since has insisted that he made the statement at the time because of the need to preserve a limited supply of masks for health-care professionals. But his rationale was science-based, consistent with the consensus prior to the coronavirus pandemic that the effectiveness of mask-wearing by the general public in slowing the spread of a virus like the novel coronavirus is unproven, and there's evidence it does more harm than good.

[The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons has compiled a page of “Mask Facts”](https://aapsonline.org/mask-facts/) that explains the basic science behind mask-wearing and summarizes a variety of studies.

***‘Chilling’***

[The Wall Street Journal editorial board said](https://www.wsj.com/articles/youtubes-assault-on-covid-accountability-11617921149?mod=e2two) it's "chilling" that YouTube appears to be "systematically undermining the ability to access material in the public interest."

Knowing what "officials and their advisers are saying" is "an essential democratic principle, and it’s as true for coronavirus response as any other policy challenge."

YouTube purged an interview with Atlas last September, the Journal noted. In January, it censored a U.S. Senate committee hearing on cheap, available coronavirus treatments that have been shown to be effective around the world, including hydroxychoroquine and ivermectin.

The Journal noted that in the video is removed this week, DeSantis and the four panelists "lambaste the U.S. coronavirus response as excessively draconian and ineffective."

“They emphasize unintended public-health harms from lockdowns and school closures, criticize mask mandates and generally celebrate Florida’s response.”

***‘Age-targeted strategy’***

Gupta, Kulldorff and Bhattacharya were part of a panel last September hosted by DeSantis that helped inform the governor's COVID-19 policy, [WND reported.](https://www.wnd.com/2020/09/florida-governor-hosts-expert-panel-that-condemns-lockdowns/)

[The three published a petition](https://www.wnd.com/2020/10/4859862/) in October called [The Great Barrington Declaration](https://gbdeclaration.org/), which has been signed by nearly 14,000 medical and public health scientists.

It states that as "infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists we have grave concerns about the damaging physical and mental health impacts of the prevailing COVID-19 policies, and recommend an approach we call Focused Protection."

Focused protection means allowing the healthy to go about their business while focusing on protecting the vulnerable. [What a brilliant idea. That is what we have been doing for the past 100 years. This episode is the first time in recent history that we have literally quarantined the health along with the ill. It is also one of the rare episodes where we tested people and diagnosed them with a disease which was considered potentially significant for some with co-morbidities and yet didn’t treat them until they were practically in extremis. The medical community including the AMA and state societies have been complicit with this charade and should be drawn and quartered for their part. The muzzling of physicians who were actually treating patients SUCCESSFULLY and trying to inform the profession and public should also lead to some very drastic consequences of the social and mainstream media as well as the government agencies. They are culpable for a genocide and with their current actions could incite another genocide. -rdb]

In the panel discussion with DeSantis last September, they argued for the "age-targeted strategy," contending lockdowns only make the pandemic worse.

Kulldorf insisted universities can hold in-person classes "almost normally" with very little risk, and there's no need for testing on campus.

DeSantis asked the professor if locking down "society as a whole" actually could increase risk to the elderly population, noting the CDC indicates a survival rate of 99.997% for ages 0-19, 99.98% for 20-49, 99;95% for 50-69 and 94.6% for over 70.

Kulldorf said yes, contending that a total lockdown extends the time it takes to reach herd immunity.

"What helps the elderly is if the young take this very minimal risk and live normal life until there is herd immunity, and then when we have herd immunity, the older people can also live more normal lives," he said.

The effectiveness of mask and social distancing mandates, testing and the role of herd immunity in stopping the spread also was discussed by the health experts.

Kulldorff argued that schools could reopen without enforcing mask-wearing, pointing out that in Sweden they remained open during the pandemic without masks.

Bhattacharya, who took part in an antibody study that concluded the number of COVID-19 infections is significantly higher than the estimates, said another lockdown in Florida "would be disastrous."

"At this point, we know that the benefits of a lockdown are small," he said.

"All they do is push cases off into the future; it doesn't actually prevent the disease from happening. And the costs are absolutely catastrophic, enormous," Bhattacharya said.

In fact, the White House and state and local governments back in March 2020 emphasized a strategy of "flattening the curve" or "slowing the spread." That was assumed to mean spreading out the cases over time -- not reducing them -- so that the health care system would not be overwhelmed.

Bhattacharya emphasized the sharp difference in mortality rate for younger people, pointing out it's lower than the seasonal flu.

A study by researchers at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, [WND reported last October](https://www.wnd.com/2020/10/study-closing-schools-actually-increase-number-covid-deaths/), concluded "school closures and isolation of younger people would increase the total number of deaths, albeit postponed to a second and subsequent waves." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/4906816/> [This article is a marvelous demonstration of the horrific blatant evil that has been and is being perpetrated on the worlds population. – rdb]

**Dems' plan applies 'Tesla tax' on poor consumers**

***Would demand taxpayers subsidize charging stations for pricey vehicles***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published April 10, 2021 at 3:16pm* ***By Oliver McPherson-Smith*** *Real Clear Energy*

At his inauguration address earlier this year, President Joe Biden called on Americans of all stripes to come together in the struggle against the pandemic, climate change, and social injustice. Little more than two months later, however, it seems that House Democrats on the Energy and Commerce Committee have all but forgotten this message of solidarity. As America continues to weather the pandemic, the recently released CLEAN Future Act will put struggling communities on the hook for the rollout of electric vehicle charging stations. This reverse Robin Hood ‘Tesla tax’ would make the poorest fund the luxuries of the wealthiest.

The Climate Leadership and Environmental Action for our Nation’s ([CLEAN) Future Act](https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/CFA%20Bill%20Text%202021.pdf) sets the ambitious goals of cutting greenhouse emissions to 50% of the 2005 levels by 2030, and net zero by 2050. To meet these targets, the bill spills over almost 1,000 pages of energy, transportation, and environmental regulations, grants, and mandates.

Hidden deep in the bill are a raft of provisions to expand the roll-out of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. [Section 435](https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/Section-by-Section%20of%20CLEAN%20Future%20Act%20117th.pdf), for example, will allow utilities to bill energy ratepayers to recover the costs of expanding EV charging networks. Similarly, section 205 enables the EPA administrator to make grants from a Carbon Mitigation Fund to install fast-charging electric vehicle infrastructure along urban and rural highways and public roads.

The problem is that all taxpayers and electricity consumers will fund the expansion of EV charging infrastructure, but only the wealthiest will enjoy it. EVs are not known to be cheap, with the [average price](https://www.caranddriver.com/research/a31544842/how-much-is-an-electric-car/#:~:text=According%20to%20Quartz%2C%20the%20average,decrease%20from%20the%20year%20before.) of a vehicle sitting somewhere around $55,600.

The luxury status of EVs is also evident in the tax returns of those who claim the [federal EV tax credit](https://www.theamericanconsumer.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/EV-ConsumerGram-Final.pdf). According to the [Congressional Research Service](https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/IF11017.pdf), 17% of taxpayers had an adjusted gross income of $100,000 or more in 2016. But 78% of those claiming the EV tax credit were in this higher income echelon.

Despite plundering the poor, the CLEAN Future Act tries to cover its tracks through thinly veiled lip service to social justice. [Section 440B](https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/CFA%20Bill%20Text%202021.pdf) provides grants of up to 80% of the cost of an EV charging project in underserved or disadvantaged communities. While that might sound generous on paper, it is divorced from the reality of working-class America.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the annual [mean wage](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#00-0000) of workers in all occupations is below the average cost of an EV. For underserved communities, both urban and rural, these green charging stations are white elephants. For wealthy road-trippers, however, they’ll offer a convenient place to charge up on their way through.

A close reading of the CLEAN Future Act should not disparage the promise and potential of EVs. Tesla is a wildly successful American company, built on the back of ingenuity and entrepreneurship. Given that climate action is increasingly a [bipartisan issue](https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2020/06/23/two-thirds-of-americans-think-government-should-do-more-on-climate/), helping more consumers buy the car that they want will no doubt spur the uptake of EVs. With the [right policy mix](https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/politics/544582-infrastructure-policy-should-include-transition-to-mileage-based#bottom-story-socials), the federal government can support consumer choice while limiting the burden on low-income consumers.

Nonetheless, forcing lower income taxpayers and energy ratepayers to fund the rollout of EV charging stations constitutes a Tesla tax on the less-wealthy. When Marie Antoinette was told that the poor could not afford bread, she reportedly said to “let them eat cake.” For Americans who are struggling in the wake of the pandemic, House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone has effectively declared to let them charge their Teslas.

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/dems-plan-applies-tesla-tax-poor-consumers/> [More vile and gross doublespeak from the demon-rats. – rdb]

**Biden to send kids to former Japanese internment camp site**

***Facility in Los Angeles County once held 5,000***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published April 10, 2021 at 8:20pm*

President Biden is sending migrant children to the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds, which was used during World War II as an internment camp for Japanese Americans.

The chairwoman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Hilda Solis, confirmed the decision was made after discussions with the Biden White House, [reported Press California](https://presscalifornia.com/2021/04/09/pomona-fairplex-to-shelter-migrant-kids/).

The flood of migrant children coming across the Mexican border illegally began in January as Biden prepared to take office with a promise to reverse Trump policies that addressed the 2019 border surge.

The Biden administration already have utilized hotels, motels, foster homes and other convention centers to house illegal immigrants.

The L.A. County facility, in the city of Pomona, is called the Pomona Fairplex. It was used during World War II when President Franklin Roosevelt authorized the detention of Japanese Americans after Japan attacked American forces in Hawaii.

It was opened in 1942 and has 309 barracks, eight mess halls, and 36 shower and latrine facilities.

It held about 5,000 people at one point during World War II, but they later were moved to a camp in Wyoming, the report said.

