**04/30/2021 NEWS AM Lag B’Omer**

**Don’t miss special Shorashim Insights Link:**

[**https://madmimi.com/p/3629421?pact=1019975-163008837-1683292940-f26ea1845769c4acae5f54c07baa7328d0b72546**](https://madmimi.com/p/3629421?pact=1019975-163008837-1683292940-f26ea1845769c4acae5f54c07baa7328d0b72546)

**Israeli Band Hatikva 6 Performs Song for IDF Combat Soldiers**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_c6R4dzThbM**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_c6R4dzThbM)

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| **"How should it happen that the individual should be without rights, but the combination of individuals should possess unlimited rights?"  -- Auberon Herbert (1838-1906) English writer, theorist, philosopher, 19th century individualist, member of the Parliament of the U.K.** |

**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 AB family – Wife just diagnosed with brain tumor**  **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 KL – troubling spiritual situation.**  **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 26:26And Abimelech went to him from Gerar, and his aide Ahuzzath, and Phicol the general of his army. 27And Isaac said to them, Why have you come to me, since you hate me and sent me away from you? 28And they said, Since we plainly have seen that Jehovah has been with you, and we have said, let there be an oath now between us, between us and you, and let us cut a covenant with you, 29whether you will do with us evil, as we did not touch you, and as we did only good with you, and we sent you away in peace you now *being* blessed of Jehovah.**

**45 crushed to death, over 150 hurt in stampede at mass Lag B’Omer event in Meron**

***Many in critical condition as ambulances, helicopters evacuate victims from largest gathering held in Israel since COVID outbreak; kids said among dead, injured***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:32 amUpdated at 1:57 pm* [*22*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/dozens-said-hurt-as-stand-collapses-at-mass-lag-bomer-gathering-in-mount-meron/#comments)

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| ***Israeli security officials and rescuers carry a body of a victim who died during Lag B'Omer celebrations at Mt. Meron in northern Israel, April 30, 2021 (AP Photo)***  ***Israeli security officials and rescuers carry a body of a victim who died during Lag B'Omer celebrations at Mt. Meron in northern Israel, April 30, 2021 (AP Photo)*** | ***Abandoned hat after a stampede during the celebrations of the Jewish holiday of Lag B'Omer on Mt. Meron, in northern Israel on April 30, 2021 (David Cohen/Flash90)***  ***Abandoned hat after a stampede during the celebrations of the Jewish holiday of Lag B'Omer on Mt. Meron, in northern Israel on April 30, 2021 (David Cohen/Flash90)*** |
| ***Crowd in the moments before the Mt Meron tragedy, April 30, 2021 (Screen grab)***  ***Crowd in the moments before the Mt Meron tragedy, April 30, 2021 (Screen grab)*** | ***Israeli rescue forces after a stampede during the celebrations of the Jewish holiday of Lag B'Omer on Mt. Meron, in northern Israel on April 30, 2021 (David Cohen/Flash90)***  ***Israeli rescue forces after a stampede during the celebrations of the Jewish holiday of Lag B'Omer on Mt. Meron, in northern Israel on April 30, 2021 (David Cohen/Flash90)*** |
| ***Israeli rescue forces and police near the scene after a stampede killed at least 44 during the celebrations of the Jewish holiday of Lag B'Omer on Mt. Meron, in northern Israel on April 30, 2021. (David Cohen/Flash90)***  ***Israeli rescue forces and police near the scene after a stampede killed at least 44 during the celebrations of the Jewish holiday of Lag B'Omer on Mt. Meron, in northern Israel on April 30, 2021. (David Cohen/Flash90)*** | ***Israeli rescue forces after a crush killed dozens during the celebrations of the Jewish holiday of Lag B'Omer on Mt. Meron, in northern Israel on April 30, 2021 (David Cohen/Flash90)***  ***Israeli rescue forces after a crush killed dozens during the celebrations of the Jewish holiday of Lag B'Omer on Mt. Meron, in northern Israel on April 30, 2021 (David Cohen/Flash90)*** |

**At least 45 people were crushed to death and more than 150 people hurt, including many in critical condition, in a stampede after midnight Thursday at a mass gathering to celebrate the Lag B’Omer holiday at Mount Meron, medics said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the incident “a terrible disaster,” promised a thorough investigation, and said that Sunday would be declared a day of national mournin**g.

**Army Radio reported that children were among the dead and inj**ured. **MORE -**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/dozens-said-hurt-as-stand-collapses-at-mass-lag-bomer-gathering-in-mount-meron/>

**From an earlier report last night..**

**38 people crushed to death, dozens hurt at mass Lag B’Omer event in Mt. Meron**

***More than 65 injured, many in critical condition as ambulances, helicopters evacuating victims from largest gathering held in Israel since COVID outbreak; IDF sends rescue team***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:32 am*

**At least 38 people were crushed to death and more than 65 people hurt, including many in critical condition, in an apparent stampede after midnight Thursday at a mass gathering to celebrate the Lag B’Omer holiday at Mount M**eron, medics said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the incident “a terrible disaster.”

**The Magen David Adom rescue service said at least 38 people had been killed. It said its paramedics were treating 65 people, including 6 in a critical condition who had been evacuated to hospitals, 18 in a serious condition,** 2 who were moderately hurt, and 39 lightly injured.

**The event appeared to be one of the worst peacetime tragedies in Israel’s histo**ry.

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| ***[Israeli rescue forces and police near a mass fatality scene during a gathering marking the Jewish holiday of Lag Baomer on Mt. Meron, in northern Israel on April 30, 2021. (David Cohen/Flash90)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/F210430DC09.jpg)***  ***Israeli rescue forces and police near a mass fatality scene during a gathering marking the Jewish holiday of Lag Baomer on Mt. Meron, in northern Israel on April 30, 2021. (David Cohen/Flash90)*** | ***Israeli rescue forces and police at a mass fatality scene during a gathering for the Jewish holiday of Lag B’Omer on Mt. Meron, in northern Israel, on April 30, 2021. (David Cohen/Flash90)*** |
| ***Israeli rescue forces and police at a mass fatality scene during a gathering for the Jewish holiday of Lag B’Omer on Mt. Meron, in northern Israel, on April 30, 2021. (David Cohen/Flash90)*** | ***Israeli rescue forces and police at a mass fatality scene during a gathering for the Jewish holiday of Lag B’Omer on Mt. Meron, in northern Israel, on April 30, 2021. (David Cohen/Flash90)*** |

**MDA Director-General Eli Bin told the Ynet news site that at least 38 people were dead, and the wounded were being evacuated to the Ziv hospital in Safed, the Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya, Rambam hospital in Haifa, Poriya hospital in Tiberias, and Hadassah Ein Kerem hospital in** Jerusalem.

Several hospitals opened hotlines for people to search for family and friends who may have been injured; Galilee: 04-9850505, Ziv: 04-6828838 and Poriya: 04-6652211.

**The specific cause of the disaster was not immediately clear. Initial reports said a stand had collapsed at one of the concerts where 100,000 people were taking part in the events. However, the Magen David Adom rescue service said the tragedy was caused by a crush and overcrowding**.

**A police official said dozens of participants in a concert had “slipped,” falling on those below them** in the stands and causing a crushing domino effect.

**Meanwhile, the IDF, which sent its elite 669 rescue team to the site, said a roof had colla**psed.

MDA spokesman Zaki Heller told the Ynet news site that the deaths were caused by severe overcrowding.

Huge crowds were attending the annual gathering in the northern Galilee, which include visits to the gravesite of the second-century sage Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai and massive bonfires on the mountainside.

“The rescue teams were called to one of the concerts near Bar Yochai’s tomb, where there was a terrible crush near a building. There were dozens trapped on a nearby stand and it took time to evacuate them,” Heller said.

"הדוחק היה חריג, מראות קשים מאוד": תיעוד ראשוני מרגעי האסון בהר מירון[@rubih67](https://twitter.com/rubih67?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/MR7UBCVEHN](https://t.co/MR7UBCVEHN)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [April 29, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1387911840609546244?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

“There are fatalities, it is a very terrible tragedy,” he said, adding that it was a very complicated rescue effort that was still ongoing throughout the night.

Pictures from the scene showed bodies covered in blankets and bags.

Video from the scene showed rescue workers were attempting to set up a field hospital and dozens of ambulances could be seen trying to navigate through the huge crowds.

Video from before the incident showed tens of thousands of people in the makeshift arena, dancing and jumping up and down on the stands to music.

לכבוד התנא: עשרות אלפים בהדלקה המרכזית של תולדות אהרן שמרעידה את הההר מצד לצד [pic.twitter.com/b2pMQsXv1z](https://t.co/b2pMQsXv1z)

— משה ויסברג (@moshe\_nayes) [April 29, 2021](https://twitter.com/moshe_nayes/status/1387889426412544014?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**At around midnight Thursday, organizers had estimated that some 100,000 people were at the site, with an additional 100,000 expected to arrive by Friday morning**.

Police later shut down the event and were evacuating all the participants. Roadblocks were set up to prevent people from arriving at the scene.

Earlier police struggled to clear the crowds from the scene to allow access to ambulances. Loudspeakers called in Yiddish and Hebrew for people to make way and let rescuers come through.

צפיפות בלתי נתפסת: תיעוד הרגעים לפני האסון בהר מירון. פינוי הנפגעים טרם הסתיים[@rubih67](https://twitter.com/rubih67?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/a6iiK2NPl1](https://t.co/a6iiK2NPl1)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [April 29, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1387912885821755399?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Israel’s Chief Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, who was on one of the stages at the time of the apparent collapse, remained there with other leading rabbis, saying psalms for the woun**ded.

President Reuven Rivlin tweeted that he was watching developments with great trepidation and praying for those who were hurt.

Netanyahu called the incident “a terrible disaster,” said “everyone is praying for the recovery of the injured,” and offered his support to rescue workers at the scene.

**The huge gathering, the largest in Israel since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemi**c, had already sparked health fears.

Due to the large crowds, police said they were unable to enforce coronavirus restrictions at the site.

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| ***Crowds of ultra-Orthodox Jews celebrate the lighting of a bonfire during the celebrations of the holiday of Lag B’Omer on Mt. Meron in northern Israel on April 29, 2021. (David Cohen/Flash90)*** | ***Thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews celebrate Lag B’Omer at a mass gathering on Mount Meron in northern Israel on April 29, 2021 (David Cohen/Flash90)*** |

**Earlier in the evening, the Magen David Adom ambulance service said it treated 148 people at Mount Meron during the day, including eight who were taken to the Ziv hospital for further treat**ment.

Most were treated for fainting, heart problems, light injuries and exhaustion, though two attendees were in critical condition at the medical center: An 80-year-old man who lost consciousness and was evacuated as medics attempted to resuscitate him, and a 40-year-old who was evacuated after suffering an acute allergic reaction.

Health Ministry officials had urged Israelis not to travel to Mount Meron, worried the festivities could lead to mass coronavirus contagion.

Some 5,000 police officers were said to have been deployed at the event. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/dozens-said-hurt-as-stand-collapses-at-mass-lag-bomer-gathering-in-mount-meron/> **[This is a really horrific disaster for something that is intended to be joyous event. – rdb]**

**Israeli ambassador insists country won’t be bound by Iran deal**

***After Biden says US coordinating with allies on reentering pact, Erdan says Washington respects Jewish state’s need for ‘freedom of action’***

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

**After US President Joe Biden made only brief mention of Iran’s nuclear program during his first speech to Congress, Israel’s Ambassador to the US Gilad Erdan said Thursday that Jerusalem will not allow its security to be dependent on or bound by an international agreement that it is not a party** to.

**Erdan’s comments came hours before he was slated to attend a meeting with Mossad spy agency chief Yossi Cohen and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken that was expected to touch on the efforts to breathe new life into the Iran dea**l.

**He said that although the Biden administration is seeking to reenter the 2015 deal and bring Iran back to compliance, the US accepts Israel’s right to defend itself, a value that Israeli officials drove home during talks in Washing**ton this week.

**Israeli defense officials told their US counterparts that “the freedom of action of Israel to prevent Iran from becoming an existential threat is a freedom of action that will be preserved**,” he said.

It is a demand that “the current government respects,” Erdan added and noted that Israel’s self-defense needs, including against other regional threats, has been backed in recent White House statements.

**He said Israel is committed to preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapon**s “in any way possible and I think the international committee led by the US understands that.”

**Erdan said that during the Washington talks, where Israeli and US officials discussed ongoing negotiations in Vienna among the parties to the Iran deal, it was agreed that there would be clear communication between the sid**es.

**“We agreed on the principle of transparency and not to surprise each other a**nd I think we are both keeping to it,” he said. **[if Israel is smart they will call the US group after the bombs have been dropped and not a minute before because those in DC would sabotage everything if they get the information first. – rdb]**

**Erdan conceded that Israel and the US have different opinions on the Iran deal** — Israel has staunchly opposed the pact from the start — but said that is the only difference on security matters between Jerusalem and Washington.

“Beyond that, all the cooperation activities are continuing as usual,” he said.

 **Commenting on Biden’s** [**speech to Congress**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-white-supremacists-are-the-most-lethal-terrorist-threat-to-us/)**, which made only a brief mention of Iran’s nuclear program and none of Israel by name, Erdan said the US president has made it clear that he will prioritize dealing with the coronavirus outbreak and economic recovery ahead of international issues,** which are anyway dominated by economic concerns related to China.

***Israeli officials, including Ambassador Gilad Erdan (R), National Security Adviser Meir Ben-Shabbat (2R) meet with US officials Brett McGurk (L), US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan (2L) and Barbara Leaf (3L) at the Israeli embassy in Washington DC on April 27, 2021 (Embassy of Israel)***

“I think we can all be very, very encouraged that his commitment to preventing Iran from getting nuclear weapons was mentioned in his speech,” Erdan said. “There is a lot to be optimistic about.”

During his speech, Biden said: “On Iran and North Korea’s nuclear programs that present a serious threat to America’s security and the security of the world – we are going to be working closely with our allies to address the threats posed by both of these countries through diplomacy as well as stern deterrence.”

Israeli and American national security advisers [met in Washington on Tuesday](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-us-national-security-advisers-meet-in-dc-to-discuss-iran-deal/) to discuss concerns over Iran’s nuclear ambitions and US efforts to reenter the deal between Tehran and world powers.

**The meeting between National Security Council chairman Meir Ben-Shabbat and his counterpart, Jake Sullivan, marked the first in-person meeting in the United States of high-level officials from the two countries since Biden entered the White House. Erdan was also at the meet**ing.

“The United States and Israel agreed on the significant threat posed by Iran’s aggressive behavior in the region, and US officials underscored President Biden’s unwavering support for Israel’s right to defend itself,” the White House said in a statement after the meeting.

Ben-Shabbat and Sullivan head the bilateral strategic group aimed at Israeli-US cooperation in the effort to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. The group has convened virtually twice in recent months.

**Ahead of their departure to Washington, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu instructed the defense officials participating in the mission to voice objection to the US return to the Iran nuclear deal, but not to hold talks on the issues**.

**Netanyahu emphasized in a meeting with the delegation last week that Israel is not a party to the nuclear agreement with Iran, and not committed to** it.

“Israel is committed to its own security interests only and will act accordingly,” an unnamed Israeli official reportedly said. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-ambassador-insists-country-wont-be-bound-by-iran-deal/> **[The automaton speaking before Congress on Wed. PM is not the person that really counts in DC. It is probably still the Obamanation, Val Jarrett and Soros. Put NO trust in any of this crowd of usurpers because they will say anything and do the opposite. . – rdb]**

**Gantz said to hold coalition talks with Netanyahu despite vowing to replace him**

***Report — strongly denied by Blue and White — says defense minister proposed government of equally shared powers if he goes first as PM, Likud leader rejected offer***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 4:15 pm*

**Blue and White party leader Benny Gantz has engaged in negotiations with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to form a government, going against his pledge not to again form a coalition with the premi**er, according to a Thursday report. **[Considering the current situation and the tremendous problems their last agreement created, how in heaven’s name can Gantz consider any type of discourse with Bibi? – rdb]**

**Blue and White categorically rejected the repo**rt.

**The Walla news site, citing sources with knowledge of the negotiations, said Gantz proposed an equal share of power like in the current government — with Blue and White’s eight lawmakers having the same influence as the Netanyahu-led bloc’s 52 — but with Gantz going first as prime minister. Netanyahu rejected the offer, according to the re**port.

**The report said that earlier, Netanyahu proposed a government in which Gantz is premier first but without the current mechanism that ensures neither the Netanyahu-led nor the Gantz-led bloc can approve major decisions without the other’s consent**.

The sources said Netanyahu tried to find another form of compensation for Blue and White’s small size and influence, but no agreements were reached and the talks didn’t move forward.

**Blue and White sources called the report an “outright lie” and insisted that there were “no negotiations with L**ikud.” They said that Netanyahu has indeed made offers, “but Benny didn’t ask him for anything and didn’t present any conditions.”

The current coalition features a rotation agreement, with Netanyahu serving in the role first and Gantz slated to go second. However, Netanyahu refused to pass a state budget — the only way to call elections without Gantz immediately becoming transitional prime minister — thus undermining the rotation deal.

**On Wednesday evening, Gantz spoke to both Channel 12 news and the Kan public broadcaster and told them that Netanyahu has made offers, but he turned them dow**n.

However, he refused to reject the power-sharing option outright — despite having long acknowledged that he was duped by the prime minister and insisting that the Likud leader could not be trusted — merely saying that “this option isn’t relevant at the moment” and it “isn’t feasible.”

“As far as I am concerned, he has ended his role as prime minister,” Gantz told Channel 12.

“In the end, one cannot trust Netanyahu anymore,” he told Kan.

But elsewhere in Blue and White, there was dissatisfaction with Gantz’s answer.

“We won’t sit with Netanyahu, it’s not on the table,” Culture Minister Chili Tropper told Army Radio. “There are no negotiations going on. This is one side making offers and us answering ‘no.'” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-said-to-hold-coalition-talks-with-netanyahu-despite-vowing-to-replace-him/>

**Officials warn of COVID spread as 200,000 pilgrims descend on Mount Meron**

***Traditional Lag B’Omer festivities on northern mountain see scuffles between police, worshipers over restrictions meant to limit contagion***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:18 pm*

**Two people were arrested in scuffles with police at a northern pilgrimage area on Thursday as officials warned that traditional Lag B’Omer celebrations at the site could turn into a mass-contagion event that will set back the fight against COVID-19**.

**Some 200,000 revelers are expected to attend the traditional celebrations on Mount Meron** in the northern Galilee, which include visits to the gravesite of the second-century sage Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai and massive bonfires on the mountainside.

**The event will be the largest public gathering in Israel since the start of the pandemic, which has health officials worried**.

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| [Jewish pilgrims seen at the gravesite of Rashbi, or Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai, in Meron in the northern Galilee ahead of the start of the Jewish holiday of Lag B'Omer, on April 29, 2021. (David Cohen/Flash90)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/F210429DC109.jpg)  ***Jewish pilgrims seen at the gravesite of Rashbi, or Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai, in Meron in the northern Galilee ahead of the start of the Jewish holiday of Lag B'Omer, on April 29, 2021. (David Cohen/Flash90)*** | ***Jewish pilgrims at the gravesite of Rashbi, or Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai, in Meron in the northern Galilee, ahead of the start of the Jewish holiday of Lag B’Omer, on April 29, 2021. (David Cohen/Flash90)*** |

**“Whoever goes to Meron needs to know he’s taking his life into his hands and is likely to be exposed to those infected with the coronavirus who will roam the place unsupervised,” an unnamed health official told the Kan public broadc**aster on Thursday.

**The government failed to reach an agreement on how to handle the celebration**s, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly wary of angering Haredi political parties by imposing restrictions.

**Last year, the celebrations were severely curtailed over contagion fe**ars.

 But police and health officials have instituted their own rules at the site to try to keep the pilgrims from congregating at close quarters for lengthy periods of time.

**Visits to the gravesite itself, which is indoors, are limited to a few minutes per person; no more than 10,000 people are allowed at any one time at the bonfire site**, police said; and only pilgrims with “green passes,” certificates indicating they were vaccinated against COVID or have recovered from the coronavirus, will be allowed to board the buses taking worshipers to the bonfires.

***Jewish pilgrims seen at the gravesite of Rashbi, or Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai, in Meron in the northern Galilee ahead of the start of the Jewish holiday of Lag B’Omer, on April 29, 2021. (David Cohen/Flash90)***

**Despite the rules and the deployment of 5,000 officers to safeguard the event, police officials said they lacked the manpower to enforce the “green pass” requirem**ent. Organizers would not be able to guarantee that unvaccinated people won’t be in the crowds.

ההכנות להילולה במירון: צפיפות ותורים ארוכים במתחם קבר רבי שמעון בר יוחאי[@rubih67](https://twitter.com/rubih67?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) <https://t.co/hjvWw11UDH> [pic.twitter.com/VqwpEBYLea](https://t.co/VqwpEBYLea)

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**Some worshipers arrived early on Thursday hoping to visit the gravesite before the lines grew long.** Scuffles ensued when some resisted the new restrictions.

Footage from the site showed some Haredi protesters hurling insults at officers, including shouts of “Nazi.”

התפרעות בהר מירון: שני עצורים בעימותים בין מתפללים למשטרה | תיעוד[@rubih67](https://twitter.com/rubih67?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/vXomLL237Y](https://t.co/vXomLL237Y)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [April 29, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1387691024525500416?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Bar Yohai is a mythical figure in the Jewish mystical tradition and is traditionally identified as the author of the most important work of Jewish mysticism, the Zohar. Lag B’Omer is traditionally considered the date of his death.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/officials-warn-of-covid-spread-as-200000-pilgrims-descend-on-mount-meron/>

**COVID is causing strokes among the young and healthy, global study indicates.**

***1 in 4 stroke patients with coronavirus are under 55; Jerusalem doctor involved in research says it shines spotlight on results of virus blocking larger blood vessels***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 1:56 pm*

**There has been a hidden phenomenon of COVID-19 causing strokes, including among people who would never normally be at risk, a research project by doctors from Israel and 31 other countries indicates**.

**Their study,** [**newly released**](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33878892/) **in the peer-reviewed journal Stroke, observed that one in four COVID-positive stroke patients are under 55, and the same proportion lacked obvious vascular risk factors like high blood pressure, d**iabetes or smoking.

**This is unusually high. Normally, 10 to 15 percent of stroke patients are aged 18 to 50**, and the figure is assumed to be similar when the age range is expanded to under 55s.

Researchers believe the finding points to a phenomenon of the coronavirus triggering a stroke among people who would normally be highly unlikely to experience one.   
 Prof. Ronen Leker at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, one of the authors, said that the research helps doctors to grasp “the connection between the coronavirus and strokes in younger patients, as a result of blockages in larger blood vessels.”   
 **Scientists who are uninvolved in the study are pointing to its importance, and a leading Israeli immunologist called its findings “extremely worr**ying.”   
 Prof. Cyrille Cohen of Bar Ilan University told The Times of Israel: “This demonstrates the potential of COVID-19 as a catalyst of stroke, including among the young population which is extremely worrying.   
 “COVID-19 is not a flu or a simple viral infection. At a time when we are trying to evaluate the benefit and risk balance in vaccination, these data make it clear that young people, who aren’t always considered ‘at risk’ of coronavirus, are vulnerable to strokes and other effects of the virus, immediate and longer term.”   
 Doctors have long feared that there is a connection between strokes and the coronavirus and the researchers set out to provide a detailed study.   
 “Stroke is reported as a consequence of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus infection in several reports,” they wrote. “However, data are sparse regarding the details of these patients in a multinational and large scale.”   
 They quickly recognized that stroke and COVID-19 are indeed common bedfellows. More than half of the 136 medical centers surveyed, in 32 countries, had treated at least one patient for both conditions.  
 One of the most surprising findings was that COVID-19 appears to be a hidden trigger for strokes. Some 38% of the 432 patients studied had no idea, upon having a stroke, that they were COVID-positive, mostly only finding out when hospitals conducted routine coronavirus tests.  
 The research should prompt hospitals around the world that don’t routinely test stroke patients for coronavirus to do so in order to prevent the spread of the virus on regular wards, said Leker.  
 “**Going forward, we recommend performing COVID testing on all younger patients with strokes, particularly those with no known pre-existing conditions**,” he said. “I am hopeful and confident that this study will be instrumental in providing a better understanding of the link between COVID-19 and stroke, and provide direct therapeutic benefits to patients.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/covid-causing-strokes-among-the-young-and-healthy-global-study-indicates/>

**Health Ministry to require quarantine for all travelers from 7 virus-hit nations**

***New public health order taking effect May 3 requires all arrivals from the 7 countries to isolate — even if they are vaccinated or have recovered from COVID***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *29 April 2021, 10:28 pm*

**The Health Ministry will require all travelers from seven virus-hit nations to quarantine upon arrival in Israel, it announced Thursda**y.

**Chezy Levy, the director-general of the Health Ministry, signed a public health order requiring all arrivals — including those vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 — from the seven countries to quarantine for 10-14 days upon entering the country**.

The countries are Ukraine, Ethiopia, Brazil, South Africa, India, Mexico and Turkey; Israel has also issued a general warning against travel to all of them.

The Health Ministry said the order, which still requires Knesset approval, will come into effect on Monday, May 3.



***Beds lie inside an indoor stadium converted into a COVID-19 treatment center for emergencies in Srinagar, Indian-controlled Kashmir, April 28, 2021. (Dar Yasin/AP)***

**In the face of the** [**new coronavirus variant**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/india-sets-new-global-daily-record-in-virus-cases-as-millions-vote-in-state-poll/) **devastating India, the Health Ministry** [proposed new travel restrictions](https://www.timesofisrael.com/health-ministry-backs-ban-on-travel-to-7-high-risk-countries-including-india/) for Israelis earlier this week, which alongside mandating quarantine, would ban travel to the seven high-risk countries. However, the urgent restrictions have not been implemented by the government because ministers in the outgoing coalition have been arguing over other issues this week.

The recommendations could also require non-citizens entering Israel from the specified highly infected countries to self-isolate in quarantine hotels.

Israel has identified 41 cases of the Indian coronavirus variant, including five in children, and five among people who were fully vaccinated.   
 A top health official said Wednesday that it was [not clear that COVID-19 vaccines offer protection against the Indian variant](https://www.timesofisrael.com/top-health-official-vaccines-effectiveness-against-india-strain-is-uncertain/), and cited the concern as a key reason why Israel must ban travel to countries with high coronavirus infection rates.

**According to the ministry’s statement, 24 cases of the mutated strain were found among people who returned recently from abroad, including 21 foreign reside**nts.

**But 17 of those infected hadn’t been abroad**, and some of them had no obvious links to someone who did, indicating that the variant is spreading undetected. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/health-ministry-to-require-quarantine-for-all-travelers-from-7-virus-hit-nations/>

**Abbas: Palestinian elections postponed after Israel blocks Jerusalem vote**

***“There will be no elections without Jerusalem,” Abbas said in opening remarks during a meeting of leaders of several Palestinian factions in Ramallah.***

*By* [*KHALED ABU TOAMEH*](https://www.jpost.com/author/khaled-abu-toameh) *APRIL 30, 2021 00:56*

***Palestinians take part in a rally demanding President Mahmoud Abbas to hold elections on planned time, in Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank April 29, 2021 (photo credit: REUTERS/MOHAMAD TOROKMAN)***

** Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas announced on Thursday night that the Palestinian elections have been postponed until Israel allows the vote to take place in Jerusalem.**

**Abbas made the announcement after a meeting of leaders of Palestinian factions in Ramallah.**

“We have decided to postpone the parliamentary elections until we ensure the participation of the people of Jerusalem,” Abbas said in a statement. “The elections must be held in all the Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem.”

He said that he will work toward forming a Palestinian national unity government that would “abide by international resolutions and reinforce the PLO.”

Earlier in the night, Abbas announced that Israel has informed the Palestinian Authority that it will not allow the Palestinians to hold elections in Jerusalem.

**“There will be no elections without Jerusalem,” Abbas said in opening remarks during a meeting of leaders** of several Palestinian factions in Ramallah.

**The meeting was called amid reports that Abbas was set to announce the postponement of the** [**elections**](https://www.jpost.com/opinion/israel-is-not-prepared-for-the-palestinian-elections-editorial-666640) **indefinitely because of Israel’s reported refusal to allow the vote to take plac**e in Jerusalem.

He said that the US, [European Union](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/before-crucial-meeting-abbas-urges-eu-to-press-israel-on-jerusalem-vote-666605) and some Arab countries also informed the Palestinians of Israel’s refusal to allow the elections to take place in Jerusalem.

“Today, we received a message from Israel, the US and some Arab countries about Israel’s opposition to holding the elections in Jerusalem,” Abbas said. “The message we received said that Israel can't make a decision because there is no government in Israel.”

Scoffing at the purported Israeli response, Abbas said: “But there is a government in Israel that is making decisions to build thousands of settlements. Who issued the order to the [Israel] police to stand with the settlers in killing the people of Jerusalem? Where did these decisions came from? Africa? We won’t allow anyone to fool us. This is nonsense. Where is [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu? Netanyahu, may God prolong his life, is still the prime minister.”

**Abbas said that the Palestinians are ready to hold the elections once Israel agrees to allow the vote to take place in Jerusale**m. “We want the elections to take place in Jerusalem, and not in Abu Dis,” he said, referring to a West Bank village south of Jerusalem. “For us, the elections are not a tactic or a game.”

Abbas said that the EU made a big effort to exert pressure on Israel to allow the elections to take place in Jerusalem, but to no avail.

“When we announced the elections, the Europeans told us that they support us and are ready to help us achieve our goal,” he noted. “I told the Europeans that that Israel will not agree to hold the elections in Jerusalem. They told me that they will talk to the Israelis about this. We also asked the Americans where are they, but we didn’t hear from them. We waited and didn’t receive a response. We also sent our foreign minister to Europe to tell them we are running out of time.”

According to Abbas, the heads of the EU told him that they were “frustrated” by Israel’s refusal to respond to the request to hold the elections in Jerusalem.

Abbas accused Israel of “beating” Palestinian candidates in Jerusalem and preventing election gatherings.

He went on to praise the residents of east Jerusalem for protesting Israeli security restrictions in the city in the past three weeks. **MORE -** <https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/abbas-israel-said-no-to-palestinian-elections-in-jerusalem-666793> **[This is more posturing by Abbas to help claim Jerusalem as a “PA” city and deny that for Israel. It should be obvious to most his motives. – rdb]**

**Our warplanes can reach Iran, Israeli minister warns amid nuclear talks**

***Intelligence Minister Eli Cohen reiterates Israel's position that it has the freedom to act in an event U.S. rejoins Iran nuclear deal and lifts sanctions off Tehran; 'A bad deal will send the region spiraling into war,' he says***

*Reuters | Published: 04.29.21 , 21:51*

**An Israeli cabinet minister sharpened his country's warnings against what it would deem a bad new nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, saying war with Tehran would be sure to follo**w.

**As President Joe Biden explores a possible U.S. return to the 2015 deal to contain Iran's nuclear program that his predecessor Donald Trump abandoned, Israel has stepped up calls for more sweeping curbs to be imposed on sensitive Iranian technologies and proje**cts.

**Iran, which this week resumed indirect talks with U.S. envoys in Vienna on reversing its retaliatory violations of the deal in exchange for the removal of sanctions reimposed by Trump, has ruled out any further limitatio**ns on Iranian actions.

**Reiterating Israel's position that it does not consider itself bound by the diplomacy, Intelligence Minister Eli Cohen said: "A bad deal will send the region spiraling into w**ar."

**"Anyone seeking short-term benefits should be mindful of the longer-term,"** he said. "Israel will not allow Iran to attain nuclear arms. Iran has no immunity anywhere. Our planes can reach everywhere in the Middle East - and certainly Iran."

 Iran says its nuclear ambitions are peaceful. Cohen said that in addition to denying Iran the means of enriching uranium and developing ballistic missiles, world powers should make it stop "destabilizing other countries" and funding militants.

The Vienna talks have been overshadowed by what appeared to be mutual sabotage attacks on Israeli and Iranian ships, as well as an explosion at Iran's Natanz enrichment plant that Tehran blamed on Israel.

Cohen, in keeping with Israeli policy, declined all comment.

***Intelligence Minister Eli Cohen (Photo: Hadar Yoavian)***

Israel sent senior delegates to Washington this week to discuss Iran with U.S. counterparts. The White House said the allies agreed on the "significant threat" posed by Iran's regional behavior.

The Israeli ambassador to the United States, Gilad Erdan, said the Biden administration would consult with Israel about any new nuclear deal - the prospects for which he deemed hazy.

**"We assess, to our regret, that the Iranians will refuse such a discussion," he told Israel's public radio station Kan, alluding to Iran's insistence on restoring the original deal, which Trump called too limited in scope and duration**.

**"But if it emerges that we were mistaken, and the Americans succeed in securing a discussion of a different, better deal, we will certainly be part of that discussion.** We made that clear and the (Biden) administration welcomes this, of course." <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/SJFRc00dv00>

**Shakeup in Iran’s presidential office after Zarif tape leaked**

***Rouhani fires head of think tank that recorded hours-long interview in which Iran’s FM described sharp divides within the regime***

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

**Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani has replaced the head of a think tank that recorded an interview with the country’s foreign minister after it leaked out this week, providing a rare glimpse into the theocracy’s power struggles and setting off a firestorm in Iran**.

**In the recording of the conversation held in March 2020 between Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Saeed Leylaz, an economist at the Strategic Studies Center, the think tank associated with Iran’s presidency, Zarif offered a blunt appraisal of Iranian diplomacy and his constricted role in the Islamic Republic. Zarif also criticized the power of Qassem Soleimani, the late IRGC general killed** in a US drone strike in Baghdad.

Soleimani had been setting Tehran’s policy, Zarif charged, had worked with Russia to sabotage the nuclear deal, and had acted in Syria’s long-running war in ways that damaged Tehran’s interests.

**The audiotape, leaked earlier this week to London-based, Persian-language news channel Iran International, set off political controversy across Iran ahead of the country’s June 18 presidential election**. While Zarif has said he does not want to run in the election, some have suggested him as a potential candidate to stand against hardliners.

On Thursday, Iran’s presidency announced that the chief of the Strategic Studies Center, Hesamodin Ashna, had resigned and Ali Rabiei, who already serves as the Cabinet spokesman, would replace him. Ashna was reportedly present during the interview with Zarif.

**Also Thursday, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported, citing an informed source in the judiciary, that 15 people connected to the interview have been banned from leaving the countr**y.

**Earlier this week, Zarif expressed regret that the recording had leaked out. Rouhani portrayed the breach as an incident intended to derail ongoing talk**s over the return to Iran’s nuclear deal with world powers.

Zarif made clear in the recording that the interview was never intended for publication, according to a New York Times report on the seven-hour-long recording. Iran International is viewed as hostile to the Iranian regime and is owned by Saudi Arabians. **MUCH MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/shakeup-in-irans-presidential-office-after-leaked-zarif-tape/> **[Zarif has a very short life expectancy. I am almost certain there will be some unfortunate accident in the near future which will eliminate his future. – rdb]**

**Iran hit with four-year judo ban for ordering athletes to avoid Israelis**

**Judo’s international governing body cites ‘repeated and severe breaches’ of its statutes, highlighted by the case of judoka Saeid Mollaei**

*By* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *29 April 2021, 11:06 pm*

**Judo’s world body issued a four-year ban against the Iranian Judo Federation over Tehran’s demands that its athletes refuse to face Israeli opponents**.

**The ban was backdated to begin in September 2019, when Iranian judoka and former world champion Saeid Mollaei left the Iranian team during the World Championship in Tok**yo, saying he was ordered to throw matches and withdraw from competitions in order to avoid facing Israeli competitors.

The International Judo Federation initially responded to the Iranian order with an [open-ended ban](https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-indefinitely-barred-from-world-judo-over-refusal-to-face-israelis/) on Iran’s team participating in international judo competitions. That initial ban was [overturned](https://www.timesofisrael.com/top-sports-court-overturns-iranian-judo-ban-issued-over-refusal-to-face-israelis/) in March by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

 **After an Iranian appeal of the initial suspension, the court found that the Iranian federation had “committed severe violations of the IJF rules**” on discrimination and should be punished, but ruled that the international body overstepped its authority with the severity of the ban. It sent the case back to an IJF disciplinary panel for review.

***Iranian judoka Saeid Mollaei speaking with a German representative after deciding to stop competing for Iran. (Courtesy IJF)***

At the time, the Iranian federation hailed the lifting of its suspension as a “great legal and sporting victory,” and said it hoped the decision would lead to an “improvement” in relations with the International Judo Federation.

The new four-year ban will expire on September 17, 2023. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-hit-with-four-year-judo-ban-for-ordering-athletes-to-avoid-israelis/>

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| |  | | --- | | **David E. Martin PHD on Corona virus origin**  [**https://rumble.com/vb37db-david-e.-martin-phd-on-corona-virus-origin.html**](https://rumble.com/vb37db-david-e.-martin-phd-on-corona-virus-origin.html)  **for an entire documentary on the corruption involved with this criminal event you can go to:**  [**https://freedomplatform.tv/plandemic-indoctornation-world-premiere/**](https://freedomplatform.tv/plandemic-indoctornation-world-premiere/)  **- it is long but most informative.** | |

**'I recorded them murdering patients': COVID nurse goes public with shocker**

**'It was something I've never seen before'**

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published April 28, 2021 at 7:04pm*

**A nurse who responded during America's 2020 fight against COVID-19, traveling from Florida to New York to help in one of the hospitals in that pandemic-struck city, reports the health care system was about as bad as the pandemic itself**.

**"I recorded them murdering patients. I recorded just the complete and absolute disregard for human life**," Erin Maria Olzewski said during an interview with [LifeSiteNews.](https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/nyc-covid-nurse-turned-whistleblower-people-were-just-dying-from-gross-negligence-medical-malpractice)

**She previously has gotten attention for her reports of "fraud, negligence, and greed" in the system that "led to unnecessary deaths**" during the nation's war against the virus that apparently was unleashed in China and since has spread around the globe, killing millions.

She sat down with LifeSiteNews during a recent Health & Freedom Conference. The sold-out 4,000-person event was held at Rhema Bible College.

**She lives in the Tampa, Florida, area and volunteered to work temporarily as a nurse in New York because COVID-19 patients were just not that much of a burden in Florid**a.

She was assigned to Elmhurst, which she called the epicenter of the epicenter.

"The very first day [at Elmhurst] I was shocked. It was something I’ve never seen before. Patients were alone in the rooms on ventilators [with] no family allowed in [to advocate for them]. People were just dying from gross negligence, medical malpractice, [and] mismanagement," she said.

**Olzewski said patients who repeatedly tested negative for the virus were being labeled as "COVID confirm**ed" in their medical charts, and that triggered a higher level of compensation from the government.

**She told LifeSiteNews those "perverse incentives" from the Department of Health and Human Services provided $13,000 for each COVID patient, or $39,000 if they were put on a v**entilator.

And she explained the wild variances in treatment.

"[In Florida] we treated our patients with hydroxychloroquine, zinc … sent them home and they were fine," she said. In New York, "they were banning alternative treatments like hydroxychloroquine. The only thing they could do was to put people on ventilators."

She explained the circumstances that developed – the incentive to admit patients, classify them as COVID positive and then put them on ventilators, with families banned from attendance on their loved ones.

**It was "the perfect storm, and people took advantage of it," she sai**d.

Her concerns first had been brought to light in a viral video called "Perspectives on the Pandemic: The (Undercover) Epicenter Nurse."

She told LifeSiteNews that **when she first arrived at Elmhurst Hospital she had nothing to do for days, learning that other nurses had been there for three weeks "getting paid $10,000 a week" without an assignment**.

"If they needed nurses so badly, why are you bringing me here if there’s nurses sitting around?” she wondered. It was her first "red flag" that what was being reported on the situation was not actually what was happening.

Shortly later, she contacted an attorney in New York, secured a "pair of spyglasses" and began to document what she saw.

"I recorded them murdering patients. I recorded just the complete and absolute disregard for human life," she said.

They described the lockdowns as "completely uncalled for" because "People stayed home and got even more sick, so that caused even more deaths."

Many such decisions were made based on New York's results, she said, "which now we know were lies."

In fact, thousands died in the state's nursing homes after Gov. Andrew Cuomo's orders that the facilities accept COVID-19 positive cases into their populations of elderly and vulnerable people.

LifeSiteNews reported, "New York state nursing home deaths for the period topped 15,000, and following Cuomo’s cover-up of these figures, there have been many calls for his resignation even from members of his own Democratic party."

The lockdowns, she said, "are causing a lot more harm" than the virus, because of the related "emotional issues, depression, suicide, just the mal-health of everybody who is living in fear itself. It’s just no way to live. It’s un-American to take away freedoms based on a false narrative."

She said, "No one is focusing on preventative health and what you can do. Quercetin is a natural alternative to hydroxychloroquine, you can get over-the-counter, take it with zinc, vitamin C, get outside, [and get] good exercise. Get healthy, [and] drink water.

"Be brave. Be bold. And step outside of your comfort zone. If you see something say something and think about future generations to come. If you don’t fight right now, then who’s going to do it?" <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/recorded-murdering-patients-covid-nurse-goes-public-shocker/> **[There have been a number of stories that I have heard quite similar to this one which makes me think that there has to be some truth to the lady’s comments. This entire episode has be a charade instigated by those with a vile and evil agenda. – rdb]**

**Hunter Biden still owns stake in Chinese operation**

***In violation of Joe Biden's claim that if elected, his family would avoid such deals***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published April 29, 2021 at 7:25pm*

**Hunter Biden continues to hold a minority stake in a Chinese private equity firm 100 days into President Joe Biden’s term, business records show**.

**Hunter Biden holds a 10% equity stake in BHR Partners through his company, Skaneateles LLC, according to** [**Qixinbao**](https://www.qixin.com/company/d65265d8-3668-4d69-961d-e106f5a32024) **and** [**Baidu**](https://xin.baidu.com/company_detail_30053123584277?fr=zhidao)**, two independent services that provide business records on Chinese corporations based on China’s National Credit Information Publicity S**ystem.

**Joe Biden promised in October 2019 that if elected president, nobody in his family would have any business relationship with any foreign corporation or** country.

**“No one in my family will have an office in the White House, will sit in on meetings as if they are a cabinet member, will, in fact, have any business relationship with anyone that relates to a foreign corporation or a foreign country,” Joe Biden told** [**reporters**](https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/elections/presidential/caucus/2019/10/13/joe-biden-hunter-donald-trump-impeachment-family-foreign-companies-ethics/3970703002/) **in Iowa. “Period. Period. End of stor**y.”

**BHR is co-owned by the Chinese state-controlled Bank of China, the bu**siness records show, and manages the equivalent of $2.1 billion in assets, according to its [website](http://www.bhrpe.com/list.php?catid=31&page=1). Hunter Biden [acquired](https://dailycaller.com/2020/07/05/hunter-biden-chinese-board-bhr-partners-10-percent/) his 10% stake in the firm with a $420,000 investment in October 2017, according to a statement released by his lawyer in October 2019.

BHR’s business file was last updated on July 28, 2020, the records show.   
 Bottom of Form

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said in early February that Hunter Biden was in the process of divesting his ownership stake in the equity firm.  
 “He has been working to unwind his investment but I would certainly point you — he’s a private citizen — I would point you to him or his lawyers on the outside,” Psaki said.  
 It’s unclear if Hunter Biden expects to receive a return on his investment in the company after his divestment is complete.  
 Hunter Biden’s lawyer, George Mesires, and BHR have not returned requests for comment.  
 Mesires said in his October 2019 [statement](https://medium.com/@george.mesires/a-statement-on-behalf-of-hunter-biden-dated-october-13-2019-d80bc11087ab) that Hunter Biden had not received any return on his investment in BHR.  
 Hunter Biden is the sole beneficial owner of Skaneateles LLC, the business entity that holds his 10% stake in BHR, according to Washington D.C. business records.  
 However, emails located on a copy of Hunter Biden’s alleged laptop show that he was told on multiple occasions by his business partner Eric Schwerin that he could expect to receive significant payments from BHR beginning in 2019, the Daily Caller News Foundation previously reported.  
 “BHR is due to have a significant distribution in 2019 because of the CATL exit,” Schwerin told Hunter Biden in a November 2018 email.  
 In another email the following month Schwerin told Hunter Biden that he can expect BHR to generate income for him “over the next couple of years.”  
 **Joe Biden altered his promise in regards to his family’s foreign business dealings following his election victory,** saying in December that nobody in his family will “be involved in any business, any enterprise, that is conflicted with or appears to be in conflict, with the appropriate distance from, the presidency and government.”  
 The White House did not return a request for comment. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/hunter-biden-still-owns-stake-chinese-operation/> **[Is anyone surprised? You shouldn’t be. The demon-rat party has no concept of truth and honesty. – rdb]**

**Pro-liberty groups file lawsuits after Connecticut ends long-standing religious vaccine exemption for kids in schools**

*29 Apr, 2021 18:07*

**Hours after Connecticut became the sixth US state to disallow religious exemption from childhood vaccination requirements for schools, a coalition of pro-personal liberty groups has mounted legal challenges to overturn the** law.

**After three years of protests and controversy, Governor Ned Lamont signed bill HB6423 – which removes a clause enshrined in law since 1959 that allowed non-immunized children to attend scho**ol, college, and daycare – on Wednesday after it was approved by the Democrat-majority Senate late on Tuesday night. Over 2,000 protesters – many holding up signs that said *“Parents call the shots,” “My body, my kids, my choice,”* and *“Coercion is not consent”* – had rallied outside the state Capitol building, contending that the legislation infringes on parental rights and religious liberties.

Two groups opposing the legislation – the CT Freedom Alliance and We the Patriots USA – said they are filing federal and state lawsuits challenging the new law, which will take effect in the 2022-23 school year. **MORE -**<https://www.rt.com/usa/522506-lawsuit-connecticut-religious-vaccine-exemption/> **[GREAT! Keep it going. – rdb]**

**Commentary:**

**Maxine Waters' Anti-Cop Rhetoric is Getting Black People Killed**[*Larry Elder*](https://townhall.com/columnists/larryelder/) *| Posted: Apr 29, 2021 12:01 AM* In June 2018, Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., publicly exhorted her supporters to harass cabinet members of the Trump administration.  
 At an outdoor rally in Los Angeles, Waters, with microphone in hand and amplifiers nearby, shouted: "Let's make sure we show up wherever we have to show up. And if you see anybody from that Cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd. And you push back on them. And you tell them they're not welcome anymore, anywhere."  
 In response, President Donald Trump tweeted: "Congresswoman Maxine Waters, an extraordinarily low IQ person, has become, together with Nancy Pelosi, the Face of the Democrat Party. She has just called for harm to supporters, of which there are many, of the Make America Great Again movement. Be careful what you wish for Max!"  
 Asked by a news anchor why America "has such difficulty" in making change "when it comes to violence and injustice done to Black people," Waters responded, "The police, I think, really believe, and in some ways are led to believe, that their greatest challenge and their greatest chore is to keep, you know, Black people in their place."  
 The police? All of them? Not just racist white cops? And Waters meant now, today -- not decades ago. She said police are "led to believe that their greatest challenge ... is to keep ... Black people in their place"? Led to believe this by whom?  
 Is it relevant that many of our major cities have or have had Black police chiefs? Is it relevant that many big-city police departments increasingly reflect the racial diversity of the communities they protect and serve? Is it relevant that an increasing percentage of the nation's sworn police officers are officers of color, including the police chief in Minneapolis, where George Floyd died? According to The Washington Post: "Police departments across the country have become less overwhelmingly white since the 1990s, according to a study published by the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics last fall. The agency's survey of police departments found that the share of white non-Hispanic police fell from 78.5 percent in 1997 to 71.5 percent in 2016."  
 Irresponsible attacks against the supposedly "systemically racist" police by politicians like Waters are, in part, responsible for the "Ferguson effect," the phenomenon of cops pulling back from proactive policing for fear of accusations of engaging in "systemic racism." In reaction to anti-police protests in Chicago in 2015, then-Mayor Rahm Emanuel said the city's police have gone "fetal." Emanuel said: "We have allowed our police department to get fetal, and it is having a direct consequence. They have pulled back from the ability to interdict. ... They don't want to be a news story themselves; they don't want their career ended early; and it's having an impact." He later added: "Officers themselves are telling me about how the news over the last 15 months impacted their instincts -- do they stop, or do they keep driving? When I stop here, is it going to be my career on the line?" Meanwhile, in Los Angeles County, Waters' home base, homicides during the first two months of 2021 were up 186 percent compared with 2020, according to Fox News.  
 When cops pull back from proactive policing, crime goes up. By teaching young Blacks that cops hate them, why would a young Black man comply when pulled over by a "systemically racist" cop? And this failure to comply can turn a traffic stop into something deadly. Waters' rhetoric has led to an increase in homicides in America's cities, where the majority of the victims are the very "people of color" she claims to care so deeply about. <https://townhall.com/columnists/larryelder/2021/04/29/maxine-waters-anticop-rhetoric-is-getting-black-people-killed-n2588686>

**And..**

**John Kerry's Insidious Agenda**[*Dinesh D'Souza*](https://townhall.com/columnists/dineshdsouza/) *Posted: Apr 28, 2021 5:30 PM* We all know that Joe Biden is China’s man in America. This is a guy who has enriched himself off of China. Kind of through his family – it’s the Biden mafia and the Biden bagmen who have been collecting money – big amounts of money – from China. While I wouldn’t say that China owns Biden, let’s just say that China has some pretty massive leverage with Biden. But who is Iran’s man in America?   
 Well, I think the answer to that you know: John Kerry.   
 John Kerry is the culprit here. John Kerry is kind of known for being a kind of buffoon on the international stage. He makes doofus-like pronouncements that almost inevitably turn out to be untrue. They’re refuted almost offhandedly, typically very quickly after they’re uttered.   
 Remember one of Mr. Doofus's classic formulations about how no peace is possible between any entities in the Middle East without the Palestinians?  
 "There will be no separate peace between Israel and the Arab world. I want to make that very clear to all of you. I’ve heard several prominent politicians in Israel sometimes saying, 'Well, the Arab world is in a different place now, we just have to reach out to them and we can work some things with the Arab world and we’ll deal with the Palestinians.' No, no, no and no,” Kerry said.  
 What I love is not just the “no,” but the “no, no, no.” If you’re going to be stupid, you may as well be stupid with emphasis. That way you give people time to laugh at you.   
 And who exposed the foolishness of Kerry? Well, Trump.   
 Trump basically makes three phone calls and suddenly these countries are all making deals. Israel is making a deal with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with the other Gulf states. Just flatly disproving the Kerry nonsense. But Kerry might be stupid, but he’s also evil. This, as you can guess, is a toxic combination. Stupidity is bad enough by itself, evil is dangerous enough. Put stupidity and evil together, it’s not a good mix, let’s just say.   
 Kerry has been, lately, accused of – well accused by who? – accused by his own buddy. He’s buddies with the Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javed Zarif. Now, one thing Kerry likes about Zarif guy is he’s not a typical mullah type. The Zarif guy kind of puts on a veneer of sophistication. He sort of comes off as a westernized guy. He’s the frontman for the Mullahs regime. They’re basically sitting around plotting Jihad and getting the suicide bombers all properly dressed up, and providing all kinds of mullah instruction. You know, “Do not sneeze during intercourse it is forbidden...” They’re doing all this crazy mullah stuff, but their frontman Zarif is all, “Yes, John Kerry, let’s explore some avenues together for how we can undermine Trump.” And in fact, that’s what Kerry has been doing all along.   
 Kerry struck up a friendship with this guy in the Trump years. And think about this, you’ve got a prominent figure in the opposition. By the way, a former presidential candidate for the Democratic Party. Leading figure in pretty much every Democratic administration. He’s conspiring with a Jihadist foreign government that is a sworn enemy. Its kind of formulaic foreign policy is "death to America," and here’s Kerry buddying with this guy about how to undercut Trump.   
 What this suggests is that while Iran has a foreign policy, America’s foreign policy is driven by its domestic policy. Iran has goals. And their goal is to weaken America, strengthen their position in the Middle East, try to become the leading player in the region. But Kerry has a much more simple goal. It’s nothing to do with Iran. It has to do with undermining Trump and to a larger degree, undermining the power of America in the region.   
 This has been a continuous thread since Obama. Shrink and diminish American foreign policy. Most recently, this fellow, Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif, gave an interview in the Middle East itself, where he basically said John Kerry has been divulging secret information involving 200 Israeli military operations in Syria. Wow. So, Kerry is evidently leaking stuff to our enemies, that he is finding out from our allies. Think about that.   
 Now, Kerry has issued a denial"  
 “I can tell you that this story and these allegations are unequivocally false. This never happened.”  
 Well, I don’t know. If it didn’t happen, why would the man that you’ve undoubtedly, you’ve admittedly been talking to for years and you’re still talking to him, say that you did? What possibly could be his motive for doing this? I suspect it could be that Zarif accidentally blurted out something that he shouldn’t have said, but in that case, it’s not a sin to say something false but to say something that’s true.   
 Let’s think and remember that pretty much the whole Biden team for renewing this Iran Deal, and dealing with Iran, is the Obama crew. People like Wendy Sherman, Robert Malley, and Colin Kahl. But all under the leadership of Kerry, and Kerry, remember – although he’s the climate czar – he sits on America’s National Security Council. So he is part of our defense team. Think of how scary it is that we’ve got this guy, with his fake pomposity and his bogus erudition let me tell you, "No, no, no." That’s just kind of moronic proclamations. That’s harmless in and of itself. That’s just a reflection Kerry. But much more insidious, working with these foreign regimes, dangerous foreign regimes, that would blow us up if they could.   
 But, I’m sure Kerry thinks that his marvelous influence and his ability to eat a canopy while sitting with Zarif is going to discourage them from doing that. No. But Kerry’s agenda is also insidious to try to do harm domestically to his political opponents inside America.  <https://townhall.com/columnists/dineshdsouza/2021/04/28/john-kerrys-insidious-agenda-n2588687>

**Tucker Should Sue Jim Acosta for This One**[Larry O'Connor](https://townhall.com/columnists/larryoconnor/) Posted: Apr 28, 2021 1:05 PM  
 This weekend, CNN journalist and reporter Jim Acosta sat behind an anchor's desk at the oldest cable news network and called Fox News's Tucker Carlson a Klansman and a "white power correspondent."   
 Tucker should sue the hell out of him.   
 Here's the odious segment:   
 “It’s not just Laura Ingraham. How about Tucker Carlson who in the wake of the Derek Chauvin verdict showed us all what’s under the hood” [pic.twitter.com/2KguWV8ViU](https://t.co/2KguWV8ViU)  
 — Acyn (@Acyn) [April 24, 2021](https://twitter.com/Acyn/status/1386058517748932610?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 "How about Tucker Carlson, who in the wake of the Derek Chauvin verdict showed us all what's under the hood," Acosta said. *"Under the hood...*" Get it? A Klan hood. He's calling Tucker Carlson a Klansman. How can Tucker be a Klansman? He's a Republican. Everyone knows [the KKK is a long-time Democratic institution](https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/the-cambridge-guide-to-african-american-history/ku-klux-klan-kkk/AF98C32F011BFB6DBD98879DE0F08C73).   
 "Tucker Carlson's anger was not about the actions of a police officer who murdered a man, but about the guilty verdict," Acosta continues. "Or, as Carlson, Fox's chief white power correspondent, described the decision, 'Please don't hurt us.' Now you can call this an act or a schtick, but these big, race-baiting lies have been spreading like a cancer on the far-right."   
 Tucker should sue.   
 It pains me to say it, but it's time for us to use the courts and the legal system to wage "lawfare" on the lying, defamatory slanders the Left in the media has been throwing our way for years.   
 It truly does pain me to say it because it goes against so much I have believed for so long. I was raised at the husky knee of the late, great Andrew Breitbart, who could dish out the hyperbolic insults as well as he had to take them. Back in the heyday of blogging and the dawn of Internet journalism, all was fair in the opinion-based conclusions we could draw based on the facts that we had at our disposal.   
 It's not our style to run to a jury and start screaming for damages. We take the shots, and then we give shots back. That's how we've operated for years.   
 So, what's changed?  
 Acosta isn't some blogger. CNN isn't some random website like Gawker (RIP) or Mediaite. CNN is owned by AT&T and has a worldwide audience. And Acosta's presentation is not that of a pundit providing an opinion on a panel discussion or that of a prime-time opinion host. He's one of their reporters who was anchoring a news program in the middle of the day.   
 He may claim he was expressing his opinion, but he was delivering a news segment as a news reporter. He was reporting, as fact, that Tucker Carlson was a KKK white supremacist. A slander and defamatory comment that was delivered in malice without any facts to support the assertion.   
 If it isn't slammed back with a sledgehammer, it will be allowed to fester. Acosta, and his corporate enablers, should pay a price.   
 Yes, this is a new approach for those of us on the Right who have endured the despicable taunts of "racist" for years. But just because we sucked it up and put up with lies until now doesn't mean we have to do it anymore.   
 James O'Keefe at Project Veritas is leading the way.   
 He has already sued The New York Times for defamation, and he has cleared the first, very difficult hurdle in that proceeding. During the course of that litigation, which claims The Times defamed Veritas by describing their work product as "deceptive" and "misinformation," the presiding judge pointed out that The Times defended their reporting by saying that there was nothing wrong with reporters expressing their opinion within their news articles.   
 "In part, Defendants argue that their statements describing Veritas’ Video as ‘deceptive,’ ‘false,’ and ‘without evidence’ were mere opinion incapable of being judged true or false," [Judge Charles Wood observed.](https://assets.ctfassets.net/syq3snmxclc9/maEy58HDFCR7qdtFObWXx/46c075c522acef6a169b7ce051f8955c/Order_denying_motion_to_dismiss.pdf)  
 Byron York [points out](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/the-new-york-times-embarrassing-defense-in-the-project-veritas-case) that Judge Wood rejected The Times' suggestion that their reporting on Veritas was kosher because there was nothing wrong with reporters injecting opinion into their articles in no uncertain terms.   
 The paper's ethics policies "prohibit news reporters from injecting their subjective opinions into news stories published by the New York Times," Wood noted. "Upon review of the total context and tone of the stories, which clearly disparage Project Veritas and the video," he continued, "the court concludes that a reasonable reader could very well believe that the challenged statements were conveying facts about Project Veritas. The articles certainly could be viewed as being purposely designed to appear that [the New York Times is] imparting facts and evidence that Project Veritas' videos were deceptive."  
 This is, frankly, huge. Here's The New York Times in a legal document saying, "Hey... You can't sue us for expressing an opinion. It's totally normal and acceptable for our reporters to inject their personal opinions into their news articles."  
 Meanwhile, O'Keefe isn't finished going on offense against the lies of these media giants.   
 This week he filed a suit against CNN. The focus of the suit is journalist Ana Cabrera and claims that Twitter had banned Veritas for "misinformation" even though [CNN's own reporting](https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/11/tech/twitter-project-veritas/index.html) (including Cabrera's) had already reported the true reasons for the Twitter ban, that Twitter alleged that Veritas had shared personal information, violating its policies.   
 James O’Keefe sues CNN for defamation. God I hope he wins!! [pic.twitter.com/yzoGiaLjff](https://t.co/yzoGiaLjff)  
 — suzy (@Suzy1776) [April 27, 2021](https://twitter.com/Suzy1776/status/1386833144607764484?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 Veritas’ lawsuit [against CNN states](https://www.projectveritas.com/news/breaking-video-project-veritas-sues-cnn-after-network-host-said-pvs-twitter/): "Cabrera was fully aware of Twitter’s basis for the Project Veritas ban, as on February 11, 2021, she tweeted that 'Twitter permanently bans Project Veritas,' and that 'the decision followed what a Twitter spokesperson described to CNN as repeated violations of Twitter’s policies prohibiting the sharing – or threats of sharing – of other people’s private information without consent.'"  
 Listen, I get it; it's not like us to lawyer up and go after people with subpoenas. Not our style. We take the high ground, right? Sticks and stones, and all that.   
 But when The New York Times and CNN and the vast bulk of corporate-owned propaganda media can defame and lie about the president of the United States for more than four years and suffer no repercussions for the big lie of "Russian Collusion," then they can defame any of us. That's dangerous for our country and damages the First Amendment.   
 If we truly care about a free press in America, we should demand that they exercise their freedoms with responsibility. If it takes lawsuits like this to force reforms within these institutions, then so be it.   
 Tucker Carlson is not a Klansman. He is not a white supremacist. He is not aligned with whatever "white power" means. What Acosta said about him is a lie, and there are no facts to support his vile assertions.   
 Tucker should sue Acosta's butt off.  <https://townhall.com/columnists/larryoconnor/2021/04/28/tucker-should-sue-jim-acosta-for-this-one-n2588671>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**State Department: Talks with Iran not on cusp of a breakthrough**

***State Department spokesperson Ned Price says there is no agreement yet regarding a US return to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.***

*Elad Benari , Apr 30 , 2021 6:11 AM*

**State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters on Thursday that there is no agreement yet regarding a US return to the 2015 nuclear deal with I**ran.

**“We've been able to engage indirectly with the Iranian delegation in largely thoughtful business-like constructive dialogue but there is still a great distance to travel,** and what we have said before about having more road ahead of us than road behind us, remains accurate,” Price said, in reference to the talks in Vienna with the other signatories to the deal.

“It is fair to say that some progress has been made. We have a better understanding of what we might need to do, were Iran to go back into compliance, and it is our assessment that the Iranians have a better sense of what they would need to do to resume their compliance with the JCPOA,” he added.

