**06/18/2021 NEWS AM -**

**udi damari & Ami maimon - We are not afraid |**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oGjfdn0G_8>

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| --- |
| **"The Party is not interested in the overt act.  The thought is all we care about." -- George Orwell [Eric Arthur Blair] (1903-1950) British author Source: Nineteen Eighty-Four, 1949** |

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for DH – Mother going into hospice.**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  **Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems**  NOTE: Our prayer list was getting very long and there will little follow up.  If you have people you want to have on the list please resubmit since we are revising it now– rdb]  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 31:33And Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent, and into the tent of the two slave-girls; and he did not find. And he went out of Leah's tent and came into Rachel's tent. 34And Rachel had taken the household idols and put them into the camel's saddle; and she sat on them. And Laban felt around all the tent, but did not find. 35And she said to her father, Let no anger be in the eyes of my lord, for I am not able to rise before your face, for the way of women is to me. And he searched for and did not find the household idols.**

**IDF strikes Hamas sites across Gaza in response to arson attacks**

***Army says it rocket launchers and Hamas military sites, after third consecutive day of fires sparked by incendiary balloons, threatens to launch fresh campaign if attacks persist***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 11:28 pmUpdated at 12:05 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/Screen-Shot-2021-06-17-at-23.44.24-e1623962749193.jpg)

A fireball light up the night sky above buildings near Khan Younis in southern Gaza, as IDF planes hit a Hamas site in the Palestinian enclave, on June 17, 2021. (Screen capture)

The Israeli military launched airstrikes on Hamas targets throughout the Gaza Strip on Thursday night in response to ongoing arson attacks from the enclave, the Israel Defense Forces said, as the army chief ordered the IDF to prepare for a resumption of fighting.

At least eight fires were sparked in southern Israel on Thursday, and four the day before, by balloon-borne incendiary devices launched from the Strip, according to Israeli Fire and Rescue Services.

According to Palestinian media, one Israeli strike targeted a Hamas-controlled building in the Gaza city of Beit Lahiya. Additional strikes were reported on a six-story Hamas-run civil administration building in northern Gaza, a Hamas base near Khan Younis, a site near Gaza City, and agricultural fields allegedly housing underground rocket launchers in southern Gaza. There were no immediate reports of Palestinian injuries.

The IDF confirmed conducting the strikes, saying the targets included a launchpad near Khan Younis, which could be seen in video footage shared on social media (below), and various other Hamas sites in the Strip.

“The attack was carried out in response to the continued launching of incendiary balloons at Israeli territory,” the IDF said in a statement.

The attacks were far greater and more forceful than those launched earlier this week in response to similar airborne arson attacks from the Strip and appeared to be the most significant retaliation by Israel to incendiary balloons in the three years since Palestinian began using the tactic.

The raids were also meant to serve as a threat to Hamas of Israel’s willingness to conduct further strikes if attacks persist.

“Earlier this evening, the chief of staff held a situational assessment in which he ordered a higher level of preparedness and for the IDF to make preparations for a variety of scenarios including a resumption of fighting in response to continued terrorist activities from the Gaza Strip,” the IDF said.

The military added that it held Hamas responsible for all violence coming from the Strip and would “continue to destroy the terror group’s capabilities and infrastructure.”

According to a Channel 13 news report Thursday, an Israeli delegation in Cairo for talks with Egyptian mediators — working to preserve the fragile ceasefire that ended last month’s bout of fighting — has warned that if the balloons continue, Israel could launch a follow-up to last month’s campaign.

Hamas has reportedly asserted that the balloons are legitimate “popular action” against Israel and should not be considered a violation of the ceasefire. But Israel rejects such claims, and aims to force Hamas reconsider the value of its balloon attacks. MORE-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-strikes-hamas-sites-in-gaza-in-response-to-arson-attacks-report/>

**Gaza incendiary balloons spark 8 fires in Israel as assault from Strip continues**

***Third consecutive day of attacks from Palestinian enclave as blazes erupt in Eshkol and Sha’ar Hanegev regions***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:42 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/Fires-Gaza-e1623943827180.jpg)Fire damage to woodlands in southern Israel, allegedly caused by incendiary balloons from the Gaza Strip, June 17, 2021. (video screenshot)

Eight fires erupted in Israeli land near the Gaza Strip on

Thursday, as Palestinians in the enclave continued to send incendiary balloons across the border into Israel for a third consecutive day.

Seven fires were reported in open areas of the Eshkol region, and another in a field in the Sha’ar Hanegev region.

Firefighters, along with IDF units and teams from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, worked to bring the flames under control.

On Wednesday, Kan news reported that Israeli officials have considered a strong response to the balloons, but that Egyptian mediators have conveyed that Hamas, the terror group that rules Gaza, is not interested in an escalation.

Four major fires were started by balloons on Wednesday.

Overnight Tuesday, the [IDF bombed Hamas target](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-strikes-gaza-terror-targets-after-arson-attacks-in-1st-raids-since-ceasefire/)s in Gaza in response to a wave of incendiary balloons earlier that day, against the background of a controversial march by Jewish nationalists in Jerusalem.

[pic.twitter.com/8d8eUq1EyP](https://t.co/8d8eUq1EyP)

— דבורה ????⁦???????????? (@devorah555) [June 17, 2021](https://twitter.com/devorah555/status/1405523090361049094?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The arson attacks and IDF counterstrikes were the first exchange between terror groups in Gaza and the army since last month’s 11-day conflict in the Strip.