Convention centers in Long Beach and San Diego already have been pledged for use as temporary shelters for migrants. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/biden-send-kids-former-japanese-internment-camp-site/> [If the immigration situation wasn’t so pathetic this would almost be funny. “Bi-dumb” wants a legacy bigger than FDR – well he may get it but it won’t be positive. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**Is Klaus Schwab the Most Dangerous Man in the World?**[*John Mac Ghlionn*](https://townhall.com/columnists/johnmacghlionn/) *Posted: Apr 10, 2021 12:01 AM* Internationally, levels of personal freedom [continue](https://www.cato.org/blog/personal-freedom-decline-worldwide-new-human-freedom-index) to decrease; COVID has, of course, played a role, but the downward spiral started long before the pandemic.  
 For freedom to flourish, democracies are required. Around the world, however, established democracies [are](https://freedomhouse.org/article/new-report-freedom-world-2020-finds-established-democracies-are-decline) in decline. Again, the decline was occurring long before the pandemic hit.  
 Democracy, we’re told, dies in darkness. No, democracy dies in Davos.  
 If in doubt, please read the following:  
 *"Welcome to the year 2030. Welcome to my city - or should I say, 'our city'. I don't own anything. I don't own a car. I don't own a house. I don't own any appliances or any clothes. It might seem odd to you, but it makes perfect sense for us in this city. Everything you considered a product, has now become a service.'*  
 These are not lines from an episode of “Black Mirror.” No, these lines come directly from the World Economic Forum [website](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/11/how-life-could-change-2030/). Founded in 1970, the World Economic Forum (WEF) is arguably the most influential platform in the world. Each year, some of the most influential figures in politics and tech gather for a meeting in Davos. The most recent meeting occurred in January, and the topics discussed are of profound importance.  
 As Anthony P. Mueller, a professor of economics, [warns,](https://mises.org/wire/no-privacy-no-property-world-2030-according-wef) “The main thrust of the forum is global control. Free markets and individual choice do not stand as the top values, but state interventionism and collectivism. Individual liberty and private property are to disappear from this planet by 2030.”  
 Not me, you say. I didn’t sign up for this. In the world of biopolitics, where the lines between human biology and politics become indistinguishable, your vote really doesn’t matter. In fact, you don't have a vote. This isn’t the same loss of freedom that, say, the likes of [Alexei Navalny](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/06/alexei-navalny-seriously-ill-on-prison-sick-ward-says-lawyer) is experiencing right now. No, this loss of freedom is attritional in nature; death by a thousand cuts.  
 Now, before I am accused of conspiratorial thinking, let me point you in the direction of [The Commons Project](https://thecommonsproject.org/commonpass). Supported by the WEF, The Commons Project is in the process of creating mandatory vaccine passports. According to the project’s site, for “travel and trade to return to pre-pandemic levels, travelers will need a secure and verifiable way to document their health status as they travel and cross borders.  Countries will need to be able to trust that a traveller’s record of a COVID PCR test or vaccination administered in another country is valid.” In order to travel internationally, millions of people will have no option but to acquiesce. Are humans becoming nothing but algorithmic afterthoughts?  
 The writing is very much on the wall, and it reads: Obey your Master.  
 One could argue that master’s name is Klaus Schwab, the founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum.  
 When we think of dangerous people, we tend to think of men with guns, or Charles Manson types sporting maniacal grins. However, if COVID has taught us anything, it’s that the greatest dangers are invisible. We never see them coming, and there’s little we can do when they arrive. The most dangerous people today are not the ones armed with guns; they are the people armed with ideas.  
 On the WEF website, [Bill Gates](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/authors/bill-gates) and [Eric Schmidt](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/authors/eric-schmidt), the former head of Google, are ominously listed as agenda contributors. Klaus Schwab, though, is the agenda setter.  
 What does his agenda entail?  
 In 2018, the German wrote a book called *Shaping the Fourth Industrial Revolution*.  
 With the merging of physical, digital, and biological worlds, this revolution is like nothing that came before. All other revolutions relied on human input. This revolution, however, eliminates millions, if not billions, of people from the employment equation.  
 If you are skeptical, please feel free to check out [Stretch, the robot](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2i4mcWs6u9Q), Amazon’s latest design. It can move up to 800 boxes per hour. Furthermore, it requires no payment, validation, sick leave, or health insurance. It’s hyper-efficient. It doesn’t talk back. And Stretch doesn’t need a bathroom break.  
 Although the tech gurus regularly discuss the ways in which technology will [help](https://www.cnbc.com/2017/02/15/google-alphabet-chairman-eric-schmidt-humans-bigger-threat-than-ai.html) humans (instead of replacing us), there are plenty of reasons for concern. When it comes to matters of employment, psychiatrists, lawyers, scientists, and other top-tier professions [appear](https://medium.com/@samanthakang/7-jobs-that-ai-will-replace-by-2025-5be74900eb18) to be safe, but those involved in manufacturing, retail services, courier services, and general transportation (bus drivers, taxi drivers, lorry drivers, etc) certainly [aren’t](https://www.saviom.com/blog/12-jobs-that-robots-ai-will-replace-in-the-future-and-12-that-wont/). In other words, people who generally lack a college degree. Considering [only](https://www.independence.edu/blog/who-in-the-world-holds-a-college-degree) 6.7 percent of the world’s population are college educated, the future looks bleak*.*  
 While the eradication of some jobs is both necessary and laudable, most jobs are not inherently dangerous. They give people a sense of purpose, and a sense of purpose is essential to living life to its fullest. Universal Basic Income (UBI) may help to put food on the table, but it can never address the problem of purpose. Where will our purpose come from when so many jobs are gone?  
 The disingenuous “retrain the masses” [arguments](https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/future-of-work/retraining-and-reskilling-workers-in-the-age-of-automation) simply don’t work, either. Retrain people for what?  In the future, with recursive self-improvement, AI systems [will](https://futureoflife.org/2019/03/19/the-unavoidable-problem-of-self-improvement-in-ai-an-interview-with-ramana-kumar-part-1/#:~:text=Researchers%20think%20that%20self%2Dimproving,better%20at%20making%20itself%20smarter.) be able to learn from their mistakes and ultimately become smarter. No need for human input. In fact, no need for humans.  
 What is the final goal? [Utopia](https://www.biznews.com/thought-leaders/2020/12/16/great-reset-fmf), we’re told. But remember, the Greeks defined utopia not as a heavenly place, but as “no-place.”  
 And this seems fitting, as in the future, there simply won’t be any place for millions of humans to go. If in doubt, just ask Klaus Schwab, the most powerful – and arguably, the most dangerous - man in the world.

<https://townhall.com/columnists/johnmacghlionn/2021/04/10/is-klaus-schwab-the-most-dangerous-man-in-the-world-n2587679>

**What If the Next 9/11 Terrorist Attack Is Just Days Away?**[*Wayne Allyn Root*](https://townhall.com/columnists/wayneallynroot/) *Posted: Apr 10, 2021 12:01 AM* I just watched a documentary about the horrors of 9/11. You remember that day, don't you? This year will mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11.  
 Sept. 11, 2001. The day the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center collapsed in New York City. The day about 3,000 of our fellow Americans died. Most of their bodies were never found. They literally melted and disintegrated.  
 You do remember, yes? They were someone's fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, and sons and daughters.  
 Do you remember all those people jumping from 100 stories up and splattering on the sidewalk? I do. I still remember those loud booms. Each boom was a life ending instantly as they splattered on the sidewalk.  
 Do you remember all those cops and firemen who died trying to protect us? They ran into those burning towers while normal people ran out. They gave their lives; they made the ultimate sacrifice. Their kids grew up without fathers or mothers.  
 Watching this documentary made me angry all over again. I felt the pain all over again. And most importantly, it made me realize...  
 We have a madman in the White House.  
 President Joe Biden is either insane; or he doesn't care about the lives of Americans like you and me and our precious children; or he's a puppet for the forces of evil, intent on destroying this great country.  
 Because what other reason could there be for leaving our border wide open and inviting the whole world in? Border agents should be looking for terrorists. Instead, Biden has turned them into babysitters.  
 In March, 172,000 illegal aliens got through our open border. That's up 71% from February. But this is a trickle compared to what's coming. I'm betting a year from now, we'll look back fondly on these March 2021 numbers.  
 How do I know? Because the front door is wide open. Trust me; the whole is coming. Each month, the word spreads. Everyone who gets to our border is let in and given a free lawyer, cash by Catholic charities, a government-issued debit card (filled with money provided by our taxes) and a plane or bus ticket wherever they want to go.  
 Without ID, by the way.  
 That's right. Any illegal alien, coming from the worst terrorist hellholes in the world, can board a plane in the U.S. with no ID, no COVID-19 test and no confirmation they're not a terrorist. They can sit right next to you and your family. With COVID-19. Or tuberculosis. Or smallpox. Or Ebola. Or a bomb. Or box cutters.  
 Thank you, Joe Biden.  
 How many terrorists or terror cells came in today? How many were among the 172,000 who crossed the border in March? How many have come in since Biden became president?  
 Anyone can see what's happening. Just this past Friday, the Biden administration's southern border coordinator announced she is stepping down. It's all going bad. It's out of control.  
 If I were a dictator of one of America's rogue enemy states, I'd be licking my lips. I'd empty my prisons and send the worst of the worst criminals to America. And I'd be laughing as I sent terror cells across that border to terrorize the American people and collapse the U.S. economy.  
 All hell is about to break loose. The next 9/11 could be weeks or days or minutes away. All because we have a madman in the White House. The border is wide open, and Biden is letting everyone in. Terrorists are here. Along with murderers, rapists, MS-13 gang-bangers, drug dealers, sex traffickers and pedophiles.  
 Anyone can see what's coming. Another 9/11 is on the way. Or a massacre at a college, church or synagogue. Or a dirty bomb that makes a major U.S. city uninhabitable for decades.  
 America is on the brink. One man is to blame. Biden let them in. Biden did this to us. Biden opened the door to the destruction of America.  
 The question is, who will have the courage to stand up and stop it before it's too late? <https://townhall.com/columnists/wayneallynroot/2021/04/10/what-if-the-next-911-terrorist-attack-is-just-days-away-n2587702>

**Are American Enemies Using Our Ports and Borders to Invade America?***By* [*Ms. Smallback*](https://newswithviews.com/author/smallback/)*|April 10th, 2021* I’ve got a theory on some circumstantial evidence.  I’ll give you the theory, then the evidence.  
 Is the CCP and ilk working with American Communists to infiltrate for an invasion?  I think the Chinese have been sending arms over to America through their American communist contacts (or communist sympathizers, aka traitors) and they’re storing them in warehouses scattered in cities across America, waiting for the “go” order.  
 I’m hypothesizing that the current border migrant flood is actually hired mercenaries for an invasion.  They waited until the Biden administration was in place to flood the border.  They’ve put a gag order on the ICE and CBP agents in order to downplay the extent of invasion, pretending it’s “under control” – to give players time to get in location.  Remember they’re busing and flying these “migrants” to various locations across the U.S.  What if they’re transporting them to the locations of the stored weapons?  
 The migrant mercenaries then become little armies in cities unsuspecting, waiting for the go order.  They’ll be armed and most likely their leadership is already in place.  Look at the various pics of the migrants being bussed.  They’re well dressed, gold jewelry, high tech phones, and not bedraggled whatsoever.  
 While it’s documented the Chinese have been working with BLM and Antifa, supplying and funding them, what if that’s the cover for something more sinister?  (Not that that’s not treason in and of itself.)  [See articles [here](https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/09/23/ties-apparent-between-china-and-project-of-black-lives-matter-co-founder/), [here](https://nypost.com/2020/09/17/blm-co-founder-teams-up-with-chinese-advocacy-group/), and [here](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/06/05/us-injustice-protests-china-condemnation-cynical/).]  
 The Chauvin trial of the media spun lie about George Floyd is the pretense for new and upcoming riots.  But this is way bigger than that.  That is just the pretense to throw America off balance.  In the meantime you have (another) aggressive attempt at disarming Americans.  
 My theory is that they’ve been putting the arms in place for a couple years (for every caught shipment, how many have not been intercepted?).  Now they’re getting the mercenaries in place.  
 I think Covid has been one of the covers for getting some of the things done and in motion, (consider Newsome’s laundering “masks” via CCP).  California has some of the most draconian illegal covid mandates in place.  Can Newsome justify multi-million even billion dollar bills with China without the “pandemic crisis”?  They need a ruse to launder the weapons.  They need people afraid of the government and locked down.  What other states have been draconian?  I’d start there for weapons warehouses.  (I’d guess they’re Democrat run states.)  
 They waited until the border was unprotected with an administration that is actually part of this plan.  (Biden is owned by the CCP and everyone who’s been paying attention knows it.)  Anyone paying any attention can see these people are not walking thousands of miles for “refuge” in America.  These people are clean and well-kept, some overweight (no hunger issue), with high dollar phones, clothes and jewelry.  Many have been spotted with credit cards.  No, someone has organized and paid a lot of people to flood our borders.  
 I think they’ll use BLM and Antifa “riots” to start the ball rolling (cue Floyd/Chauvin riots), and when chaos ensues, I think they’ll move in for a total disarmament of the American people.  When (if, really – we won’t let that happen but I think that’s their plan) the disarmament of the American people happens, the Communists (in whatever national garb they’re in) will come out and take over, (or maybe the UN will be called to “restore order”?).  
 Simply put, we cannot disarm.  Americans organized and armed is the only reason they haven’t done it before now.  
 [In this article](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/california-gov-newsom-wont-share-details-on-1b-mask-deal-with-china) we learn that Newsome had made a billion dollar deal with China for “masks” shipped monthly, but the details are not transparent.  I think we have weapons laundering going on here.  
 [In this article](https://www.americanpartisan.org/2020/07/new-intel-communist-china-providing-automatic-weapons-to-antifa-black-lives-matter-some-stored-in-democrat-run-government-buildings-including-east-end-complex-capitol-building-in-sacramento/) (from last summer) we have weapon caches in various California warehouses.  If you don’t read any other article I link, please read this one (and the one at the end).  
 Assault weapons were seized in Louisville last year, sourced to China, and headed to Florida, article [here](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/10800-assault-weapons-parts-seized-cbp-louisville), [here](https://www.newsweek.com/129k-assault-weapon-parts-china-intercepted-us-federal-officers-1513826) and [here](https://www.theepochtimes.com/seizure-of-10800-gun-parts-highlights-surge-in-intercepts-of-chinese-contraband-weapon-parts_3407230.html).  
 This story from two summers ago, is gun parts from China were seized in California, article [one](https://www.npr.org/2019/08/23/753687623/customs-agents-make-unusual-seizure-of-nearly-53-000-chinese-gun-parts) and [two](https://abcnews.go.com/US/cbp-seizes-52000-gun-parts-china-california-port/story?id=65147127).  
 [This report](https://abcnews.go.com/US/30-increase-guns-drugs-seized-northern-border-cbp/story?id=73888093) tells us there was a 30% increase in gun and drug trafficking on our NORTHERN border last year.  
 Just last month the Biden Administration supported lawless search and seizures of guns without warrants, look [here](http://www.preparedgunowners.com/2021/03/30/its-started-biden-administration-trying-to-get-supreme-court-to-approve-warrantless-search-and-seizure-of-firearms/) and [here](https://www.sgtreport.com/2021/04/supreme-court-could-greenlight-warrantless-gun-seizures/).  
 And yesterday the fool basically started the process of destroying the U.S. Constitution, specifically in relation to the2nd Amendment, but it will have an overall destruction if acted upon.  He is setting up lawless rule (not that we aren’t already under such, but this will make the government’s illegal actions now legal).  Article [here](https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/international-news/rule-of-law/biden-declares-the-constitution-is-not-absolute/).  
 I honestly think the cure to this communist takeover is:  
 Americans organized and armed.  
 Local sheriffs on board with their Constitutional duty, implementing plans and procedures to nip in the bud any true and real insurgencies, whether they be BLM, Antifa, or other.  
 Relentless vigilance inward and outward.  
 Prayer  
 Lastly, [this is an astounding overview](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1967702) of how the British attempted arms control and confiscation just before the Revolutionary War.  Not much mainstream history likes to expound on the reality that the British tried to disarm the colonists.  There are eerily similar strains from those days to this day.  I can’t recommend this read enough.  It’s full of valuable insight and inspiration. <https://newswithviews.com/are-american-enemies-using-our-ports-and-borders-to-invade-america/>