Price stressed that "big challenges remain," and that the talks "are not on a cusp of a breakthrough."

The talks in Vienna involved diplomats from Britain, China, France, Germany, Iran and Russia who met the Iranian representatives, while US diplomats participated indirectly in the talks from a nearby hotel.

The US and European Union [both said](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304732) last week that more work was needed to revive the 2015 deal, while Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said the "negotiations have achieved 60-70 percent progress."

A senior State Department official [told reporters](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304793) last week that the US provided Iran with an outline of the sanctions it is prepared to remove as part of a mutual return to full compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal.

On Wednesday, current and former US officials told *The Associated Press* that the Biden administration [is considering a near wholesale rollback](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305230) of some of the most stringent Trump-era sanctions imposed on Iran in a bid to get the Islamic Republic to return to compliance with the 2015 deal. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305309>

**Yamina demands Justice Ministry for Shaked**

***Bennett reportedly demanding that Ayelet Shaked be appointed Justice Minister in "bloc of change's" government, causing delays in negotiations between the two sides.***

*Ben Ariel , Apr 30 , 2021 5:33 AM*

The Yamina party is demanding that the “bloc of change” hand the Justice Ministry to Ayelet Shaked, a request that will cause Gideon Sa'ar to demand the Defense and Finance Ministries.

The demand, according to a report by *Channel 12 News’* political commentator Amit Segal, is causing delays in negotiations between the two sides. At present, according to the report, negotiations for the formation of a Lapid-Bennett government are moving slowly. **MORE -** <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305308>

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**04/29/2021 NEWS AM**

**MARIO FRANGOULIS - HIJO DE LA LUNA (english subt.)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7Y7ouOJFME>

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| **"It doesn't matter what rights you have under the Constitution of the United States, if the government can punish you for exercising those rights. And it doesn't matter what limits the Constitution puts on government officials' power, if they can exceed those limits without any adverse consequences. In other words, the Constitution cannot protect you, if you don't protect the Constitution with your votes against anyone who violates it. Those government officials who want more power are not going to stop unless they get stopped. As long as millions of Americans vote on the basis of who gives them free stuff, look for their freedom -- and all our freedom -- to be eroded away, bit by bit. Our children and grandchildren may yet come to see the Constitution as just some quaint words from the past that people once took seriously." -- Thomas Sowell (1930- ) Writer 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 AB family – Wife just diagnosed with brain tumor**  **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 KL – troubling spiritual situation.**  **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 26:23And he went from there to Beer-sheba. 24And Jehovah appeared to him in the same night, and said, I *am* the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I *am* with you; and I will bless you and increase your seed, because of My servant Abraham. 25And he built an altar there and called on the name of Jehovah. And he pitched his tent there. And the slaves of Isaac dug a well there.**

**Gantz appointed justice minister after Netanyahu U-turn; court cancels hearing**

***PM backtracks to end crisis ahead of High Court session on matter, still insists contentious cabinet vote appointing his ally Akunis was legal — despite AG ruling it wasn’t***

*By* [*Raoul Wootliff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/raoul-wootliff/) *Today, 1:52 pm*

**While insisting that the disputed vote he held in the cabinet on Tuesday to appoint Likud’s Ofir Akunis as justice minister was a legitimate move, Prime Minister Benjamin backed down Wednesday from his refusal to appoint anyone else to the position, agreeing to make Blue and White’s Benny Gantz justice minister** for the duration of the transitional government.

Govern**ment ministers approved Gantz’s appointment at a cabinet meeting held via video conference Wednesday afternoon.**

Per **requests from Netanyahu, Gantz and Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit, the High Court of Justice then agreed to cancel its scheduled 5 p.m**. hearing on the legality of the cabinet vote and the issue of Israel’s lack of a justice minister in general.

Tuesday’s developments were a striking about-face from Netanyahu after Monday’s fracas. Pundits remarked that the prime minister had likely underestimated the public furor his actions would cause and decided he preferred to shift public focus away from the issue as he fights to hold on to power in the wake of last month’s election.

The High Court had on Tuesday [temporarily frozen](https://www.timesofisrael.com/high-court-freezes-netanyahu-led-appointment-of-likud-ally-as-justice-minister/) the appointment of Akunis after the cabinet — led by Netanyahu — openly defied Mandelblit’s forceful warnings that the vote was illegal and pushed through the appointment. **MORE -**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-backs-down-agrees-to-make-gantz-justice-minister/> **[the Bibi zoo continues day in and day out. – rdb]**

**Smotrich warns of unrest if Mandelblit tries to disqualify Netanyahu as PM**

***Religious Zionism leader says public will ‘fight for their independence and sovereignty’ should AG move to deem premier unfit to serve following ‘illegal’ cabinet vote***

By [Raoul Wootliff](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/raoul-wootliff/) Today, 12:52 pm

**Religious Zionism party leader Bezalel Smotrich warned Wednesday that the public will “fight for their independence and sovereignty” if Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit moves to disqualify Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister following a cabinet vote that Mandelblit deemed illeg**al.

The High Court of Justice on Tuesday temporarily froze the appointment of Likud MK Ofir Akunis as justice minister, hours after the cabinet — led by Netanyahu — openly defied Mandelblit’s forceful warnings.

**By holding the vote, Mandelblit told Netanyahu during the meeting, the Likud-led bloc of the caretaker government had flouted a quasi-constitutional Basic Law,** amended last year by Netanyahu and Benny Gantz, that reserved the position for a candidate backed by Gantz’s Blue and White-led bloc.

**Following the vote, the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, an anti-corruption watchdog, said it would petition the High Court to have Netanyahu removed from of**fice.

While Mandelblit has not publicly commented on the prospect of disqualifying Netanyahu due to his actions in the cabinet meeting, and has [repeatedly rejected previous calls to deem the premier unfit to serve](https://www.timesofisrael.com/ag-says-currently-no-reason-to-remove-netanyahu-from-his-role/), Smotrich on Wednesday warned the attorney general against considering the move.

“Mandelblit is not authorized to declare the prime minister unfit [for office]. There is no such law,” Smotrich tweeted.

**“This dangerous threat is not a threat to Netanyahu. That is not the issue at all. It is a threat to democracy and to the people, and if Mandelblit forces a coup d’état, h**e will meet the opposing power of the people, who will fight for their independence and sovereignty,” he warned.

Tuesday’s [chaotic cabinet meeting](https://www.timesofisrael.com/its-an-illegal-vote-cabinet-meeting-descends-into-chaos-fury-defiance/) took place a month after Gantz’s term as interim justice minister ended, significantly constraining the ministry and the executive branch in their ability to operate. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/smotrich-warns-of-unrest-if-mandelblit-tries-to-disqualify-netanyahu-as-pm/> **[The backers expose their claws to anyone who challenges them. While it is true that the Likud got more votes, they still haven’t obtained and may not obtain a coalition. Bibi is within days of losing his bid to stay in power. – rdb]**

**Bennett meets Ra’am chief Abbas amid effort to form government without Netanyahu**

***Right-wing and Islamist parties launch unlikely cooperation, with PM’s deadline expiring in 6 days; Smotrich slams move: ‘A government with Abbas is like a government with Hamas’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 3:10 pm*

**Yamina party leader Naftali Bennett met Wednesday with Ra’am party chief Mansour Abbas in the first-ever political contact between the leaders of the two parties, amid ongoing efforts to form a government without Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud part**y.

**Bennett’s right-wing party and Abbas’s Islamist faction have initiated unlikely cooperation lately in the Knesset’s Arrangements Committe**e, and the ties have gained steam as Netanyahu’s mandate to form a government nears its end.

**Both parties are the only ones that in last month’s elections refused to back either Netanyahu’s right wing-religious bloc or the rival** “change bloc” that seeks to oust him.

Ra’am said in a statement following the meeting at Bennett’s Knesset office that the discussion dealt with the positions of both parties regarding the current political events, and was “conducted in a positive atmosphere.”

**An unnamed member of the “change bloc” was quoted by Channel 12 news as saying “significant progress” had been made in coalition talks over the previous da**y.

**After meeting Abbas, Bennett reportedly met New Hope party chief Gideon Sa’ar, while the latter’s No. 2, Ze’ev Elkin, met Yesh Atid party leader Yair** Lapid.

Religious Zionism party head Bezalel Smotrich assailed Bennett over his meeting with Abbas, whose party is a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood and rejects Zionism.

**“A government with Abbas is like a government with Hamas,” said the far-right Smotr**ich.

Smotrich said Bennett would become an outcast on the right if he formed a government with Ra’am, the same way former premier Ariel Sharon was when he decided to evacuate Israel’s settlements from Gaza in 2005.

**Smotrich has thwarted the option of Netanyahu himself relying on Ra’am to** form a government, but the premier’s efforts to court Abbas’s support have lent his rivals greater public legitimacy to work with the Arab party, which has never been part of any government.

**Just six days remain for Netanyahu to try and form a government** before he is required to return the mandate to do so to President Reuven Rivlin.

**On Monday, Bennett and Sa’ar expressed caution over ongoing negotiations to form a unity government, admitting that significant gaps remained between them** and the centrist Yesh Atid party, but party leader Lapid insisted that they were still bridgeable.

While Bennett said he would be thrilled if Netanyahu managed to cobble together a coalition, Sa’ar maintained his position that he would not serve under the Likud leader and that the premier would have to step aside.

**While admitting it wasn’t their ideal scenario, Bennett and Sa’ar both said that they were prepared to join a unity coalition with Yesh Atid and the left-leaning Labor and Meretz parti**es.

Insisting that a another election would be catastrophic for the economy, Lapid said that it would be possible to reach an agreement to form a unity government within a week or ten days. “We, for our part, will do everything,” he said. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-meets-raam-chief-abbas-amid-effort-to-form-government-without-netanyahu/>

**Thomas Nides emerges as frontrunner to become US envoy to Israel – report**

***According to Washington Post, Jewish banking official and former deputy secretary of state has edged out others, including Michael Adler, who will likely be ambassador to Belgium***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 8:38 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/Untitled-37-e1619586752241.jpg)

***Deputy US Secretary of State for Management and Resources Thomas Nides speaks at a USAID conference in June 2012. (Screenshot: YouTube)***

**Former State Department official Thomas Nides has emerged as the likely nominee for the next US ambassador to Israel, the Washington Post reported Wednesday, citing several people familiar with White House plans on the matter**.

**The report also named other likely picks as top diplomats by US President Joe Biden’s administrat**ion.

**Born in 1961 to a Jewish family in Duluth, Minnesota, Nides is a banking executive and if indeed picked, would bring both government and private-sector experience to the** post.

He is the managing director and vice chairman of Morgan Stanley and has served in multiple financial institutions, including Credit Suisse and Burson-Marsteller.

**From 2011 to 2013 he served as deputy secretary of state for management and resources under former US president Barack Obama, and he has served in a variety of other government position**s.

As deputy secretary of state for management and resources, Nides built effective working relationships with several Israeli officials and played a key role in the Obama administration’s approval of an extension on loan guarantees for Israel worth billions of dollars.

**He also helped carry out Obama’s policy against Congressional efforts to limit US support for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees** (UNWRA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In 2012, Nides sent a [letter](https://www.scribd.com/doc/94703915/DepSec-State-Opposes-Kirk-Amdt) to the US Senate’s Committee on Appropriations, arguing against legislation that sought to distinguish between Palestinians displaced by the creation of Israel in 1948 and those refugees who are their descendants, reducing the number of refugees from 5 million to just 30,000 (the Trump administration toyed with similar measures). Nides wrote that the legislation would undermine American ability to act as a peace mediator, “and generate very strong negative reaction from the Palestinians and our allies in the region, particularly Jordan.”

Former Israeli ambassador to the US Michael Oren wrote in his book “Ally” that in 2011, Nides had argued passionately against congressional efforts to defund UNESCO after the body admitted Palestine as a member state. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/thomas-nides-morgan-stanley-executive-reportedly-to-become-us-envoy-to-israel/> **[Another leftist insider. – rdb]**

**Deputy health minister predicts nearly all virus restrictions will go in 3 weeks**

***Yoav Kisch tells Knesset plenum that if infection numbers continue to remain low nearly all limitations will be lifted; opposition lawmaker demands house virus committee be set up***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:07 pm*

**Deputy Health Minister Yoav Kisch predicted Wednesday that within a few weeks Israel will lift nearly all its restrictions on public life that were introduced to combat the coronavirus pandemic, as infection rates have slid so low the measures will no longer be need**ed.

**“As morbidity continues to decline, we can reach a situation where, in my estimation, in three weeks’ time, the State of Israel will be almost without restrictions and that is an amazing achievemen**t,” Kisch said in the Knesset plenum during a discussion about the virus outbreak.

**He noted that as of next week, Israelis holding a Green Pass, showing that they have been vaccinated or have recovered from COVID-19, will be more or less restriction**-free.  **[Two class society – those with the green pass and those without. HMMMMM? sound familiar – rdb]**

**“In another three weeks from today, if the morbidity continues to drop, we will release and reduce the limits completely,” Kisc**h said.

Kisch’s remarks drew a demand from New Hope MK Yifat Shasha-Biton that a special committee set up to deal with COVID-19 be convened.

**Shasha-Biton formerly chaired the Knesset Coronavirus Committee while she was still a member of Kisch’s Likud party. She repeatedly clashed with government decisions on applying restrictions**. Ahead of the recent March elections she left Likud to join Gideon Sa’ar’s New Hope.

Amid political fighting in the wake of the inconclusive elections, many Knesset committees have not been set up, among them the coronavirus committee.

**Shasha-Biton told Kisch that the committee needs to be formed to attend to ongoing issues related to restrictions as well to prepare for an upcoming drive to vaccinate chil**dren.

**Those under 16 are currently not included in the national inoculation program, which is credited with bringing down infection numbers, but approval to vaccinate younger age groups is expected in the next few mo**nths.

“A Knesset Coronavirus Committee should be set up that can discuss government decisions,” Shasha-Biton said. She noted that Likud lawmaker Miki Zohar, as chair of the Arrangements Committee, was holding up the process. The Arrangements Committee forms other committees following elections until a government is established.

“There are many dramatic things on the agenda that need to be discussed transparently, professionally, in a matter-of-fact way, so that the public can know and understand why decisions are made as they are and so that it can cooperate with us,” she said.

**Kisch responded that the government will back establishing such a committee only if it is chaired by a lawmaker from the parties that back Prime Minister Benjamin Netan**yahu. **[Why is this a political issue. Does it matter who the party leading the committee backs? This is why their entire approach has been totally bizarre and actually poorly done. – rdb]**

New Hope is among the bloc of parties seeking to replace Netanyahu. Currently, neither Netanyahu’s bloc nor the one that opposes him has a majority in the Knesset or a clear path to reach one.

**On Tuesday the** [**government approved rolling back more restrictions**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/unvaccinated-children-can-now-attend-cultural-events-with-a-negative-virus-test/) **allowing children and those who cannot be vaccinated to attend cultural events,** eat at restaurants and enter gyms if they have recently tested negative for the coronavirus.

As infections have dwindled, Israel has rolled back restrictions on public life, including lifting the requirement to wear face masks outdoors, which ended last week.

With its aggressive vaccination drive, Israel has seen a sharp drop in daily mortality and infection rates since the pandemic peaked in late January. Since the start of the outbreak last year Israel was placed under three lockdowns, the last of which began in January and has largely been lifted over the past few months. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/deputy-health-minister-predicts-nearly-all-virus-restrictions-will-go-in-3-weeks/>

**As COVID wanes, Israel’s restaurants are full of customers but low on staff**

***Young workers typically employed in eateries and bars are not coming back, opting for unemployment benefits over shift work; this threatens already-shaken industry***

*By* [*Shoshanna Solomon*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/shoshanna-solomon/) *Today, 2:12 pm*

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| ***[Customers enjoy dining at restaurants at the Sarona market  in Tel Aviv on April 21, 2021. (Miriam Alster/Flash90)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/F210421MA01-e1619507483188.jpg)***  ***Customers enjoy dining at restaurants at the Sarona market in Tel Aviv on April 21, 2021. (Miriam Alster/Flash90)*** | ***Israelis, some wearing protective face masks, and some not, as Israel lifts the restrictions on wearing a mask outdoors. April 20, 2021 (Miriam Alster/FLASH90)*** |

**At an Aroma Espresso Bar in Tel Aviv last week, diners were seated outdoors, sipping cappuccinos, nibbling sandwiches and reveling in the simple pleasure of being maskless among p**eople.

 **Similarly, at the Matilda café and restaurant in the leafy neighborhood of Maoz Aviv, customers were digging into their meals as a cool breeze tempered the warmth of the sun and the vicious virus that kept people at home for months seemed, at that moment, a distant bad dre**am.

***Alon Kedem, right, the owner of the 22-year-old restaurant in North Tel Aviv, Matilda (Shoshanna Solomon/Times of Israel)***

As Israel emerges from the coronavirus pandemic due to its world-leading vaccination campaign, the economy seems to be getting back on track. Restaurant reservations are hard to come by and cafés are bursting with people in good cheer, eager to embrace a post-pandemic reality.

**And yet, not all is back to normal. At the Aroma café, food was being served on paper plates, salads in plastic containers, with disposable cutlery. At Matilda, just one waitress was taking orders and bringing** out food.

**That is because these establishments, which were forced to shut down or shift to takeout-only during the lockdowns and had put their workers on unpaid leave or fire them, are now finding it hard to get them** back.

**Before the coronavirus struck Matilda employed a team of 10-12 hourly wage workers, mostly age 18-24. But today the staff is down to just four,** said 48-year-old Alon Kedem, the owner of the 22-year-old restaurant considered a neighborhood landmark.

Once open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. for breakfast, lunch and dinner, the restaurant has curtailed its hours and slimmed down its menu for lack of manpower, Kedem said.

“I don’t find workers,” Kedem said. When lockdowns were imposed, he shut down the restaurant and sent his employees home, and started serving coffee and croissants **for breakfast at his takeout pizza stall nearby. Now, with the restaurant reopened, the lack of staff is hindering his business growth**.

**One of his workers on unpaid leave refused to come back to work. Others found jobs, such as food delivery, that pay better and have flexible hours rather than shi**fts, Kedem said.

The pandemic caused havoc for many eateries, he said. “I am here 22 years and I don’t intend to give up just because of one coronavirus year,” he said. “But if I had just started my business, I’d definitely rethink my way forward. It would be easier for me to let go and look in other directions if my work weren’t so closely associated with home for me.”

**The measures imposed to curb the virus shrank Israel’s economy by 2.5% in 2020, its greatest contraction** to date. Unemployment last year shot up to its highest level in at least 50 years, an average of 15.7% compared to a record low of 3.8% in 2019.

**The trade, leisure and hospitality sectors were among those most significantly affected by the lockdowns,** and they are largely staffed by young workers, who found themselves discharged from their jobs overnight. The luckier ones were put on furlough, which made them eligible for unemployment benefits nearly equal to what they were making.

**Those benefits were extended until the end of June in a bid to provide an economic safet**y net for both workers and employers during the pandemic.

**This furlough policy however, is backfiring, some say, with many young workers preferring to stay unemployed rather than go back to a job that pays not much more than what they get from the gover**nment.



***Some Israelis wear protective face masks, in Tel Aviv, on April 07, 2021. (Miriam Alster/FLASH90)***

**On Sunday, the Employment Service Bureau** [**warned**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/enjoying-unemployment-benefits-young-israelis-choose-not-to-go-back-to-work/) **that according to its figures, workers age 34 and under were choosing not to go back to work even as demand for manpower in sectors they typically work in,** such as the hospitality sector, which includes restaurants and hotels, saw a surge in the first quarter of the year.

From December to March demand for kitchen staff rose 36%, the data showed; demand for waiters and barmen rose 208%, and demand for cooks 218%.

**The extension of unemployment benefits until the end of June has transformed them from a “safety net” into a “barrier” preventing workers from returning** to the labor force, Rami Garor, the head of Israel’s Employment Service Bureau, said in a statement. **[The attitude of much of todays younger workers is that work is an infringement on my play time so if I can be paid to sit at home and play why should I work? The idea of self sufficiency and the honor and dignity of having a job and earning my way in life has greatly faded in our current generation. – rdb]**

 **Data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics shows that the number of businesses with job vacancies in Israel rose to 30% in March from 21% in February and a low of 8%** in March and April last year, as the pandemic took hold. Pre-pandemic, in January 2020, the number of businesses with vacancies totaled 25% of all businesses. A survey of businesses showed that 58% of food and hospitality businesses said they employed 50% fewer workers than in the pre-pandemic period.

***Shai Berman, the CEO of the Israel Restaurants and Bars Association (Udi Golan)***

**In March 2021 there were just 94,000 workers employed in the food and hospitality sector, compared to an average of 215,000 in 2019, t**he Statistics Bureau showed.

**“We are missing some 40,000 to 50,000 workers,” said Shai Berman, CEO of the Israel Restaurants and Bars Association.**

Before the coronavirus hit, the restaurant industry, including cafés and bars, employed some 200,000 people. During the crisis, the number dropped to 30,000-60,000, he said, and is now up to some 100,000.

The furlough program and the unemployment benefits extended to all workers are the main reason for this, he said. Many people “prefer to continue to live off the government and not get back to work,” he posited. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-covid-wanes-restaurants-are-full-of-customers-but-low-on-staff/>

**As competition heats up, Intel touts new $200 million Haifa campus**

***Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger to visit Israel next week; US tech giant plans to employ 1,000 new workers locally this year to build ‘chips of the future’***

*By* [*Shoshanna Solomon*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/shoshanna-solomon/) *Today, 7:09 pm*

**US tech giant Intel Corp. said Wednesday that newly appointed CEO Pat Gelsinger will be visiting Israel next week to announce the setting up a new $200 million campus in Israel to develop the “chips of the future.” The company also said it intends to recruit some 1,000 new employees locally this** year.

The **announcement comes as competition among global chipmaker titans is heating up. Multinationals are competing for top talent that will keep them ahead of the game, as the world turns online following the coronavirus pandemic**.

Israel is becoming a battleground in which this clash playing out. **Google in March** [**appointed**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/google-to-set-up-chip-team-in-israel-led-by-former-intel-exec/) **Uri Frank, a former Intel Corp. executive, as its new vice president of engineering for server chip design to lead a team in Israel for “doubling down” on designing and building custom chips to boost the** performance of its computing systems.

**Nvidia, a US chipmaker,**[**said**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-chip-giant-nvidia-to-recruit-600-engineers-in-israel-to-boost-ai-prowess/)**it plans to recruit 600 engineers locally to boost its activities in Israel in the field of artificial intelligenc**e. And Microsoft is [reportedly](https://www.timesofisrael.com/microsoft-reportedly-seeking-to-invest-over-1-billion-in-israel/) seeking to invest over $1 billion in Israel, including expanding its research and development activities in chips. [Facebook](https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-battle-for-workers-multinationals-scale-up-chipmaking-plans-in-israel/) is also reportedly seeking to set up an R&D center in Israel focusing on the development of chips.

**Intel’s campus will be home to 6,000 hardware and software developers of computer chips of the future, the statement said. The facility will spread over tens of thousands of square meter**s, and will be built according to a new “hybrid model” in which thousands of workers will be able to work part from home and part from the office, Intel said in a statement.

Work on the new building will start shortly and is expected to be completed by 2023. It will include individual and collaborative working spaces that will be modular and can be modified as needed; meeting rooms for frontal encounters and video conferences as well as pop-up restaurants and café’s, the statement said.

**The campus, set up adjacent to the Haifa beach, will include thousands of square meters of sports areas and green nature areas that will be located around the building, inside and** on the roof, the statement added.

 The **new green, sustainable campus**, equipped with “smart” building facilities, will include a visitor center that will be open to the public, an auditorium, advanced labs and smart building technologies, the statement said.

***Pat Gelsinger, CEO of Intel (YouTube screenshot)***

Gelsinger, the CEO, said he will make additional announcements during his visit to Israel.

The firm said it plans to recruit hardware, software and AI engineers, electrical engineers, and computer science professionals, ranging from students to experienced engineers with graduate degrees.

In light of the competition for talent in Israel, as the nation faces an acute shortage of engineers and programmers, Intel intends to set up a national initiative to “increase the volume of skilled and relevant manpower in the fields of science and technology,” the statement said.

Intel is the largest private employer in Israel with 14,000 workers: 7,000 development workers in all of Israel’s development centers, 4,900 production workers and 2,100 employees in Mobileye, Moovit and Habana Labs, which the company acquired. The company currently has three major development centers located in Haifa, Petah Tikva and Jerusalem, and an advanced chip manufacturing plant in Kiryat Gat. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-competition-heats-up-intel-touts-new-200-million-haifa-campus/>

**As tensions boil, Jaffa’s Arab Israelis say gentrification is pushing them out**

***Historic mixed city has seen vast changes as it turns into a bastion for the ultra-wealthy; some residents accuse the government of trying to get rid of them to make way for Jews***

*By* [*Ilan Ben Zion*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ilan-ben-zion/) *Today, 1:14 pm*

**AP — A turreted former Catholic girl’s school in Jaffa is being transformed into an exclusive Soho House club. Around the corner, a historic former convent is now a five-star hote**l. Across the street, the glittering towers of the Andromeda Hill luxury residences overlook the Mediterranean.

**But farther down Yefet Street, working-class Arabs of Jaffa’s Ajami neighborhood face a starkly different reality. With housing prices out of reach, discontent over the city’s rapid transformation into a bastion for Israel’s ultra-wealthy is reaching a boiling point.** The crisis has taken on nationalistic overtones, with some Arab residents accusing the government of trying to push them out to make way for Jews.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP21115373664781.jpg)

***People sit in a restaurant in the Jaffa section of Tel Aviv, April 21, 2021. (AP Photo/Sebastian Scheiner)***

**“Ninety percent of people here barely make a living, from hand to mouth, they don’t have enough to eat,” said Jaffa resident Ibrahim Tartir. “For a young man looking to get married, it’s 5,000, 6,000 shekels ($1,800) for rent, not including water and electricity and the rest**. How much does he earn? 6,000 a month. How can he live?”

**Jaffa, the historic port at the core of the greater Tel Aviv metropolis, is home to around 20,000 Arab residents, remnants of the Palestinian population that lived there before Israel’s establishment in 1948**. The district has undergone extensive gentrification in recent decades with government encouragement.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP21115373655952.jpg)

***Older apartments are inhabited by Arabs in the Jaffa section of Tel Aviv, April 21, 2021.(AP Photo/Sebastian Scheiner)***

**That trend has accelerated in the past several years as real estate prices have skyrocketed amid surging demand. As wealthy Israelis and foreigners move from other are**as of Tel Aviv into Jaffa, its mostly working-class Arab residents have been pushed out. This has added ethnic tensions to an economic phenomenon familiar in other cities around the world.

**“We’re reaching a point where Arab people can’t buy houses unless they are very rich**,” said Youssef Masharawi, a Jaffa native and professor of physical therapy at Tel Aviv University. He said young Arabs in Jaffa have nowhere to go, unable to afford to start families in their hometown and facing discrimination in nearby Israeli cities with overwhelmingly Jewish populations.

**The stress is starting to reach a breaking poin**t.

Long smoldering tensions erupted last week after the rabbi and director of a yeshiva in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Ajami were [assaulted by two Arab residents](https://www.timesofisrael.com/jaffa-yeshiva-rabbi-assaulted-after-inquiring-about-apartment-2-arrested/) while visiting an apartment for sale. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-tensions-boil-jaffas-arab-israelis-say-gentrification-is-pushing-them-out/> **[this is very similar to the situation that is occurring in many inner city neighborhoods where they leaders are pushing gentrification and urban renewal but not taking into account that many of the indigenous dwellers who are living in substandard conditions simply can’t afford to live there and literally have very few alternatives. Yes, it may make the city and area look better but does it actually improve the situation for many of those who are being displaced? I don’t think so. When our interest is on physical appearance rather than the quality of the humanity involved perhaps this needs to be reassessed. – RDB]**

**EU moves to stop funding Palestinian terrorists, inciting textbooks**

***The new guideline doubles down on the European Parliament’s commitment to prevent EU donations from ending up in the hands of terrorists, by calling for proactive recovery of funds.***

*By* [*LAHAV HARKOV*](https://www.jpost.com/author/lahav-harkov) *APRIL 28, 2021 19:51*

**The European Parliament Wednesday reaffirmed its commitment to ensure EU funds do not reach anyone affiliated with terrorists. It also rapped UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, for** [**inciting hate and violence in its textbooks**](https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/2019-2020-palestinian-textbooks-full-of-incitement-study-finds-600592).

**The legislature’s annual budgetary report says the EU must “thoroughly verify” that its funds are not “allocated or linked to any cause or form of terrorism and/or religious and political radicalizatio**n.” **Any funds that did go to any person or organization with terrorist ties must be “proactively recover**ed, and recipients involved are excluded from future union funding.”

**The article in the report came following an ongoing dispute between Palestinian NGOs and the EU over the affiliations of some of the organizations’ leadership and employees. Palestinian NGOs demanded that the EU erase a stipulation that aid can be sent only to organizations without ties to EU-designated terrorist groups**, claiming that groups such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is designated a terrorist group in the EU, US, Canada and Israel, and has been responsible for many terrorist attacks on Israelis, are political parties.

Last March, EU Representative to West Bank and Gaza Sven Kuhn von Burgsdorff wrote in an official letter to the Palestinian NGO Network that as there are no Palestinian individuals on the EU’s “restrictive measures list” which bars funds to terrorists, NGOs would not be penalized if [members of terrorist groups benefit from EU funding](https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/palestinian-authority-paid-terrorists-over-150-million-in-2020-659772).

The Foreign Ministry summoned EU Ambassador Emanuele Giaufret to protest the policy, following *Jerusalem Post* reporting on the letter.

**The new guideline doubles down on the European Parliament’s commitment to prevent EU donations from ending up in the hands of terrorists, by calling for proactive recovery of f**unds.

The recommendation is in a report on the European Commission’s 2019 budget, called a “discharge,” which is part of the legislature’s oversight on how the EU implements its budget.

Matthis Schussler, executive director of the Brussels office ELNET, an organization dedicated to strengthening Israel-Europe ties, said: “Following last year’s precedent vote to prevent EU funding for entities linked to terrorism, we are very happy to see this time the Discharge Report goes even further**.... Strong and unambiguous wording enables the parliament to hold the European Commission accountable on its funding for the PA. This again underlines the importance of thorough checks and monitoring**.”

NGO Monitor vice president Olga Deutsch called on the European Commission to implement the recommendations quickly, pointing out that just last year it investigated an EU grantee with senior employees involved in the terrorist attack that killed Israeli teen Rina Schnerb.

**“NGO Monitor’s research showed that in the last 10 years the EU alone allocated at least €38 million to projects involving terror-linked NGOs,” Deutsch s**aid.

ALSO IN the budget review was a call for EU aid to UNRWA to be conditioned on the UN agency removing incitement from its school textbooks.

**The European Parliament “is concerned about the hate speech and violence taught in Palestinian school textbooks and used in schools by UNRWA... [and] insists that UNRWA acts in full transparency**... to ensure that content adheres to UN values and does not encourage hatred.”

It “requests that all school material which is not in compliance with these standards be removed immediately; insists that the earmarking of EU funding such as PEGASE for salaries paid to teachers and public servants in the education sector must be made conditional on educational material and course content complying with UNESCO standards of peace, tolerance, coexistence and nonviolence.”

**UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority lobbied heavily against the language o**f the 2019 discharge report.

In a letter to members of the European Parliament, UNRWA’s Brussels office wrote: “UNRWA is firmly committed to adhere to the highest standards of neutrality.... All learning materials align with UN values.” **[That is a blatant lie. UNRWA consistently has pushed the “PA” terrorist education agenda and done little or nothing to curtail their incitement. -rdb]**

PA Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh told the parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee last week that its textbooks are updated annually and the complaints are “outdated.”

“I hope the European Parliament looks at Israeli schoolbooks to see if they promoted peace,” he suggested.

**IMPACT-se, an organization that analyzes textbooks in the Middle East, released two reports this year finding that UNRWA created, printed and distributed material rejecting peace, glorifying terrorism and inciting viol**ence.

UNRWA commissioner-general Philippe Lazzarini admitted in January that there were “inappropriate pages from textbooks,” and said they were “mistakenly distributed.” UNRWA said the material, which was given out at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, came from host countries; that they “acted quickly to remedy the situation”; and developed an online learning platform to ensure students only get approved educational materials.

**However, IMPACT-se continued to find materials that incite violence the following month**.

IMPACT-se CEO Marcus Sheff called the resolution “a really important step in the fight to prevent UNRWA from inciting many thousands of children every school-day to violence, extremism and antisemitism. It is the very first time a legislature has stepped up and said to UNRWA, ‘Enough.’”

**MEP Frédérique Ries, from the Liberal Renew Europe Party, said it was unacceptable that European taxpayers’ money is “used to fuel hate and antisemit**ism.”

“We need to ensure Palestinian textbooks used by UNRWA teachers are tools for peace,” Ries stated. “That is what today’s vote in the parliament means. We want to send a strong message to the commission and to UNRWA.”

MEP Miriam Lexmann, from the European People’s Party, said that “a peaceful resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict can be achieved only through educating societies to live in peace with one another and with cultural tolerance.”

<https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/eu-moves-to-stop-funding-palestinian-terrorists-inciting-textbooks-666595> **[The fact that “Bi-dumb” and friends have reinstituted payment to the “PA” terrorist group and UNRWA should be a huge warning to the Jewish communities in the EU and US that they have made a gross error and are heading down the wrong road. – rdb]**

**Iran’s Rouhani claims Israel ‘directed’ US killing of top general Soleimani**

***Leader calls Trump ‘a mercenary of Zionist regime’; says controversial recording of foreign minster Zarif complaining of Soleimani’s power was leaked to sow ‘discord’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 8:06 pm*

**Iranian President Hassan Rouhani claimed Wednesday that Israel “directed” the assassination of former top general Qassem Soleimani, who was killed last year in a US airstrike after arriving in Bagh**dad.

**“The martyrdom of General Soleimani was directed by the Zionists, even though Trump was the commander and killer,” Rouhani said, without providing any evidence for the clai**m.

**Iran’s president also called former US president Donald Trump “a mercenary of the Zionist regime**” and said “all his actions were provoked by the Zionists.” **[What a great honor for The Donald! To be vilified by the likes of Rouhani simply reinforces the fact that he was on the right path. – rdb]**

“**Of course, the previous US presidents were friends with the Zionists, but were not mercenaries,” he noted**.

**Rouhani, who spoke during a cabinet meeting, also referred to the publication of a leaked recording of Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif bemoaning Soleimani’s power.** Soleimani headed the Quds Force, the overseas branch of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and was considered the architect of Iran’s regional security strategy.

**The recording was published by media outside Iran, triggering a heated debate inside the country ahead of presidential electio**ns.

Talks in Vienna are aimed at getting the United States to return to an international nuclear deal it abandoned under Trump, lift sanctions and Iran to resume full compliance with nuclear obligations it retreated from in response.

Rouhani said the audio was leaked just as the Vienna talks were “at the height of their success so that it creates discord inside” the Islamic republic.

“We can only lift sanctions through unity,” the president said.

**Zarif has been under fire since the audiotape emerged on Sunday, w**ith comments he made about Soleimani hitting a nerve.

**“In the Islamic republic the military field rules,” Zarif said in the recording, quoted by The New York Times. “I have sacrificed diplomacy for the military field rather than the field servicing dipl**omacy.”

Zarif, seen as the architect of the 2015 nuclear accord, has been mentioned as a possible contender in the June 18 presidential election, although he has said he does not plan to run.

Another potential candidate, parliament speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf, weighed in on the issue Wednesday, saying “we are sensitive on haj Qasem.”

“We do not want there to be even a small scratch on the shining visage of this dear,” the conservative was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA.

***‘Domestic infighting’***

**Known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, the landmark 2015 deal with six world powers promised Iran relief from sanctions in exchange for curbs o**n its nuclear program.

But the accord started to unravel in 2018 when Trump pulled out of it and imposed wave after wave of sanctions on Iran, which retaliated a year later by ramping up its nuclear activities.

**In his first public reaction to the audiotape, Zarif took to social media to downplay the recording while voicing regret that it had triggered “domestic infightin**g.”

But despite the furious reaction from conservatives, Zarif stuck too much of what he said in the recording, saying he favors a “smart adjustment” between the military and diplomatic spheres.

In a post on Instagram, Zarif said an “honest and passionate” argument in a private setting had been misconstrued as “personal criticism.”

The veteran diplomat said the “main point” of his remarks was to emphasize “the need for a smart adjustment of the relationship between” diplomacy and the military.

Zarif, who has been on a tour of neighboring states this week, also said he saw a need for “setting priorities through legal structures and under the great purview of the supreme leader” Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. **[Me thinks Zarif’s term in the service of the Islamic group is quite limited as probably is his life. – rdb]**

***‘Not government views’***

**Rouhani, who has ordered a probe into who leaked the “stolen” recording, praised Zarif for his track record and achievements but also set** out his position on the relationship between Iran’s military and diplomacy.

He said the “difficult path” of nuclear talks “was trodden with the sacrifice, selflessness, and resistance of diplomats, and today at the helm of this movement is a knowledgeable person familiar with issues like Dr. Zarif.”

But “the [military] field and diplomacy are not two fields against each other,” Rouhani stressed.

Some of the views in the recording “are not the views of the government or the president. Any minister or official might have some views” of their own, the president said.

“If someone thinks that it is [a choice between] the [military] field or diplomacy, foreign policy or defense policy, or that the [military] field must succeed or the negotiations — this is not an accurate thing to say,” he said.

“Two hands ultimately come together and do one thing,” he said, emphasizing that there was a “system and a framework” of discussing issues in both fields in Iran’s Supreme National Security Council.

“In a free country like Iran we freely express our opinions in our meetings,” Rouhani said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/irans-rouhani-claims-israel-directed-us-killing-of-top-general-soleimani/>

**Iran still seeks mass destruction weapons - German intelligence report**

***'Additional focus of Iran’s intelligence is the observation of and fight against opposition groups domestically and abroad.'***

*By* [*BENJAMIN WEINTHAL*](https://www.jpost.com/author/benjamin-weinthal) *APRIL 28, 2021 18:01*



***A Ghadr 1 class Shahab 3 long range missile is prepared for launch during a test from an unknown location in central Iran (photo credit: REUTERS)***

**The German intelligence agency for the state of Bavaria said last week in its new report that the** [**Islamic Republic of Iran**](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/no-to-the-islamic-republic-spread-by-iranians-gains-traction-662491) **has not ceased its drive to obtain weapons of mass destruction during 20**20.

**“Proliferation-relevant states like Iran, North Korea, Syria and Pakistan are making efforts to expand their conventional arsenal of weapons through the production or constant modernization of** [**weapons of mass destruction**](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/german-intel-iran-buying-illegal-technology-for-weapons-of-mass-destruction-591472)**,” wrote the Bavarian Office for the Protection of the Constituti**on, the formal name for the domestic intelligence agency.

“In order to obtain the necessary know-how and corresponding components, these states are trying to establish business contacts to companies in high-technology countries like Germany,” said the Bavarian intelligence report in its section on weapons of mass destruction. **[It is nice to see that at lease of of Germany’s groups understand what is going on even if Merkel doesn’t seem to have a glue. – rdb]**

**The German agency is the rough equivalent of the Shin Bet** (Israel Security Agency).

**The intelligence report defines proliferation as “the unauthorized spread of atomic, biological, chemical weapons of mass destruction or the products used for their manufacture as well as the corresponding weapon carrier systems, including the necessary kn**ow-how.”

With **respect to the section of the report on the Islamic Republic’s espionage activities, the intelligence document stated that “Germany remains in the focus of intelligence activities. This includes information from foreign and security policy as well as business and science. An** additional focus [of Iran’s intelligence services] is the observation of, and fight against, opposition groups domestically and abroad.”

*The Jerusalem Post* reviewed the 380-page intelligence document which contains 28 references to the Islamic Republic. The report lists additional threats to Bavaria’s democracy.

Hezbollah, the Iranian regime’s chief strategic ally in the Middle East, has 30 members in Bavaria, according to the report. The Bavarian intelligence officials noted that there are 1,050 Hezbollah members across Germany. Last year, Germany’s government outlawed Hezbollah’s activities in the federal republic. The US, Canada, the Arab League, Israel, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and many other European and Latin American countries classify Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/iran-still-seeks-mass-destruction-weapons-german-intelligence-report-666585>

**Saudi crown prince softens Iran rhetoric in balancing act**

***Mohammed bin Salman says in interview that Riyadh wants to have 'good relations' with Tehran, adding that both countries share common interests 'to propel the region and the world to growth and prosperity'***

*Reuters | Published: 04.28.21 , 17:51*

**Saudi Arabia's crown prince has taken a more conciliatory public stance towards Iran**, trying to balance long-held animosity with economic considerations and bridge differences with Washington over how to tackle Tehran's regional behavior.

**Tensions between Riyadh and Tehran have festered over the Yemen war, where an Iran-aligned group has increased attacks on Saudi Arabia even as the kingdom tried to lure foreign investment. Strains between the two Gulf powerhouses also grew after a 2019 assault on Saudi oil plants that Riyadh blamed on** Iran, a charge Tehran denies.



***Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman during an interview Wednesday (Photo: Reuters)***

**While reiterating that Riyadh has a problem with Iran's "negative behavior", Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in an interview aired late on Tuesday that Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia wanted a good relationship with Shi'ite** Iran.

**"We do not want for Iran to be in a difficult situation, on the contrary we want Iran to prosper and gro**w. We have interests in Iran and they have interests in the Kingdom to propel the region and the world to growth and prosperity," he said. **[Obviously MBS has figured out that the “Bi-dumb” doesn’t have his back nor the back of anyone in the ME besides Iran since in all probability “Bi-dumb” probably owes Iran something for some uncertain cover up and therefore he needs to bide his time, try to cool the situation until the situation can stabilize out and his political position improved. He doesn’t want to be too pro Israel because that is bad in the Islamic community but he knows that Israel is the only thing that will be able to assist if things get ‘difficult’ – rdb]**

**That contrasts with remarks by Prince Mohammed in 2017, after becoming crown prince, in which he called the supreme leader of Iran "the new Hitler of the Middle East".** Earlier that year he said any contest for influence between the arch-rivals ought take place "inside Iran, not in Saudi Arabia".

With U.S. President Joe Biden's administration taking a tougher stance on Saudi Arabia's human rights record and pressing it to end the Yemen war, the prince has moved to show he is a valuable partner able to help stabilize the region, diplomats have said.

**Saudi and Iranian officials held direct talks this month, six years after cutting diplomatic ties, about Yemen and the 2015 nuclear accord between** global powers and Iran, which Riyadh opposed for not tackling Tehran's missile program and regional proxies.

**"Saudi Arabia desperately needs to find a way out of a (Yemen) war that is both unpopular and unwinnab**le," said Elisabeth Kendall, senior research fellow in Arabic and Islamic Studies at Oxford's Pembroke College.

**The kingdom has urged global powers trying to bring both the United States and Iran back into full compliance** with the nuclear pact to reach a stronger agreement of longer duration, in talks in Vienna.

Madawi Al-Rasheed, visiting professor at the LSE Middle East Centre, said impressing Biden was one reason why Prince Mohammed "changed his confrontational discourse" on Iran.

The prince, who vowed to crush the Houthis when Riyadh intervened in Yemen in 2015 at the head of a military coalition, also softened his rhetoric towards the Iran-aligned movement that has launched missile and drone attacks on the kingdom.

"There is no doubt the Houthis have strong ties with the Iranian regime, but they are Yemenis with Arab instincts," he said, urging the group to accept a ceasefire deal. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/BkbE7evv00>

**Feds execute warrant at Rudy Giuliani's NYC home, sources say**

***The Trump attorney and former New York City mayor has been under investigation for several years over his business dealings in Ukraine, suspected of dig up dirt against Joe Biden and his son Hunter***

*Associated Press | Published: 04.28.21 , 19:44*

**Federal investigators have executed a search warrant at the Manhattan home of former President Donald Trump’s attorney Rudy Giuliani, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Wedne**sday.

**The former New York City mayor has been under investigation for several years over his business dealings in Ukraine. Details of the search were not immediately available, but it comes as the Justice Department continues its investigation into the former New York City mayor and staunch Trump** ally.

**The official could not discuss the investigation publicly a**nd spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The federal probe into Giuliani's overseas and business dealings stalled last year because of a dispute over investigative tactics as Trump unsuccessfully sought reelection, and amid Giuliani’s prominent role in subsequently disputing the results of the contest on Trump’s behalf.

The full scope of the investigation is unclear, but it at least partly involves the Ukraine dealings, law enforcement officials have told the AP. **[Why have they been dogging Rudy? Because he is exposing the corruption of Biden. – rdb]**

Giuliani was central to the then-president’s efforts to dig up dirt against Democratic rival Joe Biden and to press Ukraine for an investigation into Biden and his son, Hunter — who himself now faces a criminal tax probe by the Justice Department. Giuliani also sought to undermine former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, who was pushed out on Trump’s orders, and met several times with a Ukrainian lawmaker who released edited recordings of Biden in an effort to smear him before the election.

A message **left for Giuliani’s lawyer wasn’t immediately returned. Giuliani had previously called the investigation is “pure political persecution.”**

The U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan declined to comment. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rJ11Jxfwwu>

**COVID-19: Does wearing masks affect pregnant women? Study says it might**

***“Wearing a mask can cause the heart rate to increase and carbon dioxide to accumulate; as a result, its level in the blood rises, while the oxygen level decreases.”***

*By* [*ROSSELLA TERCATIN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/rossella-tercatin) *APRIL 28, 2021 20:04*

 Does [wearing masks](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/israelis-will-no-longer-need-wear-masks-outside-starting-sunday-665271) have any impact on pregnant women? A new study by researchers from Ben‐Gurion University of the Negev, Sheba Medical Center and Hadassah‐University Medical Center suggests that it might.  
 **The study, which was published in the International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, considered some 1,800 women who gave birth between April and June 2020, when people in Israel were required to wear a mask and it compared the data with the same period in 2019 as well as from previous years starting from 2011**.  
 “**We found two laboratory outcomes and two clinical outcomes**,” Lior Friedrich from BGU, the corresponding author of the study, explained to *The Jerusalem Post*.  
 “Regarding the former, **we registered more elevated hemoglobin levels and decreased platelet levels,” he said. “As far as clinical outcomes are concerned, we saw a lower rate of pre-term births, and a higher rate of bleeding after delivery**.”  
 Hemoglobin is a blood protein that transports oxygen to the tissues. Platelets are the smallest blood cells and their function is to form blood clots to help the body stop bleeding.  
 **Friedrich pointed out that the study does not prove causality between wearing mask and these phenomena**.

“At the moment the only thing we can say it that they occurred at the same time,” he pointed out. **MORE -**

<https://www.jpost.com/health-science/covid-19-does-wearing-masks-affect-pregnant-women-study-says-it-might-666620>

**It's official: IRS data proves DEMOCRATS are party of the rich**

***Dems now pushing for measure that would benefit 'the 1%'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published April 27, 2021 at 8:15pm*

**Democrats complain of "tax cuts for the rich" while pressing to raise rates on the wealthy, but it's the Democratic Party that is now the "party of the rich," according to IRS dat**a.

**Democrats comprised 65% of taxpayers with a household income of $500,000 or more in 202**0, according to IRS data, [the Washington Examiner reported](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/democrats-party-wealthy-irs-salt-tax-trump).

**Meanwhile, 74% of taxpayers in Republican districts have household incomes of less than $100,000**.

**The perception that the Republicans represent the "fat cats" and the Democrats the poor and middle-class worker nevertheless persis**ts.

Indeed, in 1993, as the Examiner points out, the typical Republican congressional district was 14% wealthier than its Democratic counterpart.

But in 2020, data showed those Republican districts were 13% poorer.

The **Examiner noted that some Democrats are pushing to end former President Donald Trump’s 2017 tax law, which caps the federal deduction for state and local taxes at $10,000**.

**It's the much maligned "1%," the nation's wealthiest households, that would benefit the most from ending the me**asure.

Residents of Democratic-majority states such as New York and California, where state income taxes are the highest, have been affected the most by the SALT (state and local tax) cap.

Democratic New York Rep. Tom Suozzi, who won one of the districts in the state that flipped from red to blue in 2020, said he won't vote for any change in the Trump tax law unless the SALT tax deduction is restored.

New Jersey Democratic Rep. Josh Gottheimer is among the lawmakers that even have threatned to derail President Joe Biden's $2 trillion infrastructure package if it does not include reversing the deductions.

"We're going to keep fighting until this is part of the bill. It’s as critical as a road or a bridge or a tunnel, which is why we are going to keep fighting for it until the end," he said. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/official-irs-data-proves-democrats-party-rich/>

**Commentary:**

**The Circular Logic of Systemic Racism**

***By Ben Shapiro*** *Published April 28, 2021* Last week, ex-police officer Derek Chauvin was convicted of second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.   
 The evidence on the murder charges was weak; the evidence on manslaughter was significantly stronger. Still, the jury took only 10 hours and zero questions to come to its conclusion: guilty on all counts.  
 In and of itself, the Chauvin case never should have been a national news story. After all, an average of three suspects are shot by police every day in the United States, and thousands of homicides that have nothing whatsoever to do with the police take place in the United States every year.   
 Theoretically, national news stories should be indicative of profound national problems, not man-bites-dog statistical rarities.  
 But, of course, that was the entire point of elevating the George Floyd story to national attention: to declare it indicative of a deeper rot at the core of America. Thus, Chauvin was convicted not of his individual criminal activity but of a charge that was never even brought against him: the charge of racism.   
 As Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison admitted, there was no evidence whatsoever that Chauvin was a racist, or that his killing of George Floyd was motivated by race. "We don't have any evidence that Derek Chauvin factored in George Floyd's race as he did what he did," Ellison ruefully told incredulous "60 Minutes" host Scott Pelley. And Pelley, speaking for the entire establishment media — a left-wing bubble thoroughly invested in the narrative of systemic American racism — responded, "The whole world sees this as a white officer killing a black man because he is black."  
 Pelley isn't wrong. In the end, evidence for systemic racism is utterly unnecessary. Systemic racism requires no evidence of intent, either individual or systemic.   
 It requires only evidence of disparate outcome by race. Which is why Ellison explained that even though he couldn't charge Chauvin with a hate crime, he could charge the entire system with racism in the Chauvin case: "In order for us to stop and pay serious attention to this case and be outraged by it, it's not necessary that Derek Chauvin had a specific racial intent to harm George Floyd. ... (P)eople of color, Black people, end up with harsh treatment from law enforcement. And other folks doing the exact same thing just don't."

Now, statistically speaking, this is simply untrue. In late 2020, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released a report that found no statistically significant difference by race between criminal activity and arrest — in other words, you get arrested in America if you are reported to have committed a crime, no matter your race.   
 Multiple studies, from Harvard's Roland Fryer to professor Peter Moskos of John Jay College of Criminal Justice at City University New York, show that police officers are less likely to kill black Americans than white Americans in similar circumstances.  
 But to ask for evidence of systemic racism beyond mere inequality of outcome is to be complicit in systemic racism, according to the circular logic of systemic racism.   
 Any incident of white-cop-on-black-suspect violence must be chalked up to the racist system; the evidence of the racist system is the presence of such violence in the first place; to deny that race lies at the root of such incidents makes you a cog in the racist system.   
 The circular logic, protected by an enormous so-called Kafka trap — in which protestations of innocence are treated as proof of guilt — means that systemic racism is subject to no falsification.   
 And that's precisely the point. Systemic racism is a fundamentalist religious belief. It posits original sin; it posits saints and prophets; it posits its own malevolent god of the gaps.   
 Most of all, it persecutes heretics in the name of a supposedly higher good. To be saved is to declare fealty to radical racial polarization; to be damned is to deny such fealty. <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0421/shapiro042821.php3>

**More stupidity on the West Coast...**

**When the Only Way to Fight Racism Accusations is More Racism Accusations**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*April 28, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/04/when-only-way-to-fight-racism.html)

When the San Francisco Board of Education decided to force admissions for Lowell High School to move from a merit system to a lottery, it was a declaration of war on Asian students.

The temporary pandemic shift to a lottery system had already plunged the number of Asian students at the elite high school by 4.4% to 51%. A permanent lottery system would, as an article put it, “better reflect the diversity of San Francisco”. And in San Francisco, where Asian students make up a third, not half the student body, that means another 15% have to go.  
 That means thousands of students being cut off from their dreams despite their hard work.  
 Lowell High School isn’t just any school. It’s a pipeline to the University of California, and to Ivy League colleges. Like its New York counterparts, like Stuyvesant, it’s a high-performing academic environment and part of the bargain between Asian parents and cities, ignoring the dysfunction of Democrat cities in exchange for an advanced educational pathway upward.   
 But it’s also been the subject of lawsuits and litigation for decades.  
 A 1983 NAACP lawsuit forced San Francisco to limit any ethnic group to only 40% of the student body. The federal consent decree was devastating to Asian students  
 “We knew that if we did not desegregate Lowell High School, the school would have been dominantly Asian and white," an official at the time claimed. Successful court battles by Asian parents in the 90s challenged the effort to suppress Asian admissions. And litigation associated with these battles continued on throughout the nineties and the oughts. Faced with a ban on racial quotas, the NAACP resorted to claiming systemic racism at the majority-minority school.  
 When the San Francisco School Board forced the lottery system to fight “pervasive systemic racism”, Asian parents didn’t just protest or sue, they dug up racist tweets by VP Alison Collins who had accused Asians of “white supremacist thinking” and called them, “house n\_\_\_s”.  
 While Collins would have likely gotten away with her racist tweets at any other time, a wave of violent attacks on elderly Asian people in the Bay Area and New York City had become a civil rights issue, and racist rants about Asians, even from a minority official, were suddenly unwelcome. Collins refused to resign, but was stripped of her powers by her colleagues.  
 The events at a single high school in one of the wealthiest and bluest cities in America (Biden won 86% of the vote in San Francisco, after Hillary had won 84%) may not seem like they matter much to the rest of the country, but it’s also a lesson in the dog-eat-dog politics of cancel culture where the only way to counter accusations of racism is with more accusations of racism.  
 The battle against bigotry was supposed to make America a fairer place, instead it pits accusations of racism against each other in an arms race of callout culture. Some of Collins’ defenders are blaming her downfall on cancel culture even while ignoring the fact that she was one of the more enthusiastic proponents of it. The school board had canceled schools named after George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Paul Revere based on basic factual errors.   
 But the real issue is whether we can even define a concept of fairness outside of race.  
 "When we're talking about... meritocracy, especially meritocracy based on standardized testing, I'm just going to say it... those are racist systems," Collins had previously insisted. "If you're going to say that merit is fair, it's the antithesis of fair, and it's the antithesis of just."  
 If merit isn’t fair or just, then what’s left except claims of victimhood and racism?  
 And as the San Francisco School Board and Collins have discovered, that’s a knife that cuts both ways. The depressing alternative to merit is accusing your opponents of being bigots. And Asian parents in San Francisco have been forced to learn that lesson by the opponents of merit.   
 It’s also the lesson being taught to the Asian students of Lowell High School, who after a sustained campaign accusing them of racism, are now fighting back with accusations of racism.  
 A system based on merit teaches students to work harder, while a system based on cancel culture teaches them to spy on their classmates and wait for the perfect opportunity to twist the knife with incriminating screenshots of text messages before they can do it to you. Such caches of old chats going back to middle school are jealously hoarded until college admissions time comes around to be unleashed with the approval of college administrators and the media.  
 The fair and just alternative to merit is turning the educational system into East Germany.  
 Asian parents and students want the right to compete. The right of minorities to compete used to be the most basic premise of racial equality. Instead it’s been replaced with equity, with diversity quotas, and an endless deconstruction of the system and its imaginary systemic racism until there is nothing to compete for except claims of victimhood and accusations of racism.  
 Get rid of merit in admissions, eliminate standardized testing, then banish any conventional study of academic subjects with history, literature, science, and math all deemed to be suffering from systemic racism, and education is reduced to a game of “Spot the Racism”.   
 When merit is replaced with accusations of racism, then that becomes the purpose of education. Equity takes on math, science, and other subjects don’t enable students to do a better job of mastering these subjects. Instead they’re taught to deconstruct the systemic racism of any subject in the same facile ways with no pedagogical standards, only political ones.  
 Students subjected to equity math don’t learn what 2 + 2 equals: only that it’s racist.  
 Lowell High School is both a school and a symbol of what it takes to succeed in America. Revolutions of merit, like the American Revolution, are profoundly liberating because they unchain individuals to pursue their own destinies, while ideological revolutions, like those of France and Russia, provide access to opportunity and survival in exchange for dogma and denunciations. Cancel culture is just the current incarnation of the Salem Witch Trials, the Jacobins, and the Bolsheviks. Thriving and surviving means denouncing others first with the cycle of denunciations eventually destroying the denouncers and tearing down the system  
 Denunciation eventually ends at the guillotine. Just ask Robespierre or Collins.   
 The essence of anti-racism is universal guilt. If everyone is racist, then no one is truly innocent. It’s why the safest approach to being accused of racism is to plead guilty. It won’t save you, but it will demonstrate some understanding of the underlying dogma of the cultural revolution.  
 But universal guilt also means that everyone will eventually be canceled for 15 minutes. And that’s true in San Francisco where everyone is already on the way to being canceled.   
 Where merit holds out potential to everyone, cancel culture ultimately deprives everyone. The two approaches are on a collision course in San Francisco which incubates both a wealthy technocracy and a radical leftist ideology. And it forces Asian-Americans to protect the future of their children by meeting accusations of racism with more accusations of racism.  
 Asian students did not dominate Lowell High because of segregation or racism. They did so and still do because of hard work. A fair and just society rewards hard work. An unfair and unjust one teaches us to hate each other in order to get ahead. That’s become the San Francisco way.