איריס חצור, תושבת ניר משה, מספרת לירון וילנסקי ו-[@kobisudri](https://twitter.com/kobisudri?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw): "הגיעו אלינו שני בלונים ממש לפתח הבית. המטפלת של אמא שלי יצאה החוצה וראתה שכתוב על זה בערבית ושמחובר לזה משהו – היא נבהלה מאוד"  
(צילום: באדיבות המרואיינת) [pic.twitter.com/j0LliZNpZp](https://t.co/j0LliZNpZp)

— גלצ (@GLZRadio) [June 17, 2021](https://twitter.com/GLZRadio/status/1405537297789947904?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The retaliatory airstrikes were also the first since Naftali Bennett took over Sunday as premier. The new prime minister has long insisted that the IDF’s response to arson attacks should be the same as for rocket fire, and he has in the past called for killing balloon-launching teams. MORE-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gaza-incendiary-balloons-spark-8-fires-in-israel-as-assault-from-strip-continues/>

**Palestinians hurl explosives at Ynet cameraman near his home**

***Eli Mandelbaum was waiting in his car at night when a barrage of Molotov cocktails targeted him, barely managing to dodge the blaze unscathed at the nick of time; 'this could have ended completely different, I had a miracle,' he says***

*Attila Somfalvi, Alexandra Lukash | Published: 06.17.21 , 19:13*

Ynet photographer Eli Mandelbaum was attacked by Palestinians who lobbed Molotov cocktails at his car outside the West Bank settlement of Beitar Illit where he resides.

According to Mandelbaum, one of the explosives was launched into his car through the window, but, fortunately, did not detonate.



Ynet photographer Eli Mandelbaum (Photo: Idan Arbel)

"It's not an easy experience, it took me several hours to get back to my senses,” Mandelbaum recalled. “I was waiting for someone over there at around 10:30 PM, I looked at my phone and everything was calm. This is not a problematic area, it is a road that a lot of people pass through, including residents of Beitar Illit, Tzur Hadassah as well as other localities,” Mandelbaum added.

"Suddenly I heard a bang and saw Molotov cocktails flying at me. Masked men ran towards me without fear."

“I shifted gears and got out of there. While driving, one bottle shattered the windshield. Luckily, the bomb was snuffed out when it smashed the glass into the car. That is what actually saved me,” the Ynet photographer said.



The shattered windshield that extinguished the Molotov cocktail

(Photo: Eli Mandelbaum)

"I was in utter shock. I did not think such a thing could happen. From the panic, I smashed into a guardrail. I left the vehicle there and started running like crazy. The whole area around me was on fire. Had I stayed I would have caught fire alongside my car.”

Mandelbaum called on the residents of Beitar Illit and the surrounding area to remain vigilant.

“Pay attention to where you are, only park within localities where it is safe because such a situation could have ended completely different I had a miracle, G-d saved me,” Mandelbaum said.

The attack follows a recent rise in tensions due to the Jewish nationalist Flag March which passed through predominately Arab East Jerusalem on Tuesday and prompted several other attempted attacks by Palestinians on both [Israeli civilians](https://www.ynetnews.com/article/SJxYnr8o00) and [IDF soldiers](https://www.ynetnews.com/article/SkO00BDPju).

It is currently unknown if the suspected attack is in any way related to the controversial event in the capital. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/ryTNSRusd>

**Report: Netanyahu ordered papers shredded before leaving office**

***Former PM denies claim he had staffers destroy documents that had been stored in safes at Prime Minister’s Office prior to handing it over to Bennett***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 11:03 pm*

A report Thursday claimed that, just before former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu left the office on Sunday, his staff shredded documents that were being stored in safes.

A spokesperson for Netanyahu called the report “total lies. No such thing ever happened.”

If true, the allegations detailed by the Haaretz daily would represent an ignominious and likely illegal final act by the Likud leader, as his efforts to hold on to power reached their conclusion, after 12 years in office.

The paper quoted unnamed staffers who worked in Netanyahu’s bureau who said that they had been told to shred documents on Sunday morning, hours before a coalition of parties working to oust Netanyahu from office took power. They said that the order had come from Netanyahu himself.

The Prime Minister’s Office, now headed by Naftali Bennett, said it was unaware of the allegations, but would examine the claims.

[According to Haaretz,](https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-netanyahu-ordered-illegal-shredding-of-docs-before-bennett-took-over-sources-say-1.9916551) the safes were located in a part of the Prime Minister’s Office known as the Aquarium, an inner sanctum where the premier and top officials were situated.

While it is not known what was in the documents that were allegedly shredded, the safes normally held papers relating to senior officials’ work schedules, routine government activity, and more, Haaretz reported.

By law, any documents relating to government work are state property and are to be preserved and archived. According to the report, at least some documents were handed over to Bennett’s staff to be filed away or used as needed.

Members of the new government and activists have sought the release of transcripts and other documents previously held under wraps, in a bid to lift the veil off decisions made by Netanyahu and others during his 12 years in power.

On Wednesday, Defense Minister Benny Gantz urged Bennett to change government regulations in order to allow the publication of minutes from the currently classified coronavirus cabinet meetings over the past year.

Gantz, who was part of that cabinet, said the disclosure of the protocols will help the public better understand decisions taken by the ministerial body that led the government’s efforts to curb the pandemic, while also holding members of the coronavirus cabinet accountable.