**Biden's Border Crisis Is Coming to a Neighborhood Near You**[*Congressman Andy Biggs*](https://townhall.com/columnists/congressmanandybiggs/) *Posted: Apr 10, 2021 12:01 AM* The situation along the United States-Mexico border worsens as the Biden Administration continues to hold up a vacancy sign to the world. The humanitarian crisis that is happening because of President Biden’s dereliction of duty is coming to a neighborhood near you.  
 It is Biden’s invitation to “surge to the border” that has brought more human, sex, and drug trafficking than ever before. A group of 112 individuals recently entered the U.S. illegally and surrendered to Border Patrol agents. In today’s world that isn’t so unusual.  
 But, in that group of 112 the oldest was 94years old! The youngest was only 4years old. That child was traveling without a parent, guardian, or any family member. Someone put that child’s life at risk by placing the child into the hands of the criminal cartels.   
 An American parent who did that would lose his or her rights to that child and likely be arrested. The Biden plan is to take that child and give him or her to someone in the U.S. who may be here illegally, and may have endangered the life of that child.  
 The other night I joined some of my Republican colleagues along the southern border near McAllen, Texas. As we drove and walked along the Rio Grande, we saw signs along the dirt road telling illegal border crossers the directions to a facility where Border Patrol agents would be waiting for them.  
 When we drove by the facility there were hundreds of people who had recently crossed the river illegally and waited to be picked up and processed, then swiftly released into the interior of the United States.   
 We passed three different groups totaling more than seventy people—many of them women and children—who had made the trek by paying the vile criminal cartels who traffic in sex, drugs, and humans.  
 The system is upside down. If most of those same people showed up at a port of entry, as all legal visitors of the United States do, they would have been turned away because there is no provision in the law to admit them.   
 But under Biden’s inhumane open borders policy, those who illegally enter the U.S. between the ports of entry will be given the opportunity to work and live in this country instead of being removed to their home nations.   
 That means Americans will pay for in-person schooling for illegal alien children, while many schools remain closed to children who are legally in the United States.  
 It means that Americans foot the bill to provide education, healthcare, foster care, housing, food, transportation, and in many cases, legal services, for hundreds of thousands of people who have illegally entered the country.  
 This type of nonsense must end now. It can end rather quickly if we have the will.  
 The first step to end this is for President Biden to loudly proclaim to the world to stop coming. This won’t happen, because he and his administration campaigned to open our southern border. They are getting exactly what they want. And their success is creating a catastrophe for America.  
 Biden should reinstate the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) otherwise known as the Remain in Mexico Policy and the agreements with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. He should finish the border wall. He should rescind the COVID relief payments being given to illegal aliens (and imprisoned felons).   
 He should order immigration law judges to the border and put the newest asylum cases to the top of the pile. The backlogged cases for asylum seekers number in the hundreds of thousands. They can wait. The last-in, first-heard method would expose the tens of thousands of new fraudulent asylum claims and remove those people from America.  
 This is no longer simply a border state crisis. The “Biden Inhumane Border Crisis” now reaches into every corner of the nation. If you haven’t directly felt it yet, you will. <https://townhall.com/columnists/congressmanandybiggs/2021/04/10/bidens-border-crisis-is-coming-to-a-neighborhood-near-you-n2587701>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**ADL chief demands: Fox News host Tucker Carlson must resign or be fired**

***ADL chief calls for Tucker Carlson’s ouster after Fox News host endorses white supremacist conspiracy theory.***

*Ben Sales, JTA, & Arutz Sheva , Apr 10 , 2021 10:01 PM*

Tucker Carlson, a popular Fox News host, defended a conspiracy theory on the cable network, spurring the head of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to tweet “Tucker Must Go” and send a letter to Fox News saying he should be fired. [Not all conspiracies are theories, particularly when those involved have been fairly open about it. – rdb]

Appearing Thursday on “Fox News Primetime,” Carlson said Democrats are coordinating a “replacement” of current US voters with immigrants from the “Third World.” [That is a fact, not a theory and the actions of the demon-rats in control demonstrate it openly. – rdb]

“I know that the left and all the little gatekeepers on Twitter become literally hysterical if you use the term ‘replacement,’ if you suggest that the Democratic Party is trying to replace the current electorate, the voters now casting ballots, with new people, more obedient voters from the Third World,” Carlson said.

“But they become hysterical because that’s what’s happening actually. Let’s just say it: That’s true.”

Left progressives say Carlson’s comments echo an idea that they claim has inspired anti-Semitic and extremist attacks, that it is Jews who are orchestrating a so-called “Great Replacement” of the largely white populations in Western countries with nonwhite immigrants. [If the far leftist Jewish community stopped supporting the socialist agenda and promoting the conversion of the USA to a socialist/communist country, maybe they would face less resistance which they are considering anti-Semitism. Is their anti-Semitism predominately simply anti-Republic destruction? When you have lots of leftists working against the US constitution and many are Jewish you need to expect some backlash. – rdb]

Marchers in the 2017 far-right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia chanted “You will not replace us” and then “Jews will not replace us.” The idea that Jews were conspiring to destroy white people through nonwhite immigration also inspired the shooter in the 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, which killed 11 people.

Similar theories also fueled the far-right shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Christchurch, New Zealand.

The gunman in the [2019 Poway synagogue attack](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/262329), which killed one person, was likewise inspired by the [Pittsburgh](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/253844) and [New Zealand](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/260401) shootings.

Tweeting the *Fox News* clip, ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt wrote, “Tucker must go.” An ADL spokesperson confirmed that Greenblatt is calling on Carlson to either resign or be fired. Carlson’s nightly show is one of the most-watched across cable news, with an average of more than 3 million viewers, according to Deadline. [Sorry Greenblatt, the US constitution guarantees freedom of speech. If you don’t like that then you need to find another place to live. As an American citizen he has a right to express his thoughts as does everyone else and you have no right to demand he be silenced for it. – rdb]

“TuckerCarlson: “replacement theory” is a white supremacist tenet that the white race is in danger by a rising tide of non-whites,” Greenblatt wrote. “It is antisemitic, racist and toxic. It has informed the ideology of mass shooters in El Paso, Christchurch and Pittsburgh.” [Horse hockey. Tucker is a far more accurate investigative reporter than most anyone on the media groups. – rdb]

Amy Spitalnick, executive director of the nonprofit Integrity First for America, which has sued participants in the Charlottesville rally, also called out Carlson’s “replacement” comments. She tweeted that Carlson was “openly and explicitly promoting the very same white supremacist conspiracy theory that fueled the Charlottesville, Pittsburgh, Christchurch, Poway, and El Paso attacks (among others).”

Later in the segment, Carlson claimed that the idea he was advocating was not racist.

“I mean, everyone wants to make a racial issue out of it,” he said. “Oh, you know, the white replacement theory? No, no, no. This is a voting rights question. I have less political power because they’re importing a brand new electorate. Why should I sit back and take that?”

On Friday, Greenblatt sent a letter to *Fox News Channel* CEO Suzanne Scott calling for Carlson’s ouster and writing that “this is not legitimate political discourse. It is dangerous race-baiting, extreme rhetoric. And yet, unfortunately, it is the culmination of a pattern of increasingly divisive rhetoric used by Carlson over the past few years.”

Greenblatt has repeatedly called out Carlson for his rhetoric in recent years, which Greenblatt has accused of promoting white supremacist and anti-Semitic ideas, or downplaying the threat they pose. MORE - <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/299975> [With Greenblatt in charge, the ADL has become nothing more than a mouthpiece for the liberal socialist demon-rat party. The ADL has no credibility any longer. If they oppose it, you need to be for it is the general rule of thumb and has been for several years. The ADL is as off the wall as the southern poverty law center which is also an apologist for the radical left and the muslim community. Most of what the ADL does is simply more of a reflection of the Cancel Culture process that has been going on which needs to stop. – rdb]

**Egypt sentences top Muslim Brotherhood leader to life in prison**

***Mahmud Ezzat, 76, found guilty of "terrorism" and sentenced to life imprisonment.***

*Elad Benari, Canada , Apr 09 , 2021 10:42 PM*

Egypt on Thursday sentenced Mahmud Ezzat, the 76-year-old top leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of "terrorism", *AFP* reported, citing the state-run *Al-Ahram* newspaper.

"The Cairo Criminal Court on Thursday sentenced Mahmoud Ezzat, the acting supreme guide of the Muslim Brotherhood designated as a terrorist, to life for murder and terrorism charges," according to the newspaper.

Ezzat [was arrested in August 2020](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/286162) in Cairo, after being on the run for several years.

He was found guilty of "incitement to murder" and of having "supplied weapons" during clashes between demonstrators outside the headquarters of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2013, said a judicial source, who also confirmed the sentence.

The Muslim Brotherhood was outlawed [and designated a terrorist organization](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/175545) in Egypt in December 2013, several months after the ouster of Islamist president Mohammed Morsi, a senior member of the Muslim Brotherhood, following mass protests against his rule.

Since Morsi’s ouster, Egyptian authorities have launched a crackdown on Muslim Brotherhood members and supporters. As part of the crackdown, [thousands of Brotherhood supporters](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/178891) have been jailed and the group was blacklisted as a terrorist organization.

In 2018, Egypt passed a law to oversee the freezing of assets of “terrorists” and “terrorist groups”.

Following the approval of that law, the assets of more than 1,000 charities tied to the Muslim Brotherhood [were frozen](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/251834). <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/299964>

**Kohavi drops hint to Iran**

**"The IDF's operations throughout the Middle East are not hidden from the eyes of the enemies," Chief of Staff says.**

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 11 , 2021 12:19 P*

Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi spoke at the Flag-laying ceremony for fallen soldiers, during which he dropped a hint to Israel's "enemies." "The IDF's operations throughout the Middle East are not hidden from the eyes of the enemies. They are looking at us and weighing their steps carefully. Thanks to complex and sophisticated operations - the past year has been one of the safest years known to the citizens of the State of Israel. "We will continue to act with power and discretion," he said.

Iran’s civilian nuclear program said on Sunday that [an “accident”](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/299990) had struck the electrical distribution grid of the country’s Natanz nuclear facility, according to *AP.* [*https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304108*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304108)

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**04/10/2021 NEWS AM –**

**ThankYouHashem: From The Verge**

**– A Musical Journey with Lipa Schmeltzer**

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

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| **"The truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear." -- Herbert Sebastien Agar (1897-1980) American journalist and historian, editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal.** |

**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 AS – post knee replacement – some problems and another one scheduled.**  **Pray for TR – abnormal Mammogram having double biopsy – Mastectomy Scheduled**  **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 24:45Before I had finished speaking within my heart, even behold, Rebekah was coming out, her pitcher on her shoulder. And she went down to the well and drew. And I said to her, Please let me drink. 46And she hurried and let down her pitcher from her and said, Drink, and I also will water your camels. And I drank, and also she watered the camels. 47And I asked her and I said, Whose daughter *are* you? And she said, The *daughter* of Bethuel the son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him. And I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her hands.**

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| **Interview with Vera Sharav- A holocaust survivor on today’s medical situation.**  [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2dmpCH\_Sfg&t=16s**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2dmpCH_Sfg&t=16s)  **This is a bit long but you would do well to listen. She is providing a chilling account of what occurred in Germany and what is going on today.**  **This is a literal OMG of the highest order!** |

**Far-right leader optimistic Netanyahu can form coalition without Ra’am’s support**

***Bezalel Smotrich says he believes the PM’s right-wing rivals will ultimately join a government ‘without haters of Israel and terror supporters’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:57 pm*

Religious Zionism leader Bezalel Smotrich on Friday expressed optimism that Likud chief Benjamin Netanyahu’s right-wing rivals will drop their opposition to joining a government headed by the incumbent prime minister.