[*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/when-only-way-to-fight-racism.html>

**Politically incorrect but very true…**

**To Stop Mob Violence You Must Crush It!**

*By* [*Ron Ewart*](https://newswithviews.com/author/ronewart/)*|April 28th, 2021* ***“What has violence ever accomplished? What has it ever created?  No martyr’s cause has ever been stilled by an assassin’s bullet.  No wrongs have ever been righted by riots and civil disorders.  A sniper is only a coward, not a hero; and an uncontrolled or uncontrollable mob is only the voice of madness, not the voice of the people.”   —****Robert Kennedy*  
 ***“The student who invades an administration building, roughs up a dean, rifles the files and issues ‘non-negotiable demands’ may have some of his demands met by a permissive university administration. But the greater his ‘victory’ the more he will have undermined the security of his own rights.”   —****Richard M. Nixon*  
 Every parent instinctively knows, or should know, that if a young child acts out, becomes violent, belligerent, or disrespectful, some form of discipline is in order.  And the discipline has to be the kind that gets the message across.  If no discipline is applied or if the discipline is not sufficient, the child will continue his or her behavior and that behavior will only get worse over time.    That’s the child that ends up committing crimes because he or she still believes that there are no consequences for his or her actions.  He or she then becomes a line item on a police rap sheet, or shot by police on the streets, black or white.  The fact is criminals are made from life’s negative experiences, not born.   (See: “[Little Black Box Theory](http://www.narlo.org/articles/102812.html)”)  
 Males, especially young males, are the worst offenders of crime.  Females constitute less than 20% of arrests for most crime categories.  *(Source: Gender and Crime, www.law.jrank.org)*  
 But what makes the criminal in the mob that will riot, loot, burn and kill?  One source describes it this way:  
 ***“When a group of people has assembled because they’re emotional and angry about something, it only takes one act of violence to whip the crowd into a fury. Others will follow the initial rioter’s lead and begin destroying property or hurting people. A lot of research has been conducted into the mindset of a violent mob. Being part of a group can destroy people’s inhibitions, making them do things they’d never otherwise do. They lose their individual values and principles and adopt the group’s principles, which, during a riot, are usually to cause destruction and avoid detection.  Being in the midst of a mob can be exciting and powerful, and it can make people feel invisible — they are part of a huge group, and they won’t be detected or held responsible for their actions.”***  
 However, in this day of cameras everywhere, picking out individuals from photos and videos in a rioting mob aren’t that difficult, especially during daytime hours.  Just ask the over 400 individuals that have been arrested and sit in jail for their participation in the January 6th occupation of the U. S. Capitol Building.  
 In contrast, more than 10,000 people have been arrested for the rioting, burning and looting in 140 cities around the country since the death of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer in Minneapolis on May 25th, 2020.  We were unable to determine how many arrested were actually prosecuted for their crimes and served or are serving time in prison.  Many prosecutors refuse to prosecute the rioters and let them go free.  Not so the Capitol occupiers.  
 What prosecutors are not doing with regard to the rioters, looters and arsonists is called permissiveness.   Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, the son of the last shah of Iran, used permissiveness in his description of where Western civilization is headed:  “***Growing terrorism, permissive societies, democracy collapsing through lack of law and order.  If things continue on their present track, the disintegration of Western societies will occur much sooner than you think under the hammer blows of fascism and communism.  Freedom is not something that does not have a breaking point, and your enemies would like you to reach that point.***”  
 In the last year, not only is crime on the rise because of the demeaning, decimation and de-funding of police departments in many of the major cities, we must endure constant protests, rioting, looting and burning in our down town areas by hard-core revolutionaries.  The mobs are growing in number, influence and power.  They mean to tear down our constitutional system of government, our culture and our way of life by violence and intimidation.  They mean to destroy the love and bonding of families, the very esssence of our existence.   Because of citizen apathy and police looking the other way, it’s working.  
 An article by the Three Percent Organization gave us a glimpse into what we can expect from these revolutionaries:  
 *In one of the rallies that were held across the country, a young activist speaking at Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington D.C. made it clear that there will be hell to pay for white America and issued a call for what sounded like a violent revolution.*  
 *According to the 21-year-old who was identified as Rahim B*; ***“How much longer can we protest and march in the streets before we are ready, really ready, to get blood on our hands because one of these days, it’s going to have to come to that.”***  
 *He added; “****Bringing about that change is not going to always be pretty, and it’s not going to be peaceful.****”*  
 *Rahim B. also encouraged the looting which after going unpunished last year will be even worse this time around*; *“****I don’t condemn who loot, I support them for looting. I support people who take matters in their own hands. If you want to set something on fire, go do that****.”*  
 *Earlier in the week, BLM activist and prolific tweeter Bree Newsome defended rioting and looting to her followers; “****I’m definitely in the camp of defending rioting & looting as a legitimate, politically-informed response to state violence,****” she tweeted.*  
 *What is the mob’s rationale for doing all this rioting, looting and burning, the false flag of systemic racism, handed to them on a platter by socialist Democrat politicians, social media and the news media?  They have whipped Blacks up into an out-of-control frenzy.  Critical Race Theory, now taught in our schools as reverse racism against Whites, is part of their strategy.  In addition to violence, socialism policies and radical environmentalism are their legislative levers to effect the changes.*  
 ***NOTE****:  Most Blacks shot by white cops have a significant criminal history, or on drugs, resisted arrest, or endangered the lives of the cops or the general public.  The Black population in U. S. prisons is double any other race and more than five times the White population.  That disparity cannot be explained by racism.  Is it any wonder that cops, White or Black, encounter Blacks more frequently?*  
 Like naughty children who have never been disciplined, these revolutionaries intend to keep up the violence until the politicians and the scared people, quivering with fear in their homes and businesses, capitulate and give into the revolutionary’s demands.  
 One of those demands was that Police Officer Chauvin must be found guilty on three counts for the murder of George Floyd.  If it wasn’t a guilty clean sweep the mob was going to take to the streets again in violent protest.  These nut cases resorted to open threats, witness tampering and jury intimidation to get their way.  Even the President, Vice President and Representative Maxine Waters got into the act during the trial, trying to influence the jury.  The issues for appeal are numerous.  The story of this police officer is hardly over and he could still get off with a mistrial.  Is he guilty?  Maybe but due to other evidence, not absolutely!  
 The upshot of all this is that the political violence will continue until someone crushes the rioters.  Without the National Guard, the local police can’t seem to control the violence.  Thrusting the National Guard into the mix will bring about order but won’t solve the national problem or the false issues causing the violence.  Since the mob revolutionaries don’t suffer any major consequences for their actions, they are free to do whatever they like while the rest of us must endure the aftermath of looted stores, burned out buildings, lost jobs and lost business revenue.  
 When law enforcement cannot restore order and stop the violence that only leaves the people to stop it in what could be a massive outbreak of vigilante justice.  But the people are cowed in the corner like wounded rats and won’t lift a finger to save them selves.  And not just save them selves from rioters, looters and arsonists, but won’t lift a finger to restore the freedoms they have lost due to long-term government corruption and tyranny.  Government didn’t become corrupt overnight.  Government is corruption.  
 Any normal, reasonable and prudent person knows that the only appropriate response to uncontrollable violence is an equal or greater force.  But Americans have grown so civilized they shy away from confrontation and allow Goliath to slew the masses as it were.  Where is David with his magic slingshot?  
 The solution to the current rioting, looting and burning by those who would destroy us from within is much more simple than most people realize.  **Even though we don’t condone or advocate for violence**, if every shop owner in the free fire zone owned a pump shotgun and was willing to use it, they could bring the looting and arson to an immediate halt.  If just one or two of these lowlife’s were blown away in the process of committing their crimes of looting and burning, the rest would scatter like flies.  If they believed that all shop and business owners were so armed, they wouldn’t come back.  
 This would also apply to the southern border as well.  If the border were say patrolled by A-10 Thunderbolts, or an AH 64E Apache Helicopter, or a Lockheed AC-130 gun ship and they were to fire warning shots at the illegal aliens as they attempted to cross the border, the aliens would turn tail and run as fast as possible back to their home countries.  
 Some of you will instantly say this is inhumane.  It doesn’t comport with America’s values.  But if a show of force produced a huge reduction in human, drug and sex trafficking, that would be even more humane.  It would stop the illegal aliens from making the over 1,000 mile journey to America where they endure all kinds of inhumane treatment along the way, like beatings, theft, rape and sodomy at the hands of the brutal cartels, along with the extortion money they must pay to the cartels.  
 As we have said many times in our articles, “***If you don’t confront the bully with equal or a greater force, the bully owns you***.”  The socialist Democrats and the mob now own you.  Their power over you grows by the day under the Biden Administration.  If you have the courage, you can fight back peacefully with “[***The Mandate***](http://www.narlo.org/themandate.html)” before revolution or civil war become the only remaining alternative.  
 We don’t have the luxury of time.  “[***We Can’t Wait For The 2022 Mid Terms***](http://www.narlo.org/idarchives/021421.html).” <https://newswithviews.com/to-stop-mob-violence-you-must-crush-it/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Azerbaijan to open tourism, trade offices in Israel**

**Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenaz leads Israeli delegation to 2nd meeting of the Israel-Azerbaijan Joint Committee.**

Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 28 , 2021 8:46 PM



*Israel-Azerbaijan Joint Committee MFA*

**Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi led the Israeli delegation to the second meeting of the Israel-Azerbaijan Joint Committee today (the first meeting took place in 2018). The meeting was held online and dealt with the promotion of bilateral relations and trade between the two cou**ntries.

**The head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the meeting, Economy Minister Mikhail Jabarov, announced at the meeting that this year Azerbaijan intends to open a Tourism Promotion Office** in the coming months as well as a Trade Office, with diplomatic status, in Israel.

Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi: "**Azerbaijan is an ally, friend, and the largest energy supplier to the State of Israel**. We will continue to work to develop the important relations with Azerbaijan and expand them to new areas. Azerbaijan's recognition of Israel’s vaccination certificate will promote trade and tourism relations between the two countries and help Israel’s economy to continue to recover from the Covid-19 crisis.”

**Prior to the meeting of the joint committee, Foreign Minister Ashkenazi and Azerbaijan’s Economy Minister Jabarov discussed regional developments in the Middle East, including expanding the circle of peace countries** in the framework of the Abraham Accords, and possible collaborations between the countries.

The Ministers discussed potential economic collaborations. The possibility of Azerbaijan’s recognition of Israel’s vaccination certificate was also discussed, as well as granting permission for Israeli tourists to enter Azerbaijan.

At the end of the Ministers’ discussion, an expanded meeting of the professional teams was held with the participation of the Foreign Ministry’s Director-General, Head of the Economic Division, Deputy Director-General of EuroAsian Affairs, and the Ambassador of Israel to Baku. Representatives of the Ministries of Economy, Energy, Agriculture, Water, Tourism, Health, Science, as well as the National Digital Israel Initiative and the Innovation Authority, also took part in the meeting.

In the framework of the Conference, it was decided to advance a MOU for cooperation in the health field, to establish an inter-ministerial working group in the field of agriculture, and an MOU for cooperation in the field of water and desalination.

In recent years, Azerbaijan has become an important tourist destination for Israelis (approximately 50,000 tourists per year before the pandemic), and the countries are currently in the advanced stages of preparation towards signing tourism and aviation agreements. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305219> **[Azerbaijan is predominant an Islamic country. – rdb]**

**Report: New Hope and Yamina to merge**

***MKs Gideon Sa'ar, Naftali Bennett, in talks to merge their parties, report says.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 29 , 2021 8:24 AM*

**The leaders of the New Hope and Yamina intend to merge their parties, *Israel Hayom* reported.**

**According to the report, the merge does not have political significance, and is more of a statement. In the merge, MK Naftali Bennett, who chairs Yamina, will be prime minister, heading a party with 13 seats, instead of one with just seven.**

In addition, **difficulties were reported in the negotiations between Bennett and the "bloc for change," with the most prominent obstacle being the issue of equal power in the coalition**. This is making it difficult for Bennett and MK Yair Lapid, who chairs Yesh Atid, to decide exactly how to divide the positions so that Lapid's 45 seats of supporters and Bennett and Sa'ar's 13 seats of supporters have equal power.

Due to concerns that the new coalition will not be able to function and make decisions, Bennett has requested that the prime minister be allowed the power of veto, a step which will allow him to make a final decision. The sides are having difficulty coming to an agreement on this matter.

Equal power is required because when Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Benny Gantz (Blue and White) [signed](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/278929) their coalition agreement after the March 2020 elections, they legislated that both sides of the coalition must have equal strength. Until the law is repealed, it continues to apply to the next coalition as well. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305245>

**Sources: 'Ayelet Shaked trying to prevent coalition headed by Naftali Bennett & Yair Lapid**

***Yamina's MK Ayelet Shaked making it difficult for 'bloc for change' to form coalition, source within bloc says.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 29 , 2021 10:11 AM*

**Sources in the "bloc for change," which aims to replace Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, have claimed that Yamina's number two, MK Ayelet Shaked, is doing everything she can to form a right-wing government, making it difficult for the anti-Netanyahu bloc to form a coal**ition.

According to *News 12* report, Shaked is acting parallel to the ongoing talks within the bloc, which have been expedited since the argument over [who should be appointed](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305188) Justice Minister.

On Tuesday at midnight, Netanyahu's mandate to form a government will expire.

According to the report, if Lapid is tapped to form a government, the Knesset's [Arrangements Committee](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304641) will be in his control and he will be able to put the brakes on the initiative to hold a direct election for the position of prime minister. If the mandate is passed to Bennett, he will hold negotiations from a position of strength which may provide him with advantages on the path to forming a government.

The Yamina party does not believe that a narrow coalition formed with the support of the United Arab List (Ra'am) will last, and the party is therefore interested in expanding the coalition to include parties which are not in the right-religious bloc. Bennett also aims to break apart the right-religious bloc so that even if the haredi parties do not join a "government of change," they will at least abstain instead of voting against it. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305247>

**Biden nominee for Small Biz Admin post serves on board of pro-BDS group**

***Dilawar Syed has served for four years on the board of a pro-BDS advocacy group that spoke out against the Israel Anti-Boycott Act.***

*Dan Verbin , Apr 28 , 2021 10:45 PM*

**President Joe Biden’s pick for deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration serves on the board of a group that lobbies in support of the BDS movement and describes Israel as an “apartheid state,” reported the Washington Fre***e Beacon*.

**Dilawar Syed has been on the board of Muslim-American advocacy group Emgage Action for the last four years, as listed in his public financial disclosure form which was submitted as part of his nomination** process.

**Emgage Action is a leading advocate of the BDS movement,** which lobbies for a financial and cultural boycott of Israel.

According to the *Washington Free Beacon*, Emgage called BDS a "constitutionally protected nonviolent response that seeks to end the occupation" and stated that it "support[s] the right to boycott, divest, and sanction, as well as the Right of Return of Palestinians."

On its website, in a section titled “Palestine Annexation,” Emgage states that Palestinians "continue to suffer under racist, undemocratic Israeli apartheid rule that steals their land and destroys their homes to make way for illegal Jewish settlements."

Syed previous served the Obama White House on the Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as worked as a liaison with the SBA and the Department of Commerce.

Syed’s ties to Emgage Action could be problematic for his confirmation vote by Senate Small Business Committee. The committee is chaired by Senator Ben Cardin (D, MD) who is one of the Democratic Party's most outspoken critics of BDS. **MORE -** <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305221>

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**04/28/2021 NEWS AM**

**VOCES8: This Is My Song (Finlandia) - Jean Sibelius**

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

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| **"Constitutional rights may not be infringed simply because the majority of the people choose that they be." -- Supreme Court of the United States Source: Westbrook v. Mihaly 2 Cal. 3d 756** |

**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 AB family – Wife just diagnosed with brain tumor**  **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 KL – troubling spiritual situation.**  **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 26:19And Isaac's slaves dug in the torrent-bed, and they found there a well of flowing water. 20And the shepherds of Gerar fought with the shepherds of Isaac, saying, The water *is* ours; and he called the name of the well, Contention, for they had contended with him. 21And they dug another well, and *they* also fought over it; and he called its name, Opposition. 22And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not fight over it; and he called its name, Broad Places. And he said, For now Jehovah has broadened for us and we shall be fruitful in the land.**

**Saudi Arabia says it destroyed explosives-laden attack boat targeting port**

***Private security firms suggest commercial maritime traffic may have been hit in assault on remote-controlled, ‘booby-trapped’ vessel***

*By* [*Jon Gambrell*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jon-gambrell/) *and* [*Isabel Debre*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/isabel-debre/) *Today, 3:22 pm*

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A remotely piloted boat packed with explosives targeted the Saudi port of Yanbu in the Red Sea on Tuesday, the kingdom said, with the blast sending black smoke into the sky off the** coast.

**Saudi Arabia claimed to have intercepted and destroyed the attack boat. However, private security firms suggested commercial traffic near the port may have been hit in the assault**.

**Details remained scarce, but the incident comes after a series of attacks on shipping in the wider Mideast regio**n amid a shadow war between Iran and Israel and against the backdrop of ongoing negotiations between Tehran and world powers over Iran’s tattered nuclear deal.

The **incident also comes amid the kingdom’s years long war against Yemen’s Houthi rebels**. The Houthis have in the past used bomb-laden drones and explosive-packed boats in attacks targeting the kingdom. However, the rebels did not immediately claim any assaults on Tuesday.

**The state-run Saudi Press Agency quoted Saudi military spokesman Col. Turki al-Maliki saying the port was targeted by the drone** boat.

“The booby-trapped boat was dealt and destroyed according to the rules of engagement,” the report quoted al-Maliki as saying, without providing evidence to support his claim.

**The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, run by the British navy, simply said it was “aware of reports of an incident” and that investigations were ongoing.** Private maritime security firm Dryad Global said it had reports that a ship had been “attacked,” without elaborating.

Maritime security firm Neptune P2P Group reported that black smoke was seen billowing near the south entrance of the Yanbu port.

British maritime security firm Ambrey reported an “incident” off western Saudi Arabia, between the ports of Yanbu and Rabigh. Earlier Tuesday morning, smoke was seen rising from a vessel off the Saudi oil-shipping port of of Yanbu, the firm said. Multiple tankers remain anchored or drifting in the area.

**Yanbu port control broadcast a message by marine VHF radio, warning vessels to increase their level of alertnes**s and monitor for any suspicious activity, Ambrey said.

The US Navy’s Mideast-based 5th Fleet declined to immediately comment on the incident. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/saudi-arabia-says-it-destroyed-explosives-laden-attack-boat-targeting-port/>

**After a day of quiet, Gaza terrorists fire 2 mortar shells toward Israel**

***IDF says projectiles fell inside Strip, triggering alarms in Kissufim region; dozens of rockets were fired into Israel over weekend, prompting warnings of harsh response***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 12:42 am*

**Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip fired two mortar shells toward Israel after midnight Tuesday, with both projectiles falling inside the coastal enclave, the Israel Defense Forces sa**id.

There were no reports of injuries or damage.

**The launches triggered warning sirens in Israeli communities near Kissufim** and came after a one-day lull in attacks.

The latest violence began late Friday night, when terrorists in the Strip launched at least 36 rockets and mortar shells at southern Israel, causing light damage in a number of Israeli communities near the border. The attacks resumed on Saturday night, when more than four rockets were fired toward Israel, some of them failing to clear the border and landing inside Gaza, and then again late Sunday night, when five more projectiles were fired from the Strip at southern Israel.

The security cabinet on Monday signed off on a major military response if terrorists in the Gaza Strip continue to fire rockets into Israel, after dozens of projectiles were launched from the enclave over the past three days.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Benny Gantz were authorized to determine what steps to take should the violence persist, according to Israeli officials.

The decision came following a security cabinet meeting in which defense officials presented a number of potential military options in response to further rocket attacks. The officials warned that a large strike on the Hamas terror group could lead to an outbreak of further violence not only in Gaza, but also in Jerusalem and the West Bank.mr-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-a-day-of-quiet-gaza-terrorists-fire-2-rockets-toward-israel/>

**IDF: Hezbollah drone downed after breaching Israeli airspace**

***Military says unmanned aircraft was constantly under surveillance; troops also find a second drone belonging to the Lebanese terror group that was shot down weeks ago***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:57 pm*

**Israeli soldiers on Tuesday downed a drone belonging to Lebanon’s Hezbollah terror organization after it entered Israeli airspace, the military said**.

**Soldiers also located a second drone that was downed on the Israel-Lebanon border several months** ago, according to the Israel Defense Forces.

**The IDF said the UAV that was shot down Monday was identified by troops after it entered Israeli skies, before it was targeted**.

“The drone was under surveillance by the forces throughout the incident,” an IDF statement said.

**The other drone was shot down several weeks ago after entering Israeli airspace, the military added, without further elabora**ting.

The **incident came on the heels of a number of recent Israeli warnings toward Hezbollah, including Defense Minister Benny Gantz’s threat last week that the Iran-backed Lebanese Shiite terror group** will suffer “[heavy consequences](https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-warns-hezbollah-of-heavy-consequences-if-it-threatens-israel/)” if it acts against Israel.

“We are aware of Hezbollah’s attempts to challenge us in new ways,” Gantz said, without elaborating on the new tactics. “We will deal with any threat. If Hezbollah challenges the IDF and the State of Israel, it will suffer very, very heavy consequences and I hope they don’t do that.” **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-hezbollah-drone-downed-after-breaching-israeli-airspace/>

**High Court freezes Netanyahu-led appointment of Likud ally as justice minister**

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/F210427YS111.jpg)***PM and Ofir Akunis given till Wednesday to justify appointment, which ministers approved even as AG protested it was illegal; ex-state prosecutor slams ‘breach of rule of law’***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 10:25 pm*

***The High Court of Justice convenes to discuss the vacant justice minister post on April 27, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)***

**The High Court of Justice on Tuesday temporarily froze the appointment of Likud MK Ofir Akunis as justice minister, after the cabinet — led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — openly defied the attorney general’s forceful warnings that the move was illegal and pushed through the ap**pointment.

**The court issued the ruling less than two hours after a hearing on Akunis’s appointment, which was approved earlier Tuesday over the strident objections of Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit in a cabinet meeting that quickly descended into a shouting match between Likud and Blue and White ministers**.

**By holding the vote, Mandelblit told Netanyahu during the meeting, the Likud-led bloc of the caretaker government flouted a quasi-constitutional Basic Law, amended last year by Netanyahu and Benny Gantz, that reserved the position for a candidate backed by Gantz’s Blue and White-led bl**oc.

**The High Court justices said Tuesday evening that Akunis could not serve as justice minister** until the court decides otherwise and said the position would remain vacant in the interim.

**Netanyahu and Akunis have until Wednesday morning to justify why they believe the appointment should still go through, in violation of Likud’s coalition agreement with Blue and White**, which was enshrined into a Basic Law.

The judges will then reconvene on Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the arguments before reaching a final decision, the ruling stated.



***Supreme Court Chief Justice Ester Hayut speaks at a hearing to discuss the vacant justice minister post on April 27, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)***

**The cabinet had met virtually on Tuesday afternoon to discuss the vacancy in the Justice Ministry, which has been without a minister since the beginning of April. Blue and White leader Gantz, who is also defense minister, has demanded that he be appointed to the post. He brought the matter to a vote during the meeting, in line with the agenda for the meeting, but was voted down by the Likud majority**.

**Subsequently, Netanyahu shocked the Blue and White ministers by proposing Akunis for the position and bringing Akunis’s candidacy to a vote, defying Mandelblit’s shouted warning that the step was “illegal**.”

**The premier has prevented the appointment of a permanent justice minister for month**s. Critics have accused him of intentionally seeking to weaken the justice system amid his criminal trial, as he hopes to appoint a minister who will be friendlier to his cause.

**Hinting at how she might rule, Chief Justice Esther Hayut said at the Tuesday night hearing that the cabinet had been obligated to adhere to the position of the attorney general — the government’s chief legal adviser — during its meeting, which it failed to d**o.

David Peter, the private attorney representing Netanyahu and Akunis at the hearing, relayed the premier’s request for another 48-hour extension on the Tuesday deadline the court had previously set to appoint a justice minister.

**“What will happen in the next 48 hours that has not happened since Thursday when we first met on the subject?” Hayut responde**d.

**Channel 12 quoted a “senior legal official” who claimed that Netanyahu’s conduct Tuesday brought him closer to being forced to step down from his position as prime ministe**r, due to the evident conflicts of interest relating to the criminal trial against him.

**“This is the most serious constitutional crisis that the State of Israel has ever seen,**” the senior official told the network. “The prime minister has carried out an attack on democracy and he is a step away from [being declared] unfit to fulfill his duties.”

A source in Likud also voiced criticism against the premier, telling the network that Netanyahu had “made a serious mistake,” in pushing through Akunis’s appointment.

**Former state prosecutor Shai Nitzan called the episode “unprecedented,” “scandalous” and “a breach of the rule of law.” He said he did not consider that it constituted grounds for Netanyahu to be suspen**ded as prime minister, however.

**In a statement to the media on Tuesday evening, Gantz said that at the cabinet, Netanyahu “attempted in a planned and deliberate manner to steamroll the rule of la**w. He tried and failed.”

He said the premier tried “to undermine the foundations of democracy” by holding a vote against the law that served as the basis for the current government.

**“The prime minister’s belligerent and illegal conduct must be stopped now,” Gantz a**dded.

**In a message to right-wing parties that are considering joining with the anti-Netanyahu camp in the Knesset to form a government, Gantz said Netanyahu’s “word is worthless, and personal considerations trump all oth**ers.”

Less than an hour before the High Court hearing on Tuesday evening, Mandelblit issued his official stance to the court, saying **Netanyahu and his backers in the cabinet had acted “knowingly” and “illegally” in pushing through Akunis’s appointment**.



***Defense Minister Benny Gantz in a video message, April 27, 2021 (video screenshot)***

**“There is no escape from issuing an order instructing the government to fill the position of justice minister without delay,” Mandelblit w**rote.

**Naftali Bennett, head of the Yamina party, responded to the chaos by warning, “The State of Israel is approaching an abyss of an**archy.”

The High Court had already convened on Sunday to hear a petition against the government over its failure to appoint a justice minister and gave ministers 48 hours to do so before it would be forced to intervene with its own ruling. Netanyahu notified the High Court that day that he would bring the issue of the justice minister before the cabinet but avoided making any additional commitments.

**As part of Gantz’s power-sharing coalition agreement with Netanyahu, the position of justice minister was reserved for members of Gantz’s Blue and White-led bloc. Avi Nissenkorn held the post until elections were called late last year, at which point he resigned to run on a separate party’s list.** Gantz, who is also defense minister, subsequently took on the post in an interim capacity and over the past several weeks has called on Netanyahu to hold a vote to appoint him permanent justice minister.

**When Gantz once again sought to bring his appointment as justice minister to a vote at Tuesday’s fiery cabinet meeting, held by videoconference, Netanyahu pushed back, telling the Blue and White minister that there was no need for an “artificial” permanent minister when there is only a caretaker governm**ent running the country and a new coalition will hopefully be formed in the near future.

Netanyahu instead recommended farming out the justice minister’s responsibilities to other cabinet members — a proposal the attorney general and High Court have flatly rejected.

**The cabinet meeting quickly descended into a shouting match, with Gantz yelling, “I demand to bring my appointment as justice minister to a vote now**. I am the candidate for the job. There is no other candidate. The prime minister is leading a hazing here. I demand a vote now and not in another 48 hours,” according to audio and transcripts from the online meeting that were leaked to Hebrew media.

**Netanyahu went on to claim that “there are questions” as to whether his coalition agreement with Gantz, which reserves the justice minister post for the Blue and White bloc, remains in effect after last month’s electi**on.

Mandelblit rejected this assertion, saying the coalition deal stands until a new government is sworn in. He said the swearing-in of a new Knesset does not nullify the agreement.

“You are playing games, and it’s not clear to me why,” Gantz snapped at Netanyahu.

Mandeblit made clear his stance that the vote was invalid and Akunis was not the justice minister. In leaked recordings from the meeting, Mandelblit shouted at Netanyahu: “You did not let me speak until after holding a vote that I consider to be illegal. You did not uphold your own government decision. That’s my interpretation, that’s my stance. The vote was therefore illegal. Since the vote was illegal, so is the result. The consequence is clear: the decision was not approved…”

Netanyahu responded by calling Mandelblit’s position “absurd,” “manipulative” and “impossible.” **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/high-court-freezes-netanyahu-led-appointment-of-likud-ally-as-justice-minister/> **[Bibi has gone overboard again. He has become a totally power crazed tyrant absolutely obsessed with holding onto his power and doing stupid stunts endangering the entire country and his party. – rdb]**

**Netanyahu backs down, agrees to make Gantz justice minister**

***PM appears to end crisis ahead of key High Court ruling, but insists cabinet vote appointing Likud ally Akunis was legal despite attorney general’s objection***

*By* [*Raoul Wootliff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/raoul-wootliff/) *Today, 1:52 pm*

**While insisting that the disputed vote he held in the cabinet the previous day to appoint Likud’s Ofir Akunis as justice minister was a legitimate move, Prime Minister Benjamin backed down Wednesday from his refusal to appoint anyone else to the position, agreeing to make Blue and White’s Benny Gantz justice minister for the duration of the transitional governmen**t.

The High Court of Justice on Tuesday temporarily froze the appointment of Akunis after the cabinet — led by Netanyahu — openly defied Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit’s forceful warnings that the vote was illegal and pushed through the appointment. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-backs-down-agrees-to-make-gantz-justice-minister/>

**Bennett: 'Israel has reached the edge of anarchy'**

***Sa'ar: "The appointment of the justice minister, which reached a peak in a delusional cabinet meeting, is further testimony of the need to replace the government."***

*By* [*GIL HOFFMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/gil-hoffman) *APRIL 27, 2021 19:12*

**New Hope leader Gideon Sa'ar, who is being wooed by the Likud Party in an attempt to form a coalition, slammed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's handling of Tuesday's** [**cabinet meeting**](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/netanyahu-continues-to-block-justice-minister-appointment-666471).

Sa'ar referred to a fight in the meeting over the appointment of a temporary justice minister and Netanyahu bypassing the law in an attempt to appoint a loyalist to the sensitive post, a move which Attorney-General [Avichai Mandelblit](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/ag-to-high-court-govt-must-appoint-justice-minister-within-days-666292) deemed to be illegal.

**"The saga surrounding the appointment of the justice minister, which reached a peak in a delusional cabinet meeting, is further testimony of the need to replace the government," Sa'ar wrote on T**witter.

Likud MK Galit Distal Atbaryan said Sa'ar's response indicated that "attorney Sa'ar doesn't understand the law – and politician Sa'ar is stuck in the swamp of the deep state on the Left."

**Yamina leader Naftali Bennett, also being wooed by the Likud, said that "Israel has reached the edge of anarchy. I call on everyone to understand the fate of the moment and display national responsibility**. Israel needs a functioning and stable government."

**Opposition leader Yair Lapid wrote that "anyone who even for a moment considered signing any agreement with Netanyahu has received a reminder that there is no chance he will honor any agreement he signs**."

Lapid said Netanyahu's behavior was also proof of his disdain for the law.

Blue and White ministers also expressed outrage.

**"Anyone offered a rotation by the Likud or the prime minister should carefully watch today's conduct at the cabinet session, and think to himself what such a government will look like and what agreements with him will be wo**rth," said Tourism Minister Orit Farkash-Hacohen.

Labor leader Merav Michaeli called on Sa'ar and Bennett to end talks with Likud on forming a government.

Meretz MK Tamar Zandberg called the incident a "horror show of mafioso behavior" from Netanyahu, claiming that it was another attempt of his to escape accountability for his ongoing trial for bribery, fraud and breach of trust.

By contrast, Religious Zionist Party leader Bezalel Smotrich mocked Bennett, saying that he would help form "a government of change" that would allow Mandelblit to act as "the real prime minister." <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/saar-justice-minister-debacle-proves-israel-needs-a-new-government-666478> **[Looks like the Israeli government will eat each other up before they can ever reach a coalition. – rdb]**

**Israel plans to reopen to tourists in May, eyes travelers from UAE**

***But Health Ministry recommends program be postponed until June, citing India variant***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:15 pm*

**Tourism Minister Orit Farkash-Hacohen is anxious to welcome tourists back to Israel, and not a moment too soon.**

**Farkash-Hacohen unveiled a four-part plan to reporters on Tuesday, including a global advertising campaign, flight incentives to Eilat, the reintroduction of large international events, while outlining the more technical aspects of travel during the pandemic, including vaccinations and serological tests.**

**“We want to breathe oxygen back into the tourism economy of Israel, and Israel has the advantage as a healthy, vaccinated country,” said** Farkash-Hacohen at a press conference Tuesday in Tel Aviv.

**The Tourism Ministry’s plan is to reopen the country to vaccinated tourists from next month, with Israel specifically seeking to woo travelers from the United Arab Emirates, the United States and United Kingdom**.

**“These are the countries with a high percentage of vaccinations, and cities with great economic potential for I**srael,” said Farkash-Hacohen.

 **The Health Ministry, however, on Tuesday recommended delaying the relaunch of tourism until June, citing deadly coronavirus variants sweeping many countries, most notably Indi**a.

***Tourism Minister Orit Farkash-Hacohen holds a press conference in Tel Aviv. (Rafi Ben Hakon/GPO)***

**At Tuesday’s press conference in Tel Aviv, Farkash-Hacohen announced the launch of a campaign to welcome as many tourists as possible to Israel in the remaining months of 2021**.

“**Israel today is a world leader in safety and health, and we will make sure every potential tourist knows this when planning their summer or winter vacation,” said Farkash-Hacohen**. “We cannot miss this opportunity – and as minister of tourism I won’t.”

**The first part of the campaign will be digital billboards advertising Israel as a tourism destination, placed in Dubai, London and New York**.

**“Dubai has great tourism potential for Israel,” she said. Israel and the UAE established diplomatic ties last year.**

**The billboards, being placed along a major Dubai highway, in London’s Piccadilly Circus and above New York’s Times Square, feature the tagline: “2020 Holy Moses, 2021 Holy Land.”**

The tourism minister also revealed additional **steps aimed at ramping up tourism, including advertising major international events like the Pride Parade in Tel Aviv and the Abraham Cycling Cup bicycle** race being planned by philanthropist Sylvan Adams in the Emirates and Israel.

**Tel Aviv’s Pride Parade, which didn’t take place in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, may not be open to all vaccinated tourists,** said Farkash-Hacohen, but it would still be one of the few international events taking place this summer.

**Farkash-Hacohen also announced plans to reinstate government incentives for airlines to fly directly to Eil**at, with a particular emphasis on planning winter trips to the southern resort city.

**“Ensuring inbound tourism to Eilat is my obligation to the city’s residents,**” she said, “but this is also a clear statement to the entire tourism industry: we are preparing for the resumption of tourism on a large scale as soon as possible.”

**Farkash-Hacohen said that the opening of the borders to a first 40 groups of vaccinated tourists will move forward as scheduled on May 23. She suggested that an unlimited number of vaccinated tourist groups could begin arriving in June**, and the possible opening of Israel to individual, vaccinated tourists at the beginning in July.

**Besides the serological and PCR testing that would be required for any entering vaccinated tourist, Farkash-Hacohen said that any individual tourists would have to book their tickets with travel agents, so that Israeli officials would be able to follow up with them while in Israe**l.

Farkash-Hacohen added that **Israel would only open its borders to tourists vaccinated with FDA- or EU-approved vaccinations, barring tourists from countries such as Russia for the** time being.

**Israel’s Health Ministry** [**recommended**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/health-ministry-backs-ban-on-travel-to-7-high-risk-countries-including-india/) **on Tuesday that the May 23 date be delayed until the end of June, and that seven countries be placed under new, strict travel restrictions: India, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Brazil, South Africa, Mexico and Turkey**.

The Health Ministry’s recommendation will need to be approved at a cabinet meeting, and is likely to be the subject of heavy debate, with opposition from the Tourism Ministry.

Farkash-Hacohen said she believes the Tourism Ministry plan should move ahead as planned in a safe and secure manner.

“I know there is some criticism, and I can even agree with some of it,” Farkash-Hacohen said. “We are gradually reopening tourism to Israel, to ensure we protect the health and wellbeing of all Israelis, while enabling those in the tourism sector to return to work and rebuild — and welcoming back the many people yearning to return.”

Israel’s coronavirus caseload has plummeted due to its successful vaccination campaign, which has seen over 5 million of its 9 million citizens fully vaccinated. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-plans-to-reopen-to-tourists-in-may-eyes-travelers-from-uae/> **[Take the Jab or no go. Looks to me like NO GO. – rdb]**

**Israel’s hotels eye foreign tourists and wonder: If we open, will they come?**

***With the rules for noncitizens entering the country about to be significantly loosened, rooms are being readied despite concerns about travel during COVID and lack of staff***

*By* [*Jessica Steinberg*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jessica-steinberg/) *Today, 6:07 am*

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| ***[The Hotel Montefiore in Tel Aviv turned its parking lot into an outdoor dining space during the coronavirus summer season, July 2020 (Jessica Steinberg/Times of Israel)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2020/08/IMG-8041.jpg)***  ***The Hotel Montefiore in Tel Aviv turned its parking lot into an outdoor dining space during the coronavirus summer season, July 2020 (Jessica Steinberg/Times of Israel)*** | ***Tel Aviv’s Montefiore Hotel was able to remain open during much of the pandemic but is still grappling with lack of staff and tourists (Courtesy Sivan Askayo)*** |

**With Israel set to open its doors to tourists in May, local hotels are finally getting all their rooms ready after a year that has devastated the travel industry. But many are wondering, will anybody actually come**?

“We hope our clientele will return, because we’ve always been about our regular visitors,” said Oren Schnabel of Tel Aviv’s [Montefiore Hotel](https://www.booking.com/hotel/il/montefiore-tel-aviv.en.html?aid=1303669&no_rooms=1&group_adults=2), part of the R2M hospitality group, which includes restaurants, bakeries, delicatessens and a cafe performance space. “This is their home in Tel Aviv and those people haven’t been here for a long time.”

It’s been a long year-plus for hoteliers and managers. While some local hotels opened in between Israel’s three coronavirus lockdowns and many did so in March as the economy gradually reopened after the third one was lifted, others have been patiently awaiting an influx of foreign tourists, the population that offers the most steady income.

**Many hotel managers and owners are waiting to see what happens on May 23, when Israel begins a trial period of allowing vaccinated or recovered foreign tourists to enter the cou**ntry.

The Montefiore, which has just 12 rooms and includes the popular French-Vietnamese restaurant Bon Appetit, was open during much of the pandemic, with some guests keeping their rooms for up to two months and Israeli guests arriving on weekends.

Other hotels kept their doors shuttered the whole year.

Jerusalem’s iconic [American Colony Hotel](https://www.timesofisrael.com/postcards-from-the-american-colony/), part of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World group, didn’t open during the entire period of the pandemic, and will only be officially reopening on June 1. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israels-hotels-eye-foreign-tourists-and-wonder-if-we-open-will-they-come/>

**Health Ministry urges ban on travel to 7 high-risk countries, including India**

***Ministry recommends requiring vaccinated travelers arriving from COVID hotspots to quarantine, and delaying relaunch of Israel’s tourism program***

*By* [*Nurit Chinn*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nurit-chinn/) *Today, 4:11 pm*

**The Health Ministry on Tuesday recommended new travel restrictions for Israelis, which would ban travel to seven high-risk countries including India, and force even vaccinated travelers to enter quarantine upon their return to Isra**el.

**The ministry was also seeking to delay the launch of Israel’s tourism program b**y another month and force non-citizens entering Israel from the specified highly infected countries to self-isolate in quarantine hotels.

In the face of an [insidious new COVID variant devastating India](https://www.timesofisrael.com/growing-anger-as-virus-devastates-india-overwhelming-cemeteries-and-cremtoriums/), the Health Ministry has recommended the government divide countries into two groups: Level 1 and high-risk Level 2.

**In his proposal, Health Minister Yuli Edelstein asked the government to ban travel to Level 2 countries, and to require all travelers returning to Israel from those countries to quarantine for two weeks, regardless of whether they are vaccinated or recovered from COVID**-19.

**Furthermore, foreigners permitted to travel from Level 2 countries to Israel will be forced to isolate at government-run COVID hotels**, according to the ministry’s recommendations.

The government will debate the ministry’s proposal in a cabinet meeting, the date of which was not announced.

**So far, Israel has issued a travel warning for seven countries: India, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Brazil, South Africa, Mexico and Turke**y.

**All seven will be considered Level 2 countries if the ministry’s recommendations** come into effect. And all travelers who have visited Level 2 countries in the 14 days prior to entering Israel will be subjected to new isolation rules.

**The ministry said it will determine which countries receive a Level 2 designation based on criteria established by its Information and Knowledge Center.** Criteria will take into account variables such as the number of Israelis arriving from countries considered high risk, and evidence of the presence of coronavirus variants there.

This list will be updated every two weeks, and the ministry will announce which countries they are considering adding ahead of time, so travelers can prepare accordingly.

For Level 1 countries — most of the world — there will be no change in policy.

These proposed travel restrictions come as Israel plans to reopen its borders to tourists in a program starting late May. The Health Ministry has recommended delaying the launch of the program by another month.

But on Tuesday, the same day the ministry issued its recommendations, Tourism Minister Orit Farkash-Hacohen broadcasted that steps were in place to welcome organized tourist groups and open Israel’s tourism economy, according to Channel 12 News.

…

**According to the network, Farkash-Hacohen is not worried about the Indian variant: “If we work in a managed and supervised way, it should not affect anything. It shouldn’t prevent the opening of the tourism industry because we can make a plan for the long term** — and if we are not on the field we lose a relative advantage,” she said.

**On Monday, Health Ministry officials** [**called for all direct flights from India to be temporarily halted**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/health-ministry-officials-call-to-halt-flights-from-india-for-several-weeks/)**, according to Channel 13 New**s, fearing the spread of the variant ravaging the country.

**India recorded more than 320,000 new cases of coronavirus infections Tuesday. The health ministry also reported another 2,771 deaths in the past 24 hours**, with roughly 115 Indians succumbing to the disease every hour. The latest fatalities pushed India’s official death toll to 197,894, though the actual number is likely to be greater.

***Multiple funeral pyres of victims of COVID-19 burn at a ground that has been converted into a crematorium for mass cremation in New Delhi, India, April 24, 2021. (Altaf Qadri/AP)***

**Tel Aviv’s Ichilov Hospital said in a statement Sunday that it had approached the health and foreign ministries asking for approval to immediately** [**send a consignment of aid equipment and manpower**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-considers-sending-aid-to-virus-ravaged-india/) **to India to assist with the crisis**.

“In my opinion, this is the correct and moral thing to do at this time,” said Ichilov Hospital director Ronni Gamzu, Israel’s former coronavirus czar.

**“We cannot have the time of our lives while, on the other side of the world, they are burning bodies,**” Gamzu said, referring to Israel’s success at bringing down its own infection rates and moves to roll back restrictions on public life as it returns to normalcy.

Talks on the matter were held at the Foreign Ministry, as well as with Indian officials, but so far no decision has been made, the Kan public broadcaster reported Sunday. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/health-ministry-backs-ban-on-travel-to-7-high-risk-countries-including-india/>

**Israeli aid team heads to Uruguay, where COVID dream has turned to nightmare**

***The South American country hardly felt the virus last year, but now has the world’s second-highest infection rate and hospitals are under pressure***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 1:42 pm*

**An Israeli aid delegation was set to land Tuesday in Uruguay, a country that went almost overnight from a low-COVID oasis to a notorious hotspot with the world’s second-highest rate of new ca**ses.

**The four-person team from Sheba Medical Center’s weeklong mission will focus on helping hospitals struggling to cope with the sudden skyrocketing of cases in recent weeks** to establish new coronavirus facilities.

**For most of 2020, Uruguay, which has a population of just 3.5 million, had very low virus stats. It ended the year with just 181 COVID deaths,** but has now seen 2,391, and aside from Cyprus, which just had a sudden spike, has the highest incidence of new cases in proportion to the population.

Some 187,000 Uruguayans have been diagnosed — almost three quarters of them since mid-February, apparently as a result of a variant from neighboring Brazil.



***A healthcare worker disinfects a teammate after testing a person for COVID-19 in Montevideo, Uruguay, April 15, 2021. (AP Photo/Matilde Campodonico)***

**“As cases rise in Uruguay, we’re here to give whatever help, advice and information proves useful in fighting the crisis,” Moriya Suliman, a nurse from the Sheba delegat**ion, told The Times of Israel. “We’re excited to help.”

**The delegation includes senior doctor Rony Ashkenazi and Sheba’s logistics coordinator Shai Swissa, who was responsible for identifying spare areas at the hospital, including parking lots, and converting them into coronavirus wa**rds.

He will be helping hospitals in Uruguay to do the same — to open new intensive care facilities and wards for COVID-positive psychiatric patients, dialysis patients and others — as done in Sheba. Swissa is the son of Uruguayan parents who moved to Israel, and will do his coaching in fluent Spanish.

**The team will mainly help and advise in hospitals, but will also provide consultations** to authorities on vaccination strategies. Uruguay has been racing to vaccinate since it became the last country in South America to start its vaccination campaign on March 1. Almost a third of its population has now received at least one shot.



***Members of the Sheba Medical Center aid team to Uruguay (in T-shirts) before departure, with the ambassador of Uruguay to Israel Bernardo Griever (in suit) next to Prof. Arnon Afek, deputy director general of the hospital. (courtesy of Sheba Medical Center)***

**Authorities in Uruguay asked Sheba’s Israel Center for Disaster Medicine and Humanitarian Response for help, and the hospital responded by shipping equipment, including ECG machines and ventilators, and assembling the aid tea**m.

“They came to us because we’re the first nation to beat coronavirus and return to normal routine,” said Suliman. “At Sheba we’ve closed all our coronavirus wards and we can share all our knowledge, allowing them to learn from our experiences, including from our mistakes.”

Delegation head Amit Gutkind, a nurse who masterminded Sheba’s rapid vaccination program, said: “They ask a lot about what’s happening in Israel and how we improved things in such a short time, and we’re pleased to now be on the ground to provide some answers.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-aid-team-heads-to-uruguay-where-covid-dream-has-turned-to-nightmare/>

**Lag BaOmer pilgrimage to Mount Meron set to cause public transport disruptions**

***As gov't lifts all virus restrictions from mass transit, reallocation of buses, trains expected to further strain an overburdened system; Transportation Ministry says shuttles will be operated by private contractors***

*Assaf Zagrizak | Published: 04.27.21 , 21:48*

**Hundreds of buses and dozens of trains will be used as shuttles to the annual Lag BaOmer pilgrimage to Mount Meron this weekend, which is expected to cause substantial disruptions to public transportatio**n services throughout Israel.

**Earlier on Tuesday, the government voted to lift all coronavirus restrictions on public transport starting Thursday — Lag BaOmer eve — a day on which the country's mass transit system is already strained due to many soldiers returning home from ba**se.



***The annual Lag BaOmer pilgrimage to Mount Meron (Photo: Nadav Eces, Eli Mandelbaum)***

**Considering many Muslim bus drivers tend to work less during the holy month of Ramadan, the decision to reallocate over 420 buses is expected to only exacerbate the situation and add further burden to Israel's urban transportation sys**tem.

 **Although most train routes nationwide have not been active on weekends for more than 200 days, 24 trains to the northern city of Karmiel — located just 20km (11 miles) from the event's site — will operate this coming weekend, serving some 200,000 people expected to arrive and celebrate the holiday at the gravesite of 2nd-century tannaitic sage Rabbi Shimon bar Yo**chai.

***Some 200,000 people expected to arrive and celebrate the holiday at the gravesite of 2nd-century tannaitic sage Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai (Photo: AP)***

**The Transportation Ministry failed so far to appropriately notify the public that does not partake in the festivities of the expected ch**anges.

**The ministry said in response that the disruptions will only be felt in ultra-Orthodox cities such as Bnei Brak, Elad, and Beit Shemesh,** where demand is expected to plummet during the holiday. It also added that the vast majority of shuttles will be operated by private contractors. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/Bkvsg3Bwu> **[Lag B’omer is a huge event for the orthodox community and will definitely cause an outcry for social distancing and masks (which is not likely to happen). – rdb]**

**US updates Israel on Iran nuclear talks as national security advisers meet in DC**

***Mossad chief slated to meet Blinken in Washington as Jerusalem seeks to make case against US reentry into nuclear treaty***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 11:08 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 Israeli and American national security advisers met in Washington on Tuesday to discuss concerns over Iran’s nuclear ambitions and US efforts to reenter the deal between Tehran and world po**wers.

**The meeting between National Security Council chairman Meir Ben-Shabbat and his US counterpart Jake Sullivan marked the first in-person meeting of high-level officials from the two countries since US President Joe Biden entered the White Hous**e.

**“The US and Israeli officials discussed their serious concerns about advancements in Iran’s nuclear program in recent years**. The United States updated Israel on the talks in Vienna and emphasized strong US interest in consulting closely with Israel on the nuclear issue going forward,” a readout from the White House said.

“The United States and Israel agreed on the significant threat posed by Iran’s aggressive behavior in the region, and US officials underscored President Biden’s unwavering support for Israel’s right to defend itself,” the statement added.

Ben-Shabbat and Sullivan head the bilateral strategic group aimed at Israeli-US cooperation in the effort to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. The group has convened virtually twice in recent months.

**According to the White House on Tuesday, another such bilateral group would be established, with a focus on Iranian drones and missiles**. “The United States and Israel agreed to establish an inter-agency working group to focus particular attention on the growing threat of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Precision Guided Missiles produced by Iran and provided to its proxies in the Middle East Region,” it said.

Also attending the session at the Israeli embassy in Washington on Tuesday were Israeli Ambassador to the US Gilad Erdan; Biden’s nominee for Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf; and NSC Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa Brett McGurk.

Mossad intelligence agency chief Yossi Cohen was also seen entering the embassy. Channel 12 reported that Cohen and Erdan were slated to meet with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, also to discuss the Iran nuclear issue. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-us-national-security-advisers-meet-in-dc-to-discuss-iran-deal/>

**EU to push Israel on Jerusalem voting as Abbas set to delay election – report**

***Lebanese newspaper says bloc wants time to pressure Jewish state on formally allowing voting in capital, a matter on which Israel has been silent***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:45 am*

**Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has told the European Union, Egypt and Jordan of his decision to postpone the upcoming elections, but the EU has asked for a delay to a formal announcement on the matter so that it can pressure Israel to allow voting in East Jerusalem, a Lebanese newspaper reported Tues**day.

**As justification for the postponement, Abbas is set to cite Israel’s silence on whether East Jerusalem Palestinians can participate**.

**The report in the Lebanese daily Al-Akhbar, widely considered a mouthpiece for the terror group Hezbollah, came amid mounting indications that the elections will be del**ayed.

Palestinians are currently scheduled to head to their first national vote in 15 years on May 22. The last Palestinian national elections were held in 2006, when Hamas defeated Abbas’s Fatah movement in a landslide.

At a Monday meeting of the Fatah Central Committee, Abbas reiterated that he would not permit the elections to take place without the residents of East Jerusalem being permitted to vote.

**The Palestinian leadership — including leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad — is scheduled to meet on Thursday to decide whether the elections can go forward without Israel officially permitting East Jerusalem Palestinians to parti**cipate. According to Al-Akhbar, the EU has asked Abbas to wait until at least after those discussions before making a formal announcement.

Egyptian officials said Monday that the Palestinian Authority intends to call off the elections at Thursday’s meeting. An Egyptian diplomat and an intelligence official said they had been briefed on the decision. They said Egypt was in talks with Israel to reach a compromise to allow the vote but those efforts have so far failed.

**The intelligence official said Hamas wants the elections to go ahead but that no faction wants to proceed without guarantees from the international community that voting will be held in East Jerusalem**. The official said the factions are discussing the formation of a unity government instead that would include Hamas.

**Abbas’s opponents have charged in recent days that the widely unpopular PA president, fearful of political defeat,** is using Israel’s refusal to formally permit East Jerusalem voting as a pretext to back away from holding the election. The vote, originally scheduled for 2010, sees his once-dominant Fatah movement under challenge from breakaway factions as well as Hamas.

Sources from Gaza’s ruling terror organization [told](https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-warns-israel-will-bear-the-consequences-of-closing-gaza-fishing-zone/) Al-Akhbar on Monday that the potential cancellation of the elections could lead to an escalation of violence.

**According to the Kan public broadcaster, top-level discussions are now taking place in Hamas to decide how the terror group will response to the expected postponement** of the elections.

Israel has yet to say whether it will permit voting in East Jerusalem, which it captured from Jordan in the 1967 Six Day War and later annexed in a move not recognized by most of the international community. Palestinians there have Israeli residency rights, and in principle can apply for Israeli citizenship. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/eu-to-push-israel-on-jerusalem-voting-as-abbas-set-to-delay-election-report/>

**Canadian Doctor Defies Gag Order and Tells the Public How the Moderna COVID Injections Killed and Permanently Disabled Indigenous People in His Community**

*April 26, 2021*

***Comments by Brian Shilhavy Editor, Health Impact News***

Charles Hoffe has been a medical doctor for 28 years in the small, rural town of Lytton in British Columbia, Canada. The town is comprised of many indigenous groups and the “First Nations.”

**When Dr. Hoffe was given 900 doses of the Moderna experimental COVID-19 injections, he administered the doses through the Lytton Medical Clinic to those who wanted them.**

**He chose not to inject himself.**

**Dr. Hoffe reports that the result of injecting 900 people among the indigenous First Nations community was that 2 people went into anaphylactic shock, one person died, and several others have suffered what appear to be permanent disabilities. He relates how one of his patients is in so much pain now, that she prefers death to life**.

By contrast, no one in the community died or became permanently disabled due to the COVID-19 virus for the past year.

Dr. Hoffe **reported these adverse reactions by email to the medical personnel in his community who were responsible for the roll-out of the Moderna shots**, which included pharmacists, nurses, and doctors in his area, a total of about 18 people he says.

His email expressed grave concern over the side effects he was seeing, and he asked if perhaps they should pause the injections for a while.

He reports that **within 48 hours he received a very stern rebuke from his superiors** at the Interior Health Authority accusing him of causing “vaccine hesitancy” and that they were going to report him to BC College of Physicians and Surgeons.

**They forbade him from saying anything negative about the Moderna shots b**y issuing a gag order against him.

Dr. Hoffe explains that this is a method of intimidation that is being used against other doctors who have become too afraid to speak out, because the College of Physicians and Surgeons has great authority to shut down doctors’ careers, or heavily fine them.

As he continued to see more injuries the following week, he became very angry about his gag order. He was told that if he had any concerns about the injections that he had to contact the medical health officer in charge of the Moderna roll out.

He did, but when he did not receive a reply, he decided to write an open letter directly to Dr. Bonnie Henry, British Columbia Provincial Health Officer, in direct defiance of his gag order since he made it public. **MUCH MORE -**<https://vaccineimpact.com/2021/canadian-doctor-defies-gag-order-and-tells-the-public-how-the-moderna-covid-injections-killed-and-permanently-disabled-indigenous-people-in-his-community/> **[RUN don’t walk when they come with these Jabs. – rdb]**

**16-year-old boy undergoes emergency clot-removal surgery after vaccination; Expert: 'Unequivocally a side effect of the vaccine'**

*April 21, 2021 Mordechai Sones* AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are apparently not the only COVID-19 pharmaceutical products found to cause hypercoagulability: A 16-year-old boy in Israel developed hypercoagulability and had to undergo emergency clot removal surgery after receiving the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.  
 The *Wall Street Journal* last week [**reported**](https://www.wsj.com/articles/j-j-privately-asked-rival-covid-19-vaccine-makers-to-probe-clotting-risks-11618570802) that Johnson & Johnson privately reached out to COVID-19 vaccine rivals to ask them to join an effort to study the risks of blood clots and speak with one voice about safety, but Pfizer and Moderna "declined".  
 Health Communication Lecturer at IDC Herzliya International School [**Dr. Yaffa Shir Raz**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/291247) responded to the incident, saying: "Think hard before you offer up your kids."  
 She wrote: "If you're even thinking of giving them your child, you should first hear the story published by Limor Perira from the Civil Investigation Committee, who hasn't slept for months because all the reports of side effects flowing to the committee reach her. Listen and think carefully.  
 "The story she published should reach every media outlet, not only in this country, but also around the world, because it unequivocally clarifies that not only AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson's vaccines, but also Pfizer's vaccine can cause dangerous clotting events, and in this case, not in an adult, but in a child.   
 "A 16-year-old boy, completely healthy before the vaccine, developed a large blood clot in the carotid artery. The title of his hospitalization summary - in capital letters is: ADVERSE EVENT OF COVID-19 VACCINE.  
 "Try as the hospital might to rummage through the boy's medical history to find explanations for what happened to him - congenital malformation, autoimmune disease, coronavirus - they turned up nothing. Unequivocally this is a side effect of the vaccine.  
 "A 16-year-old boy was hospitalized with blood clots in his hands, shortly after the second vaccination.  
 "In the hospital, a clot was found in the subclavian artery in his left hand.  
 "The boy underwent a basic hypercoagulability test to make sure the cause was not congenital or autoimmune, and was found okay.  
 "Other indices of hypercoagulability, d-dimer, returned normal.  
 "COVID-19 test, negative. There are COVID-19 antibodies from the vaccine.  
 "Normal heart ultrasound; there's no congenital heart defect that would explain such emboli or any other finding in the heart that can cause emboli.  
 "He received treatment against the coagulation mechanism - Clexane, which is anti-thrombotic - and aspirin.  
 "He also received an Iloprost Infusion that has a combined effect - it's a vasodilator, an anti-inflammatory, and an anticoagulant.  
 "After two weeks of hospitalization, when none of this worked, he underwent emergency surgery to remove the clot. Now thank G-d he is already home, but had to have Clexane injected into his stomach twice a day, and he has a long recovery and rehabilitation process yet ahead.  
 "'I ask not to judge the mother,' Limor writes. 'The family is broken and after a difficult period. This is a good woman and a devoted mother. She had no idea that there was a risk and could not be blamed. The general public isn't exposed to information. Today, in retrospect she would have behaved differently. No, judging doesn't help.'"  
 Dr. Shir Raz continued: "So think hard before you offer up your kids.  
 "And while you're busy considering, you should remember that the vaccines of AstraZeneca and J&J were stopped due to a few cases of hypercoagulability per 4-5 million, which occurred in adults. In our country, already after vaccinating a relatively small amount of adolescents, we see at least one serious case, and at least 7 more clotting events in adults. Where is the Health Ministry and why does it not report this to us? And, you should know this is not the only case - our committee has already reported 8 cases of clotting events."  
 She concluded: "And think about this news that was published today in the media all over the world - but not to us: Johnson & Johnson [**quietly asked i**](https://www.wsj.com/articles/j-j-privately-asked-rival-covid-19-vaccine-makers-to-probe-clotting-risks-11618570802)ts competitors to investigate the risk of blood clots in their vaccines as well. AstraZeneca was interested in joining forces in investigating the matter, but Moderna and Pfizer refused. They probably have good reason." <https://www.americasfrontlinedoctors.org/frontline-news/16-year-old-boy-undergoes-emergency-clot-removal-surgery-after-vaccination-expert-unequivocally-a-side-effect-of-the-vaccine> **[Run don’t walk when they come with the JAB. – rdb]**  
   
**Sunken submarine found in 3 pieces, deadly disaster confirmed**

*By* [*Jack Davis, The Western Journal*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wj/) *Published April 26, 2021 at 11:48pm*

**Dashing any hopes for a miracle ending to the hunt for a missing Indonesian submarine, the sub's wreckage has been found off the coast of B**ali.

**Indonesia declared all 53 crew members on board dea**d, according to [The Associated Press](https://apnews.com/article/asia-pacific-indonesia-98b58437f6742d197d1eb593db954894).

The [submarine](https://www.westernjournal.com/search-party-finds-items-believed-missing-submarine/) had been missing since Wednesday. On Saturday, the day that the sub would have been on the last of its oxygen supply, Indonesia announced that items from the KRI Nanggala 402 had been found.

"It was broken into three pieces," Navy Chief of Staff Yudo Margono said.

The submarine was found at a [depth](https://www.westernjournal.com/ap-divers-may-found-sunken-us-submarine-center-harrowing-wwii-saga/) of 2,788 feet, Margono said, according to [CNN](https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/25/asia/indonesia-submarine-wreckage-intl/index.html).

The vessel was able to withstand water pressure only at a depth of 655 feet.

After the sub was located with sonar, a remotely operated vehicle went down to film the wreckage. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/sunken-indonesian-submarine-found-3-pieces-deadly-disaster-confirmed/>

**FBI combed through NSA's trove of Americans' communications WITHOUT a warrant in its search for 'racially motivated violent extremists' when it was already warned the practice was unconstitutional**

*By* [*Bevan Hurley For Dailymail.Com*](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/search.html?s=&authornamef=Bevan+Hurley+For+Dailymail.Com) *Published: 11:05 EDT, 27 April 2021 | Updated: 13:28 EDT, 27 April 2021*

**The** [**FBI**](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/fbi/index.html) **searched troves of communications sucked up by the National Security Agency for information on 'racially motivated violent extremists' without a warrant, ignoring previous warnings it was breaking the la**w.

**The FBI's requests for access to masses of electronic communications harvested by the National Security Agency (NSA) is revealed in a** [**newly declassified report**](https://www.intel.gov/assets/documents/702%20Documents/declassified/20/2020_FISC%20Cert%20Opinion_10.19.2020.pdf) **from the United States' secret surveillan**ce court.

It shows the FBI has continued **to perform warrantless searches through the NSA's most sensitive databases** for routine criminal investigations, despite being told by a federal judge in 2018 and 2019 that such a use was an unconstitutional breach of privacy.

The FBI focused many of its warrantless searches - commonly referred to as backdoor queries - on suspected 'far-right' domestic terrorists, [**The Daily Beast**](https://www.thedailybeast.com/secret-court-reveals-fbi-hunted-for-domestic-terrorists-without-a-warrant?source=articles&via=rss) reported.

It's unclear from the heavily-redacted Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court report whether the FBI uncovered any criminal extremist behavior or made any arrests resulting from the searches.  **MORE -**  <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9516639/FBI-sifted-troves-foreign-communications-information-American-WITHOUT-warrant.html> **[Big brother after anyone that they think doesn’t fit into their narrative – this is your FBI group in action They are a totally out of control agency that needs a complete redo and investigation. Heads should roll. – rdb]**

**Ashli Babbitt's family 'to sue Capitol Police'**

***'The officer shot an unarmed woman who was not an immediate threat to him or any member of Congress'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 27, 2021 at 4:42pm*

**Federal officials in Washington already have confirmed that a police officer at the U.S. Capitol – whose name still is being withheld – will not face any criminal charges for shooting and killing unarmed veteran Ashli Babbitt at the Jan. 6 riot.**

**But that person may be facing civil counts, according to a report in** [**BizPacReview.**](https://www.bizpacreview.com/2021/04/26/ashli-babbitt-family-to-file-civil-charges-over-the-violation-of-her-constitutional-rights-1065704/)

**The publication said the confirmation came from a lawyer for the family of Babbitt in an interview with NewsMax who revealed the family will file civil charges "over the violation of her constitutional** rights."

The lawyer, Terry Roberts, was being interviewed about the decision by the Department of Justice to pursue no charges against the officer.

The shooting death has raised a multitude of questions that have yet to be answered. For example, Babbitt apparently did not see the officer and reportedly there was no verbal warning. The officer's lawyer has claimed several warnings were issued.

**But critics of the shooter pointed out that Babbitt was unarmed, she could have been arrested at any point there, and that the officer even fired the fatal shot into a crowd where other officers were, potentially endan**gering them.

Constitutional expert [Jonathan Turley](https://jonathanturley.org/2021/04/18/what-is-the-difference-between-the-wright-and-bobbitt-shootings/) has **noted that a critical element for justifying a police shooting is that there was the threat of danger to an officer or someone else**. "While she was clearly trespassing and at the forefront of a riot**, there is no claim that she was threatening any officer or possible person with serious bodily injury or death. I**ndeed, near her were other officers who could have been hit by the round. (Babbitt was trying to climb through a broken door in the Speaker’s Lobby as police fought back the mob)," he explained.

"If the officer intended to shoot Babbitt, it would not likely meet the standard for a justified shooting under governing cases like Tennessee v. Garner (1985). If the officer fired blindly or wildly," he said, it would include elements of negligence.

**Further, he pointed out the DOJ did not claim the shooting "was clearly justified. Instead, it noted that 'prosecutors would have to prove not only that the officer used force that was constitutionally unreasonable, b**ut that the officer did so 'willfully.'' It stressed that this element requires a showing of 'a bad purpose to disregard the law' and that 'evidence that an officer acted out of fear, mistake, panic, misperception, negligence, or even poor judgment cannot establish the high level of intent.'"

He said, "Violent riots are unfortunately common today in cities ranging from Minneapolis to Portland to Washington. The use of live rounds however ha[s] never been authorized absent a particularized showing of a significant threat to an officer or others. Nothing in the announcement in the Babbitt case answers how such a showing was made by the officer."

Roberts, the lawyer, said the shooting was unnecessary and without "legal justification."

"Specifically, the investigation revealed no evidence to establish that, at the time the officer fired a single shot at Ms. Babbitt, the officer did not reasonably believe that it was necessary to do so in self-defense or in defense of the Members of Congress and others evacuating the House Chamber," a statement from the government said.