In addition to Gantz, the Movement for Freedom of Information is expected to reach out to Bennett in the coming days to make the same request to release the meeting transcripts.

On Monday, Netanyahu handed the office and its formal powers over to Bennett in an unusually terse and short meeting, which ended without a traditional ceremony, handshake, or photo-op, an indication of the animus Netanyahu harbors toward Bennett, his own one-time chief of staff. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/report-netanyahu-ordered-papers-shredded-before-leaving-office/> [If this is true then Bibi just stepped in another huge pile of doo doo and may have sealed his fate. – rdb]

**Gantz to Netanyahu: By foiling family reunification law, you’re harming security**

***Opposition hoping to embarrass gov’t on law it backs in principle, which bars citizenship for Palestinians who marry Israelis; Ra’am said to weigh backing bill if changes made***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:14 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/F130414SK02.jpg)

Palestinians and supporters demonstrating in front of then-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, against the law limiting Israeli-Palestinian family reunification on April 14, 2013. (Sliman Khader/FLASH90)

Defense Minister Benny Gantz publicly urged opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday to back the extension of a law barring citizenship for Palestinians who marry Israeli citizens. Gantz said the opposition’s plans to torpedo the extension will harm Israeli security.

Gantz’s entreaty to the Likud leader and former prime minister came a day after a vote on extending the law was pulled over lack of support within the coalition. Though right-wing opposition parties in principle back extending the law, they have refused to step in to do so in the hopes of embarrassing the new government.

Gantz urged Netanyahu to put national security ahead of any attempts to score political points.

“This law is essential for safeguarding the country’s security and Jewish and democratic character, and security considerations need to be put before all political considerations,” Gantz said in a statement. “Even in difficult times politically, we put Israel before everything.”

Meanwhile there were reports Thursday of a brewing compromise deal within the coalition, that could see the extension move ahead even without opposition backing.

On Wednesday, coalition chairman Idit Silman (Yamina) was forced to pull the measure from the Knesset Arrangements Committee agenda upon realizing that she did not have enough votes for it to pass without the backing of coalition party Ra’am. The Islamist faction opposes the law and has refused to vote for its passage.

Gantz deployed deputy coalition whip Eitan Ginsburg from his Blue and White party to help Silman rally the support of “all Zionist components” to ensure a Knesset majority for extending the law.

He also called on Ra’am to back off its opposition, saying that he “expects all coalition parties to act responsibly in passing the bill,” the statement read.

According to reports in Hebrew media, Ra’am may pull its opposition to the bill if changes are made to the law.

The party may vote in favor if given a promise from the coalition to immediately hold marathon talks in the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee on drafting a new version of the measure, according to Channel 12 news.

Family reunification in Israel typically involves an Israeli citizen requesting citizenship for his or her non-Israeli spouse. Most unification applications are submitted by Arab Israelis on behalf of a Palestinian spouse living in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip.

But a 2003 measure, passed due to concerns it was being abused by terror groups to gain access to Israel, put limits on the process, making it harder for Palestinians to gain Israeli citizenship or residency through marriage. The controversial law has been extended every year since, usually with strong backing from Likud and other right-wing parties.

Critics call the law racist and say it is an attempt by Israel to keep the number of Arab citizens down.

Responding to Gantz, Likud said in a tweet that “those for whom Israel’s security is important would not form a government with Ra’am.”

A statement from an unnamed Likud source, sent out by the party’s spokesperson, called Bennett’s decision to put Ra’am party head Mansour Abbas at the head of the Knesset committee meant to push the bill forward “irresponsible.”

“Now he has the chutzpah to ask the opposition to save him and move the law to another committee. What does he want from us — he should fire Abbas and pass the law,” the source said. Such a move would likely precipitate a coalition crisis.

Several opposition MKs admitted that they supported the law, but said this was trumped by their desire to harm the current coalition. [Perhaps it is time for those who are elected to the Knesset to think about what is right for the country and stop the nonsense of simply playing power politics. Gantz is correct in his chiding of the Likud members on this issue. – rdb]

MK Uriel Busso, from the ultra-Orthodox Shas party, told Army Radio that he was unimpressed by Gantz’s request for help.

“This is the first example for Israel showing that this is a leftist government that can’t hold it together for a week. We’re not going to mess around with band-aids for the government,” he said.

“The law is good, it safeguards the State of Israel and its character, but there are political considerations. We want to topple the government,” Likud MK Yoav Kisch told Kan public radio. [So you want to topple the government so you can go to elections again and still probably not be able to get a seated government? That is a very stupid approach. – rdb]

Channel 12 news reported that Likud MK Yuval Steinitz is pushing for Likud to back off its opposition, believing that the party will inflict more damage upon itself through its resistance than on the coalition.

On Wednesday, Likud MK Miki Zohar told coalition representatives that his party was prepared to support the law if the government backs his legislation to legalize dozens of wildcat outposts in the West Bank. The majority of parties in the unity government oppose such measures expanding Israeli presence beyond the Green Line.

Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked (Yamina) pledged Wednesday to move forward with the legislation, saying it would be brought for a vote next week.