Smotrich is a key member of Netanyahu’s right-wing religious bloc, but his far-right party opposes a coalition backed by the Islamist Ra’am party, without whose support the premier has no clear routes for assembling a government.

“This morning it also needs to be mentioned and clarified: A government that relies on terror supporters and terrorists is not a ‘right-wing government’ but a wanton government contaminated by blood,” Smotrich wrote on Twitter, referring to Ra’am.

He said such a government would lead “to the fall of the right and the rise of the left,” declaring he was “proud” to oppose it and would do everything to prevent its formation.

“Since the elections I’ve worked tirelessly to form a real right-wing government led by Netanyahu,” Smotrich said. “If God forbid no such government is formed, the blame will be solely on the shoulders of the right-wingers who did not succeed in understanding the gravity of the hour, forgoing [their] ambitions, rivalries and personal boycotts, to sit together in the best and most natural government for Israel.”

His remarks appeared aimed at the right-wing New Hope party, which campaigned on replacing Netanyahu. The party, led by former Likud minister Gideon Sa’ar, has reiterated it won’t join a Netanyahu-led government since the March 23 elections.

“I’m optimistic,” Smotrich said, declaring a right-wing government could be formed “without haters of Israel and terror supporters.”

The comments came a day after Smotrich met with Netanyahu, who was formally tasked earlier in the week with forming a new government. Netanyahu also met with Yamina chief Naftali Bennett, who has voiced support for a right-wing government but refrained from backing the Likud leader. Even with Yamina, Netanyahu’s bloc would have 59 seats, two short of a majority.

After meeting with Netanyahu, Smotrich issued a statement saying the two agreed “every effort should be made to convince Bennett not to break up the national camp and go to a left-wing government.” Smotrich was a top lawmaker in Yamina but split off from Bennett before the elections.

Smotrich’s swipe at Bennett was swiftly rejected by Likud, which campaigned against Bennett but now needs his party’s support.

“The statement by Bezalel Smotrich doesn’t match reality,” Netanyahu’s party said.

The meeting between Netanyahu and Bennett was held at the Prime Minister’s Residence in Jerusalem. It was the first time Bennett had been allowed into the complex in over a decade, due to past tensions between him and Netanyahu. The premier’s wife, Sara Netanyahu, has reportedly long vetoed Bennett’s entry. But now Netanyahu depends on Bennett’s support if he wants to keep his hope of forming a government alive.

“I come here with a lot of goodwill and I pledge to do everything I can to rescue Israel from the chaos and establish a good government for the State of Israel,” Bennett told reporters before entering the Netanyahu’s official residence. “It is time for national responsibility.” MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/far-right-leader-optimistic-netanyahu-can-form-coalition-without-raams-support/> [Good luck on forming some kind of government but to be blunt it will take an act of God to get this done. There is so much bitterness and hatred floating around that it looks very unlikely that a government can be formed and that will lead to a new election which will be a disaster for the people of Israel. Considering all the rumblings in the ME and the Russian Ukrainian area it would seem ‘very prudent’ to get their act together and form a government because they may have to have one in case there is a war. – rdb]

**Outcry as police beat Joint List lawmaker during East Jerusalem protest**

***Video shows cop punching MK Ofer Cassif in the head, another kneeling on his face as he lies on ground; Knesset speaker calls to prosecute officers for their ‘brutal behavior’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:46 pm*

Joint List MK Ofer Cassif on Friday was beaten by police officers during a protest in East Jerusalem, drawing condemnations from lawmakers across the political spectrum.

Cassif, the only Jewish Knesset member in the predominantly Arab Joint List, was participating in a weekly demonstration in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood against planned evictions.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/Eyip8VeWUAQSsU8-e1617985411233.jpeg)

***Joint List MK Ofer Cassif after being beaten by police officers during a protest in East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, April 9, 2021. (From the Twitter page of Joint List MK Aida Touma-Sliman)***

In video of the incident, Cassif can be seen arguing with police officers amid a crowd, before one of them pushes him. A mask-clad Cassif appeared to say something, with the officers proceeding to strike and violently grab him.

Cassif then reached his hand toward the face of one of the officers, who punched the MK on top of the head.

עכשיו בשיח ג'ראח השוטרים משתגעים, זורקים רימוני הלם ומפוצצים במכות את ח"כ [@ofercass](https://twitter.com/ofercass?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

די לכיבוש! [pic.twitter.com/V6py9UU2J2](https://t.co/V6py9UU2J2)

— Nitsan Ron (@Nitske1) [April 9, 2021](https://twitter.com/Nitske1/status/1380528440118542342?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

After wrestling Cassif to the ground, some of the officers appeared to continue beating him, as shouts of “shame” could be heard from the demonstrators.

In another clip, an officer can be seen kneeling on Cassif’s face as he was on the ground.

עוד תיעוד של תקיפת ח"כ עופר כסיף היום במזרח ירושלים. אחד השוטרים הניח את הברך שלו על פניו של ח"כ כסיף כשהוא שוכב על הרצפה.

צילום: אורן זיו. שיחה מקומית. [pic.twitter.com/Gl6I3Obsyv](https://t.co/Gl6I3Obsyv)

— סולימאן מסוודה سليمان مسودة (@SuleimanMas1) [April 9, 2021](https://twitter.com/SuleimanMas1/status/1380537982218813442?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Cassif’s glasses were broken and his shirt was ripped during the scuffles, in which police also used stun grenades to clear protesters.

“The police are going crazy here, they’re not letting people demonstrate. They were told I was a Knesset member, it did not interest them,” Cassif said afterward. Lawmakers have immunity allowing them freedom of movement, even at police blockades.

“It’s not the violence against an MK that is the main issue here, it is the continued police brutality against all protesters,” Cassif told Channel 12.

The incident drew widespread condemnation from across the political spectrum.

Knesset Speaker Yariv Levin said he was “shocked” by the incident.

“Brutal behavior like this toward any citizen is improper, let alone a Knesset member who is entitled by law to freedom of movement so he can fulfill his role,” Levin, a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud party, said in a statement.

Levin said he would reach out to Public Security Minister Amir Ohana when Shabbat ends Saturday evening to demand the incident be investigated and that “all necessary steps” be taken to prosecute those responsible.

Despite “abhorring” Cassif’s political views, New Hope leader Gideon Sa’ar slammed the “brutal police violence” toward the Joint List MK.



Joint List MK Ofer Cassif after being beaten by police officers during a protest in East Jerusalem’s Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, April 9, 2021. (Screen capture: Channel 12)

“I see it as a murderous blow to the Knesset and parliamentary immunity,” Sa’ar wrote on Twitter.

MK Bezalel Smotrich, head of the far-right Religious Zionism party, said the incident was “grave and unacceptable” in a democracy with the rule of law.

“The immunity of Knesset members is critical to fulfilling their role and is not a matter of one side or another on the political map,” he said.

Fellow Joint List MK Aida Touma-Sliman claimed the police had a “green light” from the government to act violently.

“Ofer was attacked by the same government and police that are aggressively trying to impose the occupation and settlers regime in East Jerusalem,” she tweeted.

Police later said the Jerusalem district commander ordered an investigation of the incident.

The incident came days after Cassif and other Joint List MKs sparked an outcry during the swearing-in of the Knesset on Tuesday, substituting the traditional commitment to serve Israel and the Knesset with commitments to fight “apartheid,” “the occupation” and “racism.”

The Knesset’s legal adviser said Thursday the lawmakers would be denied some of their rights as MKs until they give the proper declaration, which they are expected to do Monday. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/outcry-as-police-beat-joint-list-lawmaker-during-east-jerusalem-protest/>

**Gantz slams ‘blind and unjust’ ICC decision, as Israel issues formal response**

***Defense minister says he believes ‘truth will come to light,’ a day after the Jewish state officially rejects war crimes probe in a letter to Hague-based court***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 4:26 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/photo_2021-04-09_12-41-22.jpg)

Defense Minister Benny Gantz at a cermony in Sha’ar Hagai, marking 80 years since the formation of the Palmach, on April 9, 2021. (Ministry of Defense)

Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Friday criticized the International Criminal Court’s probe of alleged war crimes by Israel as “blind and unjust,” after Israel sent a formal response to the decision.

“I believe the truth will come to light,” Gantz said. “It’s not just a matter of the court’s ‘technical-legal’ lack of jurisdiction, but a matter of justice and morality, of a strict military ethical code, of truth and falsehood, of a democratic state with strong legal institutions, clear values, rules and laws — against a blind and unjust decision.”

“I am sure many countries will understand that there is no room for [such an] investigation, that could harm many other countries in the future,” Gantz said, adding that such an ICC investigation would harm Israel’s relations with the Palestinians and make it difficult to “improve the regional situation.”

The defense minister made his remarks at a ceremony marking 80 years since the formation of the Palmach in Sha’ar Hagai — a site near Jerusalem that commemorates the efforts of the paramilitary’s Harel Brigade during the War of Independence.



***Defense Minister Benny Gantz at a ceremony in Sha’ar Hagai, marking 80 years since the formation of the Palmach, on April 9, 2021. (Ministry of Defense)***

In its formal response to The Hague-based court’s decision to open the war crimes probe, Israel will say it won’t cooperate with the investigation, according to a statement Thursday from the Prime Minister’s Office.

“In the letter, it will also be noted that Israel completely rejects the claims that it is carrying out war crimes,” the statement said.

The Prime Minister’s Office said Israel’s stance has been made known to the court by “central countries and world-renowned experts” and stressed the Jewish state is “committed to the rule of law” and capable of investigating itself.

The decision on how to respond came after two days of talks held by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Gantz, Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi, IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi, Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit and other top officials. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-slams-blind-and-unjust-icc-decision-as-israel-issues-formal-response/>

**Health Ministry weighing permits to allow tourist groups back into Israel**

***Unnamed official notes political sensitivities surrounding recognition of vaccination passes from nations using shots not approved by Israel, such as UAE’s use of Chinese doses***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 12:14 pm*

The Health Ministry is considering issuing permits for the first tourists to enter Israel in over a year, a senior health official said Friday.

The unnamed official told the Kan public broadcaster that the initial stage of the plan would probably allow organized tour groups, such as Birthright, to enter the country.

Health officials thought that it would be easier to monitor for any possible outbreaks if the travelers were in official, authorized groups, the report said.

The senior official also told the network that ahead of any possible change in policy over tourism, it would be necessary to formulate guidelines on the recognition of vaccinations performed in other countries.



Medical technicians test passengers for the coronavirus at Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv, on March 8, 2021. (Flash90)

The official added that the matter was further complicated by political sensitivities surrounding countries deploying vaccines that Israel has not authorized.

The report gave the United Arab Emirates, where a Chinese vaccine is used, and nations using Russia’s Sputnik V vaccine as examples.

Israel currently does not formally recognize vaccination paperwork from other nations, but those who arrive in the country fully inoculated abroad may undergo serological testing to prove that they do not need to enter quarantine.

Coronavirus czar Nachman Ash confirmed the report in broad terms, saying the reopening would need to be done carefully.

“Because there is different morbidity in the rest of the world and the fear of mutations, this step should be taken carefully and responsibly,” he told Kan. “If people are in groups, we can control where they go and how they are run. We will discuss this with the Tourism Ministry next week and determine when it will happen — I presume it will take a few weeks.” [Israel is operating totally and completely on FEAR from information from agents of the globalist group. For this they will use their population as guinea pigs. Unbelievable! – rdb]

Last March, as the pandemic ramped up in Israel and around the world, Jerusalem banned nearly all foreigners from entering the country — a step at the time considered extreme but later also taken by many other countries as the virus raged across the globe.

Israel registered a drop of some 81 percent in tourism in 2020 compared to the previous year amid the coronavirus pandemic, the Tourism Ministry [said](https://www.timesofisrael.com/gutted-by-pandemic-tourism-to-israel-saw-81-drop-in-2020/) in January.

Now hopes of a resurgent tourism industry have been raised by Israel’s world-beating vaccination campaign, which many believe will make the country an attractive destination for tourists.