Roberts explained, in a previous statement, "The actual evidence is this: the officer shot an unarmed woman who was not an immediate threat to him or any Member of Congress. That is inconsistent with any claim of self-defense or the defense of others, period."

Roberts said the evidence "is ample and support criminal charges against the officer." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/ashli-babbitts-family-sue-capitol-police/> **[HUMMM? This could get very interesting. Perhaps if under pressure of prosecution he might reveal information about the set up that was perpetrated on Jan 6 which I think goes much further than anyone likes to consider and is why everything is hush, hush. Congress should not be able to establish two levels of justice. – rdb]**

**Republicans Demand Investigation, Resignation of John Kerry for Allegedly Leaking Secrets to Iran**

[*Hannah Bleau*](https://www.breitbart.com/author/hannah-bleau/) 27 Apr 20214,002

**Key members of the GOP are calling for either an investigation or resignation following reports of former U.S. Secretary of State and current Climate Czar John Kerry leaking information about covert Israeli military operations to Ira**n.

**According to tapes obtained by the London-based**[**Iran International**](https://iranintl.com/en/world/exclusive-zarif-claims-soleimani-intervened-diplomacy-russia-wanted-destroy-jcpoa)**and subsequently leaked to the New York Times, Kerry, who served as secretary of state for former President Barack Obama, reportedly told Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif about Israeli military operations in Syria.** The revelation reportedly came to the “astonishment” of Zarif, who worked closely with Kerry on the infamous Iran Nuclear Deal.

Ned Price, a spokesperson at the State Department, [told](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/04/26/sstate-dept-suggests-kerry-didnt-share-secrets-with-irans-zarif-about-israels-operations-in-syria/) reporters that he couldn’t speak to the “authenticity,” “accuracy,” or “any motives” behind the dissemination of the tape, as it is “purportedly leaked material.”

“I would just make the broad point that if you go back and look at press reporting from the time, this certainly was not secret, and governments that were involved were speaking to this publicly on the record,” he added.

Key members of the GOP, however, are calling for action.

**“If this tape is verified, it would signal catastrophic and disqualifying recklessness by Envoy Kerry to Foreign Minister Zarif that endangered the safety of Americans and our allies,” Sen. Ted Cruz** (R-TX) [told](https://www.dailywire.com/news/a-criminal-act-calls-grow-for-kerry-to-resign-following-explosive-report-gop-demands-investigations) the Daily Wire.

**“And it would be consistent with his long pattern of empowering Iran’s regime,” he continued, noting Kerry:**

**poured hundreds of billions of dollars into the Ayatollah’s terrorist bank accounts, was a close confidant with Zarif during the Obama administration, and was caught repeatedly meeting with him during the Trump administration (notwithstanding the Logan Act) — and has never publicly accounted for what they discussed.**

Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) took it a step further, calling for Kerry’s resignation.

“Enough is enough,” Sullivan [said](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/04/26/white-house-refuses-comment-on-tapes-exposing-john-kerry-leaks-to-iran-about-israel/) on the Senate floor:

The red line that was crossed, if this was true, revealing secret information to one of America’s most sworn enemies with the blood of thousands of American military members on its hands, undermining the interests of one of our most important allies, the state of Israel — if this is true, John Kerry needs to go. He should resign or he should get fired by the president of the United States.

**MORE -** <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/04/27/republicans-demand-investigation-resignation-of-john-kerry-for-allegedly-leaking-secrets-to-iran/> **[This jerk should be locked up for treason in Gitmo for life. Wonderful demon-rat character. – rdb]**  
   
**Former Obama White House Adviser Charged With Stealing Over $200,000 From Charter School Chain He Founded**

*By* [*Samuel Allegri*](https://www.theepochtimes.com/author-samuel-allegri) *April 27, 2021 Updated: April 27, 2021*

A former White House adviser has been arrested and charged by the FBI with stealing $218,005 from charter schools he helped found.

Seth Andrew, 42, served under former President [Barack Obama](https://www.theepochtimes.com/t-barack-obama) as a senior adviser in the Office of Educational Technology.

He was arrested on charges of wire fraud, money laundering, and making false statements to a financial institution. Federal prosecutors said that he used more than half of the allegedly stolen money to maintain his bank account above a threshold that enabled him to get better interest rates for a mortgage of his multimillion Manhattan apartment.

“As alleged, Seth Andrew abused his position as a founder of a charter school network to steal from the very same schools he helped create,” Manhattan U.S. Attorney Audrey Strauss said.

“Andrew is not only alleged to have stolen the schools’ money but also to have used the stolen funds to obtain a savings on a mortgage for a multimillion-dollar Manhattan apartment. Thanks to the FBI’s diligent work, Andrew now faces federal charges for his alleged scheme,” she added.

Andrew will enter a plea of not guilty in a Manhattan Federal Court, attorney Michael Yaeger told The Epoch Times via email. **MORE -** <https://www.theepochtimes.com/former-obama-white-house-adviser-charged-with-stealing-over-200000-from-charter-school-chain-he-founded_3793346.html> **[another example of demon-rat integrity. – rdb]**

**Commentary:**

**Affluence + Secularism = Boredom = Leftism**[Dennis Prager](https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/) Posted: Apr 27, 2021 12:01 AM  
 Just as physicists look for equations to explain the natural world, I have always thought it useful to look for equations to explain human nature. For example, in my book on happiness, I offer this equation: U = I - R. Unhappiness = Image - Reality. The difference between the images we have for our life and the reality of our life is one way of measuring how much unhappiness we experience.  
 Here, I offer another theorem, this time to help explain leftism.  
 A + S = B = L  
 Affluence + Secularism = Boredom = Leftism  
 The search for an equation to help explain leftism (as distinguished from traditional liberalism) emanates from these facts:  
 Most leftists come from the upper and upper-middle class. This was true for the two founders of leftism, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Marx was supported by his family and by Engels, who was a wealthy businessman and the son of a very wealthy businessman. All the Western spies for the Soviet Union were economically secure. And the great funder of radical causes today is a billionaire -- George Soros.  
 Nearly all leftists are irreligious people. And the breeding place of leftism, the university, is the most secular institution in modern society.  
 These two facts produce a problem: Many people lack meaning in their lives. And lack of meaning is another way of stating "boredom" -- a boredom of the soul.  
 People need meaning. After food, that is the greatest human need. As important as sex is, there are happy people who go without sex (loss of a partner, never having found a partner, vows of chastity), but there are no happy people who go without meaning (no matter how much sex they have).  
 This need for meaning has traditionally been met by four things: religion, family, providing for oneself and one's family, and patriotism. And all are fading.  
 Let's begin with religion. In America today, religion is in sharp decline. According to Pew Research, more than a third of all Americans born after 1980 identify with no religion. That is the highest percentage ever. In a recent Gallup Poll, only 47% of American adults said they were members of a church, mosque or synagogue. It was the first time since Gallup began asking Americans about religious membership in the 1930s that a majority of Americans said they were not members of a church, mosque or synagogue.  
 Next comes family. Marrying and making a family have always been sources of meaning to the great majority of people. However, like religion, the American family is also in steep decline. For the first time in American history, according to Statista, as of 2020, nearly half of all men in America (46%) have never been married, and 41% of American women have never been married. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 85.4 million Americans 18 and over have never been married. There are presently 130 million unmarried American adults. Worse yet, as Dr. Bella DePaulo of the University of California at Santa Barbara wrote in Psychology Today, "Half of all solo single people don't want a romantic relationship or even a date."  
 As every criminologist knows, a lot of single men is a problem for society. And as the ubiquity of women on the left and among the left's angriest protesters makes clear, a lot of single women is no blessing either.  
 Another nearly universal source of meaning has been providing for oneself and one's family. That's why, though the poor lack money and material wealth, they have never lacked meaning. Figuring out how to feed one's family every day provides a person with a great deal of meaning.  
 Finally, belonging to one's nation also provided meaning to most people in modern history. But love of country largely died in Western Europe after World War II, and it is dying in America today.  
 So, then, with the four primary sources of meaning dying -- killed in large measure by leftist ideology -- meaning must be found elsewhere. And that is where the left steps in. Leftism has always been a secular religion. It kills traditional religion and presents itself as a secular alternative.  
 It certainly provides meaning. "Anti-racism" and saving the world from a threat to its very existence (global warming) are two prominent life-filling examples.  
 Therefore, the only way to prevent the left from destroying America and its core value of freedom is to make the case for Judeo-Christian religions, the importance of marriage and family, and the unique achievement of America as the world's first and greatest multiracial, multiethnic, multinational society.  
 Americans should have been making that case in every generation. Post-World War II, they forgot, or never really believed, that the land of the free is, as former President Ronald Reagan warned, always just one generation away from losing its freedom. <https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/2021/04/27/affluence--secularism--boredom--leftism-n2588581>

**And then…**

**Biden Administration Plays Childish ‘Opposite Game’ and Endangers America**[*Rabbi Moshe B. Parnes*](https://townhall.com/columnists/rabbimoshebparnes/) *Posted: Apr 26, 2021 10:52 AM* Looking at the Biden administration, I can’t help but be reminded of a mischievous trick that my older brother and I used to regularly play on our younger brother. We called it “the opposite game.” Whatever our younger brother did or said, we did or said the opposite. It was tons of fun for us and annoyed the heck out of our younger brother, which, of course, was the point.   
 Now that we’re adults, we know it was petty. But it appears that the Oval Office’s newest occupant, who is anything but young, has developed his own version of our game, except the human costs and the stakes for U.S. national interest are no laughing matter. Biden seems bent on taking the mirror opposite approach of every Trump policy—even the policies that were sensible and proved effective.   
 For example, under Trump, the border was—for all intents and purposes—finally secured. We no longer had illegal immigrants entering the country en masse, and we certainly didn’t hear about children wandering alone through Mexico to get into the United States or kids being thrown over the border wall. Trump’s policy was clear: All immigrants must first apply for refugee status while still outside our country.   
 It was sensible, too. It vastly cut down on illegal immigration and prevented the further spread of coronavirus. The policy also maintained America’s national sovereignty and gave legal immigrants the opportunity for a better life.  
 Alas, because Trump implemented it, Biden had to take the diametrically opposed stance, and we, the American people, are bearing the burden.     
 And look at U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. When the Palestinian Authority refused to cease operation of its Martyr’s Fund, which was a violation of the[Taylor Force Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1164), Trump, in 2018, [cut off](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/us-aid-cuts-wont-end-the-right-of-return-palestinians-say/2018/08/31/8e3f25b4-ad0c-11e8-8a0c-70b618c98d3c_story.html) the $400 million U.S. taxpayer dollars that the governing body was receiving annually. The fund [continues to pay](https://www.algemeiner.com/2021/03/24/state-department-report-acknowledges-palestinian-authority-payments-to-terrorists-as-biden-administration-seeks-to-resume-aid/) terrorists who murder Israeli citizens and others, and gives life-time, monthly stipends to the families of perpetrators of violent attacks.    
 Thus, Trump brought U.S. foreign policy into compliance with the law. The law, by the way, was named after Taylor Force, a former U.S. Army veteran who was [stabbed to death](https://www.cnn.com/2016/03/08/middleeast/israel-violence/index.html) by a Palestinian terrorist while on a Vanderbilt University-sponsored tour in Tel Aviv. But because Trump cracked down on vicious terrorists, Biden concluded it must have been wrong to do so.   
 The [United Nations Relief and Works Agency](https://www.unrwa.org/who-we-are/sustainable_development_goals) is another illustration of Biden’s opposite game. UNRWA ostensibly provides aid to Palestinians. It’s supposed to build schools, develop curricula and employ teachers, among other things. This sounds like a worthwhile humanitarian effort. Unfortunately, UNRWA doesn’t come close to living up to its name.   
 An [investigation](https://unwatch.org/un-admits-palestinians-fired-rockets-unrwa-schools/#:~:text=The UN finally investigated the,Conventions and international humanitarian law.) by the United Nations—no friend of Israel’s—revealed that its own organization took an active role in perpetrating terror against Israeli civilians. Specifically, UNRWA schools were used as storage facilities for Hamas rockets. They also permitted the firing of those missiles—while school was in session!   
 Further, a Center for Near East Policy Research [report](https://israelbehindthenews.com/2016/01/20/israel-and-jews-in-the-newest-palestinian-authority-pa-schoolbooks-taught-in-pa-and-unrwa-schools-de-legitimization-demonization-advocacy-of-violent-struggle-rather-than-peace-of-jihad-martyrdo/) documented the complicity of UNRWA schools in indoctrinating Palestinian children. Over 200 elementary school textbooks, even in math and civics, explicitly encouraged martyrdom and Jewish expulsion from Israel. The State Department [called](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/us-aid-cuts-wont-end-the-right-of-return-palestinians-say/2018/08/31/8e3f25b4-ad0c-11e8-8a0c-70b618c98d3c_story.html) UNRWA an “irredeemably flawed operation.”  
 Trump stopped the endless cycle of terror by defunding the Palestinian Authority and UNRWA. Ergo, it must have been the wrong thing to do. So Biden announced he would [renew funding](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-56665199) to the Palestinians to the tune of $235 million dollars.   
 You would assume our nation’s generosity would at least have been predicated upon the Palestinian Authority’s dismantlement of its Martyr’s Fund. It wasn’t. You would think we had received a promise from UNRWA to halt its facilitation of terrorism. We didn’t. The money was given gratis—no strings attached.    
 The opposite game is an impish pastime for kids. In real-life, it can have deadly consequences. The new administration’s policy agenda needs to quickly grow up. Biden should objectively assess his predecessor’s record, then embrace and build upon the most successful strategies. The American people, and our strongest allies, deserve nothing less.   <https://townhall.com/columnists/rabbimoshebparnes/2021/04/26/biden-administration-plays-childish-opposite-game-and-endangers-america-n2588535>

**And still..**

**Officer Derek Chauvin, Human Sacrifice to Marxist Mobs***By* [*Kelleigh Nelson*](https://newswithviews.com/author/kelleigh/)*|April 27th, 2021  
 Socialism is an alternative to capitalism as potassium cyanide is an alternative to water. —Ludwig von Mises,**Human Action: A Treatise on Economics*  
 *If you can convince people that freedom is injustice, they will then believe that slavery is freedom. —Stefan Molyneux*  
 *Communism is the final logic of the dehumanization of man. —Bishop Fulton J. Sheen*  
 *Communism has never come to power in a country that was not disrupted by war or corruption, or both. —John F. Kennedy*  
 *Freedom for the wolves has often meant death to the sheep. —Isaiah Berlin, British Philosopher*  
 The jury in the Chauvin case came back with a guilty verdict on all counts, second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in a case that had sparked nationwide riots over the death of George Floyd.  
 Of course, they did.  
 Jurors were terrified that BLM and Antifa Marxist mobs would come to their homes and splatter pig’s blood on their doors or burn their homes to the ground or worse. Alternate juror, [Lisa Christensen admitted same](https://trendingpolitics.com/i-didnt-want-to-go-through-the-rioting-juror-in-chauvin-trial-makes-stunning-admission-over-guilty-verdict-knab/) to reporters when she stated she didn’t want to go through the rioting.  
 Just like the cowards on the Supreme Court who refused to hear so many valid cases regarding the illegitimate and treasonous 2020 elections, fear overruled their duty.  
 There is no fair system of “law and order” in America. There is only the arbitrary application of power for political purposes. Mob rule has taken over America; law and order are dead, and the Constitutional right to due process has been shredded beyond recognition. The mobs are incitedto tamper with juries and judges by the press arm of their media comrades and with the full weight and backing of the communist infiltrated governing establishment.  
 Derek Chauvin was never going to receive a fair trial.  
**MPD Neck Restraint Training**  
 George Floyd was 6’6” and weighed 223 pounds and his [violent criminal history](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8366533/George-Floyd-moved-Minneapolis-start-new-life-released-prison-Texas.html) went back decades.  When he was arrested in Minnesota for passing a counterfeit twenty-dollar bill, he refused to get into the police car claiming he had claustrophobia, although he had just been pulled out of a vehicle with several people, [including a drug dealer who refused to testify for fear of incriminating himself](https://news.yahoo.com/morries-hall-passenger-george-floyds-150350518.html).  
 A [Minneapolis use-of-force trainer](https://apnews.com/article/derek-chauvin-trial-live-updates-day-6-dca11e4f78f8f30d18db7a14e8b17d39)testified that officers are instructed that people under the influence of certain drugs can “become stronger” than they normally would be.  And even with three officers, they couldn’t contain Floyd; the ingested drugs were working on him.  
 Here’s the kicker though…the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) [training materials show knee-to-neck restraint similar to the one used on Floyd](https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/george-floyd/minneapolis-police-training-materials-show-knee-to-neck-restraint-similar-to-used-on-george-floyd/89-9f002e3f-972a-4410-86cb-50a1237fc496).  The training materials specify: “the maximal restraint technique shall only be used in situations where handcuffed subjects are combative and still pose a threat to themselves, officers or others, or could cause significant property damage if not properly restrained.”  Well yes, Floyd would not get into the police vehicle and was combative.  However, there is a slide with a photo that states officers should “place the subject in the recovery position to alleviate positional asphyxia.”  
 An attorney for officer Thomas Lane, who was present at the scene, stated, “The training material supports that neck restraint was something taught to officers who, although new to the job, knew that officers are allowed to use reasonable force when needed. Based on Floyd’s actions up to this point, the officers had no idea what he would do next – hurt himself, hurt the officers, flee, or anything else, but he was not cooperating.”  Lane had asked Chauvin if they should turn Floyd on his side, and Chauvin said to leave him where he was until the ambulance arrived.  
 After the BLM/Antifa communist riots and destruction in Minneapolis, the MPD eliminated the neck restraint hold. Meanwhile Derek Chauvin had followed training and is now labeled a felon by the mob motivated jurors.  
 Officer Chauvin was trained to use this technique by the MPD.  He heard Floyd say he couldn’t breathe earlier, and that would infer that he should not have held subject Floyd in this manner for very long.  However, the size of George Floyd and his former combative stance against getting into the police car could have made the decision to continue the restraint a valid one.  No one knows.  
 Defense witness, Barry Brodd, a former Santa Rosa, California police officer, said he did not believe that the responding officers’ actions, pinning Floyd to the pavement while he was handcuffed facedown with Chauvin’s knee on his neck for what prosecutors have said was 9 minutes, 29 seconds, qualified as a use of force. He said that he believed it was a “control hold” and that he did not think Chauvin was inflicting any pain on Floyd.  [Link](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/prosecutors-rest-their-case-derek-chauvin-trial-n1263916)  
 “I felt that Derek Chauvin was justified and was acting with objective reasonableness, following Minneapolis Police Department policy and current standards of law enforcement, in his interactions with Mr. Floyd,” Brodd said.  
 No proof was ever offered that Chauvin’s knee killed George Floyd, because no such proof could ever *be*offered. The very notion was ridiculous. Floyd died from a lifetime of health-destroying decisions coupled with the lethal number of drugs in his system. If Floyd hadn’t died on camera, nothing would have happened. Instead, for political expediency, Chauvin was made into a human sacrifice. He was disowned by the state he served and the public he protected.  
 Even the president of the Fraternal Order of Police, [Patrick Yoes said](https://www.businessinsider.com/police-group-says-justice-has-worked-after-derek-chauvin-found-guilty-2021-4), “The trial was fair and due process was served.”  Really?  Is the sacrificing of an officer to appease the communist mob’s American justice?  (BLM/Antifa [still rioted](https://www.westernjournal.com/rioters-run-rampant-despite-guilty-verdict-derek-chauvin/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=newsletter-WJ&utm_campaign=dailyam&utm_content=western-journal).)  
 Chauvin was never going to receive a fair trial.  
**Other Factors**  
 Everyone who saw the videos of Chauvin’s knee on Floyd’s neck jumped to the conclusion that officer Chauvin killed Floyd via excessive force; even Rush Limbaugh made accusatory statements that never should have been uttered.  Despite the juror’s verdict, this appears to be invalid.  
 If people were to see the entire video, America would know that officer Chauvin’s knee was on Floyd’s shoulder, not his neck…but America’s comrades want a blood sacrifice of a police officer doing his job. During cross-examination, the Chief of Police admitted that [Chauvin’s knee was on George Floyd’s shoulder blade](https://greatgameindia.com/george-floyd-shoulder-blade/) after he was shown the body cam video from another perspective side-by-side.  
 Regardless of your views on the death of George Floyd, we know three things are true.  
 George Floyd had a [long violent criminal history](https://greatgameindia.com/george-floyd-criminal/) and he had enough illicit drugs in his system to do grave damage. An autopsy found methamphetamine and enough fentanyl in Floyd’s system at the time of his death to kill him, along with heart disease. Investigators also found pills containing methamphetamine and fentanyl inside Floyd’s SUV and the backseat of a squad car officers tried to push him into.  
 Floyd had been sentenced to five years in prison in 2009 for aggravated assault stemming from a robbery where Floyd entered a woman’s home, pointed a gun at her stomach and searched the home for drugs and money, according to court records.  
 Dr. David Fowler, a former chief medical examiner for the state of Maryland and now a member of a consulting firm, testifying for the defense in the murder trial of officer Chauvin told the court that George Floyd died of a cardiac arrest combined with drug use, and not low oxygen as several prosecution witnesses claimed.  
 “Any of the sounds Mr. Floyd is making requires you to take air in … and out …,” Dr. Fowler said of bystander and police body camera videos showing Floyd pleading to breathe as three officers restrained him. “You cannot make sound unless you’re … moving air and your mouth is open.”  
 He said the fentanyl and methamphetamine in Floyd’s system, and possible carbon monoxide poisoning from auto exhaust from a nearby patrol car, were contributing factors.  The pathologist listed a [multitude of factors](https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/George-Floyd-Officer-Trial/2021/04/14/id/1017598/#ixzz6szXdtQ5i): Floyd’s narrowed arteries, his enlarged heart, his high blood pressure, his drug use, the stress of his restraint, the vehicle exhaust, and a tumor or growth in his lower abdomen that can sometimes play a role in high blood pressure by releasing “fight-or-flight” hormones.  He testified that the [manner of death was “undetermined” due to the combination of factors](https://www.newsmax.com/us/george-floyd-officer-trial/2021/04/14/id/1017598/).  
 Dr. Fowler is being repaid for his testimony by having all of his reports of deaths in police custody, during his tenure as chief medical examiner, reviewed according to representatives from the offices of Governor Tim Walz (D) and Attorney General Keith Ellison (D).  
 Communist revolutionary enemies of America used Floyd’s death to advance their hostile political agenda and gain deeper control of the narratives used to destroy America and her justice system.  
 Officer Chauvin was never going to receive a fair trial.  
**Biden, Pelosi and Waters**  
 Prior to the verdict, Biden stated that he was [praying for the right verdict](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/katiepavlich/2021/04/20/biden-blasted-for-weighing-in-ahead-of-chauvin-verdict-n2588240?utm_source=breakingemail) and he phoned the family of George Floyd to say he was in prayers with them and was praying for a guilty verdict.  This is grounds for appeal, and should have been grounds for mistrial.  
 After the verdict of guilty on all counts came in, Biden made another inflammatory statement regarding Officer Chauvin’s trial and kowtowed to his BLM/Antifa comrades.  He said, “It was a murder in full light of day, and it ripped the blinders off for the whole world to see the systemic racism the vice president just referred to.  The systemic racism that’s a stain on our nation’s soul.  The knee on the neck of justice for black Americans.”  [Disgraceful!](https://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2021/04/bidens_statement_following_the_chauvin_verdict_was_disgraceful.html)  
 Andrea Widburg’s [recent American Thinker article](https://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2021/04/bidens_statement_following_the_chauvin_verdict_was_disgraceful.html) stated, “Think about that: a police officer in one city follows the rules for dealing with an overdosing person, while surrounded by a large, threatening mob, and that suddenly becomes the symbol of a stain on the soul for all of America.  Really?”  
 Please…there was no systemic racism until the Democrats promoted it, along with their comrades, BLM/Antifa and the deceitful and treasonous media.  
 Speaker Nancy Pelosi probably made one of the most offensive and odious statements about George Floyd. During a news conference, she [stated](https://www.dailywire.com/news/democrat-nancy-pelosi-ignites-firestorm-by-thanking-george-floyd-for-sacrificing-his-life-calls-grow-for-resignation?itm_source=parsely-api&utm_source=cnemail&utm_medium=email), “Thank you, George Floyd, for sacrificing your life for justice, for being there to call out to your mom, how heartbreaking was that, and because of you … your name will always be synonymous with justice.”  She later added this, “His family’s calls for justice for his murder were heard around the world. He did not die in vain. We must make sure other families don’t suffer the same racism, violence and pain, and we must enact the [George Floyd #JusticeInPolicing Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7120).”  
 The city of Minneapolis on March 12, 2021 [agreed to pay **$27 million**](https://www.usnews.com/news/top-news/articles/2021-03-12/minneapolis-to-pay-27-million-to-settle-george-floyds-family-lawsuit-over-deadly-arrest#:~:text=March%2012%2C%202021%2C%20at%201%3A55%20p.m.&text=(Reuters)%20%2D%20The%20city%20of,racial%20injustice%20and%20police%20brutality.)to settle a lawsuit by the **family** of George **Floyd** over his death in police custody.  
 Don’t forget that Pelosi presented the folded flag to Floyd’s brother, a flag that represents [an honor of service to the country](https://www.military.com/flag-day/meaning-behind-13-flag-folds.html). This was symbolic of hatred for the men and women who give their lives in service to this country…and a slap in the face to every military veteran.  
 Asked how protesters should respond if Chauvin isn’t found guilty, Maxine Waters said: “We’ve got to stay on the street. And we’ve got to get more active. We’ve got to get more confrontational. We’ve got to make sure that they know that we mean business.” Really Maxine? More rioting, arson, looting and vandalism of American businesses is just fine with you?  Her [words are still active on FB and Twitter](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/videos-maxine-waters-confrontations-twitter-facebook), but President Trump is not.  
 Waters’ statements seem to be in violation of House ethics rules that require members to conduct themselves “at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House.”  
 Maxine should be ousted from Congress, but her fellow comrades will support her vindictive and evil invectives. Her statements alone should [overturn this trial.](https://realconservativesunite.com/2021/04/20/judge-in-chauvin-trial-maxine-waters-statement-may-overturn-this-trial/)  
 Officer Chauvin was made a human sacrifice to the Marxist mobs by America’s “public servants.”  
**Ashli Babbitt**  
 Here’s the real rub. On January 6th, unarmed 14-year high-ranking Air Force veteran and patriotic Trump supporter Ashli Babbitt was [savagely gunned down by the U.S. Capitol Police](https://nworeport.me/2021/04/18/us-capitol-special-agent-david-bailey-who-murdered-ashli-babbitt-is-a-brazilian-immigrant-and-black-lives-matter-militant-he-repeatedly-threatened-to-kill-trump-supporters-on-facebook-for-mo/) while peacefully protesting the illegitimate executive seizure of power by the Democrats through Manchurian candidate Joe Biden.  
 US Capitol special agent David Bailey, who killed Ashli Babbitt, is allegedly a Brazilian Immigrant and Black Lives Matter militant. According to reports, he threatened to kill Trump supporters on Facebook for months.  Why does he still have a job as a capitol agent?  DOJ officials determined there wasn’t enough evidence to support a criminal prosecution.  Marxist BLM members are apparently not to be violated, criticized, or tampered with.  
 Tucker Carlson [reports](https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/tucker-carlson-america-one-nation-two-justice-systems) that Samuel Montoya, the man who filmed the video showing Ashli Babbitt being shot, has been arrested and sits in jail. His crime? Apparently trespassing. Two-tiered justice, police state!  
**Hypocrisy**  
 A year before the death of [George Floyd](https://www.westernjournal.com/cnn-made-decision-death-george-floyd-jury-even-decide/), which inspired months upon months of protests across America, [The Dallas Morning News](https://www.dallasnews.com/news/investigations/2019/07/31/you-re-gonna-kill-me-dallas-police-body-cam-footage-reveals-the-final-minutes-of-tony-timpa-s-life/) (DMN) reported on the then-three-year-old story of a man with a case very similar to Floyd’s.  
 Tony Timpa, a 32-year-old man from north Texas, reportedly called 911 after having driven his car into a shady parking lot in a bout of drug-fueled panic and fear. According to a video released from DMN, Timpa told the dispatch officer he wasn’t taking his mental health medication and “had taken drugs.”  
 [Just an hour later, Timpa was dead](https://thefederalistpapers.org/us/flashback-strikingly-similar-case-george-floyd-never-heard-man-white?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=newsletter-FP&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=2021-04-23&ats_es=532adac2eab02d0effbfbb407b0d456f).  He was white, no charges were brought against the officers.  
 Barring a miracle, officer Chauvin will spend his life in prison.  
**Conclusion**  
 Americans should be completely purged of the illusion that a fair justice system still exists that will protect them from the predatory actions of the Deep State. There is no fair system of “law and order” in America. There is only the arbitrary application of power for political purposes.  General Michael Flynn, Roger Stone, Carter Page and so many others know this well.  
 The rule of law, truth, justice, righteousness and liberty are being destroyed incrementally by those who hate our God given freedoms.  America has long been infiltrated with the evil godless tentacles of hardcore communism.  This is why we saw such hatred and venom against the 45th President who by himself stood against this demonic onslaught, with little help from his own party.  
 The most important thing for America’s police is to protect, and the commies don’t want us protected.  If you think Minneapolis will never turn into Mogadishu – it’s coming.  The police are leaving cities in droves…and the Marxists in government want our guns.  Private property, protected by police departments, will be a thing of the past. It starts in our own backyard, in our home, in our small group, in our community.  Stand up!  Fight!  Take the country back!  
 George Washington had only a small percentage of Americans who fought with him for independence, God protected him and led him to victory and He will protect us.  
 We have patriotic warriors who are dedicated to saving our Republic from communist revolutionaries wishing our annihilation.  Help these organizations with your donations and work with them.  
 [DefendingtheRepublic.org](https://defendingtherepublic.org/)  
 [The John Birch Society](https://jbs.org/)  
 God loves a cheerful giver and He hears the prayers of his children.  We are fighting an insurrection…more dangerous than the 1775 Revolutionary War for independence from Great Britain, but with God’s help, freedom will again prevail.  
 And having done all, TO STAND! <https://newswithviews.com/officer-derek-chauvin-human-sacrifice-to-marxist-mobs/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA  
US military ship fires warning shots at IRGC vessels in the Gulf**

***US military says one of its ships fired warning shots after three vessels from Revolutionary Guard came close to it and another American patrol boat in the Gulf.***

*Elad Benari , Apr 27 , 2021 11:31 PM*

**A US military ship fired warning shots after three vessels from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) came close to it and another American patrol boat in the Gulf, the United States military said on Tuesday, according** to *Reuters*.

"The US crews issued multiple warnings via bridge-to-bridge radio and loud-hailer devices, but the IRGCN vessels continued their close range maneuvers," the military said in a statement quoted by the news agency.

"The crew of Firebolt then fired warning shots, and the IRGCN vessels moved away to a safe distance from the US vessels," the statement added.

In the last few years there have been [several close encounters](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/226248) between Iranian and American vessels in the Persian Gulf. The Revolutionary Guard typically patrols the shallower waters of the Persian Gulf and its narrow mouth, the Strait of Hormuz. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305152>

**55 arrivals from Mexico, India, refuse coronavirus test**

***Amid concerns that Indian coronavirus variant may be vaccine-resistant, dozens of Israelis arriving from affected countries refuse to test for the virus.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 28 , 2021 1:36 PM*

**Approximately 150 Israelis arriving in Tel Aviv from India and Mexico -** [**both on the list of high-risk countries**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305108) **- are refusing to test for coronavirus**.

**So far, 55 people on those flights have been confirmed as infected with coronavirus, including ten people who were vaccinated or recovered from the di**sease. **[So just how well is their Jab working? Not well at all. This entire charade of Covid is all fraudulent. – rdb]**

According to Israel's Health Ministry, even though the travelers underwent a coronavirus test upon arrival at the airport, the second test is extremely important due to concerns that the vaccine does not provide protection against the Indian coronavirus variant, which [has already been detected](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304503) in small numbers in Israel.

**Currently, Israeli law does not require travelers to cooperate with coronavirus testing, other than the mandatory testing in Ben Gurion Airpo**rt. The major concern is that some of the travelers who have refused to test are recovered from coronavirus or immunized against it, and therefore not currently required to quarantine; if they are infected with the Indian variant, they may spread it within Israel.

It is not yet known whether the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine, which Israel has used to vaccinate over five million people, is effective against the Indian variant. According to Professor Nachman Ash, Israel's coronavirus czar, the Indian variant has "several signs" which are "not good" and [it may prove to be vaccine-resistant.](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304527) <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305181>

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**04/27/2021 NEWS AM – Don’t miss Shorashim Insights – link:**

<https://madmimi.com/p/88d5421?pact=1015409-162971810-1683292940-3f897f4c5f71cb7b83ba1e9607791a9c996ed0c5>

**Tatty My King - Benny Friedman**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHF1RbbfB5U**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHF1RbbfB5U)

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| **"I think that every true reformer, every real friend of liberty, will agree with me in saying that if we must erect safeguards, they should be rather for the security of the individual than of the mass, and that our chiefest care must be to train the majority to respect the rights of the minority, to prevent the claims of the few from being trampled under foot by the caprice or passion of the many." -- Sir Richard John Cartwright (1835-1912) Canadian Member of Parliament and Senator Source: in the Legislative Assembly, Canada, March 9, 1865; reproduced in Janet Ajzenstat, Paul Romney, Ian Gentles, and William D. Gairdner (Eds.), Canada’s Founding Debates (Toronto: Stoddart, 1999), p. 19.** |

**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 AB family – Wife just diagnosed with brain tumor**  **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 KL – troubling spiritual situation.**  **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 26:16And Abimelech said to Isaac, Go from us, for you are stronger than we. 17And Isaac went from there and camped in Gerar Valley, and lived there. 18And Isaac returned and dug the wells of water which they dug in the days of his father Abraham; and the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham. And he called names to them like the names which his father had called them.**

**UAE urges Israel to stop Jerusalem violence in rare rebuke**

***Emirati Foreign Ministry says it was concerned over 'acts of violence committed by right-wing extremist groups in the occupied East Jerusalem' and cautioned it was necessary to maintain 'maximum self-restraint'***

***Associated Press | Published: 04.26.21 , 15:47***

**The United Arab Emirates on Monday warned that any moves to change the historic identity of Jerusalem threaten peace, and called on Israel to put an end to violence following the latest clashes between Israelis and Palestinians in the ci**ty.

**The statement was a rare rebuke of Israel by the UAE, which has welcomed tens of thousands of Israeli tourists and signed a slew of deals to strengthen bilateral ties since the administration of President Donald Trump brokered a historic and surprise deal to normalize relations b**etween the two countries some seven months ago. The UAE move laid the path for Bahrain and Sudan to also formalize ties with Israel.



***Border Police patrolling Jerusalem in the midst of the riots (Photo: AFP)***

**The UAE Foreign Ministry said in a statement, carried on the Emirates' state news agency, that it was concerned over "acts of violence committed by right-wing extremist groups in the occupied East Jerusale**m."

**The ministry called on Israeli authorities to "assume responsibility toward de-escalation and putting an end to all aggressions a**nd practices that perpetuate tension and hostility."

**The UAE cautioned it was necessary to preserve Jerusalem's historical identity and maintain "maximum self-restraint to avoid the region slipping into new levels of instability** in a way that threatens peace."

**The immediate spark for the unrest was Israel's decision to barricade a plaza outside of Jerusalem's Old City where Palestinian residents traditionally gather in the evenings during the Muslim holy month of Rama**dan. The move deepened Palestinian concerns about Israel's control over east Jerusalem, which is home to sacred Jewish and Muslim sites.

Hundreds of young Palestinian took to the streets each evening to protest the barricades. Crowds hurled stones, firebombs and other objects at police, while officers used stun grenades and water cannons to disperse them.

The Israeli decision appeared to have been reversed late Sunday, when the barricades were suddenly removed. The violence had escalated to cross-border fighting between Israel and Gaza's militant Hamas group. **MORE -** <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/SkdKJEEP00>

**Far-right party leader: Arabs are citizens of Israel ‘for now at least’**

***Smotrich stands by position against a government propped up by Islamist Ra’am party, declaring any coalition reliant on ‘terror supporters’ is unacceptable***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:50 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/F210426YS27-e1619441201855.jpg)

***Religious Zionism leader Bezalel Smotrich speaks during a Knesset faction meeting on April 26, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)***

**Religious Zionism leader Bezalel Smotrich remarked Monday that Arabs are citizens of Israel, “for now at least**.”

**Smotrich’s far-right party is a part of Prime Minister Netanyahu’s right-wing-religious bloc. His refusal to join a right-wing minority government propped up by the Islamist Ra’am party is blocking one of Netanyahu’s few potential routes to forming a coal**ition.

**“Some of our enemies are still sitting in the Knesset and there are those who think it is possible to rely on them for assembling a governmen**t. Open your eyes and remove this stupidity from the agenda,” Smotrich said in prepared remarks before the press at the start of the Religious Zionism faction meeting, apparently referring to Ra’am.

**Further disparaging Israel’s Arab minority, Smotrich said, “Arabs are citizens of Israel, for now, at least. They have representatives, MKs, for now at least. In my opinion, by the way, representatives who are supporters of terrorism are not supposed to be he**re.”

**Smotrich was referring to both the majority-Arab Joint List and Ra’am parti**es, whose members are not Zionist, but have spoken out against violence and against terror.

**The Religious Zionism chair said that there are instances when cooperating with Arab-majority parties is acceptable, but that forming a government that is reliant on them is beyond the** pale.

He has instead called on New Hope chairman Gideon Sa’ar, who has vowed not to serve under Netanyahu, to put aside his differences with the premier and do exactly that so that a right-wing government can be formed.

Religious Zionism managed to make it into the Knesset with six seats thanks in no small part to Netanyahu, who orchestrated a merger between Smotrich’s far-right faction and the even more radical neo-Kahanist Otzma Yehudit and anti-LGBT Noam parties. The MKs on the party’s slate have a long history of remarks against Arabs, Muslims, Palestinians and LGBT individuals.

**But last week, Smotrich suggested it could be time for the prime minister to go, over what he deemed to be a feeble response from Netanyahu to ongoing Israeli-Palestinian unrest in Jerus**alem.

Netanyahu on Saturday called for “calm on all sides” after several nights of [clashes and chaos in East Jerusalem.](https://www.timesofisrael.com/fresh-clashes-erupt-between-israeli-forces-palestinians-in-old-city-west-bank/)

Posting a video from Friday night of the [beating of an Israeli man](https://www.timesofisrael.com/jerusalem-man-beaten-by-palestinian-mob-friday-says-city-in-a-third-intifada/) by a Palestinian mob, Smotrich tweeted: “Tell me, after countless terror incidents and lynchings by the Arab enemy in recent days, and after a rocket barrage from Gaza on southern communities, did Netanyahu seriously call this evening for ‘calming the spirits on all sides???’

**“Maybe it really is time to replace him**.”

Netanyahu’s Likud party said in response: “After the prime minister and Likud contributed three seats to Religious Zionism and reserved them another seat [on Likud’s slate], and since Smotrich is not a party to security assessments, it would be best for him to show humility and gratitude and not lash out at the prime minister.” **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/far-right-party-leader-arabs-are-citizens-of-israel-for-now-at-least/>

**Bennett, Sa’ar stress gaps in unity talks; Lapid insists they’re bridgeable**

***‘Change bloc’ faction heads assemble in Knesset with only eight days remaining for Netanyahu to form a government***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:05 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/pjimage-3.jpg)

***Left to right: Yesh Atid party leader Yair Lapid (Miriam Alster/Flash90); Yamina party chief Naftali Bennett; and New Hope party head Gideon Sa'ar (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)***

**The leaders of the right-wing Yamina and New Hope parties expressed caution over ongoing negotiations to form a unity government on Monday, admitting that significant gaps remained between them and the centrist Yesh Atid party, whose leader insisted that they are still bridgeab**le.

**The comments were made to reporters at the opening of weekly faction meetings at the Knesset, which were held with eight days remaining for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to try and form a government** before he is required to return the mandate to do so to President Rivlin.

**Yamina chair Naftali Bennett and New Hope chair Gideon Sa’ar both said that they would prefer that a right-wing government be formed, even in the coming eight days before Netanyahu must return the mandate. However, while Bennett said he would be thrilled if Netanyahu managed to cobble together a coalition, Sa’ar maintained his position that he would not serve under the Likud leader** and that the premier would have to step aside.

**While admitting it wasn’t their ideal scenario, Bennett and Sa’ar both said that they were prepared to join a unity coalition with Yesh Atid and the left-leaning Labor and Meretz p**arties.

“There are gaps, it will not be easy,” Bennett said in his prepared remarks before the media at the opening of Yamina’s faction meeting.

“It requires a lot of moderation and restraint from all sides. We insist that the government reflect the will of the people and the composition of the Knesset,” he added, referring to the parliamentary makeup of roughly 60 percent right-wing lawmakers from Likud (30), Shas (9), United Torah Judaism (7), Yisrael Beytenu (7), Yamina (7), Religious Zionism (6) and New Hope (6). Bennett has pushed in negotiations with **Lapid, who leads the bloc of parties seeking to oust Netanyahu, that the right have a majority in the cabinet, even** if the government consists of a larger number of left-wing and centrist lawmakers.

**Bennett appeared to be coordinating his message with Sa’ar, who said, “There are difficulties in forming a unity government. I can’t say if a government like this will be formed, but it is important to pursue this effort until the end. We have an obligation to do everything to prevent fifth elections.”**

**Asked if he would be willing to serve first as premier as part of a power-sharing agreement with Netanyahu, Sa’ar refused to answe**r. The Likud leader’s allies have reportedly been floating such a prospect as Netanyahu’s potential routes to assembling a coalition appear blocked.

Parroting a line used in recent days by Bennett, Sa’ar said any unity government would have to “safeguard our values and worldview.”

**Addressing reporters shortly after Bennett and Sa’ar, Lapid acknowledged that gaps exist in their unity tal**ks, “but we all agree that we need a full-time functioning government.”

**Insisting that a fifth election in two years would be catastrophic for the Israeli economy**, Lapid said that it would be possible to reach an agreement to form a unity government within a week or ten days. “We, for our part, will do everything,” he said.

The Yesh Atid leader later said that the position of Knesset speaker, which is currently held by Likud’s Yariv Levin, needs to be controlled by his party in order to safeguard democracy.

Once the mandate is returned, Rivlin will have several options, including tasking the next lawmaker in line — opposition leader Lapid.

T here had reportedly been some progress in talks between Bennett and Lapid, whose bloc comprises an assortment of left-wing, centrist, and right-wing parties with dramatically different worldviews on some key national issues. Lapid, who wants there to be no more than 20 ministers in the government, has agreed to Bennett and Sa’ar’s demand that there be more, though just how many is still disputed, Channel 13 reported.

**There are also disputes over the control of key ministries. Though Channel 13 reported that there is agreement among the parties that Gantz would remain defense minister, the Kan public broadcaster said that Sa’ar wants the post. The Justice Ministry is being chased by New Hope, Yamina, and some of the left-wing parties in the bloc, while the Labor and Yisrael Beytenu parties are haggling over the Finance Ministry,** Kan reported. Also, the Education Ministry is being contested by New Hope and the left-wing Meretz party, according to the station.

A Bennett-Lapid government would be based on a rotation of the premiership between Lapid and Bennett, according to Hebrew media reports. However, Bennett is said to be facing reluctance from within his own right-wing nationalist party to cooperate with Lapid, and some of his Yamina’s seven lawmakers may not agree to join such a coalition, Channel 12 reported. That would further hamper Lapid’s efforts to build a viable coalition.

Should no government be formed, the country will head to its fifth elections in two and half years. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-saar-stress-gaps-in-unity-talks-lapid-insists-theyre-bridgeable/> **[Power – power! It is all about power and control. Arrogance and pride is running the proposed leaders of Israel and they will ultimately pay for it. – rdb]**

**Netanyahu set to offer Bennett, Sa'ar PM rotation on Tuesday**

***Netanyahu has offered a rotation as prime minister to Knesset Speaker Yariv Levin (Likud), Shas leader Arye Deri and Blue and White chairman Benny Gantz, but none of the offers were taken seriously.***

*By* [*GIL HOFFMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/gil-hoffman) *APRIL 26, 2021 21:21*

**Prime Minister** [**Benjamin Netanyahu**](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/netanyahu-offers-premiership-to-gantz-666318) **will offer Yamina leader Naftali Bennett and New Hope chairman Gideon Sa'ar to go first in a rotation in the Prime Minister's Office as early as Tuesday night, after the Likud central committee meets to approve a future merger with their parties, sources in Likud told The Jerusalem Post on Mond**ay.

**Netanyahu will not reveal a preference between Bennett or Sa'ar, neither of whom he likes personall**y. He will **call upon them to decide among themselves** which one would receive the premiership, which would be contingent on both of them bringing their parties with them and enabling the [formation of a government](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/netanyahus-dream-of-right-wing-government-may-not-happen-opinion-666311) by the May 4 deadline.

In recent days, Netanyahu has offered a rotation as prime minister to Knesset Speaker Yariv Levin (Likud), Shas leader Arye Deri and Blue and White chairman Benny Gantz, but none of the offers were taken seriously. The offers were seen as trial balloons that were intended to soften the blow when the prime minister makes his real overture to Bennett and Sa'ar and to justify his invitations to them, whose factions are smaller than those of Deri and Gantz.

**The offer from Netanyahu could be used by Bennett and Sa'ar to obtain more leverage in their negotiations with opposition leader Yair Lapid on** a coalition of change.

**Bennett told his Yamina faction at the Knesset on Monday that his party would be willing to join a right-wing government that would not be led by Netanyahu**. He called on both political camps to compromise and display responsibility.

"Our preference is a right-wing government," Bennett said. "Yamina would join any right-wing government formed by Netanyahu or led by another figure on the Right who has the ability to lead the government, whether they are from Likud or elsewhere." Bennett said his second option is a unity government, which he continues to negotiate with Lapid and other party leaders. **MORE -**<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/saar-netanyahu-must-be-replaced-666372>

**Israel advised to remove Haifa petrochemical plants**

***Government-appointed committee recommends dismantling polluting industry posthaste and not later than 2031, freeing up massive swathes of land for residential and commercial use***

*Ilana Curiel, Ahiya Raved | Published: 04.26.21 , 19:13*

**Israel must remove the petrochemical plants in Haifa until 2031, an executive committee appointed by the government ruled on Monday. The panel, headed by National Economic Council Chairman Prof. Avi Simhon, recommended ending Bazan Group's oil refinement operations in the Haifa Bay, long accused of releasing significant amounts of pollution and being the culprit behind the area's excess cancer morbidity**. Bazan's operations in Haifa predate the establishment of Israel in 1948.



***The petrochemical industrial zone in Haifa Bay (Photo: Elad Gershgorn)***

**The panel recommends turning the region, one of Israel's largest metropolitan centers and home to the country's largest port, into a residential and work-oriented area. The state is poised to pocket billions in revenue from rezoning the land to build tens of thousands of housing units and businesses** in Haifa Bay.

**The committee noted that dismantling the petrochemical plants would lead to a decrease in the emissions of cancer-causing substances** such as nitric oxide and benzene in the area, among others, and even a reduction in pollutants from ship traffic in the ports.

**Prof. Simhon said that if the government takes decisive steps, it will be possible to remove the factories from the bay area within five to six year**s.

**The plan is subject to ensuring Israel's energy independence and secu**rity.

 The public will be able to review the plan and share their comments about its details, after which changes will be examined by the government.

***Environmental Protection Minister Gila Gamliel (Photo: Hadar Yoavian)***

**Environmental Protection Minister Gila Gamliel hailed the move which reduces Israel's dependence on polluting fossil fue**ls.

"We've managed to reach a consensus on the closure of the petrochemical industry in the Haifa Bay which is great news for the people of the Haifa metropolitan and the entire State of Israel," Gamliel said. "This is another significant step in reducing the State of Israel's dependence on polluting fossil fuels, on the way to realizing the vision of renewable energies." <https://www.ynetnews.com/environment/article/r1VH08VDd>

**Internal probe said to exonerate officer who killed mentally ill knifeman**

***Police Internal Investigations Department finds cop acted in self-defense when he fired multiple shots at Munir Anabtawi after being called to scene by distressed parents***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:02 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/290321_monir.jpg)

***Munir Anabtawi with his sister. (Mossawa Center)***

**A Justice Ministry probe has reportedly exonerated a police officer who shot dead a mentally ill Arab man after being dispatched to the scene in Haifa where the victim was brandishing a knife**.

**The ministry’s Police Internal Investigations Department determined that the officer, whose name has been barred from publication, acted in self-defense after finding himself in a life-threatening situation**, Channel 12 reported.

**As a result, the officer had no other option but to fire his weapon** at Munir Anabtawi.

Anabtawi’s brother told the network last month that his mother attempted to call an ambulance to help him when he had what appeared to be a psychotic episode, but accidentally reached the police, whose arrival led to tragic results. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/internal-probe-said-to-exonerate-officer-who-killed-mentally-ill-knifeman/>

**Health Ministry officials call to halt flights from India for several weeks**

***Warnings grow as Asian country battles major coronavirus surge that has seen it set new global records for daily infections***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:32 pm*

**Health Ministry officials are reportedly calling for all direct flights from India to be temporarily halted, as the Asian country battles a major coronavirus surge that has seen it set new global records for daily infections**.

**“We need to stop the direct flights from India to Israel for at least a few weeks until the situation stabilizes**,” officials were quoted by Channel 13 Monday as saying.

**A confirmed 349,691 infections over the past day brought India’s total to more than 16.9 million cas**es, behind only the United States. The country’s **health ministry reported another 2,767 deaths in the past 24 hours**, pushing India’s fatalities to 192,311.

Israeli health officials told Channel 13 that despite the raging I**ndian outbreak, Israel has not yet halted flights from the country because of students and foreign workers returning from there**.

“The skies won’t fall if the direct flights stop for a few weeks. The space for error is likely to be too big,” the officials reportedly said.

Israeli health officials have expressed concerns about the “Indian variant” of COVID-19, fearing that vaccines may be less effective against it.

**The Health Ministry has so far confirmed seven cases of the variant among unvaccinated travelers who returned to Israel from abroad, without** revealing from where.

**The majority of cases were identified through tests conducted at Ben Gurion Airpor**t, while the remainder were identified while the arrivals were quarantining.

**India has confirmed the new and potentially troublesome variant of the coronavir**us, which has two mutations in the spiky protein that the virus uses to fasten itself to cells. Dr. Rakesh Mishra, director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, said last month that these genetic tweaks could be of concern since they might help the virus spread more easily and escape the immune system.

**India is currently battling a record surge in infections, with experts suspecting the most likely cause is the presence of more infectious variants, incl**uding the one detected in the country.

**Last week Israel’s Health Ministry issued an advisory urging Israelis to avoid travel to India and six other countries** experiencing significant COVID-19 outbreaks, citing concerns of possible coronavirus strains that may be more resistant to vaccines.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP21114485429603-e1619384805129.jpg)

***A patient breathes with the help of oxygen provided by a Gurdwara, Sikh place of worship, inside a car in New Delhi, India, April 24, 2021. (Altaf Qadri/AP)***

**The ministry said that India, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Brazil, South Africa, Mexico and Turkey were selected in light of “the present situation and the morbidity trends”** there. It cited criteria such as the number of Israelis coming from those nations, the percentage of vaccinated and recovered people relative to confirmed cases, and evidence of the existence of coronavirus variants.

**The ministry further said all Israelis, including the vaccinated and recovered, should generally avoid any “unnecessary” international travel alto**gether.

The virus has been mutating throughout the pandemic. Most mutations are trivial, but scientists have been investigating which ones might make the virus spread more easily or make people sicker.

The three variants first detected in South Africa, the UK and Brazil have so far been considered the most worrisome. The most widespread of these was the more contagious variant that was detected in the United Kingdom last year. The extensive spread of the UK strain in Israel has been blamed for the severity of the Jewish state’s third coronavirus wave earlier this year. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/health-ministry-officials-call-to-halt-flights-from-india-for-several-weeks/>

**1,600-year-old multicolored mosaic with geometric motifs uncovered in Yavne**

***Whitish patina covering the flooring initially led archaeologists to think it was plain tiling; experts say it may have been part of a ‘splendid residential building’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:49 am*

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| ***1,600-year-old mosaic uncovered during archaeological excavations in Yavne (Assaf Peretz/Israel Antiquities Authority)***  ***1,600-year-old mosaic uncovered during archaeological excavations in Yavne (Assaf Peretz/Israel Antiquities Authority)*** | ***1,600-year-old mosaic uncovered during archaeological excavations in Yavne (Assaf Peretz/Israel Antiquities Authority)***  ***1,600-year-old mosaic uncovered during archaeological excavations in Yavne (Assaf Peretz/Israel Antiquities Authority)*** |
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**A 1,600-year-old mosaic uncovered in Yavne, which archaeologists said may have once graced a mansion in an affluent neighborhood, is set to go on display in the central city, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced Monday.**

**The multicolored mosaic flooring dated to the Byzantine era (4th-5th century CE) was unearthed during excavations and was initially thought to be plain white due to a patina coating.**

“At first, we did not realize that the floor is multicolored,” said Dr. Elie Haddad and Dr. Hagit Torgë of the IAA in a statement.

“We assumed that it was simple white mosaic paving belonging to yet another industrial installation. But black patches dotted around the mosaic suggested that it was more than one color and prompted us to remove the whitish patina that had coated it for years,” the experts said in the statement.

The mosaic was cleaned using special acid “and to our astonishment, a colorful mosaic carpet was revealed, ornamented with geometric motifs.”

The archaeologists said it was the first time that flooring of this type had been discovered in Yavne, and it “may have been part of a splendid residential building in a wealthy neighborhood adjacent to the industrial zone.”

Once it had been fully documented in situ, the mosaic was removed by the Israel Antiquities Authority and taken to one of its facilities for preservation treatment.

It is set to be displayed at the city’s cultural center as part of a joint initiative launched by the Yavne municipality, the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Israel Land Authority. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/1600-year-old-multicolored-mosaic-with-geometric-motifs-uncovered-in-yavne/> **[The walk down history everywhere you walk and touch in the Land of Israel. – rdb]**

**104 new ‘olim’ from North America arrive in Israel**

***The olim (immigrants) hailed from New York, New Jersey, Ontario, California, Minnesota, Florida, Georgia, Illinois and Maryland.***

*******By* [*JEREMY SHARON*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jeremy-sharon) *APRIL 26, 2021 21:00*

***New olim from North America with Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Nefesh B’Nefesh and Aliyah and Integration Minister Pnina Tamano-Shata.(photo credit: SHAHAR AZRAN)***

**The aliyah flight, chartered by** [**Nefesh B’Nefesh**](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/nefesh-bnefesh-olim-continue-to-arrive-despite-covid-19-635001) **and facilitated in cooperation with the Aliyah and Integration Ministry, the Jewish Agency and Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF), brought 28 families, 18 singles and 27 retirees to their new** home.

The olim (immigrants) hailed from New York, New Jersey, Ontario, California, Minnesota, Florida, Georgia, Illinois and Maryland and have chosen to live in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Beit Shemesh, Nahariya, Ra’anana, Herzliya and Netanya among other destinations.

The **oldest oleh was aged 98 years old and the youngest a tender four-month-old baby**.

Thirty-five of the new immigrants have moved to Israel as part of the KKL-JNF and Nefesh B’Nefesh’s “Go Beyond” program, which provides enhanced aliyah packages and increased services to new olim moving to Israel’s periphery and Jerusalem.

“I am honored and excited to welcome today’s new olim from North America,” said Aliyah and Integration Minister [Pnina Tamano-Shata](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/pnina-tamano-shata-keeping-aliyah-to-israel-going-amid-covid-19-659452) upon their arrival.

**“Despite these challenging times, we are doing our utmost to expedite aliyah from around the world**. We will continue to provide the support necessary for new olim in order for them to feel at home from the moment they arrive, in full cooperation with Nefesh B’Nefesh and the Jewish Agency.”

Chairman of the Jewish Agency Isaac Herzog said he was excited by the arrival of the new olim and lauded their arrival despite ongoing difficulties caused by the global COVID-19 crisis.

“ Despite the significant travel restrictions during the pandemic, we’ve succeeded in bringing tens of thousands of Jews home to Israel, proving that nothing can stop aliyah,” said Herzog. “I wish these latest arrivals all the success in building their new lives in Israel.”

Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, co-founder and executive director of Nefesh B’Nefesh noted that interest in aliyah has risen during the pandemic despite actual immigration to Israel having decreased sharply due to airport closures, massive reduction in commercial air travel and limitations placed on government bureaucracies during the coronavirus crisis.

“Since the beginning of the pandemic, despite all the challenges and uncertainty, interest in aliyah has continued to rise,” said Fass. “As a result, we have worked harder than ever to overcome the hurdles and prepare for the unexpected as best as we can. Our dedicated staff has been working round the clock to support and help facilitate the aliyah of our olim, who have shown incredible resilience in the face of delayed dreams and continue to inspire us with their commitment to the Zionist dream of living in Israel.” **MORE -** <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/104-new-olim-from-north-america-arrive-in-israel-666409> **[That is really pretty amazing. Pandemic/ jabs and everything else and still the children of Israel seek to come home to the land promised by The Holy One. – rdb]**

**Iran again unveils masses of small kamikaze drones**

***The Islamic Republic has also created a new radar for drones, according to Press TV.***

*By* [*SETH J. FRANTZMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/seth-j-frantzman) *APRIL 26, 2021 17:29*



***Drone displayed in Army Day parade in Iran, April 18, 2021 (photo credit: SCREENSHOT/MEHR NEWS)***

**It appears that it’s not a regular week in Iran unless the country is showing off more** [**drones**](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/irans-missiles-drone-arsenal-a-growing-destabilizing-threat-report-665763) **and warning about how it can strike at Israel or everywhere else in the Middle East. People are taking notice as well because US Central Command head Kenneth McKenzie has warned that US air superiority has suffered due to Iran’s drone threat**.

**The latest is a ceremony where** [**Iran**](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/syrian-oil-tanker-damaged-after-being-hit-by-suspected-drone-attack-666224) **showed off a series of small drones, some of which look like the usual Iranian kamikaze drones, often modelled after their Ababil series. This type of drone, as well as the Qasef, have been exported to Yemen**. Tehran said this week that “the Iranian Army Ground Force has unveiled seven domestically-developed high-tech military achievements, including air defense systems, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and electronic warfare devices.”

**Iran has also created new radar for drones, according to Press TV. “The Taha 1400 system uses directional antennas to intelligently cover a wide area of ​​operation, and maintains the flight safety of various drones in the enemy’s local**e. The system is smart and light, a low-voltage consumer and can be installed quickly and easily. Finally, a land-based jamming system used for countering hostile drones and remote-controlled systems were among the new military achievements unveiled on Sunday.”

Iran also says it has a new Ground Forces Ranesh-1 (Propulsion-1) micro turbojet engine, which can be used in various drones, single-seat light aircraft, a wide array of missile systems, and unmanned boats. “The turbojet engine is light enough to generate high-speed thrust, runs on different types of fuel, has a high service ceiling compared to piston engines, can carry payloads, and can considerably boost the flight endurance record in a variety of drones," it said.

The other home-grown products included self-protection and drone-mounted TIAM 1400 system for detection of the enemy’s radars and air surveillance.

**Iran recently showed footage of a US aircraft carrier it said its drones were able to photograph.** The country has said drones are its “trump card” against the US. A top Iranian general warned “the Zionists” recently after tensions.

This came after rumors of a drone attack on a ship off Syria and after Iranian backed groups in Iraq used a drone to attack a US facility in Erbil. Iran has numerous articles boasting about its drone exports to the Houthis in Yemen as well.

Iran’s latest little army of drones that can swarm and carry out kamikaze attacks ostensibly illustrate that the Islamic Republic can field a mass of drones with a 400 km. range and warheads of between 5 kg. and 15 kg. Iran used a drone swarm to attack Saudi Arabia in September 2019. It is unclear if these latest small drones actually work or how they are guided, propelled or launched.  <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-again-unveils-masses-of-small-kamikaze-drones-666379> **[Very concerning at the very least one has to say about this. Particularly after the episode of the ‘errant rocket’ toward Diamona and the nuclear facility. – rdb]**

**Iran foreign minister: John Kerry gave me intel on Israeli covert ops**

***Mohammad Javad Zarif made disclosure in leaked audio reported by N.Y. Times***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published April 26, 2021 at 4:37pm*

**Iran's foreign minister disclosed in leaked audio** [**reported by the New York Times**](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/25/world/asia/iran-suleimani-zarif.html) **that John Kerry informed him that Israel engaged in more than 200 covert operations against Iran in Sy**ria.

**Mohammad Javad Zarif – who was Iran's chief negotiator in the 2015 nuclear deal – claimed he received the intel while Kerry was serving as secretary of state, according to the report. Zarif said that at the time, the Revolutionary Guard Corps and supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei kept him in the dark about Iran's government negotiations and military operati**ons.

**The Times reported, citing the audio, that Kerry's disclosure shocked Zari**f.

**After widespread condemnation on Monday, Kerry denied the report**.

"I can tell you that this story and these allegations are unequivocally false," he wrote on Twitter. "This never happened - either when I was Secretary of State or since."

I can tell you that this story and these allegations are unequivocally false. This never happened - either when I was Secretary of State or since. <https://t.co/BTOdFE1khW>

— John Kerry (@JohnKerry) [April 26, 2021](https://twitter.com/JohnKerry/status/1386822566539632643)

A State Department spokesman said the strikes on Iranian interests in Syria already been disclosed by Israel.