“I do not imagine that the opposition will harm the security of the country in the name of political games,” she tweeted. “I have no doubt that the head of the opposition will keep his word that on matters of Israeli security ‘there is no opposition and no coalition. On these matters, we are all a united front.'” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-to-netanyahu-by-foiling-family-reunification-law-youre-harming-security/>

**Gantz: Israel working with US to step up Iran nuclear oversight**

***Defense minister also says ‘all options remain on the table’ in dealing with Tehran’s nuclear ambitions, ahead of IDF chief’s visit to Washington later this week***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 5:49 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/WhatsApp-Image-2021-06-17-at-11.10.35-e1623927411529.jpeg)

Defense Minister Benny Gantz meets with a delegation from the Jewish Institute for National Security of America at his office in Tel Aviv, June 17, 2021. (Ariel Hermoni/Defense Ministry)

Defense Minister Benny Gantz said on Thursday that Israel and the United States were working to increase the monitoring of Tehran’s nuclear program, while warning that “all options are on the table” regarding Jerusalem’s preparedness to conduct a military strike in order to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Gantz made his remarks to a group of visiting former top American defense officials, brought to Israel by the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA) advocacy group.

The defense minister told the delegation he was concerned that with the formation of a new Israeli government, and with an expected change of government during the upcoming Iranian presidential election, there could be a “reshuffle period in which Iran accumulates achievements in nuclear development.”

“We are working closely with our American allies, in order to both increase oversight at this time and to clarify to Iran that all options are on the table, always,” Gantz said.

JINSA has long served as a hawkish, pro-Israel think tank and lobbying group, with its members including former high-ranking officials in the US military, the Pentagon and other security services.

Gantz said he thanked the delegation for its support and “shared my thoughts on the different challenges on the agenda, chief among them the continued Iranian pursuit of nuclear arms.”

This week, [Iran announced](https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-it-has-6-5-kg-of-60-enriched-uranium-inching-closer-to-weapons-grade/) that it had amassed 6.5 kilograms (14.3 pounds) of uranium enriched to 60% purity, and 108 kilograms of uranium enriched to 20% purity in five months. Uranium enriched to those levels can be relatively easy to further enrich into a weapons-grade level of 90% purity.

Since taking office earlier this week, the newly inaugurated Israeli government has clarified that it opposes US President Joe Biden’s plans to rejoin the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, just as the previous government did, but that, unlike its predecessor, it would voice its criticism in private.

“It was a bad deal. I opposed it. I still oppose it. Israel could have, with a different approach, influenced it far more,” Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said of the matter during his first speech on the job this week, lamenting former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s combative approach.

Former US president Donald Trump abandoned the Iran deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in 2018, imposing fresh sanctions on Iran and Iranian officials, leading Tehran to follow suit shortly thereafter. Since then, Tehran has ratcheted up tensions on the nuclear front by amassing greater quantities of enriched uranium at greater degrees of purity and by making advancements in the developments of missiles that could be used to carry a nuclear warhead.

 In recent months, Iranian and European negotiation teams have been meeting in Vienna to discuss a return to the nuclear deal by the US and Iran — a move staunchly opposed by top Israeli officials. Though all sides have reported progress, the talks have stalled somewhat in recent weeks as Iran gears up for presidential elections.

Iran’s Governor to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Kazem Gharib Abadi, leaves the Grand Hotel Vienna where closed-door nuclear talks took place in Vienna, Austria, June 12, 2021. (AP Photo/Florian Schroetter)

In an effort to influence America’s presumed return to the JCPOA, Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi is scheduled to travel to Washington, DC, on Saturday night. There he will meet with top American defense officials before returning to Israel next Friday. He was originally meant to make the trip last month, but his visit was postponed in light of rising tensions between Israel and the Hamas terror group in Gaza at the time, which culminated in a 11-day battle between the two sides.

Kohavi is expected to present American officials with Israeli assessments of the threats posed by Iran to the region, should the sanctions currently in place against the country be lifted. He will also discuss reconstruction plans for the Gaza Strip. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-israel-working-with-us-to-step-up-iran-nuclear-oversight/>

**After delay, IDF chief heads to DC to discuss Iran nuke threat with US officials**

***Kohavi to lead Israeli delegation to US to meet with American counterparts on Tehran, Hezbollah’s missiles, and Gaza***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 9:14 pm*

IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi will lead a senior delegation of top Israeli military officers to Washington early Sunday to meet with American officials about Iran’s nuclear program and its expansionist efforts in the region, the Israel Defense Forces said Thursday.

“The chief of staff will discuss with his counterparts current shared security challenges, including matters dealing with the Iranian nuclear threat, Iran’s efforts to entrench itself militarily in the Middle East, Hezbollah’s rearmament efforts, the consequences of the threat of precision-guided missiles and joint force build-up,” the military said.

Kohavi’s trip comes amid lingering tensions between the US and Israel over the Iran nuclear issue. US President Joe Biden’s administration intends to return to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, a move that Israeli officials, including Kohavi, have staunchly and publicly opposed.

Shortly after Biden’s inauguration in January, Kohavi made waves with a particularly [blunt speech](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-chief-says-hes-ordered-fresh-military-plans-to-thwart-irans-nuke-program/) arguing against the US rejoining the deal, calling it a “bad” plan.

Since taking office earlier this week, the newly inaugurated Israeli government has clarified that it too opposes Biden’s plans to rejoin the deal, but that, unlike its predecessor, it would voice its criticism in private.

Kohavi will be joined on the nearly week-long trip by Maj. Gen. Tal Kalman, who leads the IDF’s counter-Iran efforts, as well as Brig. Gen. Amit Sa’ar, who leads Military Intelligence’s Research Division, and Israel’s defense attaché in Washington, Maj. Gen. Yehuda Fuchs, who is due to complete his tenure shortly.