On Tuesday, the Population and Immigration Authority [announced](https://www.timesofisrael.com/vaccinated-or-recovered-foreigners-permitted-to-enter-israel-to-visit-relatives/) that foreigners who are vaccinated or recovered COVID-19 patients and who have first-degree relatives in Israel will be able to enter the country to visit them. Visitors are permitted to enter with their partners and children. Israeli citizens or permanent residents and their families whose “center of life” is abroad may also come to Israel to visit first-degree relatives.

Before this change, foreigners were only permitted to travel into Israel under rare extenuating circumstances, such as to receive essential medical treatment, to attend a funeral of a first-degree relative, or for humanitarian reasons, among others.

According to the latest Health Ministry data, 209 new cases were recorded Thursday and another 101 since midnight across Israel, raising the number of infections since the pandemic began to 835,641.

The death toll stood at 6,280, with one fatality reported overnight.

The number of active cases further fell to 4,414. There were 276 serious cases, including 154 people on ventilators.

The positive test rate on Thursday was 0.5%. An identical rate was recorded for the previous two days, the lowest since last May, when Israel was emerging from the initial wave of the pandemic, though significantly more tests are now performed each day.

The ministry said more than 5.3 million Israelis have gotten at least one vaccine shot and over 4.9 million have received both doses. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/health-ministry-weighing-permits-to-allow-tourist-groups-back-into-israel/> [The problem with the death rate issue is that many people are diagnosed with Covid and then sent home with little or no real treatment. I have had calls from friends repeatedly concerning this. Rather than carefully checking for initial signs of more infections and providing treatment. LIKE HCQ they wait until they are in poor or very difficult shape and then hospitalize them which is like a death sentence way too often. Management early is the key to blunting your mortality rate and saving your hospitals. From the fact that Fauci wrote an article in 2005 indicating that HCQ was effective and not recommending that as treatment (in fact recommending against that – probably for personal political and financial reasons) thousand of people (actually worldwide, millions) have died. Way to go genocidal master. The NIH, CDC, which operate almost independently with pitiful oversight, and their directors are culpable for a genocide. May the Creator of all life bring his righteous judgement on these people. – rdb]

**Pfizer said to warn Israel: Pay up or go to the back of vaccine line**

***Dispute between Netanyahu and Gantz delays cabinet authorization of budget to buy additional vaccines; angry company officials reportedly tell Israel, ‘We’re not philanthropists’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:27 pm*

Pfizer is threatening to delay further shipments of vaccines to Israel over a delay in payments, reportedly warning that the Jewish state could go the back of the line if it does not pay up, Channel 12 reported Friday.

Pfizer said Monday it had completed all vaccine deliveries to Israel under its initial agreement and was working on a new deal to supply more doses to the Jewish state.

“The company is currently working with the Israeli government to update the agreement, to supply additional vaccines to the country. While this work continues, shipments may be adjusted,” [Pfizer told the Reuters news agency](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-israel-pfizer/pfizer-says-working-on-new-covid-19-vaccine-supply-deal-to-israel-idUSKBN2BS1EM).

But a payment delay reportedly sparked a harsh warning from the vaccine maker.

Channel 12 said the company warned Israel this week that if the payments do not come in, the doses would be shipped elsewhere. One official reportedly told Israel’s Health Ministry, “We are not philanthropists.”

Similar warnings were received from Moderna.

Israel and Pfizer agreed to a vaccine deal in November. The drug company, together with its partner BioNTech, supplied Israel with an unspecified number of doses, and the Finance Ministry said it paid NIS 2.6 billion ($785 million).

Israel is seeking 36 million more doses, Reuters reported. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/pfizer-said-to-warn-israel-pay-up-or-go-to-back-of-vaccine-line/>

**‘Constructive’ atmosphere but little progress in Iran nuclear talks**

***Delegates in Vienna pledge to continue negotiations, as Tehran reiterates demand that US drop all sanctions before it returns to compliance with nuclear deal***

*By* [*David Rising*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/david-rising/) *Today, 6:37 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP21099445399738-e1617975541343.jpg)

Political deputy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, Abbas Araghchi, leaves the 'Grand Hotel Wien' where closed-door nuclear talks with Iran take place in Vienna, Austria, April 9, 2021. (AP Photo/Florian Schroetter)

BERLIN (AP) — Nascent talks aimed at bringing the United States back into the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran broke Friday without any immediate signs of progress on the thorny issues dividing Washington and Tehran, but with delegates talking of a constructive atmosphere and resolving to continue the discussions.

Two working groups that have been meeting in Vienna since Tuesday to brainstorm ways to secure the lifting of American sanctions and Iran’s return to compliance with the deal reported their initial progress to a joint commission of diplomats from the world powers that remain in the deal — France, Germany, Britain, China and Russia.

Russian delegate Mikhail Ulyanov tweeted that participants had “noted with satisfaction the initial progress made.”

“The commission will reconvene next week in order to maintain the positive momentum,” he said.

The talks took place without the United States, which unilaterally left the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, in 2018, under then-president Donald Trump. He embarked on a campaign of “maximum pressure” by restoring previous sanctions and adding new ones on Iran.

But an American delegation headed by the Biden administration’s special envoy for Iran, Rob Malley, also has been in the Austrian capital this week. Representatives from the other world powers have been shuttling between the US and the Iranians to facilitate indirect talks.

After the US withdrawal, Iran has been openly violating the deal’s restrictions, steadily increasing its stockpile of enriched uranium, increasing the purity it is enriching, and installing and operating new, more efficient centrifuges, among other things.

President Joe Biden, who was vice president under Barack Obama when the original deal was negotiated, has said he wants to bring the US back into the deal but that Iran must reverse its violations.

 Iran argues that Washington’s departure from the deal was the first violation and that the US must make the first move and remove sanctions before Iran returns to compliance.

As the talks opened, China’s representative in Vienna, Wang Qun, backed the Iranian stance. “We, in China, have a saying to the effect that the one who ties the knot should be the one to undo it,” he said.

Iran’s governor to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Kazem Gharibabadi, leaves the ‘Grand Hotel Wien,’ where closed-door nuclear talks with Iran take place in Vienna, Austria, April 9, 2021. (AP Photo/Florian Schroetter)

Complicating matters further, Tehran argues that the US needs to drop all sanctions, including measures not related to the deal and Iran’s nuclear program.

Iran’s ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Kazem Gharibabadi, showed no sign of backing off that position in comments posted Friday on the website of Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

All sanctions imposed by Trump’s administration, including “sanctions imposed under non-nuclear pretexts … must be lifted completely,” he said. [If “Bi-dumb” and his cohort of trolls falls for this one, he is even worse off than most people think and should probably be institutionalized. – rdb]

Still, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Iran’s Press TV on Friday that the talks in Vienna had not been fruitless.

“In my opinion, these negotiations are moving forward, very constructive and useful, but it is too early to say whether we are moving forward in a positive direction,” he said. “The atmosphere of the meetings is constructive, but we are still far from the point where we can hope for a positive trend, although we are not disappointed.”

The US delegation has said little about the ongoing talks. Malley on Thursday tweeted his thanks to Austria for hosting it as “we engage in principled diplomacy to determine if Iran and the United States can find a way back into compliance with the JCPOA,” as the nuclear deal is known.

Enrique Mora, the European Union official who chaired the talks, said he would continue to shuttle between the US and Iranian delegations, as well as others next week.

“The participants emphasized their resolve to further pursue the ongoing joint diplomatic effort,” he said in a statement.

The deal’s ultimate goal is to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear bomb, something it insists it does not want to do. Iran now has enough enriched uranium to make a bomb, but nowhere near the amount it had before the nuclear deal was signed. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/constructive-atmosphere-but-little-progress-in-iran-nuclear-talks/>

**Nuclear watchdog reports fresh violation by Iran amid indirect talks with US**

***Tehran again breaches accord’s limits on its uranium enrichment, Reuters reports, as its representatives negotiate return to deal with world powers in Vienna***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 3:17 am*

The UN’s nuclear watchdog indicated a fresh violation by Iran of its nuclear deal with world powers, as Iranian representatives met with the deal’s other signatories in Vienna in a bid to rescue the accord.

The International Atomic Energy Agency in a report released Friday indicated that Iran had again violated limits on its stockpile of enriched uranium, [the Reuters news agency reported](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-iaea/u-n-atomic-watchdog-reports-new-iranian-breach-of-nuclear-deal-idUSKBN2BW2VO?il=0).

The IAEA report does not explicitly say that Iran violated the deal’s terms, but the agency releases such reports when a breach occurs. Diplomatic sources told Reuters that the report indicated that a breach of the deal had occurred.

The 2015 deal placed strict limits on Iran’s uranium stockpile. The IAEA determined on Wednesday that Iran had violated those limits by recovering uranium from items called scrap fuel plates.

“On 7 April 2021, the Agency verified at the Fuel Plate Fabrication Plant at Esfahan that Iran had dissolved six unirradiated scrap fuel plates for the TRR [Tehran Research Reactor] containing 0.43 kg of uranium enriched up to 20% U-235,” the report said according to Reuters.

The amount of new enriched uranium is relatively small but threatens to derail talks being held to revive the deal.

Iran met with the deal’s signatories in Vienna this week. The Biden administration engaged in indirect dialogue with Iran for the first time during the talks by communicating with the Iranian delegation through European intermediaries.

The talks broke Friday, with no clear signs of progress, but most representatives involved sounding optimistic about the prospects. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/nuclear-watchdog-reports-fresh-violations-by-iran-amid-indirect-talks-with-us/>

[This should give you an idea of just how anxious Iran is to actually stop their enrichment and solve the problem by making any concessions at all. The EU and leftist dummies should pack up, go home and boycott everything in Iran until they scream like pig as their economy collapses. = rdb]

**Latest VAERS Data Show Vaccine Injury Trends Continue, CDC Fails to Respond to The Defender’s Inquiries**

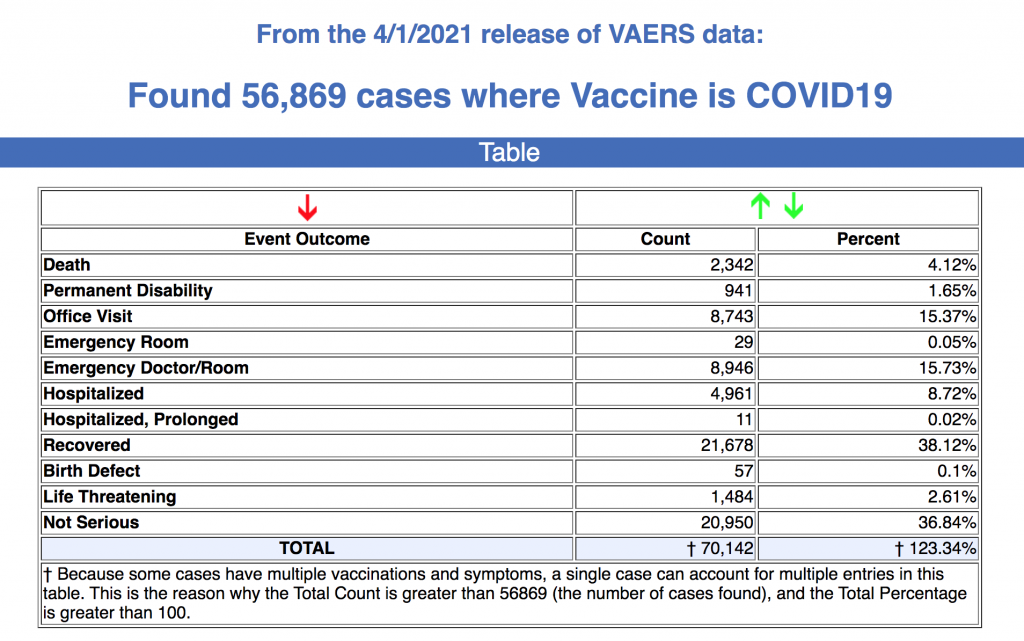
*VAERS data released today showed 56,869 reports of adverse events following COVID vaccines, including 2,342 deaths and 7,971 serious injuries between Dec. 14, 2020 and April 1, 2021.*

*By* [*Megan Redshaw*](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/authors/megan-redshaw/)  *04/09/21*

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](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/covid-19-vaccine-news/) confirmed that numbers are still rising, but no new trends emerged.

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.