**[Strange as it seems I would rather believe Zarif who was being recorded and not expecting it to be released rather than Kerry the rat any day of the week this slimy piece of garbage needs to be locked up in gitmo until he rots. – rdb]**

**On Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh confirmed the authenticity of the recording, explaining it was part of a seven-hour interview Zarif made for a think tank tied to the Iranian presidency. Khatibzadeh called the leak "illegal," insisting it was "selectively" edited. But he said nothing about how it might have been rel**eased.

**Kerry was** [**accused in 2018 of trying to undermine President Trump by conducting "shadow diplomacy"**](https://www.wnd.com/2004/10/27242/) **with Iranian officials to salvage the nuclear deal** he helped negotiate under President Obama. The deal gave Iran $1.8 billion in cash and lifted sanctions that unfroze an estimated $50 billion in liquid assets. The accusation against Kerry echoed charges five decades ago that he conducted unauthorized diplomacy with communist Vietnamese leaders in Paris.

The United States under Trump withdrew from the Iran deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, in May 2018. At the time, Trump called the agreement "a horrible one-sided deal that should have never, ever been made. He said "it didn't bring calm, it didn't bring peace, and it never will."

**Kerry now serves on the National Security Council as the special presidential envoy for** climate.

**Among the many critics Monday was former U.N. ambassador Nikki Hal**ey.

**"This is disgusting on many levels. Biden and Kerry have to answer for why Kerry would be tipping off Ir**an, the number one sponsor of terror, while stabbing one of our greatest partners, Israel, in the back," she wrote on Twitter.

**Noah Pollak of the Democratic Alliance Group, a pro-Israel foreign policy group, said Kerry "was ratting out Israeli covert operations in Syria directly to the Iranian foreign mi**nister."

"Let that sink in. Wow," he tweeted.

Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut Chris Murphy mocked Kerry's Republican accusers, who regard Iranian leaders as "dangerous lying thieves who cannot ever be trusted ... unless they are making accusations about John Kerry when of course they are telling the 100% truth."

In the leaked audio, Zarif spoke of his limited power under Ayatollah Ali Khameini and the impact of the U.S. killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani in January 2020.

The reason Zarif has surved for eight years as foreign minister, according to a former Iran expert at the State Department, is "he serves as the ‘reasonable’ storefront to the world, protecting the more empowered radical elements of the regime from Western and press scrutiny." **[The vast majority of Foreign Ministries are primarily PR storefronts to the world. They won’t usually give you much of anything other than what the country wants exposed. – rdb]**

Gabriel Noronha said in a statement reported by Fox News that Zarif’s Foreign Ministry "is relegated to the job of the marketing and PR team, justifying and defending the policy choices of the IRGC and Supreme Leader Khamenei abroad."

"I think the leak was likely instigated by regime insiders who have long hated Zarif and tried to oust him — they oppose current efforts to rejoin the JCPOA and also want to bolster domestic opposition to President Rouhani and his allies running for office in June," Noronha said.

What on earth is this, [@JohnKerry](https://twitter.com/JohnKerry)? [pic.twitter.com/kpFyfNcRMD](https://t.co/kpFyfNcRMD)

— Cliff Sims (@Cliff\_Sims) [April 26, 2021](https://twitter.com/Cliff_Sims/status/1386523579286790174)

The New York Times report actually buried Zarif's disclosure near the bottom of its story, [noted David Harsanyi in a column for National Review Online](https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/04/john-kerry-enemy-of-israel/).

**Harsanyi said it's now clear that Kerry "isn't merely a critic of Israel; he is an advers**ary."

**"A high-ranking American official feels comfortable sharing this information with an autocratic adversary — a government that's murdered hundreds of Americans, regularly kidnapped them, interfered with our elections, and propped up a regime that gasses its people — about the covert actions of a long-time American ally," he w**rote.

"What else did he tell Zarif? The Times doesn’t say."

Harsanyi said it "wouldn't be surprising if Israel was more reluctant to share intel with the United States when Democrats such as Kerry show more fondness for those making genocidal threats against the Jewish people than they do for the state that protects them."

**Pompeo: 'It's wrong'**

**Meanwhile, world powers are engaged in talks in Vienna to find a way for Iran to comply with the nucle**ar deal. Tehran has begun enriching uranium up to 60% purity, moving it closer to the weapons-grade level of 90%.

**In May 2019, then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo affirmed President Trump's claim that Kerry violated the Logan Act, saying he witnessed the former secretary of state meeting with Iranian leader**s.

"**It's true. I was there in Munich ... I saw not only Kerry ... [others] met with the Iranian leadership," Pompeo said. "It's unusual, but more importantly, it's wrong**."

The Logan Act bars unauthorized persons from negotiating with foreign governments.

**Kerry has admitted he met with Zarif at least twice during the Trump administratio**n. But a Kerry source told CNN that Kerry didn't talk to Iranian officials after President Trump announced the U.S. was pulling out of the Iran deal. The source said that prior to the withdrawal, Kerry did communicate with the Iranians to urge them to stay in the deal. **[Hang the buzzard! rdbp**

Last week, [the American Center for Law and Justice filed a lawsuit against the State Department](https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/state-department-sued-hiding-details-kerrys-sabotage-trump/) for refusing to respond with information that could document Kerry's unauthorized diplomacy.

The ACLJ said Kerry's actions set a "very dangerous precedent."

**"No president, regardless of party, should be comfortable with a former government official acting as a private citizen to undermine and sabotage U.S. foreign policy** on behalf of their future successor," the legal group said. "It’s dangerous. Particularly when the country they’re meeting with also happens to be the world’s number one state sponsor of terrorism."

**'A hard reality'**

[**Kerry said in November**](https://www.wnd.com/2020/11/4871642/) **that Biden's presidency would help propel the World Economic Forum's globalist "Great Reset" plan to use the coronavirus pandemic to transform the world's eco**nomy.

"The notion of a reset is more important than ever before," Kerry said in a World Economic Forum panel. "I personally believe ... we're at the dawn of an extremely exciting time."

Kerry said the rejoining of the Paris Climate Accord under Biden would help drive the "Great Reset."

Kerry also was at odds with the Trump administration over policy with the Palestinian Authority. [In 2016, Kerry insisted there would be no "separate peace" in the Middle East](https://www.wnd.com/2020/09/see-john-kerry-declaration-middle-east-didnt-age/) between Israel and the Arab world without the Palestinian participation.

But Kerry turned out to be wrong when the Trump administration brokered agreements that normalized relations between Israel and four Muslim-majority nations.

At a 2016 forum at the Brookings Institution, Kerry declared there "will be no separate peace between Israel and the Arab world," Kerry said. "I want to make that very clear with all of you.

"I've heard several prominent politicians in Israel sometimes saying, 'Well, the Arab world is in a different place now. We just have to reach out to them. We can work some things with the Arab world and we'll deal with the Palestinians.' No. No, no and no," he said.

"I can tell you that, reaffirmed within the last week because I've talked to the leaders of the Arab community, there will be no advanced and separate peace with the Arab world without the Palestinian process and Palestinian peace," said Kerry.

"Everybody needs to understand that. That is a hard reality." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/iran-foreign-minister-john-kerry-gave-intel-israeli-covert-ops/> **[This is simply repugnant and those guilty need to pay big time. – rdb]**

**Amid nuclear deal talks, Iran, US warships in 1st tense Mideast brush in a year**

***Incident follows a series of events attributed to a shadow war between Iran and Israel, including attacks on regional shipping and sabotage at Iran’s Natanz nuclear facility***

*By* [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 12:08 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP21117190090277.jpg)

***In an April 2, 2021, photo released by the U.S. Navy, an Iranian Revolutionary Guard vessel cut in front of the U.S. Coast Guard ship USCGC Monomoy in the Persian Gulf. (US Navy via AP)***

**American and Iranian warships had a tense encounter in the Persian Gulf earlier this month, the first such incident in about a year amid wider turmoil in the region over Tehran’s tattered nuclear deal, the US Navy said Tuesda**y.

**Footage released by the US Navy showed a ship commanded by Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard cutting in front of the USCGC Monomoy, causing the Coast Guard vessel to come to an abrupt stop with its engine smoking on A**pril 2.

**The Guard also did the same with another Coast Guard vessel, the USCGC Wrangell, said Cmdr. Rebecca Rebarich, a spokeswoman for the Navy’s Mideast-based 5th Fleet**. Such close passes risk the ships colliding at sea.

**Iran did not immediately acknowledge the incident in the southern reaches of the Persian Gulf**, which resulted in no injuries or damage.

**“The US crews issued multiple warnings via bridge-to-bridge radio**, five short blasts from the ships’ horns, and while the (Iranian) Harth 55 responded to the bridge-to-bridge radio queries, they continued the unsafe maneuvers,” Rebarich said. “After approximately three hours of the US issuing warning and conducting defensive maneuvers, the (Iranian) vessels maneuvered away from the US ships and opened distance between them.”

The Wall Street Journal first reported on the incident, which involved the Iranian Harth support ship and three Iranian fast-attack craft. The Coast Guard units operate out of Bahrain as part of Patrol Forces Southwest Asia, its biggest unit overseas. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-nuclear-deal-talks-iran-us-warships-in-1st-tense-mideast-brush-in-a-year/>

**Seth Rich bombshell: Someone 'wanted to pay or actually paid a lot of money' to murder him**

**FBI reignites mystery with release of cryptic 'pay for his death' document**

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 26, 2021 at 1:48pm*

**The FBI, in its release of heavily redacted documents regarding murdered Democratic National Committee employee Seth Rich, has included a cryptic "pay for his death" n**ote.

**Rich was the DNC employee who was shot and killed as he walked to his Washington, D.C., home at about 4 a.m. on July 10, 2016. There was evidence of a struggle, with his hands, knees and face bruised, yet he had two shots in his back. Police determined it was a robbery, but his wallet and other items were not taken. Two weeks later, WikiLeaks began releasing DNC emails damaging to Hillary Clinton, and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange mentioned Rich on Dutch TV:** "Whistleblowers go to significant efforts to get us material and often very significant risks. There's a 27-year-old, works for the DNC, was shot in the back, murdered just a few weeks ago for unknown reasons as he was walking down the street in Washington."

**Now,** [**One America News reports**](https://www.oann.com/fbi-someone-couldve-paid-for-seth-richs-murder-releases-seth-rich-files/) **the FBI's release of records in reponse to a Freedom of Information Act request "appear to show that an undisclosed entity either wanted to pay or actually paid a lot of money to get Seth Rich kill**ed."

[**An FBI document dated Nov. 7, 2017, states:**](https://www.scribd.com/document/504450923/FBI-Releases-Records-About-Murdered-DNC-Analyst-Seth-Rich#from_embed)**"Given [redacted] it is conceivable that an individual or group would want to pay for his deat**h."

It follows a document titled "Case opening & Summary," which is heavily redacted.

There is a reference to a "Dark web threat," and the explanation **is: "A company called [redacted] was conducting research for an unrelated, non-law enforcement client and came upon a site called [redacted]. This site listed [redacted] as a target. On November 5, 2017, [redacted] felt an obligation to take action so they notified NYPD who in turn, contacted the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC). Boston FBI attempted to contact [redacted] the same day and made successful contact on November 6,201**7."

The OAN reported said: "**Democrats and mainstream media have baselessly dismissed Rich’s murder as a 'conspiracy theory' and claimed it was a robbery**, although none of his valuable items was taken. However, FBI documents appear to suggest Rich could have been a victim of foul play tied to D.C. politics."



***Murdered DNC staffer Seth Rich (Photo: GoFundMe)***

**Debbie Georgatos, host of "America, Can We Talk?' noted: "The area within the DNC where Seth Rich was working was one where he would have had access and been able to see what the Democrat Party was doing, [and] just as it happened in 2020, was happening in 2016 election**. Which was the electronic manipulation of voter tabulation software, or, in plain English: Electronic manipulation of votes."

**Rich survived for about an hour after he was shot but was heavily intoxicated** and unable to provide police with a statement, the report said.

[**The Gateway Pundit noted**](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/04/fbi-documents-bombshell-undisclosed-entity-couldve-paid-seth-richs-murder/) **the FBI previously had denied there were any documents on Rich's de**ath.

WND columnist and author Jack Cashill pointed out that according to a lawyer who has investigated the case, Ty Clevenger, a government watchdog had "**inadvertently obtained records about Mr. Rich by requesting communications between FBI lawyer Lisa Page and supervisory agent Peter Strzok**."

Cashill said the "header in the heavily redacted email string is 'Seth Rich' and in one email Agent Strzok boasts about having 'squashed' something pertaining to Mr. Rich." **MORE -** <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/seth-rich-bombshell-someone-wanted-pay-actually-paid-lot-money-murder/> [**This is most interesting. It has been alleged that Rich was the source for all the info released on Hillary C by Wiki and that this was a paid hit job by DNC leadership ( = Clinton ). Why would they say robbery when his goods were intact? Stupid. Rich had a motive because he was a Bernie supporter and Hillary had screwed over Bernie and his friends. It would be amazing if this finally came to light and could be proved. Another huge issue from this article is that the FBI was once again trying to hide information and cover for the DNC. The group leadership is corrupt and needs to go far away. – rdb]**

**Airline bans anti-mask GOP lawmaker, making her commute infinitely harder**

***'Nothing could get in the way to be in the Capitol to fight executive branch infringement'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published April 26, 2021 at 1:09pm* ***By Andrew Trunsky*** *Daily Caller News Foundation*

**Alaska Airlines said Saturday that it banned state Sen. Lora Reinbold after she repeatedly refused to wear a mask on its flights**.

The **airline is the only one that offers regularly scheduled direct flights from Eagle River, Reinbold’s hometown, to** [**Juneau**](https://dailycaller.com/2021/03/10/alaska-cornavirus-vaccines/)**, the state capital**, according to the [Anchorage Daily News](https://www.adn.com/politics/alaska-legislature/2021/04/24/alaska-airlines-bans-eagle-river-lawmaker-for-violating-covid-19-mask-policy/), casting uncertainty over how she would commute from her district to work. The drive between the two is just shy of 21 hours, and goes through Canada.

“We have notified Senator Lora Reinbold that she is not permitted to fly with us for her continued refusal to comply with employee instruction regarding the current mask policy,” [Alaska Airlines](https://dailycaller.com/2020/12/29/alaska-airlines-animals-dogs-not-allowed-flights-department-of-transportation/) spokesman Tim Thompson told the ADN. “The suspension is effective immediately, pending further review.”

**In a** [**Facebook post**](https://www.facebook.com/Senator-Lora-Reinbold-283917281734146) **Sunday, Reinbold said she had found an alternate means of trave**l: “I have a new appreciation for the marine ferry system,” she said, adding that part of her journey would be made by car as well. “I am keenly aware of the monopoly in air transport to Juneau that needs reviewed!”

**“Nothing could get in the way to be in the Capitol to fight executive branch infringement on the legislature & defending your rights,” she a**dded.

In an earlier post, she said that she believed “constitutional rights are at risk under corporate covid policies,” and that she was “reasonable” with airline employees.

Despite the ban, she said she hoped to be back on Alaska Airlines flights in the future. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/airline-bans-anti-mask-gop-lawmaker-making-commute-infinitely-harder/> **[This definitely sounds like a lady we need to have in DC to help with their bad usurpation of citizens rights. – rdb]**

**Police shortage: Cops retiring in droves, 'recruiting crisis,' applications 'historically low'**

[*Paul Sacca*](https://www.theblaze.com/u/paulsacca) *April 24, 2021*

**Following the "defund the police" movement and the "abolish the police" movement, constant negative coverage of law enforcement by the media, anti-police sentiment becoming mainstream, and the threat of riots have contributed to a police shortage across the country.**

**The Philadelphia Police Department currently has 268 vacancies and is expecting even more shortag**es in the near future.

**"From Jan. 1 through Thursday, 79 Philadelphia officers have been accepted into the city's Deferred Retirement Option Program,** meaning they intend to retire within four years, according to Mayor Jim Kenney's office," [the Philadelphia Inquirer](https://www.inquirer.com/news/philadelphia-police-recruitment-pennsylvania-nj-jobs-20210423.html) reported. "During the same time period last year, just 13 officers had been accepted into the program, the office said."

"It's the perfect storm. We are anticipating that the department is going to be understaffed by several hundred members, because hundreds of guys are either retiring or taking other jobs and leaving the department," Mike Neilon, spokesperson for the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police, told the newspaper.

**Neighboring New Jersey is facing a "recruiting crisis," according to Pat Colligan, president of the New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Assoc**iation.

Colligan said that recent notorious police-involved deaths of citizens such as George Floyd, Tamir Rice, and Breonna Taylor have impacted recruiting efforts.

**"Every action has a reaction. When you vilify every police officer for every bad police officer's decision, [people] don't want to take this job anymore,"** Colligan, head of New Jersey's largest police union, said. "It's been a very trying and difficult time to put on the badge every day."

Colligan also said the "quality has really diminished in the last few years," which could mean more tragic police confrontations in the future.

Col. Patrick Callahan, the acting superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, said the state's largest police agency received a "historically low" number of applications this year. In some years, the New Jersey State Police would usually receive between 15,000 to 20,000 applications – this year they only received 2,023 qualified applicants as of Thursday, according to [NJ.com](https://www.nj.com/news/2021/04/nj-is-seeking-state-police-recruits-but-applications-are-historically-low-officials-say.html).

**"The atmosphere with police work right now is people just don't want to apply," Robert Fox, president of the New Jersey State Fraternal Order of Polic**e, said.

The Baltimore City Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 3 said there were "recruitment and retention issues," which prompted the "topic of closing police district(s)."

**"Our Patrol numbers are now below 700 officers which is about 300-400 below what is needed,**" the Baltimore FOP said, according to [WBFF-TV](https://foxbaltimore.com/news/local/bpd-addresses-fop-tweet-concerning-districts-officer-shortage). "This creates huge safety issues for our officers and for the citizens of Baltimore."

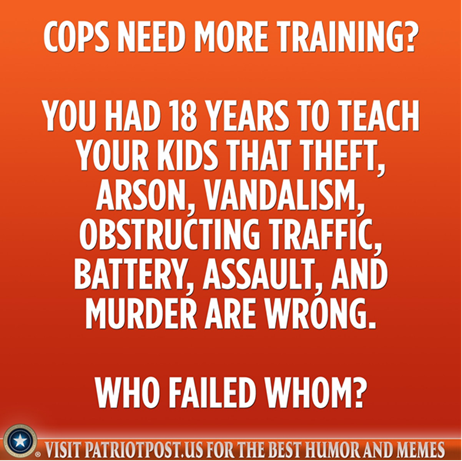
After facing a police shortage, Albany Police Chief Michael Persley [said](https://wfxl.com/news/local/police-shortage-within-apd-chief-wants-to-add-incentives-aimed-to-make-officers-stay) the department should offer more incentives to attract new recruits.

Officials also said that the pandemic has hurt police recruiting since new officer training was suspended.

"And you got to remember that once you go into the academy, it takes you about 10 months to finish. So, we're not looking at putting any boots on the ground until maybe next Spring," Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #5 President John McNesby told [WPVI-TV](https://6abc.com/10528861/?ex_cid=TA_WPVI_TW&taid=6080b3dc5a08ec00013217de&utm_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter). <https://www.theblaze.com/news/police-shortage-retirement-recruiting-philadelphia>

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| **Five minutes -Please watch!**  [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CcHpKkA7do**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CcHpKkA7do)  **I Was a Police Officer, 3587** |

**[Why would anyone be surprised? A blind man could have seen this coming. There is no reason to hold a job if you feel little or no satisfaction from your work and don’t feel appreciated and in fact if you feel persecuted which is the situation that currently exists in many large cities.**

**The real problem in this country is a couple of generations of young folks who have been enabled and pampered and never learned the meaning of the word “NO”. When an officer says stop, if you have a brain you stop and you stop NOW.**

**Look at many of the young folks today who continually challenge and rebel against parental authority. If a child hasn’t learned the meaning of the word “NO” by the time they are about 2, the battle is lost. Talking and cajoling, explaining, pleading and arguing with children is foolish.**

**Yes is Yes and No is NO and if you don’t learn to obey immediately there will be very severe painful consequences.**

**We see this every day. Today’s parents are more worried about the kid’s ego strength and feelings of self-worth which might be damaged (which is ridiculous because the 3 year old mentality is the SELF of I/ME and they are center of their world). There is a lot more than self-worth that needs to be damaged on a bunch of these children. If you look at the rioters, it is obvious that they are self-centered egomaniacs and fundamentally evil. If they don’t learn to obey at home then it is the police and school teachers that have to try to cope with kids that never learned the essence of self-control. This is the godless society of today.**

**Similar problems are in the healthcare professions where people assume no responsibility for themselves. The majority of older physicians want out NOW because the liability, excessive tort problems, and the attitude of patients today is very demanding and difficult to work with. Soon you will find a severe shortage of most professionals. – rdb]**

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| **COVID Shots to “Decimate World Population,” Warns Dr. Bhakdi**  *by* [*Alex Newman*](https://thenewamerican.com/author/alex-newman/) *April 16, 2021*  [***https://rumble.com/vfpgoh-dr.-bhakdi-interview.html***](https://rumble.com/vfpgoh-dr.-bhakdi-interview.html)  In this exclusive interview with The New American magazine’s Senior Editor Alex Newman, world-renown German-Thai-American microbiologist Dr. Sucharit Bhakdi warns that the COVID hysteria is based on lies and that the COVID “vaccines” are set to cause a global catastrophe and a decimation of the human population. Starting off, he explains that the PCR test has been abused to produce fear in a way that is unscientific. Next, he explains what the mRNA vaccines are going to do to the human body in terms and using analogies that anyone can understand. Among other concerns, he expects massive deadly clotting as well as immune system responses that will destroy the human body. Finally, Bhakdi, who warned of impending “doom” during a Fox News interview that went viral, calls for criminal prosecutions of the people responsible and an immediate halt to this global experiment.  **This is an outstanding presentation by Dr. Gold on the civil rights problems from Covid at health and freedom Conference.**  [**https://rumble.com/vftm3j-full-speech-dr.-simone-gold-health-and-freedom-conference-2021.html?mref=6zof&mrefc=2**](https://rumble.com/vftm3j-full-speech-dr.-simone-gold-health-and-freedom-conference-2021.html?mref=6zof&mrefc=2)  **The purpose is to return people to freedom and their civil rights**  **Go to American Frontline doctors.** |

**[IF YOU haven’t figured out yet what this whole process we have been through for OVER the last 2 years is about you need to wake up because it is a conspiracy to take down the USA and any government that has a hint of nationalism or self-reliance. They want our economy gone and our currency devalued to NOTHING and we are to be subservient to the socialist/communist one world government which is run by the mega-wealthy elite. The entire process goes back to the club of Rome in 1968 which was the predecessor to the WEC. It was the elite wealthy who determined that the world could not sustain itself with our rising population and it would require limiting the population to (I believe it stated) 500 million people and having to ‘thin out’ the unfit. That is truly obscene eugenics but it started and was stated publicly then. Everyone wrote it off as a ‘conspiracy theory’. It is not a theory at all because it was made known. Known information is not a theory. It was at about this time that the WHO began their huge push for abortion and for worldwide birth control. In some countries the push for euthanasia was begun. Obviously there has been resistance and their initial plans were not efficient enough. Klaus Schwab has openly stated that we must work on a reset and population control. Bill Gates entire family was involved in Planned parenthood and population control and was openly in a eugenics club until it became politically incorrect. There is a plan and it isn’t a good one for “those who are less fit’ than the elite. You need to wake up and smell the roses.**

**If you look at this prophetically you will note that in both Old Testament and New Testament it refers to huge groups dying and being eliminated. This is truly a precursor to those events. – rdb]**

**Michigan Mask Requirement Extending to Toddlers Takes Effect**

[*Hannah Bleau*](https://www.breitbart.com/author/hannah-bleau/) 26 Apr 20211,035

**Michigan extended its mask mandate to include toddlers, with the changes officially going into effect Mon**day.

**Last week, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)**[**announced**](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/04/16/michigan-gov-gretchen-whitmer-expands-mask-mandate-to-2-year-olds/) **it would expand its current mask mandate to include children ages 2-4 amid surging cases in the blue state**. Children under the age of five were previously exempt.

Per the current order, a face mask is [required](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98455-557116--,00.html) for everyone two years and older, and even those who are exempt — whether for medical reasons or age — are “strongly encouraged” to wear a face covering.

“The change means that kids from 2-4 are now subject to the masking requirement just like everyone else,” MDHHS Public Information Officer Bob Wheaton wrote in a statement.

“So if an 18 year old would be required to mask because they were in a gathering at a park, so would a 2-4 year old,” he explained. **MORE -** <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/04/26/michigan-mask-requirement-extending-to-toddlers-takes-effect/> **[this is obscene. Whitmer and her toadies are a bunch of idiots. The morbidity in kids is negligible and the infectivity is even less. It is absolutely unhealthy for kids to be put in masks. – rdb]**

**Nolte: Woketard Oscar Ratings Plummet 58%, First Time Below 10 Million Viewers**

[John Nolte](https://www.breitbart.com/author/john-nolte/) 26 Apr 20216,173

**“In delayed fast national results just released by Nielsen, the 93rd Academy Awards were watched by a mere 9.85 million, with a dismal rating of 1.9 among the 18-49 demographic,”** [**reports**](https://deadline.com/2021/04/2021-0scars-tv-ratings-academy-awards-low-abc-disney-1234744135/) **the far-left Deadlin**e.

How dreadful is that? Well, last year’s Oscars used to be the lowest-rated in history, and this is a collapse of 58 percent below that.  **In the key 25-54 age demo, the collapse was a whopping – this is not a typo – 64 percent**. **MORE -** <https://www.breitbart.com/entertainment/2021/04/26/nolte-woketard-oscar-ratings-plummet-58-first-time-below-10-million-viewers/> **[This is great. It is time that these vile critters in the cinema started to realize that they are totally a fraud and inconsequential. – rdb]**

**Commentary:**

**Earth Day is Killing Us**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*April 25, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/04/earth-day-is-killing-us.html)

Grouches complain that a lot of fake holidays are created by companies, but Earth Day is actually a fake holiday created by a sharp Madison Avenue ad agency, and the name comes to us from the same guy who coined, “Timex: It takes a licking and keeps on ticking".  
 The Earth takes a licking much better than Timex watches, but it’s the job of ad agencies to convince us that consumer products are permanent, while the world is ephemeral.

Madison Avenue supplied the name, but Senator Gaylord Nelson, the eugenicist Democrat, had come up with the idea for the event. Gaylord’s Earth Day kickoff hit a bump when Indians showed up and threw garbage on the stage to protest his environmental plan to seize their land for a national park. But the media excised this inconvenient truth from Earth Day history.  
 Real inconvenient truths don’t appear in Al Gore’s documentaries.  
 It was 1970. Nixon’s Vietnamization was underway and the Left, sensing that its antiwar protests had a limited future, was looking to build a new movement. The idea came from Gaylord, the name came from Madison Avenue, but the culture war needed young radicals to organize, show up, protest, and tell their parents that they wanted Democrats running America forever.  
 That’s where Ira Einhorn, a young radical, who co-founded Earth Day and acted as the master of ceremonies at its first rally, came in. Einhorn had started out as an anti-war activist, but like Gaylord and other Democrats, he could see that the anti-war publicity machine was going away.  
 Everyone from politicians to ad agencies to aspiring gurus like Einhorn was looking for the next big cultural phenomenon that would speak to the narcissism of the luckiest generation in history. Einhorn realized that civil rights and anti-war rallies were getting old. The future was a new environmentalism that would make the old environmentalist eugenics look cool and hip.  
 Einhorn ended up committing totally by killing his girlfriend and composting her body. Then he fled to Europe where the same lefty activist network went on protecting him from prison.  
 Happy Earth Day.  
 Earth Day didn’t do anything for the environment except make a huge mess. Parade floats filled with garbage were used to warn about pollution. Students chalked messages on the street. Everyone drove out in cars for Earth Day to warn about the dangers of driving cars.  
 Gaylord’s Earth Day speech was revealing of what environmentalism was and wasn’t.  
 "Environment is all of America and its problems. It is rats in the ghetto. It is a hungry child in a land of affluence. It is housing that is not worthy of the name; neighborhoods not fit to inhabit. Environment is a problem perpetuated by the expenditure of billions a year on the Vietnam War," Gaylord rambled.  
 Environmentalism was everything and nothing. It was every Democrat agenda rolled into one. It was the welfare state and the anti-war movement.  
 If the Democrats were going to run on it, then it was environmentalism.  
 And if they weren’t, then it wasn’t.  
 At no time in his speech did Gaylord address any actual environmental problem. Instead he focused on urban blight, caused by his own party, and shamed Americans for their prosperity.  
 “Our goal is a new American ethic that sets new standards for progress, emphasizing human dignity and well being rather than an endless parade of technology that produces more gadgets, more waste, more pollution,” Gaylord insisted, invoking the faux spirituality already in vogue.  
 Finally he declared an "environmental war" to save America's cities that would only take "$20 to $25 billion more a year in federal money than we are spending or asking for now."  
 Joe Biden, who first ran for office that year, wants to spend $174 billion on just electric cars.  
 The endless war on the environment is starting to cost more than any actual war.  
 Billions have been spent with little to show for it except more cash in the pockets of environmentalist Democrats like Al Gore who built a $300 million fortune with his advocacy.  
 The planet is no better and no worse off since 1970. The same isn’t true of America.  
 In 1970, 62% of aggregate income went to the middle class. Today it's only 29%. The winners of the environmental economic war on Americans were the upper crust Earth Day crowd.  
 There are more gadgets than ever, but fewer Americans can afford them.  
 Environmentalist policies helped push jobs out to China while leaving American cities and towns barren. There are more rats in the ghettos and housing not worthy of its name than ever before.  
 The current big objective of the environmentalist movement and the Biden administration is to crush coal while taking another huge bite out of the remnants of the American middle class.  
 “Secretary Kerry trying to equate the job of an electrician in a coal mine who makes $110,000 to a solar tech, who might make $35,000 to $40,000, is not a good analogy for our state," Senator Shelley Moore Capito argued.  
 But it’s a great analogy if you’re trying to turn more of the middle class into the lower class.  
 Jimmy Carter made Denis Hayes, a key organizer of Earth Day, the director of the Federal Solar Energy Research Institute. Hayes had an undergraduate degree in history from Stanford. Despite never having a degree in anything science related, he became a visiting professor at Stanford's School of Engineering and the CEO of Earth Day. He remains a board member of Earth Day alongside such notables as the President of Finland, the head of the Wells Fargo Foundation, and a woman whose bio lists her as an “internationally renowned chef.”  
 The Earth Day store offers "premium organic" t-shirts urging "Make Every Day Earth Day" for $28 bucks "Far out, man! This classic tie-dye T-shirt is bringing the 60’s back in style," the ad copy declares. The details mention that the actual fabric is imported. You can guess from where.  
 The same goes for the rest of the expensive junk in the Earth Day store.  
 In 1970, there were 18 million manufacturing jobs in the United States. Today there are 12 million and that’s after a period of record growth under President Trump.  
 China has built a manufacturing empire. It happily celebrates Earth Day because every advent of the fake Madison Avenue headline means more American jobs and dollars headed its way.  
 Earth Day, according to Senator Gaylord Nelson, was supposed to address poverty in America. Instead Earth Day has been the biggest machine for creating poverty, hunger, and misery in America. Environmentalism didn’t fight poverty, it spread it, trading American jobs and social mobility for the smugness of upper class students seeking a new political fight after Vietnam.  
 As much as the anti-war movement hurt America, the environmental movement did worse.  
 Almost as many Americans kill themselves in one year as died in the entire Vietnam War. The suicide rate shot up 35% in the last twenty years.  
 Losing America was much worse than losing Vietnam.  
 Every Earth Day comes with the usual recitation of political dogma with which children are indoctrinated before they can even read. On one side are piles of trash and on the other side are whales and polar bears happily dancing arm-in-fluke. The truth is that on one side there are Ivy League colleges and environmentalist think tanks while on the other side there is the Rust Belt, there are millions of Americans without jobs and without hope, and millions more waiting to see if the Biden administration will take away their jobs, their homes, and their futures.  
 The wages of Earth Day are ‘Love Canals’ all over America with dying towns, workers permanently out of work, dying of meth, committing suicide in unprecedented numbers.  
 Earth Day is America’s Chernobyl, an environmentalist catastrophe that is killing us. And Earth Day has destroyed more of America than any environmental catastrophe ever could.  
 It’s time to end the great hoax from Madison Avenue, from a brutal killer and a political hack, before it destroys what’s left of America.  
 Kill Earth Day before it kills America.

[*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/earth-day-is-killing-us.html>

**And….**

**Will Communist China Dominate the Middle East?**

***by*** [***Judith Bergman***](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Judith+Bergman) ***April 26, 2021 at 4:00 am***After Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's almost week-long recent tour of the Middle East, there can be little doubt that China is actively seeking to expand its influence in the region, not only economically but also militarily, diplomatically and politically, actively challenging the long-standing role of the United States as a dominant power in the region.  
 China's influence in the Middle East has been growing for years, especially through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a gigantic global infrastructure and economic development project that Chinese President Xi Jinping launched in 2013. Its aim is, it appears, to build an economic and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe, Africa and beyond. This mega development and investment initiative seeks dramatically to enhance China's global influence from East Asia to Europe by making countries worldwide increasingly dependent on China.  
 "Strategically, the BRI is how China is seeking to collapse Western-American dominance in the [Middle East] region peacefully" [according](https://thediplomat.com/2021/03/israel-iran-and-china-us-middle-east-relations/) to Dr. Mordechai Chaziz, author of the book *China's Middle East Diplomacy: The Belt and Road Strategic Partnership*.  
 "The connection between the BRI and the strategic partnerships it creates in the region... allows it to gradually take over the region without creating tensions with the U.S. or the West. In other words, the BRI is a sophisticated Chinese plan to transfer hegemony from the West and the U.S. to China without war or conflict".  
 "China has signed documents on Belt and Road cooperation with 19 Middle East countries," Wang [told](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1864531.shtml) *Al Arabiya* during his visit to Saudi Arabia, one of the six countries he visited on his tour, "and carried out distinctive collaboration with each of them."  
 "As it fosters a new development paradigm, China is ready to share with Middle East countries its market opportunities, work with Arab countries to actively prepare for the China-Arab states summit, promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and expand new areas of growth such as high and new technologies."  
 The other countries Wang visited were Turkey, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman and Bahrain.  
 China is already the largest trading partner for most countries in the region, including some of its [principal partners](https://www.csis.org/analysis/chinas-middle-east-model#:~:text=China%20has%20five%20principal%20partners,Arabia%27s%20largest%20trading%20partner%20worldwide.): Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia was China's [top crude oil supplier in 2020](https://www.reuters.com/article/china-economy-trade-oil-int-idUSKBN29P0ZG), beating Russia. China has made "comprehensive strategic partnerships" with both Saudi Arabia and UAE, as well as now Iran, through signing a 25-year comprehensive [strategic agreement](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/17229/china-iran-challenge) on economic and security cooperation with Tehran. The agreement also [reportedly](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/11/world/asia/china-iran-trade-military-deal.html) includes an expansion of military assistance, training and intelligence-sharing.  
 Through the Belt and Road Initiative, China is also the [biggest foreign investor](https://thediplomat.com/2021/03/israel-iran-and-china-us-middle-east-relations/) in the region, building infrastructure to the tune of billions of dollars. Although Egypt was not part of Wang's travel itinerary, it, too, forms an important part of the BRI for China. [According](https://www.csis.org/analysis/chinas-middle-east-model#:~:text=China%20has%20five%20principal%20partners,Arabia%27s%20largest%20trading%20partner%20worldwide.) to Jon B. Alterman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies:  
 "In the last five years, as China has grown increasingly concerned with transit through the Suez Canal, China has invested billions of dollars in Egypt. Chinese firms are helping construct Egypt's new administrative capital in the desert outside of Cairo, and they are developing a Red Sea port and industrial zone in Ain Sukhna. President Sisi has made at least six trips to Beijing since taking office in 2014, compared to just two trips to Washington."  
 At first glance, some leaders in the Middle East might regard China as well-suited to dominate their region, which, apart from Israel, consists of more-or-less authoritarian states that share China's views on state sovereignty, non-interference and human rights, and that seem to reject an international order based on democratic values, as led by the US.  
 "China and the countries agreed that the sovereign independence and national dignity of all countries should be respected, and independent and diverse ways of development should be promoted," Foreign Minister Wang Yi [said](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-03/31/c_139847857.htm#:~:text=%D0%A0%D1%83%D1%81%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B9-,World%20Insights%3A%20Chinese%20FM%20touts%20fruitful%20Middle%20East%20tour,enhanced%20cooperation%20with%20regional%20countries&text=Chinese%20Foreign%20Minister%20Wang%20Yi,hotspot%20issues%20in%20the) in summing up his trip. According to China's state-run Xinhua News Agency:  
 "They agreed to oppose interfering in other countries' internal affairs and slandering other countries under the guise of human rights, safeguard the international system with the United Nations as the core and the international order based on international law, multilateralism, and international equity and justice, Wang said."  
 Meanwhile Wang overlooked the fact that China had originally offered the world similar assurances in 1984 regarding the retention of [Hong Kong's political and economic system](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jul/01/china-is-breaking-hong-kong-treaty-with-uk-says-boris-johnson) for 50 years after the 1997 return of the territory to Mainland China's sovereignty, only to renege on this commitment 27 years ahead of the scheduled end of the "one country, two systems" arrangement in 2047.  
 Wang also managed to overlook that China [broke](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/06/18/xi-broke-promise-not-to-militarize-spratly-islands-carpio) its [2015 commitment](https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-completes-runway-on-artificial-island-in-south-china-sea-1443184818) not to "militarize" artificial islands that Beijing had been building in the Spratly Islands chain in the South China Sea and which it is now [surrounding](https://theaseanpost.com/article/philippines-chinese-ships-now-around-spratly-islands) with "fishing boats"[,](https://theaseanpost.com/article/philippines-chinese-ships-now-around-spratly-islands) [threatening the nearby Philippines](https://news.sky.com/story/south-china-sea-philippines-complains-after-200-swarming-and-threatening-boats-seen-in-disputed-waters-12253554). The foreign minister also apparently forgot that China has [never honored](https://www.innovationfiles.org/top-9-false-promises-that-china-made-in-joining-the-world-trade-organization/) at least nine of the commitments it made when it joined the World Trade Organization, its [nuclear testing commitments](https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/is-china-in-breach-of-its-nuclear-testing-commitments/) and its [commitment](https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/02/china-betrays-its-deal-with-the-vatican/) to the Vatican in appointing bishops.  
 "China's communist leaders have repeatedly promised major reforms or policy shifts to gain entrance into international agreements only to roll back those reforms as soon as they get what they want," [noted](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/outside-the-boardroom/article/China-reneges-again-on-international-norms-10686527.php) business columnist Chris Tomlinson presciently in 2016.  
 China's deepening ties with Middle Eastern countries beyond trade should concern the US, especially as the Biden administration has recently taken steps to [deprioritize](https://www.politico.com/news/2021/02/22/biden-middle-east-foreign-policy-470589) the region, thereby opening the door to Chinese domination. "If you are going to list the regions Biden sees as a priority, the Middle East is not in the top three," [said](https://www.politico.com/news/2021/02/22/biden-middle-east-foreign-policy-470589) a former senior national security official and close Biden adviser to Politico.  
 "It's Asia-Pacific, then Europe, and then the Western Hemisphere. And that reflects a bipartisan consensus that the issues demanding our attention have changed as great power competition [with China and Russia] is resurgent."  
 Apparently not satisfied with strategic and economic cooperation, China also suggested taking on a greater role in mediating between Israel and the Palestinians. "Nothing represents equity and justice in the Middle East more than a sound solution to the question of Palestine and earnest implementation of the two-state solution," [said](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1864531.shtml) Wang in an interview with the Saudi newspaper *Al Arabiya*.  
 "We support active mediation by the international community toward this objective and holding an authoritative international meeting on this matter when conditions are ripe. In its presidency of the UN Security Council this May, China will encourage the Security Council to fully deliberate on the question of Palestine to reaffirm the two-state solution. We will continue to invite peace advocates from Palestine and Israel to China for dialogue. We also welcome Palestinian and Israeli representatives to China for direct negotiations".  
 As China vies for more international influence to become the world's greatest power by 2049 -- militarily, economically, technologically and politically -- the Middle East is likely to become crucial, whether the US prioritizes it or not.

*Judith Bergman, a columnist, lawyer and political analyst, is a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Gatestone Institute.*

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/17272/china-middle-east>

**you would do well to read…**

**Facebook Has a Private Army: Its Founders Want to Free Criminals**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*April 26, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/04/facebook-has-private-army-its-founders.html)

It was a love story made in the start-ups of San Francisco when Mike Krieger, the co-founder of Instagram, proposed to Kaitlyn Trigger, a former product manager at TaskRabbit.  
 Instagram is where celebrities go to post their vacation photos and TaskRabbit is the gig economy app where random people labor to perform menial tasks for a few bucks. While both of these apps are a blight on the world, it’s different for the wizards behind the curtain. **MORE -**  <http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/04/facebook-has-private-army-its-founders.html>

**Portland Fights 1000% Increase in Murders With Unarmed Park Rangers**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*April 26, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/04/portland-fights-1000-increase-in.html)

Shootings have more than doubled in Portland from 111 last year to 275 so far this year. Murders are [also up](https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/amid-historic-spike-in-gun-violence-portland-mayor-commissioners-at-odds-over-whether-more-police-will-help/283-efbe6c30-f22e-431d-ba4a-57ff8ed01c01) from 2 to 25. That’s an increase of over 1000% for the prog utopia.  
 Portland hit a quarter-century high last year with 55 murders. It’s [on track](https://www.oregonlive.com/news/2021/04/every-portland-city-commissioner-opposes-mayors-2-million-police-focused-plan-to-address-gun-violence.html) for 100 in 2021.

Things are so bad that Mayor Wheeler, who narrowly won reelection over the Antifa candidate after having his apartment building firebombed, pleaded with the City Council to pay for more cops. But the City Council had a better idea: unarmed park rangers with pepper spray. **MORE -**  <http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/04/portland-fights-1000-increase-in.html>

**An Unaware and Compliant Citizenry***By* [*Dr. Dennis Cuddy*](https://newswithviews.com/author/dennis/)*|April 26th, 2021* In a previous article, I quoted from emails by Democrat strategist Bill Ivey to John Podesta and Podesta’s subsequent strategy as Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign manager. The response by NewsWithViews readers was underwhelming, so I will try to explain the emails’ importance. Podesta had been President Clinton’s chief-of-staff, and Ivey was communicating with him regarding their CONSPIRACY. On March 13, 2016, Ivey wrote to Podesta: “We’ve been quite content to demean government, drop civics and in general conspire to produce an unaware and compliant citizenry.” **MORE -** <https://newswithviews.com/an-unaware-and-compliant-citizenry/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Erdogan to Biden: Reverse declaration on Armenian Genocide**

***Turkish President urges US President to swiftly reverse his declaration that the 1915 massacres of Armenians constituted genocide.***

*Elad Benari , Apr 27 , 2021 2:00 AM*

**Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday urged US President Joe Biden to swiftly reverse** [**his declaration**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304938) **that the 1915 massacres of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire constituted genocide, Reuters repor**ts.

**In his first comments since Biden's statement on Saturday, Erdogan said "the wrong step" would hinder ties, advised the United States to "look in the mirror,"** and added Turkey still sought to establish "good neighborly" ties with Armenia.

"The US President has made baseless, unjust and untrue remarks about the sad events that took place in our geography over a century ago," Erdogan said after a cabinet meeting. He again called for Turkish and Armenian historians to form a joint commission to investigate the events.

"I hope the US President will turn back from this wrong step as soon as possible," added Erdogan. **MORE -** <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305086>

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**04/26/2021 NEWS AM**

**שרית חדד - כשהלב בוכה - Sarit Hadad - Kshalev Boche**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vo3-6XUMqhc>

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| --- | --- |
| When the heart cries only Gd hears  The pain rises from the soul  A person falls before he sinks  In a small prayer cuts the silence.  Hear, O God of Israel, you are all-powerful  You gave me life, you gave me everything  Eyes tear heart cries quietly  And when the heart is silent the soul cries out.  Hear, O Israel, my God, I am now alone  Strong me Gd made me not be afraid  Great pain and there's nowhere to run  Made it end because I had no strength left. | When the heart weeps time stands still  Man sees his whole life suddenly  To the unknown he does not want to go  God calls on the brink of an abyss.  Hear Israel Gd ... |

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| **"We need true tax reform that will at least make a start toward restoring for our children the American Dream that wealth is denied to no one, that each individual has the right to fly as high as his strength and ability will take him.... But we cannot have such reform while our tax policy is engineered by people who view the tax as a means of achieving changes in our social structure." -- Ronald Reagan (1911-2004) 40th US President** |

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

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

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for AB family – Wife just diagnosed with brain tumor**  **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 KL – troubling spiritual situation.**  **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 26:12And Isaac sowed in that land. And a hundredfold *was* found in that year, and Jehovah blessed him. 13And the man grew great, and he went on, going on to be great, until he became exceedingly great. 14And possessions of flocks and possessions of herds, and many slaves were his. And the Philistines envied him. 15And all the wells which the slaves of his father dug in the days of his father Abraham, the Philistines had stopped them and filled them with dirt.**

**Caving to violent protests, police allow crowds at Old City’s Damascus Gate**

***Recent evenings have seen intense clashes between Palestinians and law enforcement in Jerusalem, as well as a far-right Jewish march***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 11:04 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/Screen-Shot-2021-04-25-at-9.59.11-PM-e1619377244320.png)

***Palestinians celebrate after police remove a series of fences that prevented crowding at the Old City's Damascus Gate. (Screen capture/Twitter)***

**Hundreds of Palestinians celebrated outside the Damascus Gate entrance to Jerusalem’s Old City on Sunday evening after police ceased a controversial policy that barred Muslim worshipers from congregating around the area during the holy month of Ram**adan.

**Thousands of Palestinians had descended on the flashpoint area each night since Ramadan began on April 13** to protest the policy, which had seen the basin outside Damascus Gate filled with dozens of police divider fences, along with armed officers ordered to prevent anyone from sitting on the steps.

Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai told reporters Saturday that it was a longstanding policy implemented annually by officers in order to prevent crowding and allow for the free-flow of visitors in and out of the Old City on Ramadan.

**However, photos of Damascus Gate from previous years that were posted on social media showed the site packed with visitors and no police fences and roadblocks around the basin outside the gat**e, as there have been this month.

המפכ"ל שיקר היום מול המצלמות במצח נחושה כשאמר "הצעדים שנקטנו בשער שכם, נקטנו אותם גם בעבר".

זה שער שכם מרמדאן 2019  
תשפטו בעצמכם.  
צילום של עיר עמים. [pic.twitter.com/vp9DMX9dEg](https://t.co/vp9DMX9dEg)

— Yoel. H (@YoelH5) [April 24, 2021](https://twitter.com/YoelH5/status/1386011764714872836?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**There have been times in recent years when the fences were installed, but that was done for a short amount of tim**e, rather than for weeks on end.

Asked on Sunday to explain the discrepancy between photos of a packed Damascus Gate from previous years and the comments by Shabtai that longstanding policy has prevented crowding at the Old City entrance on Ramadan, police declined to do so.

**Channel 12 spoke with a series of former senior officials in the Israel Police, including ex-commissioners, who called on Shabtai to scrap the policy as a demonstration of good faith to Palestinians duri**ng the particularly sensitive time of year. **[so how well have concessions worked with the “PA” in the past???? NOT at all. – rdb]**

Shortly after the network’s report aired, Shabtai ordered the scrapping of the policy.

Footage from Damascus Gate showed the area packed with visitors, as it had been in previous years, cheering and whistling in victory.

בהוראת המפכ"ל הורדו הגדרות שפיצלו את שער שכם למתחמים מה שהוביל להסלמה לטענת תושבי מזרח העיר.   
כרגע מאות בכיכר שמחים וצועקים בערבית "בדם ואש נפדה את פלסטין". המחסומים הוסרו לחלוטין. הרגשת ניצחון אצל הצעירים [pic.twitter.com/pFZVx4ld8L](https://t.co/pFZVx4ld8L)

— Haim Goldich | חיים גולדיטש (@HGoldich) [April 25, 2021](https://twitter.com/HGoldich/status/1386390825286868993?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**The atmosphere contrasted starkly from that of previous nights, which have featured violent cl**ashes.

**More than 105 Palestinians were wounded late Thursday in clashes with polic**e who found themselves in the middle of the Arab demonstrators and a mob of hundreds of Jewish extremists marching toward Damascus Gate, chanting “Death to Arabs,” “May your village burn,” and other hateful slogans.

Police used riot dispersal measures against both crowds, but reserved more severe means, including rubber bullets, for the Palestinian mob.

**Jerusalem has also seen a series of viral videos on the social network TikTok, which appear to show Palestinians attacking ultra-Orthodox Jews without any provoca**tion. The clips have fueled Jewish anger.

The racist Lehava group, which led the Jewish protests, said in a statement that it would not be reconvening outside Damascus Gate on Sunday night, and instead would be offering Krav Maga classes for its activists. However, the group said that it would be prepared to take to the streets “to protect Jews, if police failed to do their job.”

**Earlier Sunday evening, three Arab sanitation workers were attacked by a group of Jewish youths on Ben Sira Street in downtown Jerusalem**.

**One of the suspects was arrested, police said, adding that they found a knife on him**. Officers were engaging in a manhunt for the remaining assailants.

**Hours earlier, a Jewish Israeli distributing religious booklets at a junction outside the mixed town of Ramle was assaulted by an Arab teen. T**he 19-year-old suspect was apprehended shortly thereafter by police.

The victim received treatment for minor injuries at nearby Assaf Harofeh Medical Center. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-violent-protests-police-lift-policy-barring-crowds-at-old-city-gate/>

**Hamas urges terror groups in Gaza to keep rockets on ‘standby’**

***Palestinian group calls for ‘our noble resistance in Gaza to keep their fingers on the trigger’; IDF Chief of Staff Kohavi reportedly says neither side seeking escalation***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *and* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 3:24 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP21113454146264.jpg)

***Palestinians holding Hamas movement green flags attend a protest in solidarity with Muslim worshipers in Jerusalem, in Gaza City, April 23, 2021. (AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)***

**After two consecutive nights of rocket fire from the Gaza Strip toward Israeli cities and communities, the Hamas terror group told armed Gaza factions on Sunday to “keep their fingers on the trigge**r.”

**“We call on our noble resistance in Gaza to keep their fingers on the trigger, to keep their rockets on standby to target the enemy’s fortresses and military and vital structures,**” Hamas said in a statement.

**Gazan armed factions have launched over 40 rockets into Israel over the last two day**s. On Saturday, a number of Palestinian terror groups fired experimental rockets toward the Mediterranean Sea as a show of force.

**Palestinian terror groups have said that the weekend’s rocket attacks were in response to ongoing unrest in Jerusalem, where Arab residents have demonstrated for several days** against Ramadan restrictions on congregating near Jerusalem’s Damascus Gate.

Some of the gatherings have turned violent when police sought to expel Palestinians from the area, with Palestinians throwing stones at armed officers and setting garbage cans ablaze. Police have responded with sponge bullets and sound grenades, arresting over 100 Palestinians since the beginning of Ramadan two weeks ago.

**Far-right Jewish supremacists also held violent rallies, seeking** out and attacking Palestinians in the capital’s downtown, while some Palestinian residents of Jerusalem have attacked and beaten a number of Jewish Israelis across the city.



***Rockets are fired toward the sea during a military drill by members of the Mujahideen Brigades, the armed wing of the Palestinian movement of the same name, along a beach off of Gaza City, on April 24, 2021. (Photo by MAHMUD HAMS / AFP)***

**Two Gaza factions, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and a branch of Fatah’s Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades, have claimed responsibility for the rocket fire**. But Israel holds Hamas directly responsible for all fire from the enclave into Israeli territory, charging that it takes place with the terror group’s consent.

**The Hamas leadership called East Jerusalemites to continue “mobilizing in the Old City and at its gates.”** Hamas also said night patrols of Palestinians ought to be formed to protect East Jerusalem residents from assaults by Jewish extremists.

**“You are proving to the world, yet again, that Jerusalem is the heart of Palestine,”** the terror group told East Jerusalem Palestinians.

The widening circle of clashes has sparked concerns in Israel that the situation could escalate across the West Bank and Gaza.

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on Saturday for the military to “prepare for any scenario”** with Gaza. Defense Minister Benny Gantz similarly said that the Israel Defense Forces “will do what is necessary so the calm is preserved,” following security consultations at defense headquarters in Tel Aviv.

**IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi canceled his planned visit to Washington, DC**, amid concerns that the fighting in Gaza would escalate, the military said

**The Israeli military notably refrained from conducting retaliatory strikes in the Gaza Strip on Saturday night in an apparent bid to ease tension**s. Israel normally adopts a tit-for-tat strategy, responding to Gazan rocket fire by shelling Hamas observation posts or imposing restrictions on the Gaza Strip.

**Kohavi said on Monday that the rocket fire from Gaza had posed a “dilemma” on how to respond, according to comments from a closed meeting r**eported by the Ynet news site.

“Neither in Israel, nor in Gaza, is there any wish to escalate the situation,” Kohavi was said to tell local mayors during a briefing, Ynet reported.

“We are dealing with violent incidents on the Palestinian front in a number of locations and we are working to return stability and calm to southern communities. At the same time, we are preparing fully for the possibility that the situation will ramp up or widen, and we are conducting preparations for this as needed,” Kohavi added in a statement by the IDF.

**The IDF chief also met with top officers from the IDF General Staff and Southern Command** to discuss the situation and called for “continued preparation for a variety of scenarios on the southern front,” the military said.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-urges-terror-groups-in-gaza-to-keep-rockets-on-standby/>

**Settlers filmed throwing stones at Palestinians, attacking left-wing activists**

***Israeli military confirms incident took place, says Palestinians also threw rocks at troops***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 8:21 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/WhatsApp-Image-2021-04-24-at-12.17.03-PM-1.jpeg)

***Settlers who allegedly attacked Palestinians in the south Hebron hills near the Palestinian town of al-Tuwani on April 24, 2021. (Eyal Huravni/ B'Tselem)***

**Israeli settlers assaulted Palestinians and left-wing activists in the south Hebron hills on Saturday, the B’Tselem rights group** reported.

**In a video from the scene, figures could be seen hurling stones at a car belonging to local Palestinians from al**-Tuwani. Two Palestinians and two left-wing Israeli activists were injured in the incident, the latter two allegedly having been beaten by settlers, according to B’Tselem.

**A spokesperson for the Israel Police’s West Bank Division did not immediately respond to a request for co**mment.

According to al-Tuwani resident Suleiman al-Adra, who was present at the scene, a number of residents headed out to agricultural areas outside the village to work the land on Saturday. The plot lies around a kilometer from the town — directly between al-Tuwani and the illegal outpost of Havat Ma’on, al-Adra said.

ובינתיים בשטחים בדרום הר חברון: אירוע חמור ובו מתנחלים מחוות מעון תוקפים חקלאים פלסטינים, מיידים אבנים, מכים במקלות, וגם ירו פעמיים. לדברי הפלסטינים ג'יפים של צהל הגיעו למקום אולם לא עצרו את הפורעים. [pic.twitter.com/kSiFQZpnYf](https://t.co/kSiFQZpnYf)

— Or Heller אור הלר (@OrHeller) [April 24, 2021](https://twitter.com/OrHeller/status/1385917438571778050?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**“Slowly, more and more settlers arrived, and some of them had weapons,” he told The Times of** Israel.

**The plot lies about a kilometer away from al-Tuwani, but only a few hundred meters from Havat Ma’on. The outpost, in which some 20 families live, is** considered illegal under Israeli law.

One settler fired two warning shots in an attempt to scare the Palestinians away from the area, al-Adra said.

**Left-wing Israeli activists called the army and police to intervene, while Palestinians called for backup from al-Tuwa**ni. **[Notice – who called the police? Left wing activists. Why were they there? The settlements are usually ‘right wing’. Was this a planned set up? HUMM? – rdb]**

“It took them over an hour to show up. When they did, they stood behind the settlers and fired tear gas and stun grenades at us,” al-Adra said.

צילום משוגע של מיכל חי: [pic.twitter.com/pAcknkHzog](https://t.co/pAcknkHzog)

— Avner Gvaryahu (@AGvaryahu) [April 24, 2021](https://twitter.com/AGvaryahu/status/1386059484766904322?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Two Israeli left-wing activists — including David Shulman, the Israel Prize laureate who founded the radical left group Ta’ayush — told the Haaretz daily that they had both been attacked by settlers at the scen**e.

When they sought to film the settlers from up close, the settlers hurled stones at them and chased them away before beating them, Shulman told Haaretz. In a video from the scene, Hebrew-speaking masked figures can be seen hurling stones at Shulman in an effort to prevent him from filming them.

אגב, אין שום צורך להסתמך על דברי הפלסטינים שהיו במקום. הנה סרטון של חיילים שנמצאים בשטח בזמן התקיפות ולא עושים דבר [pic.twitter.com/fPEj3kfoqg](https://t.co/fPEj3kfoqg)

— שוברים שתיקה (@ShovrimShtika) [April 24, 2021](https://twitter.com/ShovrimShtika/status/1385931603315134464?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**The Israeli military said it was familiar with the incident, but added that Palestinians also threw stones at Israeli soldiers.** Nonetheless, no stone-throwing by Palestinians could be seen in videos on social media. **[I don’t believe the left wingers reported that at all. Thankfully the police did. Smells a bit fishy on the part of the left wingers who should probably have their wings clipped. – rdb]**

The army did not conduct any arrests at the scene, either of Palestinians or of Israelis, an Israeli military spokesperson confirmed.

“It was a relatively small force of troops in comparison to all those involved in the clashes. They couldn’t arrest dozens of people, so they worked to contain the friction with riot dispersal tools,” the spokesperson said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/settlers-filmed-throwing-stones-at-palestinians-attacking-left-wing-activists/>

**Netanyahu offers premiership to Gantz**

***Netanyahu initiated last month's election to avoid implementing his coalition agreement with Gantz,but his bloc failed to obtain a majority in the new Knesset.***

*By* [*GIL HOFFMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/gil-hoffman) *APRIL 25, 2021 21:34*

**In a dramatic turn of events, with his back against the wall, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offered Defense Minister** [**Benny Gantz**](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/ag-to-high-court-govt-must-appoint-justice-minister-within-days-666292) **to go first in a rotation as prime minister, Blue and White officials said Sunday**, confirming a Channel 12 report. **[This is a major switch. Bibi didn’t let Ganz do much of anything if he could avoid it during the last government and it appeared that he wouldn’t let him take his turn at the premiership when it was Ganz turn. – rdb]**

**Netanyahu initiated** [**last month's election**](https://www.jpost.com/israel-elections/netanyahu-clinches-61-majority-on-right-on-way-to-victory-exit-polls-662919) **to avoid implementing his coalition agreement with Gantz, w**hich required him to give Gantz the premiership in November. But Netanyahu's bloc failed to obtain a majority in the new Knesset, leaving him searching for options that could enable him to at least rotate as prime minister.

**To that end, the Likud's law committee met late Sunday to approve a proposal to enable Netanyahu to merge a party into Likud, in case all or part of Yamina or New Hope would join, in return for a rotation** as prime minister, with Yamina leader Naftali Bennett or New Hope head Gideon Sa'ar going first.

**"We did indeed receive Netanyahu's proposition but it is entirely irrelevant," a source close to Gantz in Blue and White said. "We will continue to see more of these last minute frantic attempts by Netanyahu to no avail.**"

**The offer Gantz received from Netanyahu could help give him leverage in negotiations with the anti-Netanyahu bloc that is working on building a coalition**. Gantz is demanding to keep the Defense portfolio, which is also sought by Sa'ar.

**Efforts to form such a government by Bennett and Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid became more challenging over the weekend, when Labor and Meretz sent messages demanding senior portfolios for their l**eaders.

Labor MK Omer Bar-Lev told Army Radio on Sunday morning that his party leader Merav Michaeli deserved one of the top three portfolios in the next government: Foreign Affairs, Defense or Finance. He said she was qualified for all three posts and noted that Yamina, which like Labor has seven seats, is demanding the premiership for Bennett.

**The Yamina faction met Sunday and endorsed Bennett's efforts to form a government and prevent a fifth elec**tion and what the party called "deteriorating to chaos." The faction denied reports that it could break up, with two or three of its MKs joining Likud.

**United Torah Judaism slammed Bennett, saying that if he enabled the appointment of Yisrael Beytenu leader Avigdor Liberman as finance minister, "he will be remembered in history as the destroyer of the world of Torah** and Jewish tradition."

"For such a lowly act there is no forgiveness, nor can there be forever," UTJ said.

Religious Z**ionist Party leader Bezalel Smotrich sent Bennett a letter accusing him of not doing enough to form a Netanyahu-led government and attacking his intention to become prime minis**ter with seven mandates.

"It would destroy democracy and undermine its most fundamental rationale," Smotrich said.

**Smotrich angered the Likud on Saturday night when he criticized Netanyahu following a barrage of rockets laun**ched into Israel from the Gaza Strip and ongoing violent riots in Jerusalem.