The delegation is scheduled to meet US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley, the head of the US Central Command Kenneth McKenzie, the head of the US Special Operations Command Richard Clark and others.

Kalman, Sa’ar, and Fuchs will also hold their own meetings with additional American defense officials, according to the IDF.

Kohavi was initially scheduled to travel to Washington in late April, but his trip was called off in light of rising tensions at the time between Israel and the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip, which culminated in a vicious 11-day battle last month.

During the visit, the IDF commander will also share with American official’s the military’s assessments of its conflict with the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip last month, known as Operation Guardian of the Walls — and particularly how some of its new battle strategies fared in real-world combat, the IDF said.

“The chief of staff will present the IDF’s main operational activities during Operation Guardian of the Walls, with an emphasis on changes that were brought to bear on the conflict, in terms of firepower capabilities, precise intelligence and digital and inter-branch communication,” the military said

Kohavi was also scheduled to meet with heads of think tanks and other “thought shapers” in the US, as part of Israel’s public relations efforts before returning to Israel on Friday. IDF deputy chief of staff Eyal Zamir will command the military in his absence.

During the visit, Kohavi will officially be the guest of the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-delay-idf-chief-heads-to-dc-to-discuss-iran-nuke-threat-with-us-officials/>

**Police gear up for potential new violence in Lod over arrest of imam**

***Sheikh Yusuf Albaz, suspected of inciting violence, remains in custody, as police appeal decision to send him to house arrest; 8 arrested for unrest at Jerusalem’s Damascus Gate***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:56 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/F210617FFF24-1.jpg)

***Sheikh Yosef Elbaz arrested on suspicion of inciting violence, terrorism and making threats arrives for a court hearing at the court in Rishon Lezion, on June 17, 2021. (Flash90)***

Police were preparing on Thursday for a potential outbreak of violence in the mixed Jewish-Arab city of Lod, following the arrest of a local imam on suspicion of incitement to violence.

A judge on Thursday ordered Sheikh Yusuf Albaz released to house arrest, but police appealed the ruling, and he remained under arrest until that matter is reviewed again.

The force was considering sending additional officers to the city as a precaution, Kan news reported, as Albaz, 63, an imam at Lod’s Great Mosque, remained in police custody.

Albaz was arrested over social media posts encouraging violence against the police. In one clip he shared from the Australian horror movie, “Wolf Creek,” a man is shown murdering traffic police officers after getting a ticket. Albaz wrote: “The best way to deal with injustice.”

The imam, who is allied with the outlawed Northern Branch of the Islamic Movement, has also referred to Israel as an “enemy state” in the past, and wished “death” upon the “Zionist occupation” in previous online posts. [Keep in mind that this “fellow” is actually an inhabitant of Israel and potentially a citizen if he applies for it. The “wild ass of a man” description of the descendants of Ishmael is certainly true. – rdb]

In a 2012 clip aired by Channel 12, Elbaz was shown addressing a mob amid clashes with police, accusing Israel of carrying out “dozens of incidents of slaughter” and vowing that Israel will “exit the land” before the Arabs do.

Albaz was questioned by investigators in the Lahav 433 unit and reportedly told them that he does not take back his social media posts.

reportedly told investigators. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/police-gear-up-for-potential-new-violence-in-lod-over-arrest-of-imam/>

**Israel issues new proof-of-vaccine, recovery documents valid until end of 2021**

***Health Ministry acts to prevent current documentation expiring without replacement, potentially leaving Israelis unable to travel***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:42 am*

Israel has begun issuing new documentation with proof of virus vaccination or recovery that will be valid until the end of the year.

The new documentation can be downloaded from the Health Ministry’s [website here.](https://corona.health.gov.il/en/)

The Health Ministry told the Ynet news site it was acting to ensure that the current certification won’t lapse, leaving people without the means to travel or requiring them to undergo expensive testing.

Last month, the Health Ministry announced that it would be extending the validity of the Green Pass for those vaccinated against COVID-19 or who have recovered from coronavirus, through 2021. The initial certificates were valid for just six months; at the time of their issuance, it was still unknown how long the vaccines’ protection would last.

Since that announcement, Israel has scrapped the need for the pass to gain access to venues or events inside the country, meaning that international travel is the only place the new passes will likely be required.

It is not immediately clear, however, which countries recognize the new documentation. Travelers should make specific inquiries with their country of destination.

The Health Ministry still recommends against any non-essential travel abroad.

According to ministry data, over 5 million people in Israel have received two doses of the coronavirus vaccine, and over 800,000 tested positive for COVID-19 at some point during the pandemic. Israel recently kicked off its vaccine drive for children aged 12 to 15, with 600,000 more people now eligible for inoculation.

The reports of the new certification came a day Israel lifted the mandate on wearing masks indoors, ending one of the last major remaining coronavirus restrictions in place. The pandemic has receded in Israel, with daily caseloads plummeting from the thousands seen at the start of the year to just single or low double digits.

However, the Health Ministry has continued to issue warnings against travel to a number of countries where there are outbreaks as part of attempts to reduce the importation of infection and potentially vaccine-resistant strains.

On Wednesday the ministry issued a “severe” warning against travel to the United Arab Emirates, adding the Gulf state to a list of countries that Israelis are advised not to visit due to COVID-19 outbreaks.

Health officials have previously complained that lax treatment of UAE arrivals contributed to new infections, but politicians reportedly feared angering Emirati officials by applying new restrictions so soon after the two countries normalized their ties last year.