Every Friday, [VAERS](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/rfk-jr-david-kessler-covid-vaccine-vaers/) makes public all vaccine injury reports received to the system for the previous week. Today’s data show that between Dec. 14, 2020 and April 1, a total of [56,869 total adverse events](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?TABLE=ON&GROUP1=CAT&EVENTS=ON&VAX=COVID19) were reported to VAERS, including [2,342 deaths](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?TABLE=ON&GROUP1=AGE&EVENTS=ON&VAX=COVID19&DIED=Yes) — an increase of 93 over the previous week — and [7,971 serious injuries](https://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?TABLE=ON&GROUP1=AGE&EVENTS=ON&VAX=COVID19&SERIOUS=ON), up 245 over the same time period.



<https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/vaers-data-vaccine-injury-trends-continue>

**US cities prepare for nationwide 'White Lives Matter" marches**

***The march was allegedly organized by white supremacists through Telegram, a popular social media and encrypted messaging application.***

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff)

US cities are bracing for a far-right "White Lives Matter" march that is expected to take place on April 11 after being coordinated online, according to a Newsweek report on Friday.

The march was allegedly organized by [white supremacists](https://www.jpost.com/tags/neo-nazi) through [Telegram](https://www.jpost.com/tags/telegram), a popular social media and encrypted messaging application. Dozens of events are expected to occur in major cities such as New York City, Fort Worth, Texas and Chicago among others.

Details surrounding the march remain unclear, including the exact locations in which they are expected to take place, according to Newsweek.

Two white supremacist events will take place in North Carolina, one in Raleigh at Nash Square, and another at the The Zebulon Baird Vance Monument in Asheville. Both the Raleigh and Asheville police noted that they are aware of the white supremacist marches.

In the California city of Newport Beach, KKK flyers promoting the April 11 march have appeared throughout the region, prompting the Huntington Beach Police Department to confirm that they are taking measures to avoid violence.

"We hope events such as this will serve as an opportunity for unity rather than a platform to spread hate, bigotry and division," a statement from the police department given to Newsweek said.

"The City of Huntington Beach proudly stands by the values of diversity, equity and inclusion. Toward this end, the men and women of the Huntington Beach Police Department will professionally and impartially perform their duties. I can assure you, we will not tolerate any acts of violence or criminal behavior meant to intimidate others, the statement added."

Another white supremacist event planned in Ohio has also caught the eye of police.

"Troopers will be present to keep people safe and protect the property during any protest. And we always have troopers from around the state that are prepared to respond to an incident in the interest of public safety if they should be needed," Ohio Highway Patrol Staff Lt. Craig Cvetan said to The Ohio Statehouse News Bureau. " <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/us-cities-prepare-for-nationwide-white-lives-matter-marches-664704> [I have said form the Obamanation days that if the leftist groups don’t stop ‘playing the racism card” and stirring the pot of identity politics and ‘identity citizenry’ that this country was headed for an all out race war. The situation accelerated greatly under the Obamanation and The Donald tried to put a bit of a throttle on it but the left and radical groups kept pushing their racial issues and now that the communist/socialist are in charge it will only go further until you see blood in the streets. Just as the flue issue is stoked by verbiage inciting fear the racial issue is stoke by verbiage pushing separation and racial identity issues. – rdb]

**Kamala’s turn: Biden’s border czar resigns soon after comments on ‘pay to stay’ scheme amid record surge of migrants**

*9 Apr, 2021 23:30*



***Migrants cross the Rio Grande river into the United States from Mexico in Roma, Texas, April 8, 2021. ©  REUTERS/Go Nakamura***

Roberta Jacobson, former US ambassador to Mexico who advised President Joe Biden on the southern border situation, has resigned on the same day as the media quoted her about paying Central American migrants to stay put.

Jacobson “will retire from her role” at the end of April, national security advisor Jake Sullivan [announced](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/09/statement-from-national-security-advisor-jake-sullivan-on-the-service-of-ambassador-jacobson-coordinator-for-the-southwest-border/) on Friday, explaining that she made a commitment to serve in the Biden administration’s first 100 days, and *“underscored”* their *“commitment to reenergizing the US immigration system.”*

Sullivan explained that Vice President Kamala Harris will take over the *“whole-of-government approach”* towards the border situation, implying that Jacobson’s duties as the *“Special Assistant to the President and Coordinator for the Southwest Border at the National Security Council”* have become redundant.

NEW: WH considers cash payments to Central Americans to stem migration <https://t.co/hnuMZ5qXeG>

— Jon Levine (@LevineJonathan) [April 9, 2021](https://twitter.com/LevineJonathan/status/1380624938684538885?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Earlier on Friday, however, Jacobson had given a round of media interviews, revealing to Reuters that the White House was considering cash payments to residents of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador to address *“both the economic reasons people may be migrating, as well as the protection and security reasons.”*

She couldn’t say how that would work, but said the US government *“isn’t going to be handing out money or checks to people.”*

BREAKING: White House's border coordinator Roberta S. Jacobson RESIGNS as Biden struggles to contain the historic surge in migrants <https://t.co/kxqRKxpXFv>

— Jack Posobiec (@JackPosobiec) [April 9, 2021](https://twitter.com/JackPosobiec/status/1380619934473060363?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

In a short interview with the New York Times, Jacobson said the appointment of Harris *“didn’t have anything to do with my decision”* to resign and said *“nobody could be more delighted”* to see the VP take on the job.

Biden and Harris are seeking *“an immigration system that is humane, orderly and safe,”* she told the NYT, adding, *“I leave optimistically. The policy direction is so clearly right for our country.”*

Harris has yet to visit the border, however. On Thursday, the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) shared a graph showing a surge of illegal crossings starting in January 2021 – when the Biden administration took office.

In March, CBP encountered over 172,000 persons attempting entry along the SW border. This FY, CBP has already had over 569,800 encounters.Press release: <https://t.co/s6pObvhmjQ>Enforcement stats: <https://t.co/AcdShCXjDS>SW Land Border Encounters: <https://t.co/i3vbVkLjpB>[pic.twitter.com/v3doyPecnX](https://t.co/v3doyPecnX)

— CBP (@CBP) [April 8, 2021](https://twitter.com/CBP/status/1380160330991603723?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

While repeating the Biden administration talking points about how all of this is normal, seasonal and due to natural disasters and poverty, the CBP also revealed that they *“encountered over 172,000 persons attempting entry along the SW border”* just in March, a 71% increase from February 2021.

Among them were 19,000 unaccompanied minors, the highest number in recent history, straining the capacity of both the CBP and other federal agencies such as Health and Human Services (HHS) to accommodate them. The White House has solicited a thousand volunteers from across the federal agencies – including [NASA](https://www.rt.com/usa/520313-nasa-migrant-children-assistance/) – for a four-month detail to help care for the migrants.

In his first – and so far only – press conference as president, Biden insisted the migrants weren’t coming because he was “a nice guy” but due to social, political and economic pressure that the US must address *“root causes”* of.

This was after Jacobson had told the White House press corps that the surge might be due to a *“pent up demand”* created by the Trump administration’s strict enforcement and that a *“more humane policy”* of Biden and Harris may be driving more people to make the *“decision*” to cross.

Jacobson was appointed by President Barack Obama as the US ambassador to Mexico in 2016, and [resigned](https://www.rt.com/usa/420241-ambassador-mexico-resigns-trump/) in May 2018 amid an impasse in US-Mexican relations. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto had just cancelled a planned visit to the US after a frosty phone call with his US counterpart Donald Trump, concerning the proposed wall on the border.

Democrats have denounced Trump’s wall as *“immoral, xenophobic and racist”* and Biden ordered its construction halted within days of taking office, but his administration is now reportedly considering filling in the *“gaps”* that are apparently inviting illegal crossings. <https://www.rt.com/usa/520650-border-czar-resigning-cash-payments/>

**Biden names 2 Democratic operatives to propose court-packing plan**

***President commissions review of Supreme Court's rules, decisions***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 9, 2021 at 1:23pm* President Biden on Friday named two Democratic operatives to head a panel of more than 30 members, mostly lawyers, who will consider expanding the Supreme Court.  
 This week, after he took a number of executive actions on gun control, a [report in the Washington Examiner](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/supreme-court-second-amendment-biden-gun-control) noted the Supreme Court remained a "barrier to Joe Biden's gun grab" and other partisan initiatives.  
 The report explained the court, which already has affirmed that the Second Amendment grants individuals the right to own and carry weapons, now is considering several cases that could disrupt Biden's plan to restrict or ban some common weapons.  
 The White House announced that the commission, which is assigned to look at "the length of service and turnover of justices on the court," as well as the "membership and size of the court," will be headed by Bob Bauer of the New York University School of Law and Cristina Rodriguez of Yale. [The structure and membership and term of the Supreme Court is given in the Constitution. To change that situation the Constitution would have to be changed and that is a long drawn out process. He may try to do it by writ (also called and Exec Order) but if so he needs to be impeached. The Exec branch has no authority over the SCOTUS. – rdb]  
 Only days after Biden was inaugurated, Rodriguez lashed out at former President Trump under the headline "Fixing Trump’s damage to government will take more than executive orders."  
 She wrote: "President Biden has wasted no time in addressing the damage of the Trump years, issuing a slew of executive orders and presidential proclamations — most of them reversing the last administration’s most controversial actions. He rejoined the World Health Organization and the Paris climate agreement, canceled a gas pipeline permit the Trump administration had approved and abolished the 1776 Commission his predecessor had set up to push a distorted view of U.S. history.  
 "But Biden’s orders on immigration most exemplified his attempt to undo Donald Trump’s legacy on Day One: He halted construction on Trump’s border wall, rescinded the infamous travel ban on people from several Muslim-majority countries and recommitted to protections for unauthorized immigrants brought to the country as children."  
 Since then, a humanitarian crisis has developed at the border, with tens of thousands of illegal immigrant children and many more adults arriving to enter the United States illegally. The surge, overwhelming the border protection capabilities of the nation, has subjected young migrants to abuse from smugglers.Bottom of Form

Bauer served as White House counsel to Barack Obama. He previously was part of an analysis of the American election system that resulted in measures that, Republicans charge, made fraud easier.

During the second impeachment of President Trump, he wrote articles arguing for changes that would have allowed the Democrats to remove their archnemesis from the White House.  
 "The Senate had the occasion to pass judgment on the demagogic presidency, and in the end, relying primarily on a jurisdictional objection, it did not do so," he wrote.  
 He said the Senate should have done more fact-finding, which could have exposed "the senators who stood by Trump to a greater level of public embarrassment or discomfort."  
 The White House said it wants the new Supreme Court commission to examine the Supreme Court's "role in the constitutional system" and even how the justices choose cases and establish their rules.  
 Its report is expected within six months.  
 Other commissioners are Michelle Adams of the Cardozo School of Law; Kate Andrias of the University of Michigan, where the onetime clerk for Ruth Bader Ginsburg focuses of "political inequality"; Jack Balkin of Yale; William Baude, a law professor from Chicago; Elise Boddie, a Rutgers professor who worked with the NAACP; Guy-Uriel Charles, a Duke professor who writes about the "law's role in addressing racial subordination"; Andrew Crespo, a Harvard professor who previously clerked for Elena Kagan; Walter Dellinger of Duke; Justin Driver, a Yale professor who worked with Merrick Garland and Stephen Breyer; Richard Fallon Jr. of Harvard; Caroline Fredrickson, previously of the pro-abortion NARAL organization; Heather Gerken of Yale; Nancy Gertner, a former judge; Jack Goldsmith of Harvard; and Thomas Griffith, a former judge.  
 Other names on the list are Tara Leigh Grove, Bert Huang, Sherrilyn Ifill, Michael Kang, Olatunde Johnson, Alison L. LaCroix, Margaret Lemos, David F. Levi, Trevor W. Morrison, Caleb Nelson, Richard Pildes, Michael Ramsey, Kermit Roosevelt, Bartrall Ross, David Strauss, Laurence H. Tribe, Adam White, Keith Whittington and Michael Waldman of the left-wing Brennan Center for Justice.  
 Mike Davis, founder of the Article III Project, warned, "This is an alarming announcement from President Biden that should be met with the harshest of denunciations from both sides of the aisle. Packing the Supreme Court would destroy centuries of hard work from Democrat- and Republican-appointed justices to insulate the high court from partisan politics. It also raises serious red flags as to what unconstitutional actions President Biden is planning that a more favorable Supreme Court might tolerate."  
 He said, "We hope this commission is simply an empty gesture to the radical left. But there is real danger in President Biden giving credibility to the idea of court packing; he is playing with fire and threatening the constitutional foundation of this country. He should have the wisdom and enough self respect to recognize that any attempt to pack the Supreme Court would be rejected by Congress and would be an ugly stain on his legacy, just as it was for the last president who tried it." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/biden-names-2-democrat-operatives-propose-court-packing-plan/> [If there is not some action taken by the conservatives in government to block and remedy the radical left’s action this country will not exist as a republic in 4 more years. It will be a socialist dictatorship. – rdb]

**State House passes bill curbing governor's emergency powers**

***Model legislation counters COVID-19 restrictions***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published April 9, 2021 at 7:51pm*

Lawmakers in the state whose motto is "Live free or die" have advanced a model bill to give the legislature more authority in future emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The New Hampshire House pass the bill overwhelmingly Thursday, [reported the NPR affiliate in the state.](https://www.nhpr.org/post/nh-house-passes-bill-limiting-governors-emergency-powers#stream/0)

The bill would give governors the power to declare a 30-day state of emergency, but the Legislature would need to approve any extension.