"Tell me, after countless terror attacks and lynchings from the 'Arab enemy' in the last few days and after a barrage of [rockets] from Gaza at the communities in the South, Netanyahu wants us to 'calm down on both sides?'" he tweeted alongside a video of violence in Jerusalem, adding "Maybe it's time to replace him."

Coalition chairman Miki Zohar (Likud) shot back on social media, calling the Religious Zionist Party leader "Ungrateful."

"You only passed the [electoral] threshold because the Likud gave you three seats [in the election]," Zohar charged. "A little humility wouldn't hurt."

Smotrich soon fired back, writing that "if anyone here who says they 'gave me' three seats actually did so, I'd have 15 seats today."

Netanyahu "did me no favors," he wrote, adding that "throughout, I emphasized that I am not personally committed to [Netanyahu], but to the values of the Right and religious Zionism." <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/netanyahu-offers-premiership-to-gantz-666318>  **[It would seem that the Israeli politicians have one major (actually one of THE most significant) transgressions down pat and that is Lashon harah – the evil tongue – speaking ill of others. This has been a major backbiting dogfight with dreadful character assassinations going on by all sides. It still reminds me of the issues that were the cause of the first and second Jewish commonwealths – unmerited unrelenting infighting. – rdb]**

**High Court urges appointment of justice minister within 2 days; Gantz wants job**

**Compromise offered by chief justice would require Netanyahu, Gantz to fill other vacant ministries by next Sunday; premier agrees to discuss matter, without making commitments**

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

**The High Court of Justice, responding to a petition by a government watchdog, on Sunday urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Benny Gantz to appoint a permanent justice minister within 48 hours. It said it would convene on Tuesday if the appointment was not made by t**hen.

**The proposal was part of a compromise offered by Chief Justice Esther Hayut at the beginning of a hearing on a petition against Netanyahu and Gantz, who have allowed a series of government offices to remain without a minister running them,** after the terms of several interim ministers expired.

**There has been no justice minister since the beginning of April after Gantz’s maximal three-month term as acting justice minister expired. Under the power-sharing agreement between Gantz and Netanyahu, the former is the only one who can select a minister, but Netanyahu has blocked a required cabinet vote to approve such a candidate.** Critics have accused Netanyahu of intentionally seeking to weaken the justice system due to his ongoing corruption trial, as he hopes to appoint a minister who will be friendlier to his cause.

**Deeming the position of justice minister the most important, Hayut gave the shortest amount of time for the premier and defense minister to fill that post**. As for the remaining offices that remain without ministers, the chief justice proposed that they be filled by next Sunday. These include the Science and Technology Ministry, the Social Equality Ministry and the Higher Education Ministry — all vacated by ministers who resigned in recent months as the government collapsed.

**“We would prefer for the government to make such decisions on its own,” Hayut said at the hearing. “If we end up being needed to decide on the matter, free up your calendars for Tuesday. If there is no decision — we will have to convene**.”

**Netanyahu in response pledged to hold a cabinet meeting to discuss the matter by Tuesday, but avoided making any commitments as to a final decision,** Hebrew media reported.

**Shortly after Hayut made her proposal, Gantz tweeted that he will demand that he be appointed justice minister at the next cabinet meeting, “in order to continue to safeguard democracy**.

**“You don’t need 48 hours to do this. You can bring it to a vote within 48 minutes and stop violating the rule of law,” he added**, in comments directed at Netanyahu.

**Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit expressed similar concerns to Hayut regarding the ongoing vacancies in** his own response to the petition, which was filed by the Movement for Quality Government. Mandelblit noted that the absence of justice minister prevents a variety of government decisions from taking place, and that the security cabinet may only convene in extreme occasions while the position remains vacant.

**The coronavirus cabinet, which has been responsible for passing regular decisions throughout the pandemic, also cannot meet so long as there is no justice minister**, he said.

**According to Mandelblit, Netanyahu was set to present a plan at Sunday’s hearing on how to implement the coronavirus-related court measures** even without a justice minister.

**Gantz filed a response of his own that was submitted at the Sunday hearing, in which he rejected a proposal by Netanyahu that the justice minister’s powers be dispersed among existing ministers in order to avoid filling** the post.

Gantz demanded that the position of justice minister be filled immediately.

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 matter.

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’s legal establishment for personal gain because he is on trial. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/high-court-urges-appointment-of-justice-minister-within-2-days-gantz-wants-job/>

**Israel poised to lift limits on attendance for vaccinated at events**

***In further easing of restrictions, ministers set to allow even those who have not been inoculated to visit gyms, swimming pools***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:23 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/F210317FF70-1.jpg)

***Soccer fans at a game between Beitar Jerusalem F.C. and Ashdod F.C., at Teddy Stadium, Jerusalem, on March 17, 2021. (Flash90)***

**The Health Ministry said Sunday it would seek government approval to lift all restrictions on seating at sports stadiums and culture venues for those who have been inoculated against the coro**navirus.

**In general, caps limiting attendance at events by those holding a so-called Green Pass, indicating they have been either vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 infec**tion, would be removed.

**As well as rolling back curbs for those who have been vaccinated, the plans will also see an easing on public life for those who have not yet had the shots and children below the age of 16**, who currently do not qualify for vaccination.

**Health Minister Yuli Edelstein and Culture and Sports Minister Chili Tropper announced the plans in a joint statemen**t. If approved at a Thursday cabinet meeting, the new rules will go into effect on May 6, provided that daily infection rates remain at the low figures recently seen, Edelstein said, though he stressed that, at indoor events, there will still be a requirement to wear a face mask and maintain social distancing of two meters.

**Under the proposal, cinemas could reopen after being shuttered for more than a year, and even those who are not vaccinated would be permitted to attend gyms, swimming pools, and other attractions that meet the government’s Purple Badge standard for stringent hygiene and social distancing measure**s to prevent infections. **[Purple badge – HUMMMM? Is that kind of like a yellow star? – rdb]**

**Private functions will also be included in the steps, with 500 permitted for outdoor events and 50 in enclosed sp**aces.

**In addition, passenger capacity on public transport, which had been limited under virus rules to just 75 percent, will be restored to maximu**m.

**Children and those who are not vaccinated will be able to attend events for Green Pass holder**s if they pass a rapid virus test beforehand.

“Due to the vaccinations, the morbidity in Israel has reached a low unseen since the start of the coronavirus, and this when most of the economy is open,” Edelstein said in a statement. “In a situation like this, easing [of restrictions] for the public can be further expanded.”

Edelstein noted that due to concerns that variants of the virus could be brought from abroad, there will be no change in the conditions for air travel for the time being.

Speaking of attendance at sports and culture events, Tropper said in a statement, “We will get to numbers that six months ago we could only dream of, all due to the tremendous cooperation of the public.”

Attendance at sports stadiums and other venues is currently limited based on the capacities of the individual locations, but with caps at no more than 50% of the maximum, and then only for Green Pass holders. The general limits on other gatherings (excluding venues for vaccinated or recovered COVID-19 patients) are set at 20 indoors, 100 outdoors.



***Screen capture from video of national coronavirus czar Nachman Ash during a video press conference, April 25, 2021. (YouTube)***

**Earlier, national coronavirus czar Nachman Ash said health officials were considering further loosening coronavirus restrictions on public gather**ings.

He said one of the ideas being looked at is enabling children who have a negative virus test within the previous 72 hours to attend events that are only for Green Pass holders. Children below the age of 16 currently do not qualify for vaccination under the national inoculation drive and therefore cannot attend such events.

At the same time, Ash reaffirmed assessments that there will likely be a need for a booster shot to vaccinations, but that it was not yet clear when those who have already had two doses will need to get it.

“I can’t say exactly when, it could be already a year after the [first round of] vaccines and it could be beyond that,” Ash said. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-poised-to-lift-limits-on-attendance-for-vaccinated-at-events/> **[It seems obvious that the ‘fear porn’ of the CDC, NIH and WHO has totally infiltrated and consumed the Israeli decision makers. – rdb]**

**Enjoying unemployment benefits, young Israelis choose not to go back to work**

***Even as the economy almost fully reopens with the virus waning, low-paid workers are opting to stay home; demand for restaurant staff surges, Employment Service says***

*By* [*Shoshanna Solomon*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/shoshanna-solomon/) *Today, 6:04 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/F210407MA01.jpg)

***Israelis at a cafe in Tel Aviv, on April 07, 2021. (Miriam Alster/FLASH90)***

**Young Israelis are choosing not to go back to work, at least not at the expected rate, even as the coronavirus pandemic wanes and the economy is gradually getting back on track, t**he nation’s Employment Service Bureau said on Sunday.

**During March the hospitality sector, including restaurants and hotels, along with leisure and trade, which largely employ young people, up to the age of 34, was allowed to almost fully reopen, the agency said in a statement**.

**In spite of this, the level of young jobseekers remained static at its February level, when greater restrictions were still in place, at 47.4% of the total number of people look**ing for work, the data showed.

The pandemic, which caused social distancing and lockdowns, saw a sharp rise of young people being furloughed. Those up to the age of 34 accounted for about half of all the jobseekers who registered with the unemployment service. The trade, leisure and hospitality sectors were those most significantly affected by the lockdowns, and they are mostly manned by young workers.   
 The **unemployment benefits these workers get are similar to the wages they were making while employed**, the bureau said. With these benefits having been extended until the end of June, young workers to be in no hurry to go back to their jobs.   
 The **extension of unemployment benefits until the end of June has transformed them from a “safety net**,” saving hundreds of thousands of jobseekers and employers from collapsing,  into a “barrier” that prevents workers from returning to jobs, Rami Garor, the head of Israel’s Employment Service Bureau, said in a statement.   
 To encourage the return of young people and other low-wage earners back to work, unemployment benefits from July should be allocated in a shorter and more differentiated manner, according to age and marital status, at declining monthly rates, the bureau said in the statement. Payments should be conditioned on active job-seeking efforts and participation in skills-training courses, the service said.   
 Because these young workers have not returned to work, the number of open jobs in the sectors they typically work in has surged in the past few months: from December to March the demand for kitchen staff has surged 36%, the data shows; for waiters and barmen has surged 208% and for cooks 218%. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/enjoying-unemployment-benefits-young-israelis-choose-not-to-go-back-to-work/> **[Does this sound familiar? The same thing is happening in the USA. Employers are having trouble finding workers. Why work if you can get a check for doing nothing. This is the government making people dependent on them. That has been their ploy with the welfare system from the onset. – rdb]**

**Expert: Last week’s ‘blast’ in central Israel was a solid rocket fuel test**

***American professor bases assessment on satellite images, similar trials in other parts of the world***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 4:50 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/Screen-Shot-2021-04-21-at-14.01.34.jpg)

***An explosion is seen at a rocket factory in central Israel in which the manufacturer says was a 'controlled test' on April 20, 2021. (Screen capture/Twitter)***

**The** [**mysterious blast**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/big-blast-at-rocket-factory-jolts-central-israel-in-controlled-test/) **seen in central Israel last week was, in fact, a test of solid rocket fuel at a secretive Israeli defense facility, according to an American nuclear nonproliferation** expert.

**Jeffrey Lewis, a professor at Middlebury Institute of International Studies and self-described “arms control wonk,” made his assessment based on satellite images of the site and video footage of similar tests from elsewhere in the world**, [publishing his findings](https://www.armscontrolwonk.com/archive/1211676/israeli-rocket-motor-test/) on his website on Friday.

**Last Tuesday, a Twitter user uploaded a video of the incident, showing a sudden massive blast of fire and smoke south of Kibbutz Mishmar David in central Israel, in the vicinity of the government-owned Tomer defense cont**ractor, which manufactures propulsion systems for a variety of Israel’s rockets and missiles. This led to widespread speculation that the explosion was caused by Iranian sabotage as retaliation for a recent attack on the Islamic Republic’s Natanz nuclear facility, which was widely attributed to Israel.

**When asked about the incident, a spokesperson for Tomer denied that an accidental blast had taken place, maintaining that the fire and smoke were caused by a “controlled test,” but refusing to elaborate f**urther.

**According to Lewis, the blast was in fact the controlled, directed explosion of a solid fuel rock**et test.

The "explosion" video was posted on April 20. Satellite images captured by our friends at [@planetlabs](https://twitter.com/planetlabs?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) show a large burn scar that appeared on the same day at the test stand. I false-colored a pair of near-infrared images to reveal the scorched vegetation. (6/12) [pic.twitter.com/QuBo7848Kh](https://t.co/QuBo7848Kh)

— Dr. Jeffrey Lewis (@ArmsControlWonk) [April 23, 2021](https://twitter.com/ArmsControlWonk/status/1385658295852093447?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

“There is a low rumble during the burn. And it seems to extinguish after a few seconds. At the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, we spend a lot of time looking at **missiles. This event looks and sounds much more like the last few seconds of a test of a solid-propellent rocket motor than an explosion,”** Lewis wrote in an article on his website.

Lewis and his colleagues reviewed satellite images of the area where Israel is known to test rocket motors and found that a large burn scar appeared on the day in question, one similar to those found after solid rocket fuel tests. They then cross referenced the images with the location data from the video, determining that the blast in the footage and the burn scar were in the same place.

“So, in the end, it is pretty clear to me that someone in Mishmar David recorded the last few seconds of a solid rocket motor test,” Lewis wrote.

**The weapons expert questioned why Tomer decided to be cagey in its response instead of acknowledging the nature of the test, especially when it openly produces rocket motors for well-known, non-controversial Israeli missiles**, including the Arrow 2 and Arrow 3 air defense systems and the Shavit satellite launcher.

“Why didn’t Tomer just say it was a solid rocket motor test? The fact that Israel produces large solid rocket motors for, among other systems, the Shavit space launch vehicle is no secret. There isn’t really any reason to be coy, it’s just… a habit. A culture that evolved in a past era and has yet to adapt to the current one,” Lewis said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/expert-last-weeks-blast-in-central-israel-was-a-solid-rocket-fuel-test/> **[This is most interesting. He certainly may be correct but then when you have a Syrian rocket ‘go off course’ and explode over the south, in that general vicinity two days later (April 22) you wonder if something else may be going on. If you read the prophets you know that Isaiah 17 refers to the destruction of Damascus and Ezekiel 38 the invasion of Israel and looking at the current political situation one must be concerned about the potential for these events and something setting things off. – rdb]**

**In biggest-yet Israel-UAE deal, Delek to sell stake in Tamar gas field for $1.1b**

***Israeli energy company signs memorandum of understanding with Mubadala Petroleum, owned by Abu Dhabi government***

*By* [*Stuart Winer*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/stuart-winer/) *Today, 12:19 pm*

**Israeli energy giant Delek Drilling announced Monday that it had signed a memorandum of understanding to sell its entire stake in Israel’s Tamar offshore gas field to the Abu Dhabi government-owned Mubadala Petroleum, potentially handing the United Arab Emirates a major share in one of the Jewish state’s key strategic and economic assets less than a year after the countries established diplomatic** ties.

**The deal for the 22 percent stake is worth $1 billion, with an additional $100 million conditioned on certain terms and goals being met, according to a notification about the agreement sent by Delek Drilling to the Tel Aviv Stock Exch**ange and the Israel Securities Authority. The companies said they aim to finalize the deal by May 31.

**If completed, the deal will be the biggest commercial agreement made so far since Israel and the UAE signed a normalization pact in August 2020,** brokered by former US president Donald Trump.

 “This **transaction has the potential to be another major development in our ongoing vision for Natural Gas commercial strategic alignment in the Middle East, whereby Natural Gas becomes a source of collaboration** in the region,” Yossi Abu, CEO of Delek Drilling, was quoted as saying in the statement. “The development is not only a significant endorsement of the quality of the Tamar reservoir and the Levant basin but also a major support for the East Mediterranean Natural Gas sector.”

Under the terms of the so-called gas framework, drawn up by the Israeli government in 2015 to regulate the domestic natural gas market and allow a competitive and decentralized structure, Delek — owned by tycoon Yitzhak Tshuva — was required to sell off its non-operated stake in Tamar by the end of 2021.

***Yossi Abu, CEO of Delek Drilling. (Delek Drilling)***

The other partners in Tamar are Noble Energy Mediterranean Ltd. (25%), Isramco Negev-2 Limited Partnership (28.75%), Tamar Petroleum Ltd. (16.75%), Dor Gas Exploration Limited Partnership (4%), and Everest Infrastructures Limited Partnership (3.5%).

Mubadala Petroleum is an international oil and gas exploration company, mostly focused on the Middle East, North Africa, Russia, and Southeast Asia, though it has assets in 10 other countries. It is a subsidiary of the Mubadala Investment Company, which is owned by the government of Abu Dhabi. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-biggest-yet-israel-uae-deal-delek-to-sell-stake-in-tamar-gas-field-for-1-1b/>

**Palestinian Authority reportedly set to announce election delay within days**

***According to Army Radio, Ramallah has informed international community and Egypt of its decision, said to be due to Israel’s ostensible refusal to allow voting in East Jerusalem***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:28 pm*

**The Palestinian Authority has decided to postpone the upcoming elections and has informed representatives of the international community as well as Egypt of its decision, Army Radio reported Monday. It is expected there will be an official announcement from Ramallah in the coming days, and the Kan public broadcaster reported that the Palestinian leadership was set to meet on the matter on Thursda**y.

PA President Mahmoud **Abbas has been widely expected to postpone the May vote** as well as the planned presidential election in July, which various opinion polls have him losing.

The vote, originally scheduled for 2010, sees his once-dominant Fatah movement under challenge from breakaway factions as well as Hamas. Sources from Gaza’s ruling terror organization [told](https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-warns-israel-will-bear-the-consequences-of-closing-gaza-fishing-zone/) a Lebanese newspaper on Monday that the potential cancellation of the elections could lead to an escalation of violence.

Army Radio reported that the official reason to be given for the delay was Israel’s refusal to allow East Jerusalem residents to vote in the May 22 elections, the first Palestinian legislative elections in 15 years. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-authority-set-to-announce-election-delay-within-days-report/>

**Protesters mass in France, Israel, UK to demand justice for Sarah Halimi**

***In Paris, thousands demonstrate against court decision that Jewish woman’s killer was too stoned to be held criminally responsible***

*By* [*JTA*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jta/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:32 pm* [*1*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/protesters-mass-in-france-israel-uk-to-demand-justice-for-sarah-halimi/#comments)

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/000_98P9E3.jpg)

***People hold placards reading 'Stoned justice?' (L), 'License to kill' (C) and 'A justice as efficient as the Super League' (R) as they gather to demand justice for Sarah Halimi, a slain French woman, on Trocadero plaza in Paris on April 25, 2021.(GEOFFROY VAN DER HASSELT / AFP)***

**Protesters gathered in Paris, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and London on Sunday to demonstrate against the ruling of France’s highest court that the killer of a Jewish woman in the French capital was not criminally responsible because he had smoked marijuana before the c**rime.

**Sarah Halimi, a 65-year-old Orthodox Jewish woman, was pushed out of the window of her Paris flat to her death in 2017 by neighbor Kobili Traore, who shouted “Allahu Akbar” (“God is gre**at” in Arabic).

**But in a decision earlier this month, the Court of Cassation’s Supreme Court of Appeals upheld rulings by lower tribunals that Traore cannot stand trial because he was too high on marijuana to be criminally responsible for his actio**ns.

Thousands of protesters, many of them Jewish, gathered in Paris to demand justice for Halimi.



***Members of the French community gather outside the French Embassy in Tel Aviv to ask justice for late Sarah Halimi who was murdered by her neighbor in her apartment in Paris, seen on April 25, 2021. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)***

**Under the banner of “Justice for Sarah Halimi,” the rally at Trocadero Square overlooking the Eiffel Tower reflected the widespread indignation of many French Jews at the April 14 ruling by their country’s highest court**.

**It was held under tight security arrangements in a cordoned-off enclosure where the Jewish umbrella group CRIF played a video on a giant screen in which French Chief Rabbi Haim Korsia demanded another “trial of facts**,” even if it ends without sentencing of Traore.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/sarah.jpg) The rally Sunday was the first time in decades that a large number of French Jews gathered to protest against organs or actions of the French state.

***Justice for Sarah Halimi placards, April 2021 (Crédit : Consistoire israélite du Haut-Rhin)***

**Jacques Essebag, a French-Jewish comedian who is known by the stage name Arthur, in a video message said he has “decided to start using drugs because in France you can do whatever you want, even kill your neighbor if you don’t like her, if you use drugs.**” He then added: “What has become of this country?”

**However, a video message from Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, a Socialist politician, provoked whistles and booing from many protesters at the event,** which did not feature live speeches due to COVID-19 measures.

Organized by the CRIF umbrella of French Jewish communities, the rally was called “to show our astonishment at a decision that conforms to the law, but not to justice,” CRIF said.

**The event featured many French and Israeli flags, and those of the far-right Jewish Defense** League.

**MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/protesters-mass-in-france-israel-uk-to-demand-justice-for-sarah-halimi/> **[this is totally ludicrous and blatantly immoral. If a creep decided to do drugs or alcohol, he made a choice and he is culpable for the choice he made. If he commits a crime even though he is under the influence of a substance it was his choice from the onset to get high even if it aided his ‘removal of inhibitions’ so he does the crime. The same type thinking often has occurred in US courts as well. There have been multiple situations where others are held responsible for the actions of people who are high or drunk. Sorry folks, but as the saying goes “don’t do the crime if you can’t do the time.” – rdb]**

**Zarif criticized Soleimani’s power, said Russia tried to sabotage Iran nuke deal**

***In leaks from recording last year, minister says he was often kept in dark as IRGC dictated policy, was ‘astonished’ when US told him of Israeli strikes on Iranian targets in Syria***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:02 am*

**Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif criticized the power of Qassem Soleimani in leaks published Sunday from an interview he gave last year, saying the assassinated head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps had been setting Tehran’s polic**y.

**Zarif said that Soleimani had worked with Russia to sabotage the nuclear deal and acted in Syria’s long-running war in a way that damaged Tehran’s interests, as well as undermining him on a number of occasions**, the New York Times [reported](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/25/world/asia/iran-suleimani-zarif.html).

“In the Islamic Republic the military field rules,” Zarif said. “I have sacrificed diplomacy for the military field rather than the field servicing diplomacy.”

**The extracts also suggested Soleimani refused to listen to a request by the Foreign Ministry that Tehran show less overt support for Syrian leader Bashar Assad,** including not using state airline Iran Air to transport military equipment and personnel to Syria and not deploying ground forces to the war-torn country.

**Zarif also criticized Soleimani for allowing Russian planes to fly over Iran on** their way to bomb Syria.

Zarif said that he was often kept in the dark about security matters, and that “to his astonishment,” former US Secretary of State John Kerry told him that Israel had attacked Iranian interests in Syria at least 200 times.

**Zarif made the comments in an hours-long taped conversation with an economist named Saeed Leylaz** that took place last March as part of an oral history project. A copy was leaked to the UK-based Persian language news channel Iran International, which is viewed as hostile to Iran and is owned by Saudi Arabians.

**Zarif makes clear in the audiotape that the interview was never intended for publi**cation.

The Israel Defense Forces has launched hundreds of strikes in Syria since the start of the civil war in 2011 against moves by Iran to establish a permanent military presence in the country and efforts to transport advanced, game-changing weapons to terrorist groups in the region, principally Hezbollah **MORE -**. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/zarif-criticized-soleimanis-power-said-russia-tried-to-sabotage-iran-nuke-deal/>

**American governors urged to fight COVID databases**

***'There is reason to be worried no matter where you live'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 25, 2021 at 1:46pm*

**To stop COVID vaccine passports, governors and state lawmakers must target the databases behind them that collect personal medical data,** [**contends Christopher Bedford**](https://thefederalist.com/2021/04/19/covid-databases-are-among-us-and-the-right-must-fight-and-win-now-or-never/)**, the vice chairman of Young Americans For Freed**om.

Bedford, who also is a board member at the National Journalism Center and a senior editor at the Federalist, said that because Democrats favor vaccine passports and Republicans are two years away from regaining power, the issue will fall to the states.  
 **State officials, Bedford said, will need to "to protect their citizens from being coerced into experimental medical procedures and surveillance databases they aren't comfortable** with."  
 "**First, there is reason to be worried no matter where you live, because this regime is coming for us. The most powerful elites in the world are enthusiastically in favor of it, and for the past year they’ve gotten their way on pretty much every single thing they’ve demanded by attaching 'COVID-19' to** it," he said.  
 He noted IBM's COVID passport was launched just weeks after the National Institutes of Health gave the company a contract. **[there was a recent article in the news posting indicating that early on before the vaccines were available the CDC put producing forms for a ‘passport’ This has been their ‘control freak agenda’ from the onset. – rdb]**  
 "**Airlines, cruise lines, railways and hotels all feel pressure to meet ever-changing health regulations and rebuild travelers’ trust. Now, COVID-19 taskforces globally are asking**, ‘What can we do to return to pre-pandemic capacity? How can we verify a traveler’s health status before they [sic] visit?’ … Introducing IBM Digital Health Pass," he wrote.  
 **Germany already is on board, New York has a "state vaccine passport**" and South Korea has developed one.  
 **Airlines are at the front edge of the movement, with Emirates already on board. Air France, Alitalia, Etihad Airways and others are not far behind**.  
 "Meanwhile, **Mastercard and the ICC are partnering to see if they can make their passports work together, while Salesforce, Walmart, Cerner, Oracle, Microsoft, Epic Systems, Mayo Clinic, and the Mitre Corporation** are working on a global ID of their own," he noted.  
 **Officials in multiple states, including Iowa, Georgia, Idaho, Tennessee, Nebraska, Mississippi, Missouri, Minnesota, Massachusetts and South Dakota, say they won't issue or require one.** But "they’ve stopped short of protecting citizens from being coerced by private businesses that refuse to deal with them unless they furnish proof of vaccination," Bedford said.  
 Only two states have banned businesses from requiring them.  
 "Mandates aren’t always wrong. Our society has mandated that citizens reach a certain age before they are eligible to drive, to marry, to vote or run for office. We made these decisions together. Our legislators passed them. Some private firms have their own mandates and we are happy they do, such as requiring proper attire to enter. Many of us believe airlines could use some stricter mandates on attire," he said.  
 But he said there hasn't previously been a similar demand for "novel and deeply invasive injections in order to do business."  
 **There are companies, he said, "that will demand Americans submit their bodies to the vaccine** and their information to the corporate databases, and that is the plain on which the battle will be fought."  
 "**Corporate and corporate-government databases are a nightmare idea," he said. "Government-corporate databases are both a dream for hackers and a quick path to a social credit system**, and the only way to retard that kind of power is to make medical mandates a terrible burden to the states and businesses that demand them.  
 "**The way to do this is a patchwork of states that resist by banning them. Do corporations want to do business in states like Texas, Florida, and Montana? Do airlines want to maintain hubs in states that say no?** Are companies willing to write off that much market share?" he said.  
 "While the past year has revealed that a depressing number of Americans will yield to arbitrary power wielded in the name of COVID-19, and will surely submit to both novel medical procedures and invasive private databases just for a chance to return to normalcy, moral governance ought to protect them from being coerced into that choice at all — and should protect those who still refuse from being treated as second-class citizens."  
 The **way to fight COVID passports is to "target the databases**," Beford said.  
 "The databases are going to have to be digital to make sense, for speed, for efficiency, and because people will otherwise forge paperwork. The only effective way to go after them will be to prohibit any sort of digital database that collects or distributes personal medical data, and to make it a crime for organizations not covered by HIPAA to make services conditional on a customer granting access to medical data," he said.  
 "Databases aren’t theoretical, they are here, and they are spreading among us. The time to snuff this emerging corporate-government tyranny is now — or never." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/american-governors-urged-fight-covid-databases/>

**[SAY NO NOW! Tell your representatives that they must have legislation stopping them. – rdb]**

**Christian champion: 'Has our commander in chief completely lost his mind?'**

***'It appears to me that divine judgment has befallen our nation'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 25, 2021 at 12:48pm*

**James Dobson, the founder of** [**the James Dobson Family Institute**](https://www.dobsonfamilyinstitute.com/) **and the host of the** [**"Family Talk" radio program**](https://drjamesdobson.org/)**, several times has warned of the threat to America from the presidency of Joe Bide**n.

**That would be because of the plans made clear by Biden's Democrat party for a rollback in religious rights, promotion of abortion and a requirement that taxpayers fund it and other "radical" campaigns point**s. Since Biden has taken office the nation has been divided on topics including race, sexual orientation, politics, spending, socialism, rioting, police and even what is a crime.

**Dobson previously described the current administration's plans as "lunacy" and warned of the "moral depravity**" that they would bring.

In his [May newsletter to constituents,](https://www.drjamesdobson.org/newsletters/may-newsletter-2021) Dobson, who has advised five presidents on family issues, now says it already may be too late.

**"Though I am not a prophet, it appears to me that divine judgment has befallen our nation. The evil one, Satan (who always has only been able to operate within parameters permitted by the Lord, e.g., Job 1:7, 12), appears to be unleashing his assault on our culture with even greater ferocity.** He is creating chaos in our cities and schools, and is stalking the halls of government. It is as though, because we have replaced the truth with a lie, God has given us over to a reprobate mind. (Romans 1:25, 28)," Dobson explained.

**"Why do I draw such a conclusion? It is because our nation is divided into warring camps, with violence and pestilence plaguing the land. Sixty-two million babies have been murdered in cold blood, and hundreds of millions of additional federal dollars have been allocated to expand the unborn holocaust**. And the institutions of marriage and the family are under siege. Our birthrate is falling, and our children are being taught hate and sexual perversion in our government schools. How can a holy God look upon such debauchery and stay His righteous hand? He cannot."

He cited the conclusion of Thomas Jefferson, who said, "God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever." **MORE -**  <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/christian-champion-commander-chief-completely-lost-mind/>

**End of US Mass Vaccinations Coming Sooner Than Later**

*Sunday, 25 April 2021 09:53 AM*

**After three months of vaccination across the U.S., a majority of American adults have gotten shots, and the effort will soon shift from mass inoculation to mop-up**.

**As of Saturday, 138.6 million people in the U.S. have received at least one Covid-19 vaccine shot. About 1.3 million more are getting a first dose every day**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While the rate of new vaccinators is declining, even if were immediately cut in half, it would mean that six weeks from now more than half of the population of the U.S. and its territories will have had a dose.

**Almost all of those who get a first dose are likely to their second, according to one CDC stud**y. On top of that, more than 80% of people age 60 or over — the most vulnerable group — have had a dose and will likewise complete vaccination.

**That may be sufficient, at least to see a significant impact on U.S. caseloads.** The U.S. is currently about where Israel’s vaccine campaign was in mid-February, three weeks before cases there began to plunge. (Israel has, in total, vaccinated just under 60% of its population.)

But in the next few weeks, what the vaccine campaign is going to look like is going to change dramatically. The Biden administration is pursuing a strategy of abundance, which the White House has referred to as an “overwhelm the problem” approach. That means that there will likely still be widespread shipping of vaccines to pharmacies and health centers, inoculation clinics and mobile vaccine resources.

But what’s likely to disappear are lines and scarcity.

“It’s OK if there’s not a long line of 1,000 people,” Natalie Quillian, the White House’s deputy coordinator of its Covid-19 response, told Bloomberg this week. “That’s good, that was the plan.”

There are many signs that’s already happening. In New York City, which had some of the tightest vaccine availability at the start of the rollout, the health department announced Friday that appointments were no longer needed at city sites and people could walk in for shots.

All of this points to a U.S. mass vaccine campaign that’s closer to the end than the beginning. **MORE -**<https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/drg-exe-gen-gentop/2021/04/25/id/1018909/>

**Commentary:**

**To Save The Republic, Destroy The Media**[*Derek Hunter*](https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/) *Posted: Apr 25, 2021 12:01 AM* To produce some viruses for study, in the hope of eradicating them, scientists use monkey kidney cells. It’s the perfect environment for them to replicate; to grow. For the virus that is progressivism, the media is the monkey kidneys, and to eliminate the threat that this left-wing sibling of communism, socialism, and fascism poses to the world, that delivery device needs to be destroyed.   
 The profession, or at least what it used to be and is supposed to be, is important to the country. People need to know what is happening in their world. But what we have now is not journalism, it’s something else, something beyond propaganda. It can’t be reformed, the core isn’t rotten, it’s deliberately corrupt and hell bent on the destruction of our way of life.  
 Journalism has always had bias, but they at least used to try to hide it. They’d report some truth, leaving out other, inconvenient parts on the cutting room floor. Now they make it up. They make it up for the express purpose of manipulating people, herding people into groups, then turning those groups against one another. All in service to the Democrat Party.   
 Just this week alone, there have been more examples than I can count of propaganda and lies that would make Leni Riefenstahl and Joseph Goebbels embarrassed.   
 Paul Krugman at the New York Times [told his 4.6 million followers](https://twitter.com/paulkrugman/status/1385216421236510720), “In reality, given that GOP supporters believe that rampaging mobs burned and looted major cities — somehow without the people actually living in those cities noticing — getting them to see facts about something as abstract as the deficit is a hopeless cause.”   
 This isn’t mistake, he didn’t get it wrong or word it poorly, and he’s not uninformed; it is a deliberate lie.   
 Multiple media outlets have gone after civilians for donating to the defense fund for Kyle Rittenhouse, getting people fired for as little as $10. Stalin was more tolerant of differing points of view than these people.   
 The day after it was announced that South Carolina Senator Tim Scott is to deliver the Republican response to Joe Biden’s multi-trillion dollar Oprah-style giveaway before a joint session of Congress, the Washington Post ran a preemptive hit piece on him under the guise of a “fact-check.” The only thing was there was nothing to fact-check.   
 The Post’s Glenn Kessler spontaneously decided to “fact-check” something unrelated to policy proposals. It was personal – how, in his family, they’d gone from his grandfather picking cotton to him being a United States Senator.  
 Seems like an odd thing to “fact-check,” especially since he hasn’t told the story this year. But his story exemplifies the greatness that is America, and there’s nothing liberals hate more than the idea of American greatness.   
 What was deemed misleading about the story? That Scott’s grandfather dropped out of school to pick cotton and support his family wasn’t, it was that Scott didn’t add that the farm on which he was picking that cotton was owned by his great-grandfather. I’m not kidding, the Post basically argued that a black man really didn’t have it as tough as Scott said in the Democrat-controlled Jim Crow south because his family owned the farm he had to drop out of school to work on to keep it from going under. This wasn’t fact-checking, it was barely opposition research, it was really a warning shot against a black conservative letting him know his place while trying to discredit him before he speaks to the nation with the very people Democrats fear he could reach.   
 Any disagreement with Barack Obama was called racism, but real racism can be deployed against any black conservative as needed and it’ll win awards.  
 Then there was the shooting of Ma’Khia Bryant, the wannabe murderer prevented from achieving her goal by a hero police officer. I have never seen people wish for the stabbing death of another person before, yet that’s what the leftist media spent the week doing. I don’t know who the woman in the pink jumpsuit is but, with rare exception, the media spent the better part of the week arguing that she should be dead without actually saying it. If the police officer had not shot Bryant, the woman in pink would be dead. No one disputes it, they just don’t care. They need another George Floyd more than a junkie needs another fix, and if they have to manufacture it, well, damn it they were going to make one. Even in the face of irrefutable video evidence to the contrary.   
 When [Don Lemon and Chris Cuomo are the voices of reason](https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2021/04/22/surprisingly-reasonable-cuomo-lemon-argue-columbus-cop-was) in your profession, by a lot, simply by acknowledging a police officer did his duty and saved a life, it’s a pretty good indication your profession has passed the point of no return.   
 There is no rehabilitating it, there is no coming back. The “cure” has become the disease. I know conservatives like to talk about how they don’t “do boycotts.” All taking the “high road” does when fighting the left is give you a great view of your defeat. It’s time to get serious or to surrender, because just going along to get along is no longer an option. Don’t buy the products that fund them, don’t watch the shows on the networks that spread their lies, and do not stop until they’re all “learning to code.” They’d cheer your ruination, return the favor and hasten theirs. The media has to be destroyed and everyone in it replaced, or they will destroy everything else. <https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/2021/04/25/to-save-the-republic-destroy-the-media-n2588493>

**Infrastructure Bill Should Benefit America—Not China**[*Will Coggin*](https://townhall.com/columnists/willcoggin/) *Posted: Apr 25, 2021 12:01 AM* The $2 trillion infrastructure plan may be the mother of all spending bills. And without changes, the major winner is set to be China.   
 China has huge market shares of the raw materials we will need to repair and rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, from bridges to pipes. China had [a 51 percent](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/19/dont-let-china-steal-your-steel-industry/) share of the global steel market in 2018. The US, Canada, and Mexico combined only produced [6 percent](https://www.worldsteel.org/en/dam/jcr:96d7a585-e6b2-4d63-b943-4cd9ab621a91/World%2520Steel%2520in%2520Figures%25202019.pdf). China also controls more than half of the global cement market.   
 As things stand, much of the $2 trillion in U.S. taxpayer dollars will wind up lining the pockets of China’s big businesses, all of which are part of the Chinese Communist Party’s apparatus.   
 Instead of transferring a huge amount of wealth from the US to China, lawmakers have an opportunity with this bill to support American manufacturing.  
 There’s good reason to be skeptical of the quality of Chinese-made materials. Chinese drywall made with cancer-causing chemicals was put into an estimated 100,000 homes between 2001 and 2009, exposing American families to deadly health risks. In the Lumber Liquidators scandal in 2015, Chinese-made laminate flooring [exposed Americans to high levels of formaldehyde](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/lumber-liquidators-linked-to-health-and-safety-violations/), another cancer-causing substance.   
 Chinese-made steel is infamous for being cheap and [full of defects](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-17/safety-warning-over-fabricated-chinese-steel/6949506). Cutting corners on steel puts the integrity of bridges and other structures at risk of catastrophic failure, which could have deadly results for pedestrians and drivers.   
 Toys with lead paint, shoddy car tires, deadly contaminated pet food--the [list](https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=11656278) of Chinese products with harmful defects is long.   
 China’s gains in its share of the global steel market and other areas [have been driven by](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/19/dont-let-china-steal-your-steel-industry/) government subsidies and dumping--the deliberate flooding of a market with cheap goods to undercut competition. It’s an issue we’ve seen hit our supply chain in another, even more important area: medicine.  
 It may shock you to learn that you are almost entirely at the mercy of China to get medicine. According to a federal analysis, China controls 97 percent of our antibiotics and about 80 percent of our generic drugs.  
 At the beginning of the pandemic, we discovered that much of our personal protective equipment (PPE) is also made in China. And in a global emergency, the Chinese government wasn’t afraid to [hold up shipments](https://www.ibtimes.com/china-hoards-ppes-blocks-export-coronavirus-masks-considered-first-degree-murder-2953130) of masks to other countries, even PPE made by U.S. firms operating in China. China [sent defective masks](https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2020-05-08/us-pulls-permission-for-chinese-masks-found-defective) to other countries.  
 China accounts for about 80 percent of our mined rare earth metals. These are needed to make lithium batteries for electric cars and for the functioning of electronic devices--including military equipment.  
 In 2018, the Trump administration slapped tariffs on Chinese steel to breathe some life into American steel production. The Biden administration has acknowledged their [effectiveness](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-03-04/u-s-to-hold-china-to-account-on-rights-abuses-raimondo-says).   
 Now, the infrastructure bill provides a bigger, $2 trillion opportunity to make more gains on this front. Congress must look at securing more supply chains of goods ranging from cement to medicine to rare earth materials. If we are redefining infrastructure, then manufacturing is a key part of that new definition.  
 Overreliance on China is a threat to our national security and independence. As one Chinese professor remarked of China’s control over medicine: “Should we reduce the exports, the medical systems of some western countries will not run well.” Given the Chinese government puts its citizens in concentration camps, we shouldn’t risk finding out the hard way.  
 *Will Coggin is the managing director of the American Security Institute, a nonprofit responsible for ChinaOwnsUs.com.*  
 <https://townhall.com/columnists/willcoggin/2021/04/25/infrastructure-bill-should-benefit-americanot-china-n2588452>

**Woke Democrats Broke American Cities**[*Jeff Crouere*](https://townhall.com/columnists/jeffcrouere/) *Posted: Apr 25, 2021 12:01 AM* Almost all of the largest cities in the United States are governed by hard-left Democrats. In fact, there is only one Republican Mayor among the top 15 cities in the country and only three among the 30 largest cities.  
 All of the problems in our urban areas today are almost exclusively the result of the failed Democratic Party leadership. While previous generations of Democrats might have tried to find bi-partisan solutions to long standing problems, the party’s leaders in 2021 are woke leftists interested only in pushing their radical agenda.  
 The result has been outmigration, soaring crime rates, a drug epidemic, broken families, failing public schools, an increasing number of blighted properties, high poverty and unemployment rates, an obsession with a race-based agenda and rising antipathy toward law enforcement officers. No wonder people are fleeing our cities in hopes of finding safety and a better quality of life.  
 Recent headlines show the absolute destruction that is ongoing. In New Orleans, there was another shooting early Saturday morning on Bourbon Street, in the French Quarter, the city’s premier tourist destination.  In this case, five people were shot. Sadly, this type of carnage is becoming a regular occurrence in the Crescent City. New Orleans is suffering from a shortage of police officers and an abundance of criminals.  
 In Philadelphia, police department leaders are lamenting a shortage of officers as few new recruits are coming forward to replace the large number of retirements. Currently, the department is already understaffed, and the problem will only grow worse.  
 In Los Angeles, crime is skyrocketing while George Gascon, the new woke District Attorney, is pledging to dismantle his office’s Hardcore Gang Division. This decision is baffling to many citizens as[statistics](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-04-22/gascons-downsizing-of-gang-unit-draws-criticism-confusion)show that gang violence has contributed to approximately 60% of the murders in the first 110 days of the year.  
 Portland, Oregon has been a cesspool of rioting and looting ever since the death of George Floyd made national headlines last Memorial Day. Incredibly, it has never stopped. Last weekend, stores were set ablaze and burglarized. On Friday, a large mob of anarchists spray painted storefronts with graffiti, broke windows, and terrorized diners in a restaurant.  
 After the latest incidents, the far-left Mayor of Portland, Ted Wheeler, asked citizens to “call the police” if they see protesters “dressed in all black.” It is much too little, much too late for Wheeler, who has been punched and ridiculed by Antifa affiliated thugs. He has not been able to enjoy a meal in a restaurant or even live peacefully at his home. Protesters, dressed in black, staged a sit-in at Wheeler’s condo building and even hurled “bags of rubbish” and other objects at him as he was walking down a street.    
 The chaos is also continuing in Seattle, the epicenter of Antifa related violence. In this city, the far left created an autonomous zone, attacked a police precinct headquarters, and basically declared war on law abiding citizens. The craziness never stopped due to incompetent and fearful leadership.  
 This week, Motion Church, based just south of Seattle, was forced to cancel a speech by Charlie Kirk of Turning Point USA. After the speech was announced, a Seattle Antifa organization threatened to destroy the church.  
 This threat forced the church’s Pastor, Roger Archer, to make his decision. According to Archer, “cops don’t have the manpower to protect the several properties used by the church.” He claimed “the soft targets of churches, the elderly, women, children, and law-abiding citizens are vulnerable to anarchists who live free of the fear of reprisal.”  
 Archer also correctly noted that “What recent history has taught us is there’s an apparent lack of interest at the state level of leadership to protect decent, taxpaying citizens. Those terrorist mobs know that there is no consequence for their lawlessness. They have nothing to lose and nothing to fear.”  
 Archer is right, while the FBI and Department of Justice are busy arresting and prosecuting all the individuals who entered the U.S. Capitol Building on January 6, 2021, there have been few, if any, repercussions for those involved in approximately 275 riots that have occurred in Seattle and other cities across the country since last summer.  
 Americans can thank the woke Mayors and the woke Department of Justice for contributing to the anarchy and destruction on the streets of America’s cities.  
 This is especially true in New York City, led by hopelessly left-wing Mayor, Bill de Blasio. During his tenure, New York is being decimated by not only the pandemic, but also by rising crime. In[2020](https://nypost.com/2021/01/06/nyc-shootings-and-homicides-soared-in-2020-crime-data-shows/), shootings increased by almost 100%, while murders increased by 44%.  
 One factor in this increase is that New York police officers do not feel any support from the Mayor. There have been multiple incidents, many captured on video, of police officers being viciously attacked by criminals, who face almost no penalties for their actions.  
 It is no surprise that in 2020, an astounding[5,300](https://nypost.com/2021/04/24/are-nypd-officers-rushing-to-retire-amid-citys-anti-cop-climate/)police officers retired or quit. This is a[75%](https://nypost.com/2021/04/24/are-nypd-officers-rushing-to-retire-amid-citys-anti-cop-climate/)increase from 2019. As more police officers leave, the crime rate will continue to rise, and taxpayers and business will continue to flee. In response, Mayor de Blasio has continued to pander to the far left and failed to address the concerns of police and terrified citizens.  
 In Minneapolis, weak, woke leftist Mayor Jacob Frey has turned over his city to protesters demanding “justice for George Floyd.” However, the no-go zone created near the intersection where Floyd died has seen an enormous reduction in customers, mostly hurting local African American business owners.  
 One area restaurant proprietor, Alexander W., told the*New York Post*that city leaders “left me in danger.” He said, “They locked us up…left us behind…left me with no food, no water, nothing to eat.”  
 Hopefully, the citizens in these woke hellholes will eventually realize that the best way to improve their plight will be to stop voting for Democratic Party politicians, who deliver only poverty, misery, violence and, ultimately, failure.   
 <https://townhall.com/columnists/jeffcrouere/2021/04/25/woke-democrats-broke-american-cities-n2588494>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Netanyahu offered Deri to be prime minister for one year**

***Shas officials confirm Netanyahu has offered Aryeh Deri to serve as PM during first year of new government.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 26 , 2021 12:35 PM*

**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offered Interior Minister and Shas party chief Aryeh Deri to serve as prime minister for the first year of a new government under a rotational arrangement, Israel Ha***yom* reported.

**As part of a bid to end the ongoing political deadlock, Netanyahu is said to have drawn up a plan under which another candidate would serve as premier for the first year of a four-year term,** with Netanyahu then returning to the premiership for two years, before rotating out for the final year of the term.

One of the candidates considered for this scheme was Deri, to whom Netanyahu offered the first year as prime minister, in the hopes that New Hope chairman Gideon Sa’ar could be convinced to drop his opposition to joining a Likud-led government if a candidate other than Netanyahu were to serve initially as premier.

According to the report, Deri has rejected the offer, though senior Likud officials have continued to press Deri to reconsider.

Officials from the Shas party confirmed the report.

A statement issued by the Interior Minister’s office read: “Minister Deri is not interested in the position of Prime Minister.”

Netanyahu is said to be considering making a similar offer to Yamina chairman Naftali Bennett, or to a senior Likud lawmaker.

[On Sunday](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304999), it was reported that Netanyahu had made a similar offer to Defense Minister Benny Gantz (Blue and White).

The report Sunday said that Gantz was hesitant to accept, but did not reject the offer outright.

“I don’t see it being feasible,” Gantz is quoted as saying. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305032>

**Merav Michaeli will play central and influential role in the government'**

***Labor party holding negotiations with Yesh Atid, will demand at least one important ministry, communications adviser said.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 26 , 2021 12:11 PM*



***Merav Michaeli Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90***

Communications adviser Ronen Tzur, who manages the Labor party's coalition negotiations, on Monday morning told *Reshet Bet* that "there are the beginnings of negotiations."

He added that Labor is negotiating with Yesh Atid's chief, MK Yair Lapid, and not with all the potential coalition partners.

"From our perspective, Lapid is leading the negotiations - he is the head of the bloc," Tzur explained. "We are negotiating with his staff. A situation has been created in which we feel the possibility for change in the air, but it's still complex and sensitive."

He emphasized that Labor will not make do with smaller positions, and will demand at least one important ministry for its chief MK Merav Michaeli.

"Michaeli has seven Knesset seats which are not less than those of the other parties. She will play a central and influential role in any type of [government of change](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/299222)," he promised. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305026>

**Bereaved journalist: There's no symmetry between Arab terror and other violence**

***Journalist Yair Sherki whose brother was murdered in a terrorist attack: Racism and violence on the Jewish side is not the same as Arab terrorism.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 25 , 2021 11:59 PM*



*Yair Sherki PR photo*

**Channel 12 News journalist Yair Sherki, whose brother Shalom Yohai Sherki was murdered** [**in a car ramming terrorist attack**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/194201) **in Jerusalem in 2015, spoke out on Sunday against those making a comparison between racist remarks and violence by Jews and Arab terrorism**.

“There has been an attempt in recent days to create a symmetry, as though it’s on both sides,” he said when discussing the riots in Jerusalem in recent days. “So yes, there were indeed racist remarks and violent incidents on the Jewish side, but there is no symmetry. It’s not at all similar.”

“There’s no justification [for violence], but don’t mislead the viewer: There is no symmetry,” stressed Sherki <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305002>

**Arab stabs Jewish man in central Israel**

***22-year-old man who was distributing religious pamphlets wounded in stabbing in Ramleh in central Israel. Arab suspected apprehended.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 25 , 2021 8:02 PM*

**A 22-year-old Jewish man was stabbed Sunday evening in the central Israeli city of Ramle**h.

**Police were called to the scene shortly after the stabbing, and apprehended the suspect, who has been identified as a 19-year-old Arab resident of the nearby city of Lod**. The suspect has been transferred for questioning.

Emergency first responders from MDA were dispatched to the scene and treated the victim before evacuating him to Shamir-Assaf HaRofe Medical Center. The victim is listed in light condition.

"A short time ago, we received a report that a suspect had attacked a Jewish youth who had been distributing religious pamphlets at the Kerach Junction in Ramleh," police said in a statement Sunday evneing.

"The young man was lightly wounded and evacuated to Assaf HaRofe. Police forces dispatched to the scene quickly managed to locate the suspect, a 19-year-old resident of Lod, and arrest him for interrogation. The circumstances of the incident are under investigation." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304993>

**Israel gets three more F-35 stealth fighters**

**F-35I 'Adir' fighter jets delivered to Israel Air Force Sunday.**

**Tags:** [F-35](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/tags/F-35)

Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 25 , 2021 10:28 PM

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| ***The new F-35s***  ***The new F-35s IDF spokesperson*** | ***New F-35 IDF spokesperson*** |

**Israel's air force received three new F-35 stealth fighter jets Sunda**y.

The three aircraft landed at the Israel Air Force base in Nevatim Sunday, an IDF spokesperson said Sunday.

"Three new "Adir" (F-35I) aircraft touched down at Nevatim Airbase in southern Israel Sunday today. The new advanced jets will join the lines of the 116th ("Lions of the South") Squadron to strengthen the IAF's operational capabilities."

**A total of 625 F-35 fighters of all variants are currently in service around the world, logging a total of 380,000 service hou**rs combined.

The advanced fighter is currently being operated from 27 bases in nine different countries, with a total of 1,300 pilots and 10,380 ground team members operating and maintaining the aircraft. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304998>

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**04/25/2021 NEWS AM**

**Israel IDF Girls Military Motivation 2 CHAMPION!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gpQ3lQa3io>

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| **"When a government controls both the economic power of individuals and the coercive power of the state ... this violates a fundamental rule of happy living:**  **Never let the people with all the money and the people with all the guns be the same people." -- P. J. O'Rourke (1947- ) US humorist, journalist, & 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 AB family – Wife just diagnosed with brain tumor**  **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 KL – troubling spiritual situation.**  **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 26:9And Abimelech called Isaac and said, See, surely she *is* your wife, and how have you said, She *is* my sister? And Isaac said to him, Because I said, lest I die on account of her. 10And Abimelech said, What *is* this you have done to us? One of the people had in a little lain with your wife, and you would have brought on us guilt. 11And Abimelech commanded all the people, saying, Anyone touching this man and his wife dying shall die.**

**Rockets fired from Gaza into Israel as fighting enters second day**

***One intercepted by Iron Dome, second hits open field, third lands inside Strip; fresh attacks come after 36 rockets fired at Israel overnight Fri-Sat amid ongoing Jerusalem unrest***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 9:33 pm*

**Palestinian terrorists launched multiple rockets toward southern Israel on Saturday night, one of which was shot down while another struck an open field, as attacks from the enclave continued into a second day and threatened to intensify.**

**Several projectiles failed to clear the border and landed inside the Strip.**

**The first rocket attack came at 9 p.m., triggering sirens in the town of Sderot and nearby communities, sending residents into bomb shelters. Soldiers operating the Iron Dome shot down the incoming projectile**, the Israel Defense Forces said.

An 18-year-old woman suffered an acute anxiety attack because of the alarms and was treated at the nearby Barzilai Medical Center in Ashkelon, the hospital said.

**The launch of the rocket headed toward Sderot from the area of Jabaliya in northern Gaza** was captured by an Israeli security camera.

**The second launch occurred an hour and a half later, causing alarms to sound in the community of Kibbutz Niri**m, just east of southern Gaza. According to the IDF, the rocket landed in an open field near the security fence, without causing injury or damage.

**News outlets in the Strip reported that two additional rockets were launched at the same time, but failed to clear the border and** landed within Gazan territory.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/000_98P26J.jpg)

***Palestinians chant slogans as they burn tires during a rally in Gaza City in support of demonstrators in Jerusalem on April 24, 2021 (MAHMUD HAMS / AFP)***

**An hour later, a mortar shell was launched toward the agricultural fields surrounding the Israeli community of Kibbutz Nahal Oz,** but it too failed to clear the fence and landed inside Gaza, according to the IDF.

**In addition to these attacks, hundreds of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip held a number of protests along the border in which they burnt tires. IDF troops broke up the demonstrations using less lethal riot control weapons,** the military said.

**The rocket launches on Saturday were the latest in a series of barrages from the Gaza Strip,** beginning late Friday night.

Palestinian terror groups [have said](https://www.timesofisrael.com/gaza-terror-groups-say-rockets-fired-over-jerusalem-unrest-warn-worse-to-come/) that the rocket attacks were responses to ongoing unrest in Jerusalem, where far-right Israeli nationalists have held violent, racist demonstrations and where Arab residents of the capital have attacked a number of Jewish Israelis.

**Israeli leaders have called for calm on all sides in Jerusalem, th**ough police on Saturday night prepared for the violence to continue.

Over the course of Friday night and the predawn hours of Saturday morning, terrorists in the enclave launched at least 36 projectiles into southern Israel — toward the city of Ashkelon and the Eshkol, Sdot Negev, Sha’ar Hanegev and Hof Ashkelon regions — several of which landed inside Israeli communities, where they damaged a number of buildings and vehicles. Six of the rockets were intercepted by the Iron Dome, according to the IDF.

In retaliation, Israeli fighter jets bombed a number of Hamas in Gaza, including rocket launchers and underground infrastructure, and an IDF tank also struck a Hamas observation post on the border.

In light of the attacks, the military issued a number of safety instructions to residents of southern Israel, keeping people away from the border and limiting the sizes of crowds.

The rocket attacks came to a halt on Saturday morning, leading the military to remove these restrictions.



***IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi hosts a meeting with senior military officials on April 24, 2021 amid soaring Gaza tensions. (Israel Defense Forces)***

Israeli officials warned that if the rocket attacks returned on Saturday night, this could lead to a wider conflict.

**Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** [**called on the military**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/pm-calls-urgent-meeting-amid-gaza-tensions-idf-chief-postpones-us-trip/) **to “prepare for any scenario” with Gaza**. Defense Minister Benny Gantz similarly said that the Israel Defense Forces “will do what is necessary so the calm is preserved,” following security consultations at defense headquarters in Tel Aviv.

**IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi also canceled his planned visit to Washington, DC, amid concerns that the fighting in Gaz**a would escalate, the military said.

Israel and Hamas have maintained an uneasy ceasefire over the past year, with Jerusalem allowing additional international investment and assistance to the beleaguered enclave in exchange for calm by terror groups in the Strip.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iron-dome-intercepts-gaza-rocket-over-sderot-as-fighting-enters-2nd-day/>

**Fresh clashes between Israeli forces, Palestinians in Jerusalem and West Bank**

**Scuffles and riots break out near Damascus Gate, Qalandiya checkpoint as Gaza rocket fire renewed; at least 6 reported hurt in confrontations**

By [TOI staff](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) and [Agencies](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) Today, 11:50 pm

***[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/000_98N9NJ.jpg)Israeli security forces push out Palestinian protesters outside the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City on April 24, 2021. (Ahmad GHARABLI / AFP)***

**Fresh scuffles between Israeli police and Palestinians broke out at Damascus Gate in Jerusalem’s Old City on Saturday night, following week-long tensions and renewed rocket fire from the Gaza Strip t**oward southern Israel.

The **Palestinian Red Crescent reported that six Palestinians required medical care, including one taken to hospital for treatment. It did** not specify how they were injured.

**Unrest was reported in a number of different areas. Near the Qalandiya crossing between Jerusalem and Ramallah, a spokesperson for the Border Police said forces were “dealing with about a hundred rioters brandishing firebombs, stones, and fireworks**” and responding with riot dispersal means.

**Hundreds of Palestinians also marched toward Israeli checkpoints across the West Bank in solidarity with East Jerusalem Palestinians, leading to** confrontations. According to reports in the Palestinian media, Palestinians hurled stones and burned garbage cans close to Jenin’s Jalameh checkpoint during the protest. Palestinians also demonstrated close to Nablus’s Huwarra checkpoint and Hebron’s Bab al-Zawiyeh, which borders a crossing within the city administered by the Israeli military.

**There have been nightly disturbances in Jerusalem since the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan** on April 13, amid Palestinian anger over police blocking off access to the promenade around the walls of the Old City and a ban on gatherings. In an unofficial Jerusalem tradition, thousands of Palestinians sit in the area following nighttime prayers during Ramadan.



***Palestinian demonstrators burn tires at the Qalandia checkpoint between the West Bank town of Ramallah and Jerusalem on April 24, 2021, during a gathering in support of demonstrators in Jerusalem. (ABBAS MOMANI / AFP)***

**Video from Damascus Gate on Saturday appeared to show scuffling between Palestinian worshipers and Border Police forces as officers cleared the worshipers from the stairs outside the** gate.

**Police earlier Saturday said they were gearing up for continued unrest after more than 105 Palestinians were wounded late Thursday** when they confronted a group of some 300 extreme-right Jewish activists who marched to the scene chanting “Death to Arabs.” Police, trying to keep the groups apart, also clashed with the Palestinians, who threw rocks at the officers.

המתיחות בירושלים: עימותים בין מתפללים סמוך לשער שכם ובין כוחות המשטרה[@SuleimanMas1](https://twitter.com/SuleimanMas1?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/1HLzGQAT69](https://t.co/1HLzGQAT69)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [April 24, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1386028874920873985?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion said Saturday that there was “zero tolerance for violence” in the city, adding** that the situation is “sad, very sad, because I know how much cooperation there has been with East Jerusalem.”

“We won’t let a minority, from either side, sow chaos. We want quiet,” he added.

Jerusalem has seen over a week of violence after a number of assaults on Jews that were filmed and later uploaded to the TikTok social media platform, including one of an East Jerusalem teenager slapping two ultra-Orthodox boys on the light rail. Along with the recent violence in Jerusalem toward Jews, there have also been attacks on Arabs, with chants of “Death to Arabs” heard during the assaults.

Police Commissioner Yaakov Shabtai told reporters on Saturday that forces had managed to arrest nearly all of those involved with the so-called TikTok assaults.

**Responding to criticism surrounding the violence on Thursday, Shabtai said “we prepared in advance and managed to separate the residents of East Jerusalem from them,**” referring to the Jewish supremacist Lehava group. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/fresh-clashes-erupt-between-israeli-forces-palestinians-in-old-city-west-bank/>

**Jerusalem man beaten by Palestinian mob Friday says city in ‘a Third Intifada’**

***Eli Rozen was walking his dog when dozens of rioters assaulted him with rocks, fists and clubs; he says he’s lucky to be alive; attack said to be one of several on Jewish civilians***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *25 Apr 2021, 2:13 am*

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

***Eli Rozen describes his beating by a Palestinian mob in Jerusalem from his hospital bed at Hadassah Mt. Scopus Medical Center, April 24, 2021 (video screenshot)***

**An Israeli man who was badly beaten by a Palestinian mob Friday night during rioting in Jerusalem, and who was subsequently hospitalized, believes he was “a hair’s breadth from death**” and described the events in the city as “a Third Intifada.”

**Eli Rozen, 27, was the second person in as many nights whose beating by rioters was caught on camera and caused outrage in the cou**ntry.

**Rozen was out walking his dog around 1 a.m. in the Shmuel Hanavi neighborhood in the capital when he was accosted by dozens of angry Palestinians amid confrontations with police in the city. Video shared on social media shows Rozen getting kicked, beaten with a club and hit with rocks. As he runs off, a** man hurls a shopping cart at him.

**According to Haaretz, Rozen’s case was only one of several incidents Friday in which Jewish men were assaulted in the capital as tensions ran high, including a man who was beaten in the city’s east**, several men who were assaulted while on their way to pray at the Western Wall and two who were attacked at the French Hill intersection.

ניסיונות הלינץ האלה מזעזעים.  
אלי רוזן בן ה27 עדיין מאושפז עם צלעות שבורות [pic.twitter.com/qFuXFTLHqo](https://t.co/qFuXFTLHqo)

— אייבי בנימין (@AybeeBinyamin) [April 24, 2021](https://twitter.com/AybeeBinyamin/status/1386001966766170113?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Speaking to Channel 12 from his hospital bed at Hadassah Mt. Scopus Medical Center on Saturday, Rozen said that when his attackers spotted him, they shouted “Yahud, Yahud” and ran after** him.

He was punched repeatedly in the face and badly beaten. “It was simply a lynch,” he said. “I saw death. Luckily I somehow survived it. It was really a miracle. Someone else a bit weaker or less [medically] stable could have ended his life there.”