The ministry removed Peru from the severe warning list, which now includes the UAE, Uganda, Uruguay, Seychelles, Ethiopia, Bolivia, Maldives, Namibia, Nepal, Paraguay, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Tunisia.

A ministry statement said that if there is not a “significant improvement” in morbidity figures in those countries, they could be added to another list of countries deemed “maximum risk” to which Israelis are barred from traveling. That list includes Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, India, Mexico and Russia.

According to the latest Health Ministry figures, 13 new COVID cases were confirmed Wednesday, with 0.1 percent of the 21,581 tests performed coming back positive, after an outbreak in which 11 students were infected at a school in Modiin. Police were reportedly probing if the outbreak was caused by a man who [violated quarantine](https://www.timesofisrael.com/police-said-probing-if-man-who-violated-quarantine-caused-modiin-school-outbreak/) after returning from abroad.

The ministry said there were 242 active infections in the country, with 25 people in serious condition. There have been 839,735 confirmed cases and 6,428 deaths from coronavirus in Israel since the start of the pandemic. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-issue-new-proof-of-vaccine-recovery-documents-valid-until-end-of-2021/>

**1 in 4 COVID patients hospitalized while vitamin D deficient die – Israeli study**

***Among those without deficiency who’re hospitalized, only 3% die; patients with insufficient D are also 14 times likelier to end up in severe or critical condition, research shows***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 5:49 pm*

Hospitalized COVID-19 patients are far more likely to die or to end up in severe or critical condition if they are vitamin D-deficient, Israeli researchers have found.

In a study conducted in a Galilee hospital, 26 percent of vitamin D-deficient coronavirus patients died, while among other patients the figure was at 3%.

“This is a very, very significant discrepancy, which represents a big clue that starting the disease with very low vitamin D leads to increased mortality and more severity,” Dr. Amir Bashkin, endocrinologist and part of the research team, told The Times of Israel.

For much of the pandemic, many scientists have suggested that the so-called sunshine vitamin may help people fight the disease. The new study represents one of the most compelling pieces of supporting research yet.

“In short, after conducting this study I would say to people that during this pandemic, you certainly want to make sure that you have adequate vitamin D, because if you contract the coronavirus it will help you,” said Dr. Amiel Dror, who led the research.

He analyzed data on 1,176 patients admitted to the Galilee Medical Center, 253 of whom had vitamin D levels on record, for a study that has been [published online](https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.06.04.21258358v1) but not yet been peer-reviewed. Half of those with recorded levels were vitamin D-deficient.

“We were very interested to see just what a big difference this made, with these patients some 14 times more likely, on average, to end up in severe or critical condition,” said Dror, who, like Bashkin, is a physician at Galilee Medical Center, as well as a researcher at Bar Ilan University.

Numerous studies have been conducted on the association between vitamin D levels and the SARS-CoV-2 infection, and they have produced mixed results. Most of them measured vitamin D levels once patients were already sick, which can complicate interpretation of the results.

Israel’s centralized health record-keeping has allowed Bar Ilan researchers to easily access patient vitamin levels that are on record from before infection. This data led to [an important study](https://www.timesofisrael.com/vitamin-d-helps-the-body-fight-coronavirus-major-israeli-study-claims/) that lauded vitamin D’s prospects for fighting the disease last year, as well as the new study.

“This study is important because of the results, because of the fact that it uses data from before admission, and also because we were careful to isolate all factors like age and diabetes,” Dror said. “We saw that vitamin D deficiency is an independent factor that significantly influences the status of the patient.”

Dror added that the fact that such a large proportion of patients were vitamin D-deficient in Israel, despite the abundance of sunshine, highlights the value of people around the world monitoring and potentially boosting their levels. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/1-in-4-hospitalized-covid-patients-who-lack-vitamin-d-die-israeli-study/>

**Israel to give Palestinians 1.2 million COVID vaccines in coming days — report**

***Decision said made by previous government but not implemented; Israel faced widespread criticism for failing to help Palestinians amid world-beating vaccine drive***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 4:20 am*

Israel plans to transfer some 1.2 million Pfizer vaccines to the Palestinian Authority in the coming days to help them with their floundering coronavirus vaccination campaign, the Haaretz news site reported on Thursday.

The move was decided during a meeting Thursday between new Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz and senior Health Ministry officials and comes after Israel faced months of intense criticism from rights groups and medical professionals for failing to assist the Palestinians.

However, Haaretz reported that the decision to finally supply the vaccines had been taken by the previous government under Benjamin Netanyahu, but there had been no follow through on the decision.

The report said the vaccines would be in the form of “a loan,” with Israel to give Ramallah doses from its stockpile of Pfizer vaccines, with the expectation that they would be replenished with doses that the Palestinians have on order.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett was expected to make a formal announcement in the coming days, with the transfer happening in coordination with the Health and Defense Ministries

Last month Health Ministry Director General Chezy Levy urged Israel to help vaccinate the Palestinians, saying that failing to do so risked undermining the gains of Israel’s vaccination drive.

“We need to help the Palestinians and quickly assist their vaccination program because it can affect the morbidity here among us,” said Levy, speaking to the Kan public broadcaster.