If the legislature isn't able to meet, a governor's emergency acts would renew in 14-day increments until the lawmakers can reconvene.

Republican state Rep. Terry Roy said the bill, with bipartisan input, was a reaction to New Hampshire's experience during the pandemic.

"We learned a lot we didn't know when the emergency orders law was passed previously, and we are now better prepared if this happens again, we know what we do not want,” Roy said, NHPR reported.

However, Republican Gov. Chris Sununu has voweed to veto it along with other measures that would limit the authority of a governor during an emergency.

The House's passage of the bill drew the praise of liberal activist and author Naomi Wolf, who has been a sharp critic of government mandates in response to the epidemic.Bottom of Form

Huge day for liberty in NH. Thank you to Rep Melissa Blasek who gave DailyClout's Five Freedoms Campaign an interview about this model legislation. ‘NH House Passes Bill Limiting Governor's Emergency Powers’ | New Hampshire Public Radio. <https://t.co/5burz4rPmT>

— Dr Naomi Wolf (@naomirwolf) [April 9, 2021](https://twitter.com/naomirwolf/status/1380575139889352708)

[In an interview March 29](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2021/03/29/naomi_wolf_mandatory_vaccine_passport_could_lead_to_end_of_human_liberty_in_the_west.html), Wolf said a so-called vaccine passport would be "literally the end of human liberty in the West."

In [a recent video podcast](https://www.wnd.com/2021/03/4899605/), she warned that America is on "a path to totalitarianism."

Wolf believes the nation has reached "step 10" of her ["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/)

She said liberals today largely are blind to the erosion of constitutional liberties. As she sounds the alarm about the threat to the U.S. Constitution, she said, the only people affirming her are "libertarians and people who are on the right."

"And the left," she said, "is like, 'Shut up, sit down. You're killing grandma. 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. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/state-house-passes-bill-curbing-governors-emergency-powers/>

**Doctors Call for Hospitals to Discriminate Against Whites as Form of “Medical Restitution”**

*by* [*Selwyn Duke*](https://thenewamerican.com/contributor/selwyn-duke/) *April 9, 2021*

It’s ironic, but the agitators who complain most about “structural racism” are the very people making it a reality. The latest example is two Harvard doctors’ call for racial discrimination in the provision of medical services as part of what they label, as the title of an article they penned puts it, “An Antiracist Agenda for Medicine.” They also want federal reparations for black Americans.

As the Post Millennial [reports](https://thepostmillennial.com/doctors-call-for-racially-discriminating-against-patients-in-order-to-promote-social-justice):

Dr. Bram Wispelwey, and Dr. Michelle Morse, both of whom teach at Harvard Medical School, wrote that their mission was to “comprehensively confront structural racism.” To go about this, they plan to enlist the tools of critical race theory (CRT). They slam what they call “colorblind policies,” or the concept of equality for individuals of all races and ethnicities under the law, saying that it is not achieving their desired ends with enough speed.

Federal reparations, they write, are only the beginning of addressing structural racism, which they define in a medical context as: “Ability to pay,” “inequities in uninsurance and insurance type,” “employment status,” “institutional racism,” “persistent housing inequality and racial segregation,” “redlining, blockbusting, and contract buying,” and “wealth inequality.”

Dr. Bram Wispelwey, and Dr. Michelle Morse, both of whom teach at Harvard Medical School, have called for the allocation of medical resources to be done on the basis of race. <https://t.co/g73VMmiHkG>

— Arevalo & Meyers (@MexUSAInmigrant) [March 29, 2021](https://twitter.com/MexUSAInmigrant/status/1376374716500480001?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

“One of the programs proposed by the writers is something called ‘Redress,’” [adds](https://thefederalist.com/2021/04/08/harvard-doctors-promote-race-based-discrimination-in-boston-hospital-in-order-to-be-antiracist/) the Federalist. “The program is intended to discriminate against whites who require medical attention so other individuals can automatically be given treatment.”

As the professors [explain](https://bostonreview.net/science-nature-race/bram-wispelwey-michelle-morse-antiracist-agenda-medicine), “Redress could take multiple forms, from cash transfers and discounted or free care to taxes on nonprofit hospitals that exclude patients of color and race-explicit protocol changes (such as preferentially admitting patients historically denied access to certain forms of medical care).” <https://thenewamerican.com/doctors-call-for-hospitals-to-discriminate-against-whites-as-form-of-medical-restitution/> [Someone was really stupid to grant these two twits a degree in medicine. They are racist pigs and stand for nothing that healthcare is supposed to support. – rdb]

**New Million-Dollar Purchase by BLM Co-Founder May Explain Where All that Money is Going**

***April 9, 2021 (4h ago)***



BLM is a profitable organization and they are raking in the dough.

According to the [New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/14/us/politics/black-lives-matter-racism-donations.html), just one Black Lives Matter online petition raked in $5 million in contributions.

The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis has been a gold mine for BLM and other black rights groups.

The New York Times piece above goes on to explain that progressive and racial justice groups have seen a flood of donations since Floyd’s death. As a matter of fact, those infamous bail funds alone have garnered 90 million bucks.

Between Floyd and “Defund The Police”, so much money has been pouring into BLM that they’ve actually had to redirect donors to other causes.

The reason for the cash overflow is that rich celebrities and woke corporations are donating huge sums at an alarming rate. It’s an easy way for liberals to wash away their “white guilt” and score progressive brownie points.

As it stands now, BLM is so filthy rich, they don’t even know exactly how much cash they have… or if they do, they’re not telling anyone.

But where is all that money going? Most people figure that it’s going straight into the Democrat coffers, and they’re probably right.

But is there more to it than just that?

A curious new purchase by BLM co-founder Patrisse Khan-Cullors is now calling into question just how those BLM riches are being spent. Khan-Cullors just purchased herself a swanky little $1.4 million-dollar Cali pad in a city called Topanga, just outside of Beverly Hills.

The kicker in all of this is that Topanga is an elitist white neighborhood where only 1.4 percent of the population is black. <https://www.revolver.news/2021/04/new-million-dollar-purchase-by-blm-co-founder-may-explain-where-all-that-money-is-going/>

**Now Hillary Clinton 'linked' to nude public photo shoot scandal in Dubai**

***Organizer reportedly seen in photographs with her***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published April 9, 2021 at 5:08pm*

There are few topics that have not been cited in scandals connected to Hillary Clinton.

Government emails on an unsecure server? Check. Defending a philandering husband? Check. Telling tall tales under oath? Check? And too many more to enumerate.

But this, apparently, is a new one.

[Just the News reports](https://justthenews.com/world/middle-east/scandalous-dubai-photo-shoot-prompts-subtle-jabs-about-russians-ukrainians-and-us) the Russian-sponsored RT news outlet says a scandalous photo shoot last week of a balcony filled with nude women in the strict Muslim nation of Dubai was arranged by Ukraine native Vitaliy Grechin, who is said to be a "Democratic Party strategist."

Photos from social media show him with Clinton, as well as with then-President Barack Obama and actor George Clooney.

Grechin claimed in 2019 to be a financial adviser to Obama.

[The Ukrainian website Strana,](https://strana.ua/articles/rassledovania/326696-vitalij-hrechin-kto-orhanizoval-skandalnuju-holuju-fotosessiju-ukrainok-v-dubae.html) which is financed by Russia and is pro-Moscow, published the images of Grechin with Obama and Clinton.

The photo shoot took place just before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky arrived for a state visit to regional neighbor Qatar, Just the News said.

The Dubai Police on April 3 announced the charges.

"A criminal case has been registered against the arrested, and they have been referred to the Public Prosecution for further legal action," the agency wrote on Twitter.

Citing local law, the agency noted: "Whoever publicly appeals, sings, or engages in lewd speech, and whoever seduces others publicly into debauchery in any manner whatsoever, shall be punished by detention for at most six months and by a fine." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/now-hillary-clinton-linked-nude-public-photo-shoot-scandal-dubai/> [Lord help us! The insanity continues to grow. At least it wasn’t a nude picture of “the Hill” - rdb]

**Commentary:**

**Greater Access and Integrity: Georgia’s Election Law**[*Congressman Drew Ferguson*](https://townhall.com/capitol-voices/congressmandrewferguson/) *Posted: Apr 09, 2021 11:15 AM* Having free and fair elections is the foundation of our nation’s democracy, and we, as Americans, should no longer accept the false choice between voter access and voter integrity. We must demand and achieve both. Georgia’s new election integrity law goes a long way toward accomplishing just that.  
 Governor Kemp, Attorney General Carr, and our state legislators worked hard this legislative session to pass reforms to address issues arising from the 2020 election, secure each and every ballot, and provide broader access to voters while still securing the integrity of the ballot.  
 Unfortunately, what Delta Air Lines, Major League Baseball, other corporate CEOs in the Peach State, and even our own Senators Warnock and Ossoff are saying about the new Georgia law is shockingly inaccurate and downright irresponsible. It is a blatant disinformation campaign, and they ought to be ashamed. Continuing to push dishonest and intentionally misleading statements are only driving division and hurting Georgians and the American public.    
 Let’s lay out the facts. The new election law established a 17-day early voting period, including two Saturdays and two optional Sundays, for each locality in Georgia. Drop boxes will be available in every county at early voting sites to ensure widespread availability. Voters will also be able to receive an absentee ballot without having to provide an excuse. The same cannot be said about blue states like Connecticut and New York, none of which have no-excuse absentee ballot requirements.  
 Voter ID, which 35 other states require, is included in the new law. This simply calls for folks to present either a driver’s license or free state ID number. The state of Georgia has mechanisms in place to assist individuals in obtaining a voter identification to make it as simple, easy, and straightforward as possible to get an ID.  
 Drinking water and food is not banned in voter lines. These items - along with campaign materials - simply cannot be provided by advocacy groups soliciting votes. Statements made by Senator Warnock that exaggerate and mislead voters about the intent and actual language of the bill are nothing more than attempts to induce hysteria and outrage among the Democrat base.    
 Looking at the bigger picture, this whole charade to demonize Georgia’s law is being used by progressives and outside groups to build a narrative of fear and outrage in order to justify the federal takeover of state election laws. I will continue fighting against these unconstitutional attempts at every turn because at the end of the day, this is about making sure that every single Georgian —and every American — has the right to have their voice heard and their vote matter.  
 As we fight back against this coordinated disinformation campaign on our state’s election law, we won’t back down and we won’t cave to woke corporate CEO’s. Rest assured, this debate will be won on the facts, not on the phony narrative being perpetrated by the far Left.