**Rozen said he’d suffered three fractured vertebrae, a sprained ankle and swelling in the head which was im**proving.

**“It’s a third intifada, without a doubt,” he said. “I came out fine considering the number of people who attacked me and what happened. I was a hair’s breadth from** death.”

**Rozen’s beating came a day after an Israeli motorist was assaulted and beaten by multiple attackers during violent clashes in the city between Jewish and Arab protesters.**

When his car was surrounded by an angry mob Yahya Jardi, 46 from Beit Shemesh, attempted to flee on foot but was caught and physically assaulted. Video showed Jardi being kicked repeatedly as he lay on the ground. His car was later set on fire.

“I said to them ‘Why are you doing this, what have I done to you?'” he later recounted.

“I thought I was going to die,” he told Kan news. “I thought I wouldn’t get home, that I was dead… I was thrown to the ground and beaten. I couldn’t even breathe. They beat up my entire body.”

**“I thought I was going to die,” he told Kan news. “I thought I wouldn’t get home, that I was dead… I was thrown to the ground and beaten. I couldn’t even breathe. They beat up my entire body**.”

He was rushed to Hadassah Medical Center on Mt. Scopus where he remained under treatment over the weekend.

Police on Friday said they were searching for the culprits in the attack on Jardi. **MORE -**  <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jerusalem-man-beaten-by-palestinian-mob-friday-says-city-in-a-third-intifada/>

**Iran army chief threatens to ‘teach Israel a good lesson’ after tanker targeted**

***Mohammad Bagheri warns of military response, implies Israel behind attack on Iranian vessel off Syria, amid sky-high tensions and talks over renewing nuclear deal***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 12:56 pm*

Iran’s Armed Forces chief Mohammad Bagheri on Sunday threatened to “teach Israel a very good lesson,” appearing to hint the Jewish state was behind an attack on an Iranian tanker off Syria’s coast over the weekend, but stopping short of blaming Jerusalem directly for the incident.

Bagheri told reporters: “We don’t announce anything about the incidents that happened recently, nor do we know who did it, but the Resistance Front will teach Israel a very good lesson,” according to several Iranian journalists.

“Israelis think they can keep hitting Syria and making mischievous moves elsewhere and in the seas and not receive any response,” said Bagheri, according to tweets by Iranian journalists Reza Khaasteh and Abas Aslani.

“The moves made in the past few days and future moves against their interests will bring them to their senses,” Bagheri added. “It is not clear how Iran will respond, but the Zionist regime will not remain peaceful.”

Bagheri seemed to be referring to recent apparent targeting of an Iranian tanker off Syria’s coast on Saturday, outside the Baniyas refinery, which allegedly killed at least [three people,](https://www.timesofisrael.com/syrian-war-monitor-claims-3-killed-as-iran-oil-tanker-struck-by-drone/) according to a pro-opposition war monitor.

Israel’s Channel 12 news said Saturday night, however, that nobody was injured in the incident and that the resulting fire caused no significant damage. Channel 13 news said the fire apparently had nothing to do with Israel. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-army-chief-threatens-to-teach-israel-a-good-lesson-after-tanker-targeted/>

**Syrian war monitor claims 3 killed as Iran oil tanker struck by drone**

***Pro-opposition group claims victims are Syrians, two of them crew members; state media says unmanned aircraft involved in attack came from the direction of Lebanon***

*By* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *25 April 2021, 12:50 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/Screen-Shot-2021-04-24-at-18.52.18-e1619279662864.jpeg)

***A screenshot of video aired by Syrian state TV on April 24, 2021, shows a fire on a ship off the coast of Banyas, which Syria says was apparently started after the ship was attacked by a drone. (Screen capture: Twitter)***

**BEIRUT, Lebanon — At least three people died when an Iranian tanker was attacked off Syria’s coast Saturday, outside the Baniyas refinery, a war monitor sai**d.

**Israel’s Channel 12 news said Saturday night however that nobody was injured in the incident, and that the fire caused no significant damag**e. Channel 13 news said the fire apparently had nothing to do with Israel.

**“At least three Syrians were killed, including two members of the crew” in the attack that sparked a fire, said Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Right**s said.

**It was not clear who carried out the attack, the war monitor sa**id.

The Observatory has regularly been accused by Syrian war analysts of inflating casualty numbers, as well as inventing them wholesale.

“We don’t know if this was an Israeli attack,” Abdel Rahman told AFP, adding that “the Iranian tanker came from Iran and was not far from Baniyas port.”

**It was also not clear if a drone or a missile was used in the attack**, the Observatory said.

State news agency SANA, quoting the oil ministry, said the fire erupted after “what was believed to be an attack by a drone from the direction of Lebanese waters.” The flames were later extinguished.

Several images the oil tanker on fire off the Syrian coast of Baniyas. [#Syria](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Syria?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/ZADTLONwgJ](https://t.co/ZADTLONwgJ)

— Joe Truzman (@Jtruzmah) [April 24, 2021](https://twitter.com/Jtruzmah/status/1385975054974869506?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**In a report published last month that cited US and Middle East officials, the Wall Street Journal said Israel had targeted at least a dozen vessels bound for Syria** and mostly carrying Iranian oil since late 2019.

In recent months, at least three Israeli-owned cargo ships have been damaged in alleged Iranian attacks, one in the Gulf of Oman, another as it was sailing to India, and the [most recent](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-owned-ship-said-attacked-off-uae-coast-amid-sky-high-tensions-with-iran/) near the UAE.

**Hundreds of Israeli airstrikes have also struck Syria since the war began in 2011**, mostly targeting Damascus regime allies from Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah terror group, and Syrian government troops.

The Baniyas oil refinery is located in the regime-controlled coastal province of Tartus.

“It’s the first such attack on an oil tanker, but the Banias terminal has been targeted in the past,” Abdel Rahman said.

Video circulating by [#Iran](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Iran?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)'s Nour News, which is close to the SNSC, of a helicopter coming to the aid of the tanker off the coast of [#Syria](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Syria?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) today. Nour News is interestingly describing the fire as due to a "welding" incident rather than a drone attack. 1/2 [#OOTT](https://twitter.com/hashtag/OOTT?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/OL1C40xvB7](https://t.co/OL1C40xvB7)

— Jason Brodsky (@JasonMBrodsky) [April 24, 2021](https://twitter.com/JasonMBrodsky/status/1386056498695049218?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Early last year, Damascus said divers had planted explosives on offshore pipelines of the Baniyas refinery, but the damage had not halted operations.

And in February 2020, four oil and gas sites in the central province of Homs were attacked by armed drones, sparking fires and causing material damage.

***Nuclear facility***

Saturday’s attack came after a Syrian officer was killed and three soldiers wounded Thursday in strikes launched by Israel, after a missile was fired toward a secretive nuclear site in the Jewish state.**MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/syrian-war-monitor-claims-3-killed-as-iran-oil-tanker-struck-by-drone/>

**Fury in Iraq as fire at Baghdad COVID hospital kills at least 82, wounds 110**

***Medical sources say blaze that ripped through Ibn al-Khatib medical center started with explosion caused by ‘a fault in the storage of oxygen cylinders’***

By [Ammar Karim](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ammar-karim/) and [Salam Faraj](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/salam-faraj/) Today, 1:47 pm

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP21115172071283.jpg)

***First responders work the scene of a fire at a hospital in Baghdad on April 24, 2021. (AP Photo)***

**BAGHDAD, Iraq (AFP) — A fire that ravaged a COVID-19 hospital in the Iraqi capital overnight Saturday-Sunday killed at least 82 people and sparked angry calls for the sacking of officials, in a country with long-dilapidated health infrastructure**.

**The blaze at Baghdad’s Ibn al-Khatib hospital started with an explosion caused by “a fault in the storage of oxygen cylinders,” medical** sources told AFP.

**Flames spread quickly across multiple floors in the middle of the night, as dozens of relatives were at the bedsides of the 30 patients in the hospital’s intensive care unit where most severe COVID-19 cases are tr**eated, a medical source said.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/AP21115172042634.jpg) “The **hospital had no fire protection system and false ceilings allowed the flames to spread to highly flammable** products,” the civil defense said.

“The majority of the victims died because they had to be moved and were taken off ventilators, while the others were suffocated by the smoke,” it added.

***First responders work the scene of a fire at a hospital in Baghdad on Saturday, April 24, 2021. (AP Photo)***

**At least 23 deaths were reported in the immediate aftermath of the fire, with an official toll of 82 announced Sunday by Iraq’s health ministry, which said that an additional 110 people had been wounded in the blaze**. The country’s civil defense said it “rescued 90 people out of 120 patients and their relatives.”

Videos on social media showed firefighters battling to put out the blaze as patients and their relatives tried to flee the building.

82 were killed and 110 other were wounded last night during a fire in Ibn Al-Khatib hospital in [#Baghdad](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Baghdad?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/hV82RT73Rk](https://t.co/hV82RT73Rk)

— Steven Nabil (@thestevennabil) [April 25, 2021](https://twitter.com/thestevennabil/status/1386254017676779522?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

“It was the people who got the wounded out,” Amir, 35, told AFP, saying he saved his hospitalized brothers “by the skin of his teeth.”

**Iraq’s hospitals have been worn down by decades of conflict and poor investment, with shortages in medicines and hospital bed**s.

The incident sparked outrage on social media and Prime Minister Mustafa al-Khademi called for an investigation into the cause of the blaze, and declared three days of national mourning.

***Negligence***

**After daybreak, dozens of tall oxygen cylinders that had been evacuated could be seen lined up outside the building, alongside gurneys and scattered debr**is.

**More than 200 patients in all were rescued, according** to the health ministry, which pledged to release an official toll of the dead and wounded later.

The fire — which according to several sources was caused by negligence often linked to endemic corruption in Iraq — sparked anger on social media, with a hashtag demanding the health minister be sacked trending on Twitter.

Baghdad Governor Mohammed Jaber called on the health ministry “to establish a commission of inquiry so that those who did not do their jobs may be brought to justice.”

In a statement, the government’s human rights commission said the incident was “a crime against patients exhausted by COVID-19 who put their lives in the hands of the health ministry and its institutions and instead of being treated, perished in flames.”

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/000_98P4QA.jpg)

***Iraqi policemen stand at the gate of Ibn Al-Khatib Hospital in Baghdad, on April 25, 2021, after a fire erupted in the medical facility reserved for the most severe COVID-19 cases. (AHMAD AL-RUBAYE / AFP)***

**The commission called on the prime minister to fire Health Minister Hassan al-Tamimi and “bring him to justice.”**

**Kadhemi responded by calling for “an investigation” — echoing President Barham Saleh and parliament speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi — and said he wanted results “within 24 hours.”**

The prime minister also suspended the health director for the eastern sector of Baghdad and the head of Ibn al-Khatib, as well as the hospital’s heads of security and technical maintenance teams.

They are being questioned and nobody, Kadhemi said, will be released “until those who have done wrong are brought to justice.”

***Mounting coronavirus cases***

**The UN top representative in Iraq, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, expressed “shock” at the tragedy and called “for stronger protection measures to ensure that such a disaster cannot re**occur.”

**On Wednesday, the number of COVID-19 cases in Iraq surpassed one million**, the highest of any Arab state.

**The health ministry has recorded more than 15,000 deaths since the country’s first infections were reported in February 2020**, and has carried out around 40,000 tests daily from a population of 40 million.

Rather than go to overcrowded or run-down hospitals, patients who can afford it have often set up oxygen tanks for their use at home. **MORE -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/fury-in-iraq-as-fire-at-baghdad-covid-hospital-kills-at-least-82-wounds-110/>

**White House says Israeli delegation will not change US position on Iran deal**

***Mossad chief, national security adviser head to DC Monday to lobby against US return to nuke deal; IDF chief backs out and delegation delays trip due to security flare-up***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 11:44 am*

**Israel’s delegation to Washington DC will not change the United States position on rejoining the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, the White House press secretary said in a briefing Fr**iday.

**On Monday, a high-level Israeli delegation will travel to Washington to voice objection to the US return to the Iran nuclear deal, but not to hold talks on the details. It will be headed by Mossad chief Yossi Cohen** and National Security Adviser Meir Ben-Shabbat.

Asked whether the visit will impact the administration’s position on rejoining the deal, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said: “No.”

Psaki expanded on the indirect negotiations with Iran, saying that while the White House “knew they would be challenging, we’re encouraged that there are still conversations between all parties and that they’re still happening.”

“As it relates to Israel, we have kept them abreast, as a key partner of these discussions, of our intentions and we will continue to do that on any future visits,” Psaki added.

[Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu emphasized in a meeting](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-delegation-to-dc-to-oppose-us-nuke-deal-return-but-wont-talk-details/) with the delegation last week that Israel is not a party in the nuclear agreement with Iran, and not committed to it, clarifying that “Israel is committed to its own security interests only and will act accordingly,” an Israeli official said Friday. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/white-house-says-israeli-delegation-will-not-change-us-position-on-iran-deal/>

**Biden recognizes Ottoman Empire atrocities against Armenians as ‘genocide’**

***Previous presidents avoided using the term so as to not complicate ties with Turkey; Lapid hails move, says will push for Israeli recognition***

*By* [*AAMER MADHANI*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aamer-madhani/)*,* [*Matthew Lee*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/matthew-lee/) *and* [*ZEYNEP BILGINSOY*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/zeynep-bilginsoy/) *24 April 2021, 7:56 pm*

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| ***The bodies of deportees from Van who died of typhus and various other diseases, pictured in a forest near the Mother See of Etchmiadzin, about 25 kilometers (15 miles) from the Armenian capital of Yerevan, in the summer of 1915. (Armenian Genocide Museum/PAN Photo via AP)*** | ***Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, center, attends a memorial service at the monument to the victims of mass killings by Ottoman Turks, to commemorate the 106th anniversary of the massacre, in Yerevan, Armenia, Saturday, April 24, 2021. (Tigran Mehrabyan/PAN Photo via AP)***  ***Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, center, attends a memorial service at the monument to the victims of mass killings by Ottoman Turks, to commemorate the 106th anniversary of the massacre, in Yerevan, Armenia, Saturday, April 24, 2021. (Tigran Mehrabyan/PAN Photo via AP)*** |

**WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden formally recognized that the systematic killings and deportations of hundreds of thousands of Armenians by Ottoman Empire forces in the early 20th century were “genocide” — using a term for the atrocities that his White House predecessors have avoided for decades over concerns of alienating Tur**key.

With the acknowledgment, Biden followed through on a campaign promise he made a year ago Saturday — the annual commemoration of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day — to recognize that the events of 1915 to 1923 were a deliberate effort to wipe out Armenians.

Biden used a [presidential proclamation](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/24/statement-by-president-joe-biden-on-armenian-remembrance-day/) to make the pronouncement**. It began: “Each year on this day, we remember the lives of all those who died in the Ottoman-era Armenian genocide a**nd recommit ourselves to preventing such an atrocity from ever again occurring. We affirm the history. We do this not to cast blame but to ensure that what happened is never repeated.”

**Biden became the first US president to use the word genocide, a day after informing Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of the decision and seeking to limit the furor from the NATO all**y.

**The statement is a massive victory for Armenia** and its extensive diaspora. Starting with Uruguay in 1965, nations including France, Germany, Canada and Russia have recognized the genocide but a US statement has been a paramount goal that proved elusive under other presidents until Biden. **MORE -**  <https://www.timesofisrael.com/fulfilling-campaign-promise-biden-recognizes-armenian-genocide/>  **[Well at least that is ONE thing the “Bi-dumb” has done right over the past few months. – rdb]**

**Biden's son-in-law benefited from loan program 'Big Guy' bashed**

***White House says it 'did not interact with any family members about this'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published April 24, 2021 at 1:03pm* ***By Philip Wegmann*** *Real Clear Politics*

**Joe Biden needed to talk to a family member, and the message, Politico later reported, was blunt. “For Christ’s sake,” the then-presidential candidate told his younger brother, Frank, “watch yourself. Don’t get sucked into something that would, first of all, hurt** you.”

**The Biden family, like other political families before it, had and still has assorted business interests. If not properly set apart from official government actions, these interests can present the appearance of impropriety**. Caution was in order during the 2020 campaign, and so too now.

On Inauguration Day, Biden issued [a sweeping executive order](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-ethics-commitments-by-executive-branch-personnel/) that outlined ethics requirements for executive branch personnel, and as the federal government continues to pump trillions of dollars into the economy to combat the pandemic and its impact, his administration has put in place guardrails to ensure that the relief money gets into the right hands. His family, meanwhile, continues to go about its business.

Enter Howard Krein.

**A doctor and the president’s son-in-law, Krein** [**advised Biden during the campaign**](https://www.politico.com/news/2020/10/13/howard-krein-covid-startups-biden-429123) **on issues related to the coronavirus while simultaneously running a venture capital firm. That entity, called Startup Health, has invested in entrepreneurs eager to combat the pandemic. Krein** [**is listed**](https://www.startuphealth.com/team/howard-krein-md-phd) **on its website as the chief medical off**icer.

**As Bloomberg and the New York Times** [**noted**](https://www.politico.com/news/2020/10/13/howard-krein-covid-startups-biden-429123)**, Krein was a regular participant during health care policy calls with the campaign due to his medical expertise. At the same time, Startup Health announced plans to invest $1 million in at least 10 different ventures addressing COVID-19. And while investing** in the fight against the pandemic, the company itself struggled with the economic fallout.

**According to publicly available data compiled by ProPublica, Startup Health was approved for** [**a $340,290 loan**](https://projects.propublica.org/coronavirus/bailouts/search?q=STARTUP+HEALTH+LLC) **through the Paycheck Protection Program in April 2020.** (PPP loans are [forgivable](https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program/ppp-loan-forgiveness) if the company meets certain requirements, including keeping their employees on the payroll at preexisting compensation levels.) The next month, Biden criticized the very program that his son-in-law's business was benefiting from “because of what I’d call a corrupt recovery that’s focused on helping the wealthy, the well-connected, not the millions of mom-and-pops facing financial ruin,” he said [during a virtual town-hall meeting](https://www.tampabay.com/news/business/2020/05/28/politifact-joe-biden-uses-arbitrary-conflicting-definition-to-slam-small-business-loans/) last May. “The warning signs are flashing.

**And there were concerns early on that relief funding was flowing to the particularly well-connecte**d. As the Washington Post [later reported](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/12/01/ppp-sba-data/) after a Freedom of Information Act request and lawsuit, more than half the money the Treasury Department doled out from its small business emergency fund went to just 5% of recipients.

**Startup Health seemed to have had a clean bill of fiscal health before the pandemic. When the company closed its second round of funding in September 2018, industry journal MedCity News** [**reported**](https://medcitynews.com/2018/09/startup-health-closes-new-31-million-fund-focused-on-health-moonshots/?rf=1) **that Startup Health had amassed $31 million in investments backed by the likes of Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis**, California-based medical technology company Masimo, and notably the venture capital arm of the Chinese insurance company Ping An.

**Part of an effort dubbed “Health Transformers Fund II,” Startup Health announced that the money would focus on medical innovations to fight cancer,** expand access to health care for women, and improve overall nutrition and fitness and brain health. Each investment, an attempt to help people throughout the world, was dubbed [“a health moonshot.”](https://medcitynews.com/2018/09/startup-health-closes-new-31-million-fund-focused-on-health-moonshots/?rf=1)

But like so many other companies affected by the pandemic, Startup Health applied for PPP funding two years later in 2020. It also applied for, and was approved for, a second federal PPP loan, this one worth [$318,522,](https://projects.propublica.org/coronavirus/bailouts/search?q=STARTUP+HEALTH+LLC) less than two months ago.

**Startup Health did not return RealClearPolitics’ request for comment, but there is no evidence  the allocations were improper or that the president knew that his son-in-law was taking advantage of the program that candidate Biden criticized. He has, however, taken a keen interest in the company before**.

**As vice president, Biden helped put Startup Health in contact with the White House. “**He knew about Startup Health and was a big fan of it,” Krein [told the Philadelphia Business Journal](https://philadelphiapact.com/startup-health-we-want-the-best-of-the-best/) in 2015. “He asked for Steve’s number and said, ‘I have to get them up here to talk with Barack.’” And as the Washington Post [later reported](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/biden-transition-ethics-trump/2020/12/13/dcee6e3e-3b2d-11eb-9276-ae0ca72729be_story.html), a subsequent meeting took place between the group -- which included Krein’s brother, Steven -- and President Obama. They chatted in the Oval Office.

A White House official told RCP that the administration was not involved in any way in either federal loan. “Consistent with our ethics policy,” the official said in a written statement, “the White House did not interact with any family members about this loan, nor with the SBA.” **MUCH MORE -** <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/bidens-son-law-benefited-loan-program-big-guy-bashed/>

**Biden agenda: Undermine 'life, family and religion'**

***32 of 62 executive actions align with objective***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 24, 2021 at 7:24pm*

**A webpage created by the Family Research Council, called** [**"Tracking the Biden Administration,"**](https://www.frcaction.org/biden) **shows that more than half of the president's executive actions have had one foc**us.

**To undermine "life, family, and religious freedo**m."

**"At the 100-day mark of the Biden administration, it has become evident that President Biden's call for unity and healing on day one of his presidency was nothing more than a rhetorical diversion, as he has demanded conformity to policies and priorities that threaten to lurch America to the Left in historic proportions," said FRC President Tony Perki**ns.

FRC found that of 62 executive actions, 32 undermine life, family or faith.

"As our Tracking the Bid**en Administration report shows, President Biden has moved at a record setting pace to enact a far-Left, anti-family agenda,"** Perkins said. "The Biden trophies of his 100-day sprint include returning to the pro-abortion policies of Barack Obama and forcing taxpayers back into a partnership with the abortion industry, both at home and abroad. He has made clear that he places no value on the inherent dignity of human life. **His actions deny the truth that every human life, born and unborn, possesses inherent dignity and deserves to be treated with respe**ct."

The **report cites "accomplishments" such as authorizing tax funding of abortion overseas, donating to the United Nations Population Fund that cooperates with China despite that nation's coercive abortion practices, advocating for adoption of the long-dead Equal Rights Amendment, allowing chemical abortion pills to be dispensed by mail, and authorizing taxpayer funding of research using th**e body parts of aborted babies.

"He has already racked up a record of targeting people of faith and faith-based organizations by demoting religious protections and demanding uniform affirmation of the transgender ideology. Those who hold to biological reality and the doctrines of the world's major religions are being put in the position of either violating their consciences or being treated by the government as second-class citizens," Perkins said.

**"President Biden has consistently assaulted the very biological reality and science he claims guides his administration as he bowed to powerful interests who insist that girls can be boys and boys can be gi**rls. He has even ordered schools to abolish girls' sports and force boys and girls to use the same showers and locker rooms. By spending millions of defense dollars on gender reassignment surgeries, he is using the military to force moral and cultural change on society, which endangers our nation, as he must divert the military's focus away from its mission of fighting and winning wars so that he can pursue his mission."

Among the executive actions is one that grants special rights to men who "identify" as women and women who identify as men.

And he's implemented further rights for transgendered people in the military, including putting taxpayers on the hook for various treatments.

**He's also promoting LGBT "rights" globally through the nation's "diplom**acy and foreign assistance."

**He insists that nonmarried couples be treated as married in the nation's refugee system**s, and he has killed the Trump administration's "White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative."

Biden announced his administration's support for allowing boys who identify as girls to compete in girls' athletic events, and he wants the federal government to take over all state elections, removing barriers to vote fraud.

**"President Biden has surrounded himself with the most extreme cabinet in American history. Many of Biden's highest appointe**es have no qualifications besides their abortion activism and their track record of trampling on religious freedom," Perkins said. "As this report shows, the contrast between the Trump and Biden administrations could not be more stark."

Travis Weber, vice president for policy and government affairs at Family Research Council, added: "President Biden's words don't match his actions. His claim of unity rings hollow, as Biden's first 100 days in office have been marked with radical, aggressive, anti-life, anti-family, anti-freedom actions that have further divided our nation. His administration has moved more aggressively than any other to undo federal policies that protect the sanctity of life and defend the family. Any American who claims to value all human life, support the biological reality of the family, and want to protect freedom, should take note of Biden's abysmal record in these areas. His first 100 days proves it so."

**The site also documents Biden's abortion agenda and shows that Vice President Kamala Harris has been radically pro-abortion throughout her career.** At one point, she insisted that judicial nominees pass a pro-abortion litmus test.

She even voted against a legislative plan that would provide medical services to infants who survive abortion.

Biden is a professing Catholic, but many clergy have said he should be refused communion because his views on abortion and marriage conflict with the church's doctrine. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/biden-agenda-undermine-life-family-religion/>

**Kamala Harris may be AWOL as ‘border czar,’ but her children’s book is included in welcome kits being given to illegal alien kids**

*25 Apr, 2021 00:09*



***The Long Beach Convention Center where migrant children found at the border without a parent are temporarily housed, in Long Beach, U.S., April 22, 2021. © Brittany Murray/Pool via REUTERS***

Migrant children flooding to the US apparently are being given copies of a book written by Vice President Kamala Harris, the “border czar” who has been strangely absent at the frontlines of the nation’s immigration crisis.

A Reuters news photo taken this week at a new shelter for unaccompanied migrant kids in Long Beach, California, shows a copy of *“Superheroes Are Everywhere,”* a children’s book written by Harris and published in 2019, along with toiletries, a backpack and other supplies laying on a cot. The image spurred another round of criticism on Saturday over the vice president’s puzzling role in addressing the border crisis.

[Also on rt.com Kamala’s turn: Biden’s border czar resigns soon after comments on ‘pay to stay’ scheme amid record surge of migrants](https://www.rt.com/usa/520650-border-czar-resigning-cash-payments/)

Social media users speculated on whether the Biden administration is [enriching Harris](https://twitter.com/MrGreenLeaf730/status/1386087691142537221) by buying copies of her book – it’s currently [Amazon’s No. 1 seller](https://www.amazon.com/Superheroes-Are-Everywhere-Kamala-Harris/dp/1984837494) in children’s political biographies – and suggested that Democrats are using it to [indoctrinate](https://twitter.com/xylver46/status/1386092410539679746) child immigrants upon arrival. Others mocked the idea of putting the book in welcome kits, saying it’s a cruel way to incent migrants to return home. **MORE -** <https://www.rt.com/usa/522048-migrant-kids-given-kamala-book/>

**“Harvard Educated” Democrat Texas Rep: “Modern Science” Recognizes There are “Six” Sexes**

*by* [*Selwyn Duke*](https://thenewamerican.com/contributor/selwyn-duke/) *April 24, 2021*

**If you want to know what an Ivy League education costing 300k-plus gets you, look no further than Democrat Texas state Representative James Talarico. During a Tuesday public education committee meeting involving testimony on a bill (Texas**[**HB 4042**](https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/HB4042/2021)**) that would prohibit males claiming to be female from competing in girls’/women’s sports, Talarico claimed that there are not just two sexes, but six**.

“Science” says so, in fact, he contended.

**What’s more, he apparently thinks that this, which would be a biological phenomenon, somehow has a bearing on an issue involving biologically normal males who claim a different “gender identit**y,” a psychological phenomenon.

**“The thing I want us all to be aware of is that, that modern science obviously recognizes there are many more than two biological sexes,” Talarico said** in the committee meeting. “In fact, there are six, which, honestly, Rep. [Cole] Hefner, surprised me, surprised me, too, because I, I, you know, am not well-versed in this, this issue area. I’m not a scientist; I’m a politician, a lot worse than a scientist” (video below).

Setting the record straight at the meeting was amateur power lifter Beth Stelzer, who is “the founder of Save Women’s Sports, a coalition that seeks to preserve women’s sports for biological women,” [reports](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/04/23/former-teacher-texas-democrat-rep-james-talarico-there-are-6-sexes/) Breitbart. She “testified at the meeting, observing there have been ‘several scientific studies proving that the male advantage is immutable, and that there, in fact, are two sexes — they are dimorphic, XX, XY.’”

“‘The other quote … [‘sexes’] mentioned are disorders of sexual development that are variants of XX or XY chromosome,’ Stelzer added. ‘They are still disorders of male or female,’” Breitbart continues.

**Talarico boasts a bachelor’s degree in government from The University of Texas at Austin and a master’s in education policy from Harvard University,** [**according**](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/?district=52) **to his bio. A former schoolteacher, he also once taught 6th grade and now sits on his state’s Public Education Committe**e.

Noting the irony, a commenter under the above YouTube video quipped, “‘Former teacher’ — did he try teaching biology, and get fired?” **MORE -** <https://thenewamerican.com/harvard-educated-democrat-texas-rep-modern-science-recognizes-there-are-six-sexes/> **[Who was so stupid as to put this idiot on the public education committee. Fixing stupid isn’t possible particularly when they got their stupid degree from Harvard. – rdb]**

**Mont. passes Second Amendment sanctuary law**

***OAN Newsroom UPDATED 3:30 PM PT – Saturday, April 24, 2021***

**Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte (R) vowed to protect residents’ Second Amendment rights from federal overreach.**

**On Friday, Gianforte signed a new bill into law, prohibiting the ban of firearms, magazines and ammunition.**

Today, I proudly signed Rep. Hinkle's law prohibiting federal overreach into our Second Amendment-protected rights, including any federal ban on firearms.

I will always protect our [#2A](https://twitter.com/hashtag/2A?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) right to keep and bear arms. [pic.twitter.com/2xY8DeEtqf](https://t.co/2xY8DeEtqf)

— Governor Greg Gianforte (@GovGianforte) [April 23, 2021](https://twitter.com/GovGianforte/status/1385703250465234946?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

This came as Republicans across the country rallied against Joe Biden’s push for sweeping gun reform measures.

State Democratic Dinner in Dover, Delaware, on March 16, 2019. (Photo by SAUL LOEB/AFP via Getty Images)

Montana’s new law will stop police and state employees from enforcing federal restrictions. <https://www.oann.com/mont-passes-second-amendment-sanctuary-law/> **[YEA for Montana! Now let’s get a whole lot more to do this. – rdb]**

**Commentary:**

**Joe Biden – The Mass Shooting President***By* [*Lex Greene*](https://newswithviews.com/author/lex/)*|April 24th, 2021* According to [CNN](https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/16/us/mass-shootings-45-one-month/index.html), the election of Joe Biden has set off a world record of mass shooting events in the USA that the world has never seen before, with *“at least 147 mass shootings across the country since Joe took office – at least 45 such events in just the past 30-days.”*  
 By contrast, the USA recorded [just 35 mass shooting](https://www.statista.com/statistics/811487/number-of-mass-shootings-in-the-us/) events during the four years that Donald J. Trump was President, an annual average of just 8.75 mass shooting events per year during the Trump administration. At the current rate of events since Joe Biden took office, the USA could see as many as 540 mass shooting events in 2021 alone. That’s a 6100% increase in mass shootings under Joe Biden, so far.  
 Already, Joe Biden had won the distinguished title of [THE MASS SHOOTING PRESIDENT](https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/16/us/mass-shootings-45-one-month/index.html), with the most mass shootings in just a three month period, the highest anywhere in the world and throughout world history.  
 What is it about the Biden pseudo-administration that has touched off this mass shooting phenomenon across America, besides the fact that all democrats have made every Americans feel angry and totally demoralized for years?  
**Problem #1** – [Democrat Criminal Justice Reform](https://time.com/5615053/2020-democrats-criminal-justice-reform/)  
 In order to buy more votes from some of the worst people America has to offer, democrats have been focused on what they call “criminal justice reform,” which is essentially a movement to reduce the number of people incarcerated for their crimes, many of them violent crimes, and reinstate their voting rights for upcoming elections. Governance by felons… what a grand idea!  
 This movement has released thousands of often violent criminals into the population, resulting in rising crime rates all across the country from a growing number of repeat offenders on the streets. When you need more voters, any voter will do, if you’re a member of the socialist Democrat Party.  
**Problem #2** – [Targeting and Eliminating Law Enforcement](https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/06/12/police-are-the-enemy-within/)  
 As the Democrat Party (DNC) has become the Democratic Socialist Party of the USA, the DNC has adopted its entire political platform from the [Democratic Socialists of America](https://www.dsausa.org/), which includes both the release of violent felons from prison and the current all-out attack on Law Enforcement we see today.  
 Once again, under the guise of “law enforcement reform,” democratic socialists (DNC) have painted a hard target on the back of every law enforcement officer and agency in the USA, causing a mass exodus of good law enforcement personnel across the country, especially in the most dangerous cities in the USA, all of them, run by democrat Governors and Mayors.  
 The focus of democratic socialists isn’t on stopping crime, it’s on stopping any form of viable law enforcement, as they also work to release more and more dangerous felons from prison. And let’s not overlook the mass invasion of illegal aliens on our southern border.  
**Problem # 3** – [The Most Fraudulent Election cycle in U.S. History](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-voter-fraud-organization-video-gaffe) (2020)  
 The entire world watched the massive fraud in the 2020 election cycle, and they also watched courts in the USA, including the US Supreme Court, refuse to allow any evidence of that massive fraud to be presented in any court in the USA.  
 Every election has some fraud in it, at the local, state, and federal level. Politics is a dirty business…it always has been, and it always will be. But the 2020 election cycle marks the most massive blatant election fraud by numerous means and methods, in the history of “free democratic elections.”  
 After a year of fraudulent COVID19 lockdowns created and governed by democrat politician’s intent upon stealing the 2020 elections via COVID forced unregulated mail-in balloting…the nation was already on edge. As the nation and world watched the unprecedented level of election fraud in 2020, the people became ever more galvanized in their distrust and disdain for all things political, including a CIA controlled news media, which lies to the public all day every day, about everything.  
 Faith in freedom, liberty, fairness, ethics, morality, and their political systems, fell to rock bottom as the nation watched their country stolen right under their noses. Politicians knew they were pushing Americans to the brink of all-out war, and that’s why they hide behind troops, fencing and razor wire still today, and for the foreseeable future, as they continue to control the population.  
**Problem #4** – [Socialist Policies, Tyrannical Tactics, and the Gun Grab](https://www.socialistrevolution.org/socialism-and-gun-control/)  
 Next, once you release felons back into population, eliminate or hamstring law enforcement and secure yourself behind troops and razor wire, control the entire citizenry for over a year… now it’s time to strip the American people of their [inalienable Constitutionally protected Right to keep and bear arms](https://www.socialistrevolution.org/socialism-and-gun-control/).  
 Maybe 30% of the country now thinks socialism is a new progressive idea worth trying, thanks to the dumbing down in public education and Marxist college campuses. The rest of us all know better from either living under or studying the history of Socialism, Marxism and Communism around the globe, all of which ends in brutal tyranny and a total loss of freedom, liberty, and prosperity for all.  
 But the [DSAUSA](https://www.dsausa.org/) is now in total control of the DNC, which is now in total control of our Federal Government, at least temporarily.  
**Problem #5** – [No Legitimate Elections Ever Again](https://lindelltv.com/)  
 So long as the fraudulent elections in 2020 are allowed to stand, that’s the end of legitimate elections in the USA. The fruit from a poisonous tree, is also poisonous. It’s impossible for an election full of fraud to result in anything but a fraudulent outcome.  
 It’s been [proven beyond any doubt](https://lindelltv.com/) that numerous Democrat controlled states intentionally and systematically ran “unlawful and unconstitutional” elections in 2020. The only possible result of any “unlawful and unconstitutional” election, is an “unlawful and unconstitutional” outcome.  
 This means that as the [DSAUSA-DNC](https://www.dsausa.org/) rushes to destroy all freedom, liberty and prosperity in America from DC and all democrat controlled cities, elections are no longer a means of solving the problem.  
 Last… as the nation rockets toward totally unsustainable debt, more lockdowns, more masking, vaccinations, and social distancing dictates from above, mass shootings, suicides, civil unrest and eventually, all-out street war is almost certain… this is Biden’s “new norm” following the 2020 elections.  
 With over 147 mass shootings already in the record books only a few weeks after the Biden regime seized power, the future looks very dim for America and in fact, the world  
 The Mass Shooting President (and Vice President) must go! They have no constitutional right to sit in office and every minute they do, the nation dives deeper and deeper into the abyss, as Americans take aim at each other over what the socialist left is doing to ALL OF US!  
 May God help us all! <https://newswithviews.com/joe-biden-the-mass-shooting-president/>

**The Armenian Genocide Forges On***by* [*Raymond Ibrahim*](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Raymond+Ibrahim) *April 24, 2021 at 5:00 am*  Today, April 24th, is Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, marking 106 years since the start of the Armenian Genocide, when the Ottoman Turks massacred approximately 1.5 million Armenians during World War I.  
 Most objective historians who have examined the topic unequivocally agree that it was a deliberate, calculated genocide. [According](https://genocideeducation.org/background/denial/) to the Genocide Education Project:  
 "More than one million Armenians perished as the result of execution, starvation, disease, the harsh environment, and physical abuse. A people who lived in eastern Turkey for nearly 3,000 years [more than double the amount of time the invading Islamic Turks had occupied Anatolia, now known as "Turkey"] lost its homeland and was profoundly decimated in the first large-scale genocide of the twentieth century. At the beginning of 1915 there were some two million Armenians within Turkey; today there are fewer than 60,000.  
 "Despite the vast amount of evidence that points to the historical reality of the Armenian Genocide, eyewitness accounts, official archives, photographic evidence, the reports of diplomats, and the testimony of survivors, denial of the Armenian Genocide by successive regimes in Turkey has gone on from 1915 to the present."  
 Not only has Turkey repeatedly denied culpability for the Armenian Genocide; it appears intent on reigniting it, most recently by helping Azerbaijan wage war on Armenia in the context of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute, which again erupted into armed conflict in late 2020.  
 As Nikol Pashinyan, Armenia's prime minister, [observed](https://m.facebook.com/nikol.pashinyan/posts/2766779260309118) in October 2020: "Why has Turkey returned to the South Caucasus 100 years [after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire]? To continue the Armenian Genocide."  
 During this recent conflict, which did not concern it, Turkey [sent](https://greekcitytimes.com/2020/09/25/reports-turkey-is-transferring-syrian-militants-to-azerbaijan-as-hostilities-against-armenia-increases/) [sharia-enforcing](https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1029205) "jihadist groups." [According](https://ahvalnews.com/turkey-azerbaijan/turkey-deploys-syrian-mercenaries-azerbaijan-reports) to French President Emmanuel Macron, they -- including the pro-Muslim Brotherhood [Hamza Division](https://greekcitytimes.com/2020/09/25/reports-turkey-is-transferring-syrian-militants-to-azerbaijan-as-hostilities-against-armenia-increases/) were sent from Syria and Libya to terrorize and slaughter Armenians. The Hamza Division reportedly kept [naked women in prison](https://www.syriahr.com/en/167177/) while operating in Syria.  
 These mercenaries and their Azerbaijani partners, among other ISIS-like behavior, "[tortured beyond recognition](https://lindaberian.medium.com/this-is-the-photo-of-58-year-old-alvard-tovmasyan-an-armenian-woman-who-was-a-resident-of-karin-4d4c72e08532)" an intellectually disabled 58-year-old Armenian woman by hacking off her ears, hands, and feet -- *before* murdering her. Her family was only able to identify her by her clothes.  
 "Armenians," according to a December 2020 [report](https://www.churchmilitant.com/video/episode/pack-turks-beheading-armenians), "are being brutalized" and have "lost territory to their jihadist neighbors before agreeing to a cease-fire enforced by Russia.... Prior to violating the so-called peace agreement, the Turkish Muslims of Azerbaijan did as Muhammad commanded in beheading Christians."  
 The report linked to a [video](https://www.churchmilitant.com/video/episode/pack-turks-beheading-armenians) of soldiers in camouflage overpowering a struggling, elderly Armenian man to the ground, before casually carving at his throat with a knife.  
 "Azerbaijan has accused Armenia of violating the peace deal first," the report [continues](https://www.churchmilitant.com/video/episode/pack-turks-beheading-armenians), "but observers note the only provocation Muslims need to attack Armenians is their continued existence."  
 Anti-infidel rhetoric underscores this view. A captured terrorist [confessed](https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1033500) that he was "promised a monthly 2000 dollar payment for fighting against 'kafirs' in Artsakh, and an extra 100 dollar for each beheaded 'kafir.'" (Kafir, often translated as "infidel," is Arabic for non-Muslims who fail to submit to Islamic authority, which by default makes them enemies worthy of slavery or death.)  
 Armenian churches that came under Azerbaijani control have been desecrated -- despite promises from the Azerbaijani authorities to protect them. In one instance, a soldier -- it is unclear whether he was an Azeri or a jihadi mercenary from Syria or Iraq -- was videotaped standing on top of a church chapel, where the cross had been broken off, and triumphantly shouting "[Allahu Akbar!](https://www.opindia.com/2020/11/azerbaijani-soldier-screams-allahu-akbar-from-top-of-church-in-armenia/)" Azerbaijani forces also shelled and destroyed Holy Savior, an iconic Armenian cathedral which [was](https://www.deccanherald.com/international/historic-armenian-cathedral-damaged-in-karabakh-shelling-899132.html) "consecrated in 1888 but was damaged during the March 1920 massacre of Armenians of the city by Azerbaijanis and experienced a decades-long decline."  
 More recently, according to a March 29, 2021 report, during just two weeks, at least three Armenian churches in the Nagorno-Karabakh region were recently [vandalized or destroyed](https://asbarez.com/201465/azerbaijanis-continue-vandalizing-armenian-churches-in-artsakh/) by Azerbaijani forces -- even though a ceasefire had been declared in November. [Video footage](https://asbarez.com/201465/azerbaijanis-continue-vandalizing-armenian-churches-in-artsakh/) of the desecration of one of these churches shows Azerbaijani troops entering the Christian place of worship, and then laughing, mocking, kicking, and defacing Christian items inside it, including a fresco of the Last Supper. Turkey's flag appears on the Azerbaijani servicemen's uniforms, further implicating the Erdogan government of involvement. As they approach, one of the Muslim soldiers [says](https://asbarez.com/201465/azerbaijanis-continue-vandalizing-armenian-churches-in-artsakh/), "Let's now enter their church, where I will perform *namaz*" -- a reference to Muslim prayers; when Muslims pray inside a non-Muslim temple, it immediately becomes a mosque.  
 In response to this video, Arman Tatoyan, an Armenian human rights activist, [issued](https://asbarez.com/201465/azerbaijanis-continue-vandalizing-armenian-churches-in-artsakh/) a statement:  
 "The President of Azerbaijan, and the country's authorities have been implementing a policy of hatred, enmity, ethnic cleansing and genocide against Armenia, citizens of Armenia and the Armenian people for years. The Turkish authorities have done the same or have openly encouraged the same policy."  
 As an example, he [said](https://asbarez.com/201465/azerbaijanis-continue-vandalizing-armenian-churches-in-artsakh/) that Azerbaijan's President Aliyev had proudly stated in early March that "the younger generation has grown up with hatred toward the enemy " -- meaning Armenians.  
 Such hate, a precursor to genocide, seems evident everywhere. One need only listen to a Turkish man rant in a [video](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CG8FNafldFj/) about how all Armenians are "dogs," and that any Armenians found in Turkey should be slaughtered:  
 "What is an Armenian doing in my country? Either the state expels them or we kill them. Why do we let them live?... We will slaughter them when the time comes.... This is Turkish soil. How are we Ottoman grandchildren?.... The people of Turkey... have honor, dignity, and Allah must cut the heads of the Armenians in Turkey. It is dishonorable for anyone to meet and not kill an Armenian... If we are human, let us do this—let us do it for Allah.... Everyone listening, if you love Allah, please spread this video of me to everyone..."  
 Answering the question, "If you could get away with one thing, what would you do?" -- asked to random passersby on the streets of Turkey -- a woman recently [replied on video](https://www.reddit.com/r/armenophobia/comments/liybd1/an_azerbaijani_woman_in_turkey_was_asked_the/): "What would I do? Behead 20 Armenians." She then looked directly at the camera and smiled while nodding her head.  
 Much of this genocidal hatred should be unsurprising: Turkish public school textbooks, as a recent [study](https://www.impact-se.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Erdogan-Revolution-in-the-Turkish-CurriculumTextbooks.pdf) found, continue demonizing Armenians -- as well as Jews and Christians.  
 If Turks, who are not affected by the Armenian/Azerbaijani conflict, feel this way, why it should be a shock that any number of Azerbaijanis do, too? "We [Azerbaijanis]," noted [Nurlan Ibrahimov](https://sport.news.am/eng/news/116193/), head of the press service of Qarabag football club of Azerbaijan, "must kill all Armenians—children, women, the elderly. [We] need to kill [them] without [making a] distinction. No regrets, no compassion."  
 Today, therefore, marking the anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide, we would do well to remember not only what happened *then*, but what is clearly being primed to happen *again*.

[*Raymond Ibrahim*](https://www.raymondibrahim.com/about/)*, author of* [Sword and Scimitar](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0306825554/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0306825554&linkCode=as2&tag=raymondibrahi-20&linkId=0f925201768b161ae319879bb3fdf1d7), [The Al Qaeda Reader](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000UOJTY4/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=B000UOJTY4&linkCode=as2&tag=raymondibrahi-20&linkId=c5ed99666036d165fa834bc300b10fc6), and [Crucified Again](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00ATL9ZZQ/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_bibl_vppi_i2)*, is a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Gatestone Institute, a Shillman Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center, and a Judith Rosen Friedman Fellow at the Middle East Forum.* <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/17304/armenian-genocide>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**New poll: Likud - 30, Yesh Atid - 19**

***New poll shows Likud, Yesh Atid, as only parties with two-digit numbers of seats.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 24 , 2021 9:29 PM*

**A new poll published Saturday evening by News 12's "Meet the Press" program showed that if elections were held today, the Likud would win 30 Knesset seat**s.

**In second place is Yesh Atid, with 19 Knesset seats. Sephardic-h**aredi Shas would win nine seats, while Labor would win eight.

Four parties would win seven seats each: Yamina, Ashkenazic-haredi United Torah Judaism, Yisrael Beytenu, and Blue and White.

The Religious Zionism party and Joint Arab List would win six Knesset seats each, and two parties - MK GIdeon Sa'ar's New Hope, and left-wing Meretz - would win five seats each. The United Arab list, a faction which split from the Joint Arab List, would win four Knesset seats.

The poll also showed that most right-wing voters prefer that the United Arab List support a government or abstain, over the possibility of new elections. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304937>

**Virginia Republicans won’t move convention voting off Shabbat**

***Virginia Republican Party will not allow religious exemption to voting at May convention, State Central Committee decides.***

*Ron Kampeas, JTA , Apr 24 , 2021 8:49 PM*

**The Virginia Republican Party, already under fire for a process for picking a gubernatorial candidate that critics say excludes some voters, just disenfranchised another constituency: Shabbat-observant Je**ws.

A **majority of the State Central Committee voted Thursday for a religious exemption to voting at the convention taking place on May 8, a Saturday, but did not meet the 75% threshold to pass**. *Elections Daily*, an elections news site, reported that 38 officials voted for an exemption, 28 voted against and three abstained.

An official at the state GOP confirmed the vote and told the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* to submit a question in writing about the vote.

The **Republican Jewish Coalition said on Twitter that it was disappointed** in the decision.

“It is very disappointing to see observant Jews disenfranchised like this,” the group said. “We hope VA GOP will reconsider this decision.”

**The state GOP has not won a statewide office since 2009, and the party lost both chambers of the Legislature in 201**9. The Southern state was once considered solidly red.

Republicans in recent years have veered between primaries and conventions. Rank-and-file party members have often complained that conventions are a means for the leadership to make sure the candidates it favors get the vote.

Those who favor conventions say they even the field for less wealthy candidates who cannot afford the sky-high TV ad costs in the Greater Washington metropolitan area. Conventions also keep the decision in-party in a state that does not require party registration to vote in a primary.

**Due to the pandemic, the convention this year will be held at 37 drive-up sites across the state, and critics say that some of them are too far for all voters to reach. There are seven candidates for governor**. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304934> **[sounds like a good way to lose everything in the state. Obviously those in the Virginia GOP are intent on living in a blue state. Stupidity abounds. – rdb]**

**Yamina faction remains united behind Bennett**

***Party reiterates support for leader's efforts to form government, avoid fifth round of elections.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 25 , 2021 2:29 PM*



***Yamina meeting spokesperson***

**The Yamina party held a faction meeting Sunday morning during which party chairman Naftali Bennett updated members on the ongoing efforts to establish a stable government and avoid a fifth round of elec**tions.

**At the end of the meeting, an official statement was issued by the party, stating that "the Yamina faction stands united and firmly behind Bennett's policy of forming a government and preventing fifth elections and deteriorating into chao**s."

**The faction added, "The priority is to form a right-wing government first, and at the same time act to form a national unity governme**nt. Only if both options are not possible, and after Yamina has made every effort to form a good government in Israel, will we have no choice but to go to a fifth election."

Last night, Naftali Bennett announced that he had begun talks to form a government he called a "unity government," after coming to the conclusion that Netanyahu would in all likelihood be unable to forma government.

"From the moment I realized that Netanyahu did not intend to choose one of the two alternatives for forming a right-wing government, I began the effort to form a national unity government. In any case, the door to a right-wing government is open and desirable for me," Bennett said in a statement <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304976>

**Corona Commissioner: 'Very likely' Israelis will need third dose**

***“The chance that this vaccine is good for many years is apparently not high, both because immunity decreases and because of the mutations.”***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 25 , 2021 12:25 PM*

**Corona Commissioner Nachman Ash on Sunday morning told *Radio 103FM* that there was a “very, very high likelihood” Israelis would have to receive a third dose of the Covid-19 shot.**

**“Every day we’re getting closer to it, but we still don’t know when,” he said.**

He noted, however, that “The chance that this vaccine is good for many years is apparently not high, both because immunity decreases and because of the mutations.”

**His comments come after Prime Minister Netanyahu last week said that Israelis should prepare themselves for “another vaccine operation in about another 6 months**,” which is also apparently to include the vaccination of children.

“After I reached [an agreement](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304635) with the heads of Pfizer and Moderna on an additional supply of 16 million vaccines for Israeli citizens, we are preparing for another vaccination operation in about another 6 months. So prepare the shoulders - the muscles, if you will - as well as the children, because our assessment is that by then there will be vaccines approved for children,” he said.

He added that he advocated a policy of “tightening” to protect against the possibility of any “new variant,” or “new virus.”

“There **can always be a surprise from a new variant**, whether the Indian variant or another variant, or a new virus,” he said.

“So our exit from Corona up until today, and our prevention of Corona in the future, is ensured as long as there is no surprise like that.

“One way to prevent those surprises is to go back and tighten our external envelope. We held a pretty extended meeting about this on various possibilities that the health minister now spoke about, which we are also discussing with respect to our foreign relations with a number of countries. But my approach - which I think is also that of the health ministry - is that we need to tighten at the moment, because we are still in a reality that is not completely certain.” <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304966>

**Jerusalem Mayor condemns Lehava demonstration**

***Mayor Moshe Leon says right-wing demonstration last week prevented situation in capital from calming down after weeks of violence.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Apr 25 , 2021 12:49 PM*



***Moshe Leon Arutz Sheva***

Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Leon condemned the violent riots which have plagued the capital city since the middle of last week in an interview with *103 FM Radio.*

"We are doing everything to calm the situation down and stop this violence. All we want now is quiet," the mayor said.

**Leon noted that the wave of violence began following "acts we saw on 'Tik-Tok' and then reactions from the other side, along with the month of Ramadan which is a sensitive month,** along with orderly actions actually taken by the police at the Damascus Gate, as tens of thousands of worshipers arrive at the Temple Mount and leave the Temple Mount any time."

Leon condemned the demonstration by the right-wing Lehava organization, which he said only further fanned the flames and prevented the situation from calming down.

"I tried to prevent this protest with the police, but according to the police it could not be canceled because it was a legal protest," the mayor said.

He said, "The protest was completely unnecessary. It was definitely the core of the violence on both sides that evening. Too bad, just too bad, both painful and unnecessary." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304968>

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**04/24/2021 NEWS AM**

**קולולם | תתארו לכם – שלמה ארצי | טקס הדלקת המשואות 2021**

**Imagine - Shlomo Artzi**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVO7gc5_XGM>

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| **"Ponder the capriciousness of human nature, which allows momentary appetites and fleeting attitudes to set the courses for entire lives and future responsibilities." -- Ann Gray 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 AB family – Wife just diagnosed with brain tumor**  **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 KL – troubling spiritual situation.**  **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 26:6And Isaac lived in Gerar. 7And the men of the place asked about his wife. And he said, She *is* my sister, for he was afraid to say, My wife, lest the men of the place kill me on account of Rebekah, for she *was* beautiful of form. 8And it happened when his days were many to him there, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked through the window and saw; and, behold, Isaac *was* sporting with his wife Rebekah.**

**Southern Israel pounded by dozens of rockets in overnight strikes from Gaza**

***At least 36 rockets fired at regular intervals from 11pm to 6am, causing damage but no injuries; IDF attacks several Hamas targets in Strip in response, before announcing return to routine in all border communities on Saturday morning***

*Reuters, Ynet |Updated: 04.24.21 , 10:57*

Palestinian terrorists fired at least 36 rockets from Gaza into Israeli communities overnight Friday, in one of the worst rounds of cross-border violence in months, setting off sirens across the south and sending residents scrambling for bomb shelters.

Jerusalem tension triggers Gaza-Israel fire exchange

The rocket sirens blared throughout the night in the Eshkol, Sha'ar Hanegev, Sdot Negev and Hof Ashkelon regional councils and on Saturday morning they sounded in the city of Ashkelon as well.



***The aftermath of the night-long rocket fire from Gaza at Israel (Photo: Roee Idan, Eshkol Regional Council, Nahal Oz Regional Council)***

The IDF said its aircraft and tanks retaliated by striking multiple targets belonging to Hamas, the terror group that rules Gaza, including rocket launchers, unspecified underground infrastructure and a military base.

On Saturday morning, the IDF lifted security restrictions and said that residents of the south could return to their normal routine.

Hamas said the rockets were fired in response to the recent clashes between Arabs and Jews in East Jerusalem.

The Hamas military wing warned Israel "not to test" its patience shortly before the rocket fire began.

"The new Zionist aggression on the Gaza Strip is a desperate attempt to break the willpower of our people and its continued resilience," Hamas stated following the IDF strikes in Gaza.

"Our people and its resistance are united with our people in Jerusalem in their campaign against the Zionist occupation and in their defense of the Al-Aqsa Mosque."

The terrorist group did not claim responsibility for any of the rocket fire, a small paramilitary group affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said it fired some of the projectiles.

Throughout Friday night, thousands marched across the Gaza Strip to call on the militant groups in the Strip to continue firing the rockets.

In response to the rocket fire, Shaar Hanegev Regional Council leader Ofir Libstein said: "The rocket fire during the night reminds us that the peace is temporary and fragile. This morning we located a strike within the grounds of [a] kibbutz and miraculously there were no casualties."

Gadi Yarkoni, head of Eshkol Regional Council, added that, "as far as we know, the attacks took place in response to the events in Jerusalem. The unbearable ease with which the Gaza organizations permit themselves to fire at adjacent Israeli localities to try to harm civilians is outrageous."

In Jerusalem, tensions have been higher than usual during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Protests turned violent on Thursday with scores of arrests and injuries. MORE -<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/40JUTE8ZG>

**After Jerusalem riots, Ramadan prayers on Temple Mount pass peacefully**

***Hamas stages rallies across Gaza in support of Palestinians taking part in overnight clashes, calls for armed uprising; security forces on high alert amid running ethnic tensions***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *Today, 5:13 pm*

Ramadan prayers on the flashpoint Temple Mount in Jerusalem passed peacefully on Friday after a night of violent clashes involving Jewish extremists and Palestinians in the area as Muslim religious leaders called for calm.

However, in the Gaza Strip, the Hamas terror group staged a series of rallies in support of Palestinians taking part in the protests, urging them to take up arms to “liberate” the land and “protect our holy sites.”

Dozens of people were injured when [violent clashes erupted](https://www.timesofisrael.com/dozens-hurt-at-old-city-clash-as-extremist-jews-march-chanting-death-to-arabs/) at the Damascus Gate of the Old City of Jerusalem late Thursday as Palestinian protesters confronted a group of some 300 extreme-right Jewish activists who marched to the scene chanting “Death to Arabs.” Police, trying to keep the groups apart, also clashed with the Palestinians, who threw rocks at the officers.

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

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| [Palestinians gather during the second Friday prayers of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, at the Al-Aqsa Mosque  on the Temple Mount on April 23, 2021. (Ahmad Gharabli/AFP)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/000_98L29G.jpg)  Palestinians gather during the second Friday prayers of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, at the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount on April 23, 2021. (Ahmad Gharabli/AFP) | Israeli soldiers check a Palestinian woman as she waits to cross the Qalandia checkpoint between the West Bank city of Ramallah and Jerusalem, to attend the second Friday prayers in the Al-Aqsa Mosque during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Friday, April 23, 2021. (AP Photo/Majdi Mohammed) |

Residents braced for possible further unrest as police stepped up security and the US Embassy, United Nations and Jordan all [called for calm](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-deeply-concerned-over-jerusalem-violence-doesnt-single-out-either-side/).

There were concerns the violence could reignite following Friday prayers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, but tens of thousands of worshippers dispersed peacefully after Muslim religious leaders called for restraint.

Sheikh Muhammad Hussein, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, condemned the “police and settlers’ attack on Palestinians in Jerusalem” in his Friday sermon. But he called on worshippers to remain calm and not to give the other side an excuse to storm the compound. They dispersed peacefully after prayers and there were no immediate reports of unrest.

However, Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, meanwhile staged dozens of protests across the territory expressing solidarity with Muslim worshippers in Jerusalem and calling for violence.

Addressing the protesters, senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar condemned the decision of some Arab states to normalize relations with Israel last year and lashed out at the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank for continuing its security coordination with Israel.



Palestinians shout slogans around a model of Al-Aqsa mosque’s Dome of the Rock, during a rally in Gaza City on April 23, 2021, condemning overnight clashes in Jerusalem and calling for an armed struggle. (Mahmud Hams/AFP)

“After a long series of protests and demonstrations, we have reached the conclusion that without weapons, we cannot liberate our land, protect our holy sites, bringing back our people to their land or maintain our dignity,” he said.

Also Friday, several hundred Arab Israelis held a solidarity rally in Jaffa, which has also been the scene of [clashes between Arabs and Jews](https://www.timesofisrael.com/cops-clash-with-arab-locals-for-2nd-straight-night-stoking-jaffa-racial-tensions/) in recent days.

The protest, attended by several Arab lawmakers, was peaeful.

Meanwhile, Israel Public Security Minister Amir Ohana held consultations Friday afternoon with police and security officials amid fears of continued violence, telling officers they had his full support to use any necessary force.

Following the meeting, Ohana wrote in a Facebook post that security forces had “the complete backing to use all means, force and the necessary power to restore law and order.

Ohana condemned recent Palestinian attacks against Jews in Jerusalem and Jaffa, but did not mention violence carried out by Jews against Arabs.

Late Thursday, officers used riot dispersal means including stun grenades, tear gas and water cannons to break up the Arab protestors. At least 105 Palestinians were injured, including 22 who were hospitalized, the Palestinian Red Crescent said.

Police said some 20 officers were injured in the clashes, including a mounted officer hit in the face by a rock. Three were taken for medical treatment.

Police also said over 50 people were arrested for throwing rocks, launching fireworks, assaulting cops and other violent acts during the rioting, which carried into early Friday.

Jerusalem has seen several days of violence after a number of assaults on Jews that were filmed and later uploaded to the TikTok video-sharing app, including one of an East Jerusalem teenager slapping two ultra-Orthodox boys on the light rail. MORE - https://ww w.timesofisrael.com/after-jerusalem-riots-ramadan-prayers-on-temple-mount-pass-peacefully/

**Fresh clashes between Israel Police, Palestinians in East Jerusalem, West Bank**

***Violent confrontations near Old City, Rachel’s Tomb, Qalandiya checkpoint, a day after rioting by Arabs and Jews; US Embassy issues security alert for personnel***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *24 April 2021, 1:11 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/000_98M4HU.jpg)

***A Palestinian protester runs from Israeli security forces outside Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City on April 23, 2021 (Ahmad GHARABLI / AFP)***

Fresh clashes erupted between Palestinians and Israeli security forces in East Jerusalem and its outskirts on Friday night, a day after the capital saw violent skirmishes involving Jews and Arabs near the Old City.

After calm during daylight hours on Friday, scuffles broke out again as thousands of Muslim worshipers left the al-Aqsa Mosque compound after evening prayers.

Clashes broke out between worshipers and police, with water bottles hurled at officers who fired stun grenades to disperse the crowd.

According to the Ynet new site, several dozen Palestinian teens gathered near Israel’s Justice Ministry headquarters on Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem, by the Old City, and hurled stones toward the premises.

At Rachel’s Tomb, between Jerusalem and Bethlehem in the West Bank, dozens of youths threw stones and Molotov cocktails at the shrine, police said. They said forces guarding the area used “riot dispersal means to restore order.”

Police said hundreds of Palestinians rioted at the Qalandiya crossing between Jerusalem and Ramallah, adding that reinforcements were being sent to the area. The official Palestinian news agency Wafa said Israeli forces were using rubber-tipped bullets, tear gas and stun grenades against the protesters.

Also Friday night the Magen David Adom ambulance service said it had treated a 22-year-old Israeli who was lightly wounded in the head by stone-throwing in East Jerusalem’s Silwan neighborhood.