“We have to give or sell our stockpiles of vaccines that we have, or help them find vaccines,” he said. MORE-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-give-palestinians-1-2-million-covid-vaccines-in-coming-days-report/>

**After years of delays, Jordan said to nix Red Sea-Dead Sea canal with Israel, PA**

***Report says kingdom will pull the plug on pipeline and instead focus on internal desalination project***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 3:18 pm*

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| [Dry earth in time of drought, north of Israel's Dead Sea.(ABIR SULTAN/Flash90)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2019/12/F090407AS13.jpg)  Dry earth in time of drought, north of Israel's Dead Sea.(ABIR SULTAN/Flash90) | Israel's desalination plant on the Mediterranean Sea at Ashkelon (Photo credit: Edi Israel /Flash90)  Israel’s desalination plant in Ashkelon on the Mediterranean coast. (Edi Israel/Flash90) |

Jordan has decided to cancel a highly touted joint project with Israel and the Palestinian Authority for a canal linking the Red Sea and the Dead Sea, after years of the plan stagnating, the Kan public broadcaster reported Thursday.

According to the report, Amman has decided to finally pull the plug on the joint pipeline, citing unnamed sources saying there was “no real Israeli desire” for the plan to go ahead.

Instead Jordan will reportedly focus on a potential internal project that will see water pumped from the Red Sea and desalinated at a facility in Aqaba.

However, even if donors are found to fund that internal water supply project, it will take time to build and the kingdom will in any case still have a shortfall that requires continued purchase of some 50 million cubic meters of water per year from Israel supplied under the peace agreements between the two countries, Kan said.

The Red Sea-Dead Sea canal project had long been delayed by bureaucratic hurdles, financing difficulties and environmentalist objections, compounded by Israel’s lack of a functioning government for two years.

The project was further harmed by diplomatic tensions between Israel and Jordan although newly installed Foreign Minister Yair Lapid [appeared to court better ties](https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-vows-to-rebuild-international-ties-after-reckless-last-government/) on Monday, praising King Abdullah as “an important strategic ally” and promising to work with him.

After being talked about for years, an agreement on the canal was signed in 2013 with the aim of helping to alleviate Jordan’s severe water shortage while helping replenish the [fast-shrinking Dead Sea.](https://www.timesofisrael.com/sinking-israel-jordan-relations-leave-dead-sea-a-natural-wonder-low-and-dry/)

According to the plan, a desalination plant in Jordan would provide much-needed drinking water to the region while its leftover brine would be pumped north to the Dead Sea to replenish the fast-shrinking lake, while also producing green energy through the use of water turbines.

Israel was to see very little economic gain from the canal project, which would have cost the country around $1 billion, but as well as the environmental impact on the Dead Sea, there was also the strategic aim of the pipeline helping to maintain Jordan’s stability.

A devastating drought in Syria, from 2006 to 2011, is credited with helping to fuel the deadly civil war there, as farmers moved to the cities, where unemployment intensified discontent, which was further exacerbated by food shortages.

Jordan is one of the most water-starved countries in the world. It draws nearly 60 percent of its water from underground aquifers, extracting at twice the rate that the groundwater can be renewed. The rest comes from rivers and streams.

In the capital, Amman, water is supplied to rooftop tanks once a week; other areas of the country are supplied even less frequently.

According to one [estimate](https://www.fluencecorp.com/water-crisis-in-jordan/), Jordan’s water is enough to sustain two million people, in a country that has close to ten million — a figure swelled over the past decade by 1.5 million refugees, most of them fleeing civil war in neighboring Syria. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-years-of-delays-jordan-said-to-nix-red-sea-dead-sea-canal-with-israel-pa/>

**Hamas chief meets party leaders in Morocco visit**

***Ismail Haniyeh's visits north African nation after its king agreed to resume diplomatic relations with Israel; he is set to meet with Islamic parties in governing coalition comes as well as opposition that seeks to gain electoral favor ahead of September vote***

*Reuters | Published: 06.17.21 , 15:48*

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh will meet Morocco's main opposition party on Thursday as part of a visit to build support for the Palestinian cause despite the country's recent diplomatic accord with Israel.

Haniyeh arrived in Morocco on Wednesday and met the Islamist PJD, the biggest party in the governing coalition, and will hold talks with several other main parties during his four-day visit.

On Thursday he is meeting PAM and Istiqlal, two of the main opposition parties, with other party meetings scheduled before he leaves on Sunday.

The trip comes after King Mohammed VI in December agreed to improve Moroccan relations with Israel as part of a deal with the United States that also included American recognition of Rabat's sovereignty over Western Sahara.

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| ההפגנות הפרו פלסטיניות ברבאט, מרוקו  Pro-Palestinian protests in Morocco during the fighting in Gaza last month (Photo: EPA) | Moroccan Prime Minister Saad-Eddine El Othmani (R) meets with Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh (2-R) in Rabat, Morocco  Moroccan Prime Minister Saad-Eddine El Othmani (R) meets Ismail Haniyeh (2-R) in Rabat, Morocco (Photo: EPA) |

In Morocco, the visit is seen as a way to balance ties with Israel and the Palestinians, and to demonstrate that despite its more friendly relations with Israel, Rabat still supports Palestinian independence hopes.

On Tuesday, King Mohammed congratulated the new Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on forming a government. The king, who holds ultimate power in Morocco, backs a two-state solution with East Jerusalem as Palestinian capital.

With parliamentary elections looming in September, Moroccan political parties are also seeking to show support for Palestinian rights after protests last month against the warmer ties with Israel. After Hamas sharply criticized Morocco for the deal with the U.S. and Israel, Haniyeh's visit underscores an effort to lobby for wider support following last month's Gaza conflict.