*U.S. Congressman Drew Ferguson represents the Third District of Georgia and serves on the House Ways and Means Committee. Ferguson is Chief Deputy Whip for the House Republican Conference.* <https://townhall.com/capitol-voices/congressmandrewferguson/2021/04/09/greater-access-and-integrity-georgias-election-law-n2587660>

**Democrats Choose Communist China Over Georgia**

[*Katie Pavlich*](https://townhall.com/columnists/katiepavlich/) *Posted: Apr 09, 2021 11:25 AM* As you know by now, Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred pulled the 2021 All-Star Game and draft from Atlanta.   
 "Major League Baseball fundamentally supports voting rights for all Americans and opposes restrictions to the ballot box," Manfred released in a statement. "In 2020, MLB became the first professional sports league to join the non-partisan Civic Alliance to help build a future in which everyone participates in shaping the United States. We proudly used our platform to encourage baseball fans and communities throughout our country to perform their civic duty and actively participate in the voting process. Fair access to voting continues to have our game’s unwavering support."  
 The move came after President Joe Biden said he would support bouncing the game out of the state in protest of Georgia’s new election law, which simply requires voter identification and *extends*early voting to 17 days. In fact, the MLB cited Biden's statements to support its move.   
 "Major League Baseball announced on Friday that it will relocate the 2021 All-Star Game and MLB Draft, originally scheduled to take place in Atlanta, to a to-be-determined location. The decision comes a little more than a week after the passage of S.B. 202, a Georgia law that President Joe Biden criticized earlier this week, saying that it will restrict voting access for residents of the state," MLB released last week. "Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement that the decision to move the All-Star Game was 'the best way to demonstrate our values as a sport' and was made after consultation with teams, former and current players, the MLB Players Association and The Players Alliance, among others."   
 Biden, as usual, didn’t let the facts get in the way of his reckless rhetoric. Not to mention his home state of Delaware has far more restrictive election laws than Georgia, including zero early voting days and voter identification requirements.   
 But while the MLB was the first corporation to make a move based on the advocacy of a Democratic president, many followed with virtue-signaling statements of their own, claiming they care about the "protection of democracy" and the ability to cast a ballot.   
 "Actions speak louder than words. We're donating $1 million to groups working to defend our democracy and your right to vote. Join us in taking 3 important actions," clothing company Patagonia tweeted.   
 "I need to make it crystal clear that the final bill is unacceptable and does not match Delta's values," Delta CEO Ed Bastian wrote in a public memo.   
 "We want to be crystal clear and state unambiguously that we are disappointed in the outcome of the Georgia voting legislation," Coca-Cola CEO James Quincey said.   
 All of these companies — including the MLB — have major business contracts with the Chinese Communist Party, which has no democracy, no voting, uses slave labor and is currently engaged in genocide against a religious minority.   
 "He doesn’t have a democratic – with a small 'd' – bone in his body," President Biden said of China's Xi Jinping on March 25, 2021, just one day before the Georgia bill was signed into law.   
 Woke corporations like to lecture about "values," but through their choice of China over Georgia, they've made those values crystal clear. Not to mention, they all require identification for transactions in or visits to their businesses.   
 Meanwhile, Stacey Abrams, the woman who caused this whole thing by calling Georgia's new voting law "Jim Crow 2.0," is reaping what she has sown. President Biden happily parroted her false claims and categorization of the law by calling it "Jim Crow on steroids" on ESPN after meeting with her. Hyperbolic language and extreme dishonesty about the law led to an economic backlash, and now she’s acting surprised. If something is truly "Jim Crow 2.0," then it deserves to be harshly countered. This wasn’t it, but Abrams said it was, and the wokists in the corporate corner offices followed through to do something about it.   
 And who are the real victims here? The very people Democrats claim to care about. The MLB is moving the All-Star game to mostly white Denver and away from mostly black Atlanta. Cobb County, local businesses and people who work in or around Truist Park are set to lose nearly $200 million in badly needed revenue. Worse, under the Left’s definition of "racist" voting laws that require identification, Colorado is in the same category as the Peach State with a voter identification requirement. So what was the point? Heck, even the Atlanta Braves were against the move.   
 "The Atlanta Braves are deeply disappointed by the decision of Major League Baseball to move its 2021 All Star Game. This was neither our decision, nor our recommendation and we are saddened that fans will not be able to see this event in our city," the Atlanta Braves released in a statement. "The Braves Organization will continue to stress the importance of equal voting opportunities and we had hoped our city could use this event as a platform to enhance the discussion. Our city has always been known as a uniter in divided times and we will miss the opportunity to address issues that are important to our community."   
 "Unfortunately, businesses, employees, and fans in Georgia are the victims of this decision. We will continue to support the community legacy projects which have been planned and are in process," the statement continues.   
 Georgia, of course, isn’t racist enough for MLB's Manfred to give up his membership at the highly exclusive and very white Augusta National Golf Course. As Senator Marco Rubio points out, that would require a personal sacrifice. Only the working people get to suffer for this decision.   
 The problem is, wokism eventually eats everybody, and China loves to stand by and watch it all happen — especially as Democrats and corporate CEOs choose them over Georgia.  <https://townhall.com/columnists/katiepavlich/2021/04/09/untitled-n2587659>

**So, this is Communism…**

*By* [*Lex Greene*](https://newswithviews.com/author/lex/)*|April 9th, 2021*

For decades now, American children have been taught that communism ended with the fall of the Soviet Union. They’ve been dog-whistle trained to believe that socialism; Marxism, is a progressive idea whose time has come. Nothing could be further from the truth and today, what we are witnessing in the USA under the pseudo-Biden regime is the new face of communism, “[progressive socialism](https://www.dsausa.org/).”

Karl Marx is the globally acknowledged creator and author of today’s “[democratic socialism](https://www.dsausa.org/).” Marx is also the author of the [Communist Manifesto](http://www.slp.org/pdf/marx/comm_man.pdf), in concert with Frederick Engels. As Marx himself wrote, “true democracy is the road to socialism, and socialism is merely a steppingstone into communism.”

Karl Marx fans proclaim his genius, writing adoring epitaphs like “Karl Heinrich Marx was a German philosopher, economist, historian, sociologist, political theorist, journalist and socialist revolutionary.” But reality tells [a vastly different story](https://redice.tv/news/karl-marx-lived-in-filth-and-neglected-his-children) about the life of Karl Marx.

Marx and his wife both came from prominent families. But Marx was lazy and self-indulgent, living in squaller his entire life. As Marx spent his life warring against freedom, liberty and individual Rights, his children were left to die of starvation.

Marx had seven (known) children with his wife, but only three of the seven children lived to adulthood. Four of the children died at incredibly young ages, all four, of starvation and malnourishment. Only three daughters lived to adulthood. This was not the plight of all children at the time of Marx’s life. It was only the plight of Marx’s children, and all who followed his teachings.

But before Marx himself passed, two of the three daughters who lived to adulthood, committed suicide. This is the true legacy of the hero to all who believe they want to follow the teachings of [Karl Marx](https://ricochet.com/667975/archives/the-children-of-karl-marx/), the father of modern socialism and author of the [Communist Manifesto](http://www.slp.org/pdf/marx/comm_man.pdf).

In a recent survey of young American voters, [44% said they want to live under socialism](https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2020/10/23/soci-o23.html), just like their hero, Karl Marx. Most Americans don’t know that they already live under socialism, with more than 64% of all federal spending dedicated to social programs. As Marx wrote, the next step after socialism is communism, and that’s where the USA is headed today.

**Fences, Troops and Razor Wire**

The last time fences and troops were used to protect the ruling class elites in Washington DC from angry voters, was 1932, the [Bonus Army event](https://www.nps.gov/articles/the-1932-bonus-army.htm)…when a group of 43,000 demonstrators – made up of 17,000 U.S. World War I veterans, together with their families and affiliated groups – gathered in Washington, D.C. in mid-1932 to demand early cash redemption of their service certificates.

After victory in World War I, the US government promised in 1924 that servicemen would receive a bonus for their service, in 1945. The bonus was also known as the “Tombstone Bonus.” Then, the Great Depression hit, beginning with the stock market collapse of 1929. By 1932, the Depression was still dragging on, with no end in sight. Out of sheer desperation, some of the veterans decided to march on Washington to ask for the bonus right away. ([source](https://www.nps.gov/articles/the-1932-bonus-army.htm))

Instead of paying any bonuses to veterans and their families unable to feed or house themselves at the height of the Great Depression, the federal government called in troops and opened fire on the veterans and their families. Four years later, in 1936, the veterans did get their bonus, when Congress voted for the money, over democratic socialist President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s veto.

Today, U.S. National Guard troops stand in defense of the pseudo-Biden regime…why? Once again, federal authority is prepared to use military force to protect a rogue administration rushing to install the ideas of Karl Marx and stand on the throats of the American people, in the name of the “greater common good.” Why have Governors allowed their State Guards to be abused in this manner?

As Guardsmen stand a fence to protect Marxist D.C. politicians from the people, our southern border is being overrun by thousands of illegal invaders. The new face of communism is “progressive socialism” as the Biden pseudo-administration spends the nation into unsustainable debt, and floods the country with illegal aliens to bankrupt the nation under the [Cloward-Piven strategy](https://www.discoverthenetworks.org/organizations/clowardpiven-strategy-cps).

Simply stated, the objective of the progressive socialists is to overwhelm the U.S. economy with monstrous social spending, not for Americans, but for illegal invaders and fellow Marxists around the world. That’s why 91% of the first Biden COVID $1.9T bill and 96% of his $2T second “stimulus” bill is nothing but a global slush fund for Marxists all over the world, paid for by American taxpayers, now $30T in debt.

**This is the face of communism in the USA 2021**…and the young people simply know not what they do, or what they wish (and vote) for. They are destroying their own future, but they do not know it. Even worse, the younger generations have been Pavlov trained not to listen to their parents or grandparents, who have seen this all before.

The promises of gifts from the public treasury in the form of COVID stimulus checks, free college, free medicine, free food, free housing, free everything, from a country already $30-trillion in debt, is the bait. These kids think that the government has its own money and can keep writing bad checks for eternity. They do not realize that the debt their political heroes are creating, is their debt to soon pay. The mouse doesn’t know why the cheese is free…

We no longer “tax and spend” in the USA. Now we spend ourselves into unsustainable debt and then raise taxes and seize private assets from all American citizens, to try to bankrupt every citizen while bankrupting a once rich and powerful nation.

This is how a nation of free people is tricked into communism, via progressive socialism. Marx and Engels knew it, as did Khrushchev, when he said communists would take down the USA from within, without needing to ever fire a single shot. They knew that sooner or later, a dumbed down and properly indoctrinated generation would vote themselves back into bondage, while in pursuit of gifts from the public trough.

The USA is now in the final death spiral into unbridled brutal communism and most Americans can’t see it coming, especially the young people voting for it. The “cancel culture” is all about silencing all voices of dissent, all public warnings of danger ahead! And again, the social shaming and cancel culture is all run by children who think they are doing what’s best for America, muzzling all voices of dissent, as if completely unaware of who the muzzle will be fitted for in the end.

This is the face of communism…but because most Americans don’t know it, they will live under that boot for a while before they gain the knowledge and gumption to rise up against it. Evidence of an unlawful election in 2020 is everywhere, people all over the world have seen it. But those who think they want socialism, will never agree to see it.

Yet, unless the fraudulent 2020 elections are exposed and overturned, the USA is headed into the darkest period in U.S. history, for the sake of the “greater good,” of course. This isn’t about Trump or Biden, it’s about freedom and liberty. It’s about a free and independent Constitutional Republic, or just another 3rd world member of a global commune.

Every problem on earth has a solution. But they all require people able to work together in coordinated initiatives based on real facts and [real targeted solutions](https://www.scribd.com/document/498715672/2021-Constitutional-Compliance-Act-proposed-to-states). The first step is knowing what *not* to do.

**Progressive socialism is communism…** but the people will have to learn this the hard way. Six of Marx’s seven children had to learn this the hard way too. <https://newswithviews.com/so-this-is-communism/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Pfizer seeks FDA approval to vaccinate adolescents**

***Pfizer asks Food and Drug Administration to expand the emergency use of COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents aged 12 to 15.***

*Elad Benari, Canada , Apr 09 , 2021 8:57 PM*

Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech SE said on Friday they have requested the US Food and Drug Administration to expand the emergency use of their COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents aged 12 to 15, Reuters reported. [“For EMERGENCY USE” this is not a full approval so this is still an ‘experimental treatment’ that is going to jabbed into children. – rdb]

In March, [the drugmakers said](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/299427) the vaccine was found to be safe, effective and produced robust antibody responses in 12- to 15-year-olds in a clinical trial.

The companies plan to request similar rulings by other regulatory authorities globally in the coming days, according to *Reuters*.

The Pfizer/BioNTech two-shot vaccine is already authorized for use in people as young as 16.

Last month, [Pfizer also began testing](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/299237) its vaccine on younger children. The global study of 144 participants will also examine whether the vaccine can generate an immune response in children and determine the proper dosage for each age group in the trial: 6 months to 2 years; 2 years to 5 years; and 5 years to 11 years.

Last week, [Pfizer and BioNTech said](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/299493) the vaccine provides protection which lasts for at least six months after the second dose.

They also said the vaccine is fully effective against the South African variant, B.1.351.

Previously, [a study showed](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298976) that though the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is effective against the South African variant, it is less effective than against the other variants. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/299962> Using the pubic for guinea pigs. This is disgusting. – rdb]

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