The renewed clashes came a day after dozens of people were injured when [violent clashes erupted](https://www.timesofisrael.com/dozens-hurt-at-old-city-clash-as-extremist-jews-march-chanting-death-to-arabs/) near Damascus Gate of the Old City of Jerusalem late Thursday as Palestinian protesters confronted a group of some 300 far-right Jewish activists who marched to the spot chanting “Death to Arabs.” Police, trying to keep the groups apart, also clashed with the Palestinians, who threw rocks at the officers. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/police-report-fresh-clashes-with-palestinians-in-east-jerusalem-west-bank/>

**Israel said probing link between Pfizer shot and heart problem in men under 30**

***Leaked Health Ministry investigation raises concerns as 62 cases of Myocarditis found out of 5 million vaccinated, most after second dose; 2 deaths, but no direct link established***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:56 pm*

Details from an unpublished Israeli Health Ministry report into the side effects of the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine have raised concerns that there could be a link between the second shot and several dozen cases of Myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle, particularly in men under 30, Channel 12 reported Friday.

The concerns come from an intermediate report that was presented to ministry heads and to Pfizer in recent weeks, the TV report said. Excerpts from the leaked report stressed that investigators had not conclusively proved a link, but that they had significant concerns.

The report said that out of more than 5 million people vaccinated in Israel, there were 62 recorded cases of Myocarditis in the days after the shot. It found that 56 of those cases came after the second shot and most of the affected were men under 30. [This is a substantial rate of myocarditis – rdb]

The report said that 60 of the patients were treated and released from hospital in a good condition. Two of the patients, who were reportedly healthy until receiving the vaccination, including a 22-year-old woman and a 35-year-old man, died.

“The findings were presented to the Pfizer company who replied that they had not had similar reports in the rest of the world and would examine the data,” an excerpt from the report said, adding that the details had also been sent to the US FDA and CDC, who were also investigating.

The report was authored by senior ministry officials led by Prof. Dror Mevorach, head of one of the COVID-19 units at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem.

The authors surmised that “one possible reason for lack of similar findings in other countries was the low rate of vaccinations among young people.”

“There is specific concern regarding the frequency of the occurrence observed in men under 30 in the days immediately after the second shot,” they wrote.  “At this stage, according to initial findings that still need to be verified, there is an impression that the number (of cases) is higher than would be expected, especially for those under 30.”

The report found that of those who received the second dose, 1-in-100,000 had possible side effects of Myocarditis; however, this number rose to 1-in-20,000 among those aged 16-30.

“We cannot yet tell if there are more cases than normal or if there are similar numbers annually and the proximity is just a coincidence. Efforts to collect more data are continuing,” the report said.

“At the moment we believe that the vaccination plan should proceed as normal for those over 16. However, it should be noted that there is a possibility that we will see the same results in vaccinations of those aged 12-15,” it cautioned.

Israel is looking to press ahead with vaccinating those under 16 as soon as the shot is authorized.

On Thursday, the Jewish state [passed the milestone](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-crosses-milestone-of-5-million-fully-vaccinated-against-covid-19/) of over 5 million people having received both vaccine shots.

According to the Health Ministry, 5,005,418 second doses have now been given, accounting for nearly 54% of the total population and more than 80% of the eligible population over the age of 16. Just under 58% — 5,374,276 — of all Israelis have had at least one shot.

The TV report came as Israel marked its first day in 10 months with no new COVID-19 daily deaths reported.

In data released Friday, the death toll remained unchanged from the day before at 6,346. The last date there were no new fatalities was June 29, 2020, when morbidity levels remained subdued following the initial coronavirus wave.

The ministry said of 35,027 tests performed Thursday, 129 new cases were recorded, a positive test rate of 0.4 percent. The country has logged 837,892 confirmed infections since the pandemic began. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-probing-link-between-pfizer-shot-and-heart-problem-in-men-under-30/>

**Iran is just 3-4 months from breakout, says Israeli intel. Who’s to stop it?**

[Apr 23, 2021 @ 9:12](https://www.debka.com/iran-is-just-3-4-months-from-breakout-says-israeli-intel-whos-to-stop-it/)

Israel’s three security kingpins go to Washington next week to try and modify, if not halt, the Biden administration’s race for a nuclear pact with Iran. Mossad director Yossi Cohen, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi, and national security adviser Mair Ben-Shabbat will not arrive as a delegation but separate and make tracks for their counterparts at the top of American military, intelligence and national security organizations. Unlike in 2015, Israel will not go face to face against the administration as it did overr Barack Obama’s initiative to conclude the original nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers. Instead, the government in Jerusalem hopes to modify the finished product by inserting clauses that meet Israel’s most pressing security concerns and the threats that may be left open by the deal. The three officials will try and persuade the administration to accommodate those vital adjustments and talk down its fears of rejection by Tehran.

Washington, for its part, while not sharing the current state of its indirect dialogue with Tehran, is also making an effort to calm Israel’s concerns. On Monday, April 19, US ambassador to the UN, Linda Thomas Greenfield, stated: “The Biden administration will support Israel as it works to counter the threats posed by Iran’s aggressive behavior.” She was responding to Israel’s unease over possible premature sanctions relief by the US for keeping Iran at the table and the ongoing Vienna talks for reviving the 2015 nuclear accord afloat. For Iran, this is a major talking point. The release of frozen funds, following the example set by Obama, will enable Tehran to boost its support for proxies hostile to Israel like the Lebanese Hizballah, Iraqi Shiite militias and the Houthi insurgents of Yemen.

Israel’s apprehension was reinforced when President Hassan Rouhani commented on Tuesday, April 20: “Negotiations have achieved 60-70 percent progress. If the Americans act honestly, we will reach a conclusion in little time.” The US State Department spokesman Ned Price stepped in to cool this sentiment by saying: “There have been no breakthroughs and a long road lies ahead.”

DEBKAfile’s military sources note that for Israel, all this palaver is beside the point.  Rouhani needs to sound upbeat to offer a ray of hope to a population sunk in a welter of disastrous crises. The Biden administration wants to convey the impression that there is a long way to go for nuclear negotiations and the US is in no hurry to hand out concessions to Iran.

But Israel’s overriding focus is on Iran’s furtive advance on its objective. According to its intelligence services, Iran hs been creeping forward to breakout time for a nuclear weapon and reached a point no more than 3-4 months away from this target. The original JCPOA accord was hailed by the Obama administration as a major breakthrough because, at the time, US intelligence calculated that Iran was just a year away from breakout point. But Iran has used the intervening six years and is now far closer to its objective. Undaunted by harsh US sanctions and solemn American vows never to let Iran procure a nuclear weapon, Tehran has cut its timeline for a nuke by two-thirds. And today, no one is in any position to promise that Iran will not emerge as a nuclear-armed power within a few months.

The Parchin military site (shown on the attached photo) holds a large metal lined chamber for testing nuclear explosives. Iran barred the nuclear watchdog, the IAEA. from inspecting this site in another breach of accord’s provision of comprehensive monitoring of its nuclear program. The photo was contained in the nuclear archive captured by Israel from a secret site in Tehran.

On Tuesday, April 20, two former Israeli officials ran an article in the influential *Foreign Policy* urging the government to back President Joe Biden’s efforts to revive the 2015 nuclear accord. The government has for more than a decade faced a strong domestic lobby of former security high-ups campaigning against direct Israeli action for averting Iran’s acquisition of a nuke. The article was penned by former Mossad Director Tamir Pardo and former Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilnai and backed by the signatures of 300 ex-military and security officials.

Nonetheless, the writers confirm the current intelligence estimate of 3-4 months to breakout time and their article is subtitled “Reducing Iran’s breakout time and restoring robust monitoring are the most urgent priorities.” The authors have no answers to what happens next after Iran achieves breakout or how the Biden administration will respond, except to urge more negotiations.

The three Israeli emissaries arriving in Washington next week will have their work cut out to change this dominant mindset and head off a nuclear-armed Iran before it is too late. <https://www.debka.com/iran-is-just-3-4-months-from-breakout-says-israeli-intel-whos-to-stop-it/> [Unfortunate they don’t list their source but understandable. This bodes poorly for the entire ME. I am interested in seeing information on the meeting that was reported concerning a cooling of tensions for Iran and Saudi. – rdb]

**United Torah Judaism deliberating on whether to enable Bennett-Lapid gov't**

***As Netanyahu's government prospects diminish, Haredi party's Lithuanian flank said to eye cooperation with PM's rivals by abstaining in vote on formation of government; UTJ's Hassidic faction strongly opposes move***

*Kobi Nachshoni | Published: 04.22.21 , 21:59*

The Lithuanian faction of the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism (UTJ) party is considering whether to abstain from voting against a government led by Yamina head Naftali Bennett and Yesh Atid chair Yair Lapid, Ynet has learned on Thursday, thus enabling the two to form a government and avoid a fifth election round in just two years.

In return, the Haredi faction will demand that the right-wing flank of such a government would commit itself to maintain the status quo in state-religion affairs and prevent stripping off budgets for the sector's educational institutions and welfare.



From left to right: UTJ co-leader Yakkov Litzman, Yesh Atid Chairman Yair Lapid, Yamina chief Naftali Bennett and UTJ co-leader Moshe Gafni (Photo: Yaron Brenner, Alex kolomoisky, Kobi Koankes)

As the chances for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — a long-standing ally of the ultra-Orthodox parties — to form a viable coalition government seem to gradually become slimmer, UTJ head Moshe Gafni and the party's spiritual leader Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky — both members of the Lithuanian faction — were considering abstaining in such a vote and were even actively pushing the move.

UTJ representatives have been holding direct talks with Bennett and New Hope Chairman Gideon Saar on the matter in recent days. Gafni was slated to meet with Lapid next week as well but later called off the meeting for what he called "technical reasons."

Such a move is set to serve both sides if it does end up coming to fruition. On one hand, ultra-Orthodox support of a government comprised of Netanyahu's rivals and which relies on the backing of at least one Arab party could whitewash joining such a government for Saar and Bennett's right-wing constituents. On the other hand, UTJ will be able to ensure that a new government without Netanyahu will not harm the interests of the ultra-Orthodox sector.

Responding to Ynet, Gafni categorically denied he was weighing such a move.

However, sources in United Torah Judaism's Hassidic faction, led by Construction and Housing Minister Yaakov Litzman, said they were strongly opposed to the move and will work to thwart it. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rk2S4rywu>

**Israel's Navy ready to attack Hezbollah from the sea like never before**

***SECURITY and DEFENSE: The navy’s missile ships have changed goals, reorganized, and now prepare for war on all fronts.***

*By* [*UDI SHAHAM*](https://www.jpost.com/author/udi-shaham) *APRIL 22, 2021 21:37*

 Operations carried out by the Israel Navy in what is dubbed the “[war between wars](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/a-new-direction-in-israels-war-between-wars-campaign-633943)” have been kept in the shadows, until recently.

But a series of leaks to the media, and reports on Iranian attacks against Israeli-owned civilian cargo ships, revealed the intensity of the ongoing shadow war between Jerusalem and Tehran in the areas of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, as well as the role of the Israeli Navy in that war.  
 The Navy is comprised of three main active units:  the 3rd Flotilla (Shayetet 3), the missile ship unit; the 7th Flotilla (Shayetet 7), the submarine unit; and the 13th Flotilla (Shayetet 13), the Navy commando unit.  
 While the last two enjoy the fame of prestigious, secret elite units that carry out missions beyond enemy lines, the 3rd Flotilla is an integral part of the Navy’s activities during routine times, during emergencies, and also during war.  
 “We are working in synergy,” Cmdr. Guy Barak, OC deputy commander of the 3rd Flotilla, told the Jerusalem Post in an interview on the deck of INS Romah. “Each unit holds abilities and capabilities that the other one lacks. What allows the Navy to be successful in its missions is the connectivity between the units.  
 “Each flotilla knows how to bring its advantages to the battlefield, and to compensate the disadvantage of the others. Shayetet 13 knows how to secretly operate in the sea and onshore; Shayetet 7 knows how to operate very close to enemy shores, what our flotilla won’t do; and Shayetet 3 knows how to gain control over a large sea area, and to deal with a variety of threats. Each unit is essential – the submarines with their fabulous intelligence-collecting ability, the commando with their covert activities in enemy territory,  and us, with our ability to dominate the sea.”  
 The 3rd Flotilla is based on six fighting troops that use the different kinds of battleships: the Sa’ar 4.5, Sa’ar 5, and the [new Sa’ar 6](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/saar-6-the-new-backbone-of-israels-navy-for-decades-to-come-analysis-648788). All ships, including the older ones that are constantly updated and re-outfitted, use cutting-edge technologies in all naval fields.  
 The ships are equipped with missile defense systems, sea-to-sea, sea-to-air, and sea-to-surface missiles, cannons, light weapons, and advanced intelligence and electronic warfare capabilities. Some have unique capabilities, such as submarine exposure and attack weapons.  
 “I’ve worked with other navies around the world,” Barak said. “Our small ships are considered to be the densest ones, but they have the same capabilities, if not more, of the big ones that are used by foreign navies.”  
 Among the tasks of the flotilla are maintaining maritime superiority, protecting Israel’s economic sea, defending essential infrastructures such as the gas and oil platforms, and keeping the country’s trade routes open.  
 IN RECENT YEARS, the Navy has been undergoing major changes. It started by redefining its goals, which led to a change in its formation and in the way it operates, prepares for war, and works with the rest of the army.  
 Barak said that the attack on the INS Hanit in the Second Lebanon War was a turning point in the way the Navy sees modern warfare.  
 “The rocket that hit the ship was launched from the coast, not from another corvette,” he said. “We understood that gaining maritime superiority also includes eliminating threats onshore. We made maritime superiority the core issue. That affected the formation of the navy and the way we apply force.”  
 As part of the change, he said, “we developed new systems and combat doctrines that help us apply our new perception. We also created new operational plans that combine our new perception with the new technologies and weapons, and they are being exercised.”  
 Another aspect added to the equation is the multi-domain abilities and the connectivity that the entire army is undergoing, as part of the Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kohavi’s “Tnufa” multi-year plan.  
 The plan aims to strengthen the ability of different units of different branches to be interoperable, to use their different capabilities in day-to-day activities and in times of war.  
 “We bring with us two main qualities,” Barak said. “We have cutting-edge intelligence abilities that enable us to create a live, thorough intelligence image that includes discovering enemy forces in the sea, under the sea, in the air and on the shore.  
 “The other quality is our firepower. In this context, I would like to address the way the next war with Hezbollah will look like, the way I see it.”  
 A recent IDF Intelligence Directorate assessment held that the Israeli front most likely to erupt and develop into a campaign is the northern front. It is believed that Hezbollah is still seeking to avenge the death of its operatives last summer in Syria, in an airstrike that is attributed to the IAF.  
 “In the next war in the North, there will be such an amount of fire coming from the sea that was never seen before,” said Barak. “It will be a severe blow to the enemy, not only because the IDF focuses on this front, and not only because of the IDF’s munitions, but because of the intelligence abilities and the lethality that it brings with it.  
 “Within this frame,” Barak continued, “the Navy in general and the 3rd Flotilla in specific hold a big role, first and foremost in maintaining the maritime superiority, and also in its commitment to making sure that the army’s tasks are carried out.  
 “I am not sure that the enemy understands how severe the fire strike in the next war will be. It would be disproportional in comparison to what it saw in the past. We are ready for this. We are not happy to go to war, but we are ready for the war that could break out even tonight.”  
 THE BATTLESHIP flotilla carries out routine drills on a daily basis.  
 Earlier this week, Barak’s 32 Troop carried out a drill that involved almost all of its battleships.  
 Among them were INS Yaffo, INS Kidon, and INS Romah, which has special anti-submarine capabilities.  
 The exercise included dealing with a fire that broke in the corvette, a ship that needs to be dragged by another one, and eliminating a threat of small vessels attacking the ship.  
 The routine that is used onboard while engaging a threat is called “the terror-attack melody,” in which the ship’s weapon’s officer and his soldiers who operate the weapon systems are using the radio to constantly provide details regarding the threat, such as the distance from it and the weapons that are needed to be used.  
 “We call it a melody because the details that are constantly updated are said so fast, it creates kind of a melody,” said an officer in INS Romah. “There are so many elements that need to be taken in account in such a short time, and it is up the corvette’s commander to make the decision.”  
 Barak said that what makes the Navy so powerful is not only the advanced technology and munitions, but the people.  
 “There are over 20 different professions here on the ship,” he said. “From operation different weapon and intelligence systems, through maintaining advanced electronic systems, to technical engine and mechanic systems… We have soldiers here, in regular service, who are doing the job of three soldiers in a standing army in other navies.  
 “I am very proud of this place. I believe the people of this unit. I know that if there will be a war, the combat soldiers here will be a significant factor in the IDF’s ability to win it.” <https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/israels-navy-ready-to-attack-hezbollah-from-the-sea-like-never-before-666083>

**French policewoman stabbed to death in suspected Islamic terror attack**

***Assailant, a 36-year-old Tunisian man, shot and killed by officers in Rambouillet, southwest of Paris; prosecutors open a ‘terror probe’***

*By* [*Alice Lefebvre*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/alice-lefebvre/) *and* [*Tiphaine Liboux*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/tiphaine-liboux/) *Today, 6:48 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/000_98L8CL.jpg)

French police officials block off a street near the police station in Rambouillet, south-west of Paris, on April 23, 2021, after a woman was stabbed to death. (Bertrand Guay/AFP)

RAMBOUILLET, France (AFP) — A female police employee was stabbed to death by a Tunisian man at a police station southwest of Paris on Friday in a suspected Islamic terror attack, officials said.

The attacker was fatally wounded when an officer opened fire on him at the station in Rambouillet, a wealthy commuter town about 60 kilometers (40 miles) from Paris, a police source told AFP on condition of anonymity. The attacker shouted “Allahu Akbar” (God is great,) a source said.

 Prosecutors said they were opening a “terror probe” into the attack that took place in the secure entrance area of the station at around 2:20 pm (1220 GMT.)

The woman, 48, was stabbed in the throat twice, the police source said.

Prime Minister Jean Castex and Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin both announced they were heading to the scene.

France’s DGSI domestic intelligence service will participate in the inquiry as France remains on high alert over a string of jihadist killings that have killed hundreds in recent years.

French police officials and firefighters stand near a police station in Rambouillet, south-west of Paris, on April 23, 2021, after a woman was stabbed to death in the town. (Bertrand GUAY / AFP)

The assailant was aged 36 and was unknown to security services, sources close to the investigation told AFP.

France has faced a series of attacks blamed on Islamist radicals in recent years that have cost the lives of hundreds of people.

***Spate of attacks***

 Several attacks over the last year have reignited concerns about the spread of radical Islam inside France as well as immigration.

In September, a Pakistani man wounded two people with a meat cleaver outside the former offices of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo which had printed cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed.

French judicial police officers arrive at a police station in Rambouillet, south-west of Paris, on April 23, 2021, after a woman was stabbed to death in the town. (Bertrand GUAY / AFP)

On October 16, a young Chechen refugee beheaded teacher Samuel Paty who had showed some of the caricatures to his pupils.

And on October 29, three people were killed when a recently arrived Tunisian went on a stabbing spree in a church in the Mediterranean city of Nice.

These came after the massacres carried out by Islamist extremists from 2015 that began with the massacre of staff in the offices of Charlie Hebdo in January that year.

In France’s deadliest peacetime atrocity, 130 people were killed and 350 were wounded when Islamist suicide bombers and gunmen attacked the Stade de France stadium, bars and restaurants in central Paris and the Bataclan concert hall in November 2015.

And in 2016 a man rammed a truck into a Bastille Day crowd in Nice in 2016, killing 86 people.

President Emmanuel Macron’s government has introduced legislation to tackle radical Islamist activity in France, a bill that has stirred anger in some Muslim countries. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/french-policewoman-stabbed-to-death-in-suspected-islamic-terror-attack/> [Just as a point of interest, how many attacks occurred which didn’t involve islamists? I don’t think many or Any.- rdb]

**Democrats sue to suppress 2020 Arizona ballot recount**

***Claim a review would threaten the 'sanctity of the ballots'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 23, 2021 at 9:58am*

Democrats in Maricopa County, Arizona, have gone to court to stop a hand-recount of the ballots from the 2020 presidential race.

Arizona was one of a six states that Joe Biden won by slim a margin where lawmakers raised objections to the results, presenting evidence of vote fraud. The Senate Republicans recount was launched this week when county officials began delivering equipment that was used in the November election to the state fairgrounds, where the recount is to include all 2.1 million ballots.

The work by contractors hired by the state Senate is expected to take weeks.

But now the [Washington Examiner reports](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/arizona-democrats-file-lawsuit-to-stop-senate-audit) the Arizona Democratic Party has filed a lawsuit, asking for a temporary restraining order to stop the audit of the Maricopa County election count.

Maricopa County Supervisor Steve Gallardo, one of the plaintiffs, claimed that the lawsuit is "to protect the sanctity of the ballots."

He also claims his attempt to halt the verification process is to "preserve voters' privacy from a sham audit that has been corrupted by agitators and conspiracy theorists." [Excuse me but if you had a clean election you would be happy to have an investigation. Me thinks the protestest too much. – rdb]

The Examiner said Senate President Karen Fann, one of the defendants, has promised independence and transparency in the audit, which would include the goal of restoring voter confidence.

A defendant in the Democrats' lawsuit is Cyber Ninjas, the Florida company hired to do the audit.

Gallardo also claimed the process was being funded by "dark money influencers" and charged the company that was hired was not qualified.

The Examiner reported the Arizona Senate Democrats released a statement supporting Gallardo's position.

"It’s clear that this audit is no more than a temper tantrum from those still upset that they lost the election and it is deeply damaging to the integrity of our elections and our democracy," the statement said.

A court upheld the right of the Senate Republicans to conduct the review.

The [Associated Press reported](https://apnews.com/article/government-and-politics-election-recounts-senate-elections-sports-2046da82c97a405e8273fd3531799f8d) Ken Bennett, a former Arizona secretary of state, said security is tight for the 2.1 million ballots that will be reviewed.

Bennett said that in addition to the recount, the mail ballot signatures and the tabulation machines used will be audited.

Shortly after the election, judges dismissed several lawsuits challenging the results in Arizona, as happened in five other states. But nearly every case was dismissed on technical issues of standing and timing, not on the merits.

One issue that is not in doubt – and remains of concern – is that state officials, without constitutional authority, changed election laws to accommodate the COVID-19 pandemic

The changes mostly were related to mail-in ballots, which are more susceptible to fraud. Democrats pushed for the expansion of mail-in balloting, arguing it was needed to accommodate the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/democrats-sue-suppress-2020-arizona-ballot-recount/> [The crooked demon-rats keep fighting to prevent the exposure of their criminal activity. Hang the lot of them. – rdb]   
[ LATE UPDATE – Judge granted delay late last evening. – rdb]

**Complaint alleges Wisconsin city violated Constitution in 2020 election**

**Racine officials 'involved private corporations and their employees' in running vote**

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 23, 2021 at 10:58am*

A complaint has been filed with the Wisconsin Elections Commission against the commission's administrator, the mayor of Racine and the city's clerk alleging they violated the U.S. Constitution in allowing an outside interest to be part of the management of the 2020 presidential election.

That issue continues to be of concern across the nation the hundreds of millions of dollars in cash contributions from left-leaning Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg to cities and counties to help "run" the 2020 presidential election. The contributions came with conditions. [The Zuck is a crook and needs permanent bracelets. – rdb]

Adding to that concern is that election officials altered laws in their states to accommodate COVID-19, even though the U.S. Constitution gives that authority to state legislatures.

The [complaint](https://empowerwisconsin.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Racine-Wisconsin-Election-Complaint-Final-4-21-21.pdf) was filed by Martin Prujansky, Mary Imhof Prujansky, Kenneth Brown, Brooke Hesse and Dale Giles against WEC Administrator Meagan Wolfe, Racine Mayor Cory Mason and clerk Tara Coolidge.

"In the November 2020 general election, the city of Racine adopted private corporation conditions on the election process affecting state and federal elections," the complaint states. "In this case, Racine involved private corporations and their employees in the city's state and federal election administration.

"By doing so, Racine failed to comply with state laws, including obtaining from the commission a prior determination of the legality of the private corporate conditions in the election process, and failed to comply with the U.S. Constitution's Elections and Electors Clauses which guarantee the state Legislature the exclusive role in approving Wisconsin's legal conditions relating to federal elections."

The [Wisconsin Spotlight reported](https://wisconsinspotlight.com/election-scandal-roots-in-racine/) Brown argues the billionaire-funded, third-party groups that were allowed to help run the elections violate the reasonable expectation that Wisconsin voters have for fair and honest elections.

The Spotlight found documents showing "the city of Racine sought hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding for communication efforts targeting 'voters with criminal records' and the purchase of a recreational vehicle to serve as a 'mobile voting precinct,' among other questionable election initiatives."

The potential problems including that a "mobile voting precinct" could be moved around to accommodate specific groups of voters in specific locations.

Hesse, who owns The Cutting Edge Salon & Spa in Racine, said, "This is something I am really passionate about, bringing this stuff to light. For me, exposing the tiniest amount is going to be like a domino effect."

Brown is represented by The Amistad Project, a national voter integrity watchdog.

The complaint contends Racine "failed to comply with state laws" in return for more than $940,000 in cash given to the city.

Wisconsin’s Legislature "never gave municipalities the authority to adopt or accept private corporate conditions affecting existing state election laws," the complaint charges. "The [Wisconsin Elections] Commission, as the responsible entity in the administration of election laws, never opined on the legality of private corporate conditions affecting existing election laws."

Mason, a Democrat, did not respond to requests from the Spotlight for comment.

The report said the complaint is similar to one filed earlier this month on behalf of residents of Green Bay, where officials also are alleged to have taken money and allowed private activist groups to control significant portions of the 2020 election process, including vote counting.

The state's 2020 outcome is one of six won by Joe Biden that were contested.

The Chicago-based Center for Tech and Civic Life gave Wisconsin's five largest – and heavily Democratic – cities some $8 million to help "run" the 2020 election.

That organization received $350 million from Zuckerberg, "purportedly to help local elections officers administer 'safe and secure elections,'" the report said.

The CTCL demanded that the five cities it funded sign "contracts that included provisions allowing the center to 'claw back' the funding if they failed to meet the center's demands," which included allowing the center's partner groups to be involved in the election.

Zuckerberg's grants insisted the cities hire more people, raise staff salaries, promote absentee voting, assist voters in mail-in balloting and more.

Also demanded were "voting navigators" to help voters fill out ballots. Grant-funded election workers were to help with "certification."

"'Promoting' and 'encouraging higher percentages of our electors to vote absentee' violates Wisconsin election law, which the complaint says specifies that 'the privilege of voting by absentee ballot must be carefully regulated to prevent the potential for fraud or abuse; to prevent overzealous solicitation of absent elector’s who may prefer not to participate in an election,'" the report said.

In Racine, the complaint charges, the city sought $250,000 for a "mobile voting precinct (the recreational vehicle)," so city officials could travel to "strategically chosen partner locations" where people could vote.

The Spotlight reported Zuckerberg's grants "more than quadrupled" the election budget for Green Bay and were used to favor "urban demographic groups," which jeopardized the integrity of the results.

Emails show Wolfe forwarded information about CTCL partner groups to elections officials in four Wisconsin cities.

The Spotlight previously reported that while Zuckerberg's payments were promoted as a way to "protect American elections," they provided an open door for infiltration in the November elections by liberal groups and Democratic activists.

In Green Bay, which received a total of $1.6 million in grant funding from the Zuckerberg-funded [Center for Tech and Civic Life,](https://www.techandciviclife.org/) a “grant mentor” who has worked for several Democratic Party candidates was [given access to boxes of absentee ballots](https://empowerwisconsin.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Green-Bay-email-1-.pdf) before the election.

Michael Spitzer-Rubenstein, Wisconsin state leader for the [National Vote at Home Institute](https://voteathome.org/), in many ways became the de facto city elections chief, the Spotlight said.

Emails regarding the election revealed Green Bay’s partisan Mayor Eric Genrich, a Democrat, and his staff usurped City Clerk Kris Teske’s authority and let the Zuckerberg-funded “grant team” take over – which election law experts call a clear violation of Wisconsin election statutes. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/complaint-charges-wisconsin-city-violated-constitution-2020-election/> [More criminal activity exposed. In reality the November election was a fraud and should be considered null and void. – rdb]

**Alternate Chauvin juror admits fear of 'people coming to my house'**

***'I did not want to go through rioting and destruction again'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published April 23, 2021 at 11:28am*

An alternate juror in the Derek Chauvin trial in Minneapolis admitted she feared "people coming to my house if they were not happy with the verdict."

Brooklyn Center resident Lisa Christensen, [the Washington Examiner reported,](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/alternate-juror-chauvin-trial-concerned-safety) did not suggest that the jury allowed such concerns to impact the verdict of second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

But her acknowledgement shows at a minimum that jurors likely were aware of the possibility of violent protesters seeking retribution against jurors.

Christensen said she had mixed feelings about being on the jury.

"The reason, at that time, was I did not know what the outcome was going to be, so I felt like either way you are going to disappoint one group or the other," she said in an interview with KARE 11. "I did not want to go through rioting and destruction again, and I was concerned about people coming to my house if they were not happy with the verdict."

Christensen said she believed there was enough evidence to convict Chauvin.

Christensen thought Derek Chauvin was guilty.

Dr. Martin Tobin was the witness who influenced her the most toward that conclusion.

That demonstration where the jurors felt their necks? Extremely effective.

Much much much more to come after I start putting this together. [pic.twitter.com/HwOi3tFBRr](https://t.co/HwOi3tFBRr)

— Lou Raguse (@LouRaguse) [April 22, 2021](https://twitter.com/LouRaguse/status/1385283355206373381)

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Christensen said she had seen the video of Floyd's death before the trial and also had learned of the city's $27 million payment to the family.

She said she thought the force used by Chauvin was not appropriate.

"I kept thinking about the critical decision-making model that was presented. It was in the back of my mind about how they said you must reassess constantly, and I felt like that was not done."

She said the videos of the incident were "what really nailed it."

The identities of the jurors were protected during the trial, and no other jury member has stepped forward to comment.

[Reporter Kyle Becker at Becker News said](https://beckernews.com/i-didnt-want-to-go-through-the-rioting-juror-in-chauvin-trial-makes-stunning-admission-over-guilty-verdict-38729/) Christenson "outright admitted that jury intimidation played a major part in the trial."

He cited the comments from Democratic politicians, including President Biden, who said while the jury was deliberating he wanted the "right" verdict and that the evidence was overwhelming. MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/alternative-chauvin-juror-admits-fear-people-coming-house/>

**U.S. troops increasingly vulnerable to directed-energy attacks, Pentagon tells lawmakers**

*DoD briefers identified Russia as a likely culprit.*

*By* [*LARA SELIGMAN*](https://www.politico.com/staff/lara-seligman)*,* [*ANDREW DESIDERIO*](https://www.politico.com/staff/andrew-desiderio) *and* [*BETSY WOODRUFF SWAN*](https://www.politico.com/staff/betsy-woodruff-swan) *04/22/2021 02:15 PM EDT*

The Pentagon warned lawmakers this week about the growing and urgent threat of directed-energy attacks on U.S. troops in the Middle East and elsewhere, according to four people briefed on the matter.

Two Defense Department officials briefed members of the House Armed Service Committee about the phenomenon in a classified setting on Wednesday, the people said, and told lawmakers they are increasingly concerned about the vulnerability of U.S. troops in places such as Syria, Afghanistan and various countries in South America.

Briefers pointed to Russia as a likely culprit, thepeople told POLITICO, but didn’t have a smoking gun, citing difficulties in attributing the attacks.

The Pentagon opened an investigation last year after suspected directed-energy attacks occurred on an unknown number of troops, [POLITICO first reported](https://www.politico.com/news/2021/04/22/pentagon-russia-attacks-us-troops-484150) earlier Thursday.

Lawmakers were officially notified on April 15 that the House Armed Services briefing would take place on Wednesday. Committee members heard from Jennifer Walsh, the acting Pentagon policy chief, and Griffin Decker, the Pentagon’s director of the emerging threats cell. The official notice, which was obtained by POLITICO, described the briefing as urgent and said it was centered on an “emerging threat.”

“Due to the nature of the threat, members are highly encouraged to attend,” the notice stated.

Officials told lawmakers that the phenomenon of suspected directed-energy attacks on U.S. personnel — which cause a mysterious illness similar to the “Havana syndrome” reported by American spies and diplomats starting in late 2016 — is growing across the world, according to three people who attended Wednesday’s briefing.

The briefers also told lawmakers that the origin of the technology required in such attacks is “more likely than not in Russia,” one of the people said. One person familiar with the briefing said the briefers also pointed to China as a possible culprit, and didn’t know for sure who was behind the attacks. MORE -<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/04/22/troops-directed-energy-attacks-484246>

**Republican senator claims there’s ‘no reason to be pushing’ Covid vaccines**

*Ron Johnson, who has no medical expertise or background, made comments during interview with conservative talk radio host*

*Fri 23 Apr 2021 12.56 EDTLast modified on Fri 23 Apr 2021 13.40 EDT*

The Republican senator Ron Johnson, of [Wisconsin](https://www.theguardian.com/world/wisconsin), questioned the need for widespread Covid-19 vaccinations, saying in a radio interview “what do you care if your neighbor has one or not?”

Johnson, who has no medical expertise or background, made the comments on Thursday during an interview with the conservative talk radio host Vicki McKenna. Contrary to what medical experts advise, Johnson has said he doesn’t need to be vaccinated because he had Covid-19 in the fall. On Thursday, he went further, questioning why anyone would get vaccinated or worry about why others have not.

“For the very young, I see no reason to be pushing vaccines on people.” Johnson said. “I certainly am going to vigorously resist any kind of government use or imposing of vaccine passports … That could be a very freedom-robbing step and people need to understand these things.”

Johnson’s comments come as health officials in the US and around the world urge people to get vaccinated for Covid-19 as soon as possible, saying that reaching herd immunity is the best shot at stopping the uncontrolled spread of the virus.

Herd immunity occurs when enough people have been vaccinated or have immunity from natural infection that the virus cannot easily spread and the pandemic fizzles out.

Nobody knows for sure what the herd immunity threshold is for the coronavirus, but many experts say it is 70% or higher. And the emergence of variants is further complicating the picture. MORE - <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/apr/23/ron-johnson-republican-senator-covid-vaccines> [THIS is a great example of the Mainstream media pushing to keep the Event 201 narrative going and shutting down anyone who questions or challenges it. The Guardian has no medical expertise and doesn’t have any idea of what medical experts hat Johnson may have consulted to form his opinion. Any challenge to this globalist group of criminals is automatically denigrated. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**The Worsening War Against White People**

*By* [*Steven Yates*](https://newswithviews.com/author/steveny/)*|April 23rd, 2021* Let’s just say it. White people (especially conservatives and Christians) are at war with the [cult of Woke](https://newswithviews.com/the-cult-of-woke-30-years-of-inaction-indifference-by-establishment-conservatives/). They did not start this war. Most seem unaware of it. But they’d better wake up and realize they are in a war that has already killed dozens of white men and women whose fates will not make headlines in a controlled corporate media very much on the Woke cult’s side.  
 I [warned](http://lostgenerationphilosopher.com/2020/08/18/from-affirmative-action-to-cancel-culture-americans-you-were-warned/) 30 years ago that if what was then called political correctness wasn’t opposed, it would spread like a plague until it controlled every major institution in the West.  
 What even I didn’t grasp was how far it would actually go!  
 But [revolutionism](https://newswithviews.com/the-virus-of-revolutionism/) is like that. It sets out to uproot the old completely. It tries to leave no stone unturned.  
 PC was able to seize the moral high ground. Isn’t “equality” more moral than “inequality”? Aren’t you therefore *a bad person* (or even *evil*) if you think “equality” impossible? Conservatives mostly floundered. I don’t think most had any idea what they were up against.  
 So far, 2021 could turn out to be one of the deadliest years on record. There have been well over a dozen mass shootings. But surely readers have noticed: if the shooter is *white*, his whiteness is noted up front and center, sometimes in the *headline*.  
 If there’s no mention of race/ethnicity, that is because the shooter was *not* white.  
 The *approved Woke narrative* is that angry white men (especially police) are tracking down and shooting unarmed blacks. Or: *Blacks*. For as you may also have noticed, shortly after the George Floyd riots corporate media began capitalizing the word *Black*. No one capitalizes *white*. This speaks volumes.  
 So: a shooter kills ten people in a Boulder, Colo. supermarket. When something like this happens, at first no one has much information. So the incident makes the national news.  
 But when the shooter turns out to be a Muslim, the story abruptly falls from the radar. Incidentally, all of Ahmad Allisa’s victims were white.  
 Just a couple weeks ago there was a mass shooting in Rock Hill, S.C. I have friends there, so I wanted to learn all I could as soon as possible. A prominent doctor and his wife, their two grandchildren, and a fifth person in the wrong place at the wrong time were shot in cold blood. A sixth person was severely injured and remains in intensive care as of this writing.  
 The shooter (who later killed himself) turned out to be a black jock, formerly of the NFL.  
 Oops!  
 Another case that doesn’t fit the narrative!  
 Down the Memory Hole!  
 So you didn’t hear about it on CNN, which trumpets cases that *do* fit the narrative, such as the Chauvin trial (white cop kills unarmed black man), and, like a hawk, watches two recent incidents: the killing of Daunte Wilson by former officer Kim Potter in a Minneapolis suburb, and last week, the killing of a black 13-year old by a white officer in Chicago which now has that city on edge.  
 What you won’t hear on CNN, or on MSNBC; or read about in *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post*, is that [33 white people (women as well as men) were murdered by blacks during March alone](https://www.unz.com/article/33-whites-die-and-one-white-on-black-murder-march-2021-another-month-in-the-death-of-white-america/)!  
 Ashli Babbitt, who was white and unarmed, was shot in cold blood on January 6 by Capitol cop we have good reason to believe is black, who remains unidentified, and [will not face any charges](https://www.nationalreview.com/news/capitol-police-officer-who-fatally-shot-ashli-babbitt-wont-face-charges/?fbclid=IwAR3TNr9Sff3S9wcsxiMvoYyJeZ4nVLGNEgaAFR_YwVnrYAuHPgVMONPT9vU).  
 Tucker Carlson is now one of the few remaining voices of sanity who still has a job in corporate media (his show is one of the most popular on Fox News). I often wonder how long this will last.  
 Recently [he accused Democrats](https://www.bitchute.com/video/_OJpUBZrVDA/) of using immigration as a “path to power” for themselves. He was accused of defending “replacement theory.” ([This interview](https://www.bitchute.com/video/YXEi3YnzjNIN/) appears to have been what triggered the fracas.) “Replacement theory” seems to be the idea that an effort is underway to undercut a predominantly white population with unlimited nonwhite immigration, diluting white votes.  
 Carlson is one of the few voices defending the interests of American white people, especially conservatives. If you do this in Woke America, you’re a *racist*, or a *white supremacist.* That’s part of the approved narrative. ([Example.](https://www.bitchute.com/video/c81vSCzeWACt/))  
 What antiwhite racists condemn as “replacement theory” has actually been going on for quite some time. It makes perfect sense if you have a power analysis of the past 50 years. Democrats want votes that will give them a permanent lock on political power. Corporations want cheap labor. This explains why so many of the latter have tilted left over the past 30 years.  
 On April 16, CNN’s Chris Cuomo — master of the self-righteous sneer — laid into Carlson with that old saw about America being a “nation of immigrants.”  
 America was founded by *colonists*, not *immigrants*. *Colonists* from Great Britain established a *republic* based on a unique and distinctive political philosophy. *Immigrants* came later and were expected to embrace this philosophy and the culture that had developed around it (which included learning English). For decades, this worked splendidly. It worked because the bulk of immigration was from Europe — from places holding most of the same values Americans espoused.  
 Liberals believed they could fix what wasn’t broken. So Congress passed the Immigration and Nationality Act in 1965. LBJ signed it into law. This opened the doors to non-Europeans, and to peoples many of whose backgrounds and values were incongruent with those of most Americans. The doors became floodgates, and by the 1990s, many immigrant populations were fundamentally inassimilable. They began to congregate in their own enclaves, mostly in big cities, not learning English. The standard of living dropped precipitously in these places (e.g., California). Through sheer numbers, they began to influence local politics. Local became state; state is becoming national.  
 Now, several offspring of cultures fundamentally alien to Anglo-European civilization sit in Congress. They call themselves “the Squad.”  
 Mainstream leftists like Cuomo wax hysterical over the “white supremacy” of a caucus the few remaining conservatives in Congress were considering forming, the [America First Caucus](https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-house-republican-effort-form-america-first-caucus-raises-hackles-over-race-2021-04-16/) to promote Anglo-Saxon political values.  
 So powerful are Woke voices like Cuomo’s that the idea was [scrapped](https://www.newsweek.com/america-first-caucus-compared-kkk-ended-greene-one-day-after-proposal-shared-online-1584456) less than 24 hours after it was floated.  
 Whites are now the only people in America with no right to preserve, much less promote, their history and heritage.  
 We should remind today’s Woke-controlled mainstream that not only such notions as free speech, freedom of religion, of assembly, and so on, but concepts of due process and innocence until proven guilty in a court of law all originated in Anglo-Saxon thought. Their roots go back to documents such as the Magna Carta of 1215. They did not originate in the third world.  
 This is what Wokesters wish to cancel, and why they are so filled with hate even as they condemn white conservatives as haters. Psychologists have a concept called *projection*. One’s own worst and most hated traits are projected onto the other. That is what we are seeing here.  
 Tucker Carlson came under attack from the powerful Anti-Defamation League which has [called for his cancellation](https://edition.cnn.com/2021/04/09/media/adl-letter-fox-news-tucker-carlson/index.html). Carlson has [stood his ground](https://www.bitchute.com/video/YXEi3YnzjNIN/). To their credit (so far, again as of this writing) Fox News backs him.  
 Should he be forced from the airwaves, will whites find another voice as visible and articulate as his?  
 Incidentally, the location of Carlson’s home is a well-guarded secret, because of death threats and fears for his family’s safety. That’s Woke America.  
 What is clear — especially with the Bidenistas now calling the shots in the District of Corruption — is that the war on whites is escalating.  
 All that it will accomplish, other than promoting needless bloodshed, is transform our present Age of Decadence into an Age of Collapse.  
 Arguably, big cities are already collapsing as their productive citizens flee. Black radicals and other leftists are holding Minneapolis essentially hostage. [Police are quitting](https://www.insider.com/derek-chauvin-trial-minneapolis-police-officer-quit-over-trial-reaction-2021-4) out of despair and fear for their families’ safety. I don’t think evidence will matter in the Chauvin trial. Members of the jury know that if they acquit, they will face threats, their families face threats, their homes could be discovered and burned down.  
 What is being replaced is not just a people, but an entire worldview and way of life, one based not just on free speech and due process, but on ideals of achievement and success gained through work. Most Wokesters, a lot of whom are white products of today’s public schools and major universities, are incapable of hard work. Their worldview is steeped in Critical Race Theory. CRT is an ideology based on hate. What it comes down to: all whites are inherently racists with “privilege” who should be shamed and demoralized, allowing for the cancelation of their rights as persons, their history, their influence, their faith, and their value systems. Majority-white Western civilization is permeated with “systemic racism” that can only be uprooted through a complete transformation (revolutionism again).  
 Back in the 1990s when I first started writing about these topics, the cultural left controlled academia and had gotten its claws into mainstream media, the entertainment world, and the judicial system. Now it controls not just academia, corporate media, Hollywood, and the judicial system, but upper echelons of the military, Big Tech, Big Business generally, even scientific and medical research!  
 If you doubt that the Woke cult has its teeth into basic biology and medicine, consider the “trans” phenomenon, and the fact that scientists have been called out for saying that normally there are two and only two sexes. The Bidenistas, claiming themselves to be “following the science” where Covid-19(84) is concerned, openly promote “trans” rubbish which is now filtering into grade schools.  
 To their credit, some states are moving against CRT and “trans” rubbish. Will they have the stones to stand up to the District of Corruption and media hostility, including defying Bidenista executive orders if it comes to that?  
 America now has the most antiwhite, antimale, and antistraight White House in its history. Things are likely to get worse. When Sleepy Joe’s dementia forces him from office (hopefully before he blunders his way into a war with Russia), Kamala Harris will be president.  
 I have trouble imagining the catastrophe that will be!!  
 So far, news of mass shootings of whites are kept subdued by the corporate media machine. If a Harris presidency brings the Woke cult’s war against white people completely out of the closet, it would not surprise me. The question is, are whites going to prepare? Are they going to take this seriously, or just assume “that’ll never happen to me” or “Yates is just being paranoid!”  
 You better hope so! Believe me, I would rather be wrong about all this!  
 All I can recommend are things I’ve said before: *get out of big cities*; separate where possible and practical; *homeschool your kids*; *do not give up your guns!*  
 Above all, be sure you are right with God. Recognizing that Jesus Christ (not Science, not Politics) is the sole path to salvation (John 14:6). This is independent of race/ethnicity! The Anglo-European West succeeded not because of “whiteness” but because of the *real* (not *political*) correctness of its worldview in grasping how reality works and the Providential God behind it.  
 I mention this last in case anyone has the impression that I defend “whiteness,” or white conservatives, without qualification. I do not. I’ve also written at length: one of the main reasons we’re in this mess is because a majority-white population all but abandoned the worldview that build the West: educationally, intellectually, morally, and above all, spiritually. The Woke cult is filled with white people with leftist beliefs, after all. All it has done is fill a vacuum. Antifa is mostly white. Black Lives Matter has huge numbers of supporters (and corporate donors!) who are white.  
 In the final analysis this is not about *race* but *worldview*. As the saying goes, when people stop believing in God, the problem is not that they believe in nothing but that they will believe in anything. Relatedly, the GOP filled up with “conservatives” who haven’t the slightest idea what they want to conserve. This has been true for at least 30 years. It explains why they’ve been helpless against the leftist onslaught, and why many Republicans no less than Democrats react with horror at the very idea of caucus to defend and promote Anglo-Saxon values.  
 Unless the worldview and values that build Western civilization are somehow recovered, the West will pass into history as another failed empire. Many of you reading this will live to see it happen.

Steven Yates’s latest book *What Should Philosophy Do? A Theory* will be published this year by Wipf and Stock. <https://newswithviews.com/the-worsening-war-against-white-people/>

And then….

**The Left's Systemic Exploitation of Race**

[*David Limbaugh*](https://townhall.com/columnists/davidlimbaugh/) *Posted: Apr 23, 2021 12:01 AM* When I occasionally complain about the left politicizing race, fellow conservatives often say to me, "Don't worry about this. They've lost all credibility on the issue, trivializing it by overuse. They're getting no traction with it." Oh?  
 You'd have to be blind and deaf to deny that this tactic is working for the left politically and that it has caused great harm. Democrats and the left bring up race every five minutes to demonize Republicans and profit politically. It is nothing more than a raw power grab.  
 Indeed, if you want to talk about shameful behavior on race, look no further than the liberal politicians and the media who smear half the country as racists daily because of their views on economic, political and cultural issues. If you champion American sovereignty, advocate border control, support the indispensability of law enforcement, promote our free market economy and cherish America's founding principles -- and if your skin happens to be white (unless you're a progressive) -- you are presumptively racist.  
 The baseless racism allegation is particularly despicable considering there are few more damning charges that can be leveled against a person and that the persistent hammering of this issue does incalculable damage to race relations and overall societal goodwill. And don't think for a second it isn't leading to violence. People are dying in the streets not just because of certain incidents of police brutality but because way too many people have been deceived into believing that non-minorities hate them based on their skin color.  
 Those who pooh-pooh the threat posed by the left's relentless exploitation of race don't factor in several important things: When you repeat a lie often enough, it is eventually believed. When you control academia, the mainstream media, Hollywood and the fascist digital oligarchy, you can exert mind control on not just young, impressionable people but adults who are bullied and shamed into silence and ultimately surrender. (There may be a growing outrage among the millions of victims of these libels, but as of yet, they are not fighting back with even a modicum of energy and coordination.)  
 Many of you probably didn't realize that the seeds of the infernal ideas of critical race theory, white supremacy and systemic racism began as rogue ideas in university faculty lounges, academic literature and, ultimately, the classrooms of America's indoctrination laboratories, otherwise known as our hallowed universities.  
 These cockeyed ideas on gender and race populated all kinds of university textbooks and classrooms, which were more committed to agitating students than providing them a classical education, but for several decades, they were relegated to the academic fringe. Now, as the left has become more and more emboldened, this insanity has proliferated into the mainstream of our culture and politics.  
 Democratic politicians and their media cohorts routinely make flagrantly ludicrous comments about race that intellectually honest people should reject out of hand. Instead, these views are being treated seriously, and people who know better are legitimizing this poison. The mostly fabricated racism issue is dominating everything, to the point that we can't even focus on real problems facing society -- and minorities in particular.  
 One of the greatest ironies surrounding all of this malicious nonsense is that the bizarre notions of critical race theory, white supremacy and systemic racism are themselves racist. They vilify people as a group based on their race, not their individual hearts, character or conduct. They judge people as intrinsically irredeemable solely by virtue of their skin color.  
 Racism is not systemic in America today. What is systemic is the left's dishonest stigmatizing of people as racists. There is a strong spiritual component at work here. God created each and every human being in His image. We are individuals, accountable to Him for our behavior; we are not to be judged based on what others do. This spurious, categorical condemnation of people robs them of their individuality and dehumanizes them. At the same time, the victimization of minorities for crass political gain diminishes their individuality and accountability. Everyone loses except the political shysters who benefit from this acrimony.  
 Sadly, this wicked duplicity will not stop until responsible people of good faith of all races and political parties stand up against the corrosive, engineered pandemic of racial disharmony and truly preach that we are all called to love one another irrespective of skin color. It certainly won't stop through the proposed remedies of endless wealth redistribution, reparations, police reform and the self-flagellation of people copping to a sin of which they don't believe they're guilty. The Civil War and civil rights movement apparently count for nothing. The left has an insatiable lust for keeping this issue on the front burner at the highest heat, and things will not improve until the left is no longer rewarded for fomenting racial disharmony.  
 What we need in this country is a religious revival -- another Great Awakening -- but until that time, people need to get on offense and fight back against this false and evil narrative. <https://townhall.com/columnists/davidlimbaugh/2021/04/23/the-lefts-systemic-exploitation-of-race-n2588420>

And finally…

**The Death Blow: an Article V Convention to Replace Our Constitution**

*By* [*Publius Huldah*](https://newswithviews.com/author/publius/)*|April 23rd, 2021*

Open your eyes and see what is going on in our Country.  If you don’t face up to Reality *right now* and act accordingly, we are doomed.

The fight over whether to have an Article V convention isn’t between Republicans and Democrats, or liberals or “conservatives”.  It is spiritual warfare between those who want to keep our Biblically based Constitution of 1787;[1] and godless revolutionaries who want to get rid of our Constitution and set up the New World Order.

1. **Our institutions have long since been captured by the enemy**

The transformation of our Country into the New World Order has been going on for well over 100 years. A brief summary of the capture of our institutions is set forth [**here**.](https://www.conservapedia.com/Long_march_through_the_institutions)  But even worse than the capture of our institutions, was the *ideological subversion* of the American People: former KGB officer Yuri Bezemov described that ideological subversion [**here**](https://youtu.be/UrS1qDcgdTk).

Now that *all* of our institutions have been captured, and great numbers of Americans have been ideologically subverted; the War is turning “hot”:  The enemy now seeks to finish the job of destroying us and our Country.

1. **Our *Republic* was overthrown in the last election**

The essential characteristic of a “republic” is that power is exercised by representatives elected by the People.  Due to last minute unconstitutional changes to State elections laws which made massive election fraud possible,[2] the last election was stolen; and we lost our Right to choose our representatives.  They are now chosen by those who control the voting machines.

1. **Violent insurrections in the cities**

The violent insurrections in the cities are carried on by Marxist-trained communist agitators *who mean to kill us* and burn down our cities – they say so [**here**](https://ncrenegade.com/blm-minneapolis-i-dont-want-to-say-we-need-to-start-killing-all-white-folks-but-maybe-they-need-to-feel-the-pain-and-hurt-watch/) and in many other videos which have been on the internet.  And we’ve seen on the internet videos showing that the violent insurrections are *supported* by various members of Congress and the pretended Vice-President of the United States.

1. **Replacing our Constitution at an Article V convention**

So now the time is ripe for the forces of the New World Order to move in for the final kill:  To get rid of our Constitution.  That Constitution is the only thing [other than the Mercy of God] remaining which stands between us and hell of the New World Order.

If Congress calls a convention under Article V, US Constitution; our present Constitution of 1787 can – and almost certainly will – be replaced with a new constitution.[3]

*Congress* is the body which has the constitutional authority to “call” – organize and set up – an Article V convention.  *Congress* – the same Congress which is now controlled by those who egg on the insurrections which are destroying our cities and intimidating the inhabitants.

And it is ***that*** Congress which has the power to determine how Delegates to an Article V Convention are selected – and even who they will be.  The Constitution is explicit:

* **Article V** grants *to Congress* the power to “call” the Convention.
* **Article I, §8, last clause**, grants *to Congress* the power to make the laws necessary & proper to carry out its power to organize and set up the convention.

Accordingly, the Congressional Research Service Report of April 11, 2014 [[**link**]](https://publiushuldah.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/crs-report.pdf) recognizes:

**“First, Article V delegates important and exclusive authority over the amendment process to Congress…”**

**“Second…Congress has traditionally laid claim to broad responsibilities in connection with a convention, including… (4) determining the number and selection process for its delegates…”** (p.4)

So, among its other powers respecting a convention, *Congress may appoint the Delegates – they may appoint themselves!*  And those members of Congress who support the violent insurrections, or are getting money from the Chinese Communists, and other subversives may well be the Delegates!

If State Legislatures give to Congress the power to call an Article V Convention, there is nothing any of us can do to stop it if Congress appoints subversives & revolutionaries as Delegates.

And while Congress is deciding who the Delegates will be, and where the Convention will meet, what will be going on outside the Capitol Building?  Busloads of armed and violent Antifa and BLM rioters were sent into Minneapolis ***to intimidate the Jury in the Chauvin trial***;[4] and to commit murder, mayhem, and burn down the City in the event Chauvin were acquitted [[**link**](https://ussanews.com/News1/2021/04/20/police-sources-dozens-of-buses-arriving-full-of-armed-rioters-before-chauvin-verdict/)].  Will these thugs also descend on the District of Columbia when Congress is deciding who the Delegates will be?

And what about the convention itself?  Will *the Delegates* be intimidated by armed and violent Antifa and BLM thugs surrounding the place the Convention meets?   Will these thugs demand that the proposed Constitution for the New Socialist Republic of North America [[**link**](https://revcom.us/socialistconstitution/index.html)] be imposed?  Will they demand the Marxist Constitution George Soros wants [[**link**](https://keywiki.org/Constitution_2020)]?  Will the Chinese Communist Party demand that the Delegates impose the Constitution *they* want?  Or will the globalists demand that the Delegates propose a new Constitution which transforms the formerly sovereign United States into a member state of the North American Union [[**link**](http://www.renewamerica.com/columns/huldah/191206)]?  Will the Delegates be in such fear of their lives that – as in the Chauvin Jury – they surrender to the demands of the mob?

And know this:  Any constitution has its own mode of ratification.  The proposed Constitution for the Newstates of America [[**link**](http://www.sweetliberty.org/issues/concon/newstates.htm)] provides at Article XII, §1 that it is ratified by *a referendum* called by the President.  The States don’t vote on it; they are dissolved and replaced by regional governments answerable to the new national government.

And as to ratification of the new constitution by national referendum: we would see once again, that Lenin was right when he said the people who vote don’t determine the outcome of elections – the people who count the votes do.

1. **And it is Republican State Legislators who are putting us in this fatal danger**

The Article V Convention is being marketed by demagogues and hirelings to State Legislators (primarily Republicans) as the “conservative” solution to our problems.  They *falsely* assure State Legislators that they will select Delegates and have complete control over what they do.[5] And since Legislators of today often know little to nothing about our Founding Documents, History, or Civics; and have been ideologically subverted as well, they fall for the marketing.

And, like many others, they are shutting their eyes to the unpleasant Reality described above. *But that is the context in which an Article V convention would take place today*.

**These are the ones who will turn over to Congress the power to get the new Constitution which will be the death blow to this Country.**

May God have mercy on their souls – they will have much to answer for.  It is their adamant refusal to listen to the warnings against an Article V Convention which has grave moral implications for them.

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E-Mail Publius Huldah: [publiushuldah@gmail.com](mailto:publiushuldah@gmail.com)

**Endnotes**:

[1] Our Constitution of 1787 was based on God’s Model of civil government [[link](https://publiushuldah.wordpress.com/2012/06/23/the-biblical-foundation-of-our-constitution/)].

[2] The unconstitutional changes to our State Election Laws which created the opportunities for the fraud are described in a series of papers [here](https://publiushuldah.wordpress.com/category/federal-election-of-2020/).

[3] See, e.g., “What the Convention Lobby isn’t telling you about our Declaration of Independence” [[link](https://publiushuldah.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/what-the-convention-lobby-isnt-telling-you-about-our-declaration-of-independence-sep.-2020.pdf)] & “How to get a new Constitution under the PRETEXT of proposing Amendments” [[link](https://publiushuldah.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/how-to-get-a-new-constitution-under-the-pretext-of-proposing-amendments.pdf)].

[4] Alan Dershowitz speaks [**here**](https://thenewamerican.com/alan-dershowitz-chauvin-verdict-must-be-overturned-because-of-waterss-riot-threats-fear-of-howling-mob/) of how US Congresswoman Maxine Waters *called for riots* if Chauvin weren’t convicted, thereby terrorizing the Jurors into finding Chauvin “guilty”.

[5] Eminent conservative constitutional litigators William Olson & Herb Titus have rightly described such assurances as “false” and “reckless in the extreme” [[**link**](https://publiushuldah.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/william-olson-herb-titus-on-dangerous-proposal-of-an-article-v-convention.pdf)]. <https://newswithviews.com/the-death-blow-an-article-v-convention-to-replace-our-constitution/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Bennett: I've begun efforts to form a unity government**

***Likud fires back after Bennett says he has begun efforts to form a national unity government: Bennett wants to be Prime Minister at all costs.***

*Elad Benari, Canada , Apr 23 , 2021 8:28 PM*

Yamina chairman Naftali Bennett announced on Friday that he had begun efforts to form a national unity government.

In a lengthy post on Facebook, Bennett said that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “has two practical options for forming a right-wing government. One is difficult to digest, but he is required to pressure [Bezalel] Smotrich in order to establish it, and the other requires Netanyahu to make a concession and serve as an Alternate Prime Minister for about a year.”

“Instead of choosing one of these two difficult options, Netanyahu chooses a third way: To drag the State of Israel to a fifth election, while campaigning aggressively and personally against me, as if I am a leftist, greedy for power, hate him, etc.,” added Bennett.

“From the moment I realized that Netanyahu does not intend to choose one of the two alternatives for forming a right-wing government, I began an effort to form a national unity government. In any case, the door to the right-wing government is open and desirable to me,” he stated.

Bennett added that there are two necessary conditions for such a unity government to be formed.

“The first condition - that we get the tools (veto rights, ministers, decision-making mechanisms) for a good, serious and functioning government to be formed. The second condition - that within the government we can maintain our principles and our national worldview.”

“I will be clear - such a unity government will not fulfill all my dreams, but it will be no less right-wing than Netanyahu’s governments with Ehud Barak, Tzipi Livni, or Avi Nissenkorn,” he stated.

Bennett conceded that “Such a government will not be able to apply sovereignty over parts of the Land of Israel, something I strongly believe in, after decades in which no government, including Netanyahu's, has applied sovereignty over an inch of Israeli land. But it will also not hand over territories. Such a government will also not be able to initiate a momentum of reforms that I very much want in the justice system, after many years, including during the Likud governments, in which there was not a single reform to curb judicial activism.”

He added that he is holding conversations with the various factors in order to form such a unity government.

“We invite any party that accepts the government's guidelines. Certainly also the Likud, Smotrich and the haredi parties,” wrote Bennett. “Will there really be a unity government? I do not know, but we will know soon. It depends on a lot of compromises and concessions of all the partners, and the conditions I have specified are met.”

The Likud said in response to Bennett’s remarks, "Bennett wants to be Prime Minister at all costs, including at the expense of crowning a left-wing government. A government that boycotts 52 seats of the right and is made up of 50 seats of the left, the far left and the Joint List is not a unity government but rather a left-wing government with a tiny right-wing fig leaf." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304919>

**George W. Bush wrote-in Condoleezza Rice on 2020 election ballot**

***Former President Bush chose Rice as his preferred write-in-candidate over fellow Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden.***

*Dan Verbin , Apr 23 , 2021 5:43 PM*

Former President George W. Bush told People magazine that Condoleezza Rice, who was his administration’s Secretary of State, was his write-in choice for president on his 2020 election ballot.

Bush said that Rice came in ahead of fellow Republican candidate Donald Trump and eventual Democratic winner, Joe Biden.

Bush told the magazine that he jokingly told Rice about his intention in November.

"She knows it. But she told me she would refuse to accept the office," Bush said.

Bush recently made headlines when he said in an NBC interview that the Republican Party of today isn’t his “vision.”

He called it “isolationist, protectionist, and, to a certain extent, nativist.” MORE - <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304912> [ George W B was a globalist and a total dud as was his father. The entire Bush family has little to recommend it. His grandfather (Prescott) was a supporter of Hitler and helped to finance the Nazi regime as did many of the big bucks in the US during the early WWII days. Dubya reached his ‘level of incompetence’ when he was the Gov of Texas and should never have gone further. – rdb]

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