Moroccan Prime Minister Saad Dine El Otmani gave a reception for Haniyeh on Wednesday in his capacity as PJD leader that featured Palestinian flags and music.

Otmani said King Mohammed had promised that Moroccan efforts to entrench sovereignty over Western Sahara would not be "at the expense of the Palestinian people".

Gaining international recognition for its sovereignty over Western Sahara, where the Algeria-backed Polisario Front movement has been seeking independence for decades, is Morocco's overriding foreign policy goal. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/HyFvnhdiu>

**Lebanon Army Chief: Economic situation will lead to collapse of military**

***"The army is the only and last institution that is still coherent and guarantees the security and stability in Lebanon and the region."***

*By REUTERS,* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff) *JUNE 17, 2021 19:47*

***Army Commander General Joseph Aoun speaks during the offical funeral ceremony for the Lebanese soldiers who were killed in Islamic State captivity (photo credit: REUTERS)***

"If the [economic situation](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/lebanon-currency-drops-to-new-low-as-financial-meltdown-deepens-670887) continues to deteriorate in Lebanon it will inevitably lead to the collapse of institutions, including the military establishment," said Lebanon's Army Chief General Joseph Aoun, according to a Tweet from Lebanon's Army.

"The army is the only and last institution that is still coherent and guarantees the security and stability in Lebanon and the region," said Aoun, who also said that harm to it will lead to "the spread of chaos."

A collapse of the military will leave the country exposed, said [Aoun,](https://www.jpost.com/international/in-france-lebanese-army-chief-pleads-for-help-as-economic-crisis-worsens-669294) who asked for foreign support for the military in getting through this "delicate stage.

"We believe that we will pass this difficult and delicate stage thanks to the determination and will of our soldiers and with the support of the Lebanese people and friendly countries."

World powers will seek to raise tens of millions of dollars in emergency aid for the Lebanese army at a meeting on Thursday, aiming to prevent the military from collapsing as the country's economic and political crisis worsens, a French official said.

Paris, which has led aid efforts to its former colony, has sought to ramp up pressure on Lebanon's squabbling politicians, after failed attempts to rally them to agree a new government and launch reforms to unlock foreign cash.

Discontent is brewing among Lebanon's security forces over a currency crash that has wiped out most of the value of their salaries. To tackle that, France will host on Thursday a virtual meeting with partners including the United States, Russia, China and European powers and the Gulf Arab region.

Lebanon's currency crashed past a milestone on Sunday reaching a new low against the dollar, as the country's financial meltdown and political deadlock linger.

Market dealers said the Lebanese pound was trading at around 15,150 to the dollar, losing around 90% of what it was worth in late 2019, when Lebanon's economic and financial crisis erupted.

Lebanon is in the throes of a deep economic meltdown that is threatening its stability. The World Bank has called it one of the deepest depressions of modern history. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/lebanon-army-chief-economic-situation-will-lead-to-collapse-of-military-671356>

**Russian Media: Summit a ‘Victory’ for Vladimir Putin over ‘Confused’ Biden**

[*Frances Martel*](https://www.breitbart.com/author/frances-martel/) *17 Jun 2021484*

Both the Kremlin and Russian state media celebrated the meeting between Russian leader Vladimir Putin and President Joe Biden as a success on Thursday, particularly for Putin’s agenda and his hope to assert dominance on the world stage.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov – who had repeatedly batted down suggestions that the summit, held in Geneva on Wednesday, would yield substantive results for either world leader – dramatically changed his tune on Thursday, proclaiming, “Tremendous work was done.”

Putin and Biden agreed to restore ambassadors to their respective embassies, a major victory for Putin as, prior to a mass expulsion under former President Donald Trump in 2018, Russia [used](https://www.businessinsider.com/russian-diplomats-expelled-spies-2018-3) its embassy and consulates as espionage hubs and its “diplomats” as spies. This remains a common Russian practice [around the world](https://www.voanews.com/europe/russian-spies-augment-effort-grab-nato-secrets-say-western-officials). Biden also agreed to support the [Minsk agreements](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2020/646203/EPRS_ATA(2020)646203_EN.pdf), a set of poorly executed deals nominally meant to end the Russia-fueled war in eastern Ukraine, which an “expert” [told](https://tass.com/world/1303871) Russian news agency TASS represented a “major achievement” for Putin.

Biden [received](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/06/16/joe-biden-leaves-frustrated-and-empty-handed-after-meeting-with-vladimir-putin/) no significant concessions from Putin but insisted the summit was a success. Pressed by reporters, Biden admitted there was “no kumbaya moment” between the two leaders, then proceeded to berate reporters for asking “negative” questions. He later apologized for being a “wise guy.”

The two leaders, nonetheless, [issued](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/16/u-s-russia-presidential-joint-statement-on-strategic-stability/) a brief joint statement following the meeting, celebrating that “even in periods of tension, [the two countries] are able to make progress on our shared goals of ensuring predictability in the strategic sphere, reducing the risk of armed conflicts and the threat of nuclear war.”

The statement applauded Biden’s concession of a five-year [extension](https://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2021/01/27/biden-gives-putin-win-start-treaty-upgrade-agreement/) of the New START Treaty, which limits nuclear development. Evidence suggests Putin has repeatedly [violated](https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2016/08/16/russian_violations_of_the_inf_and_new_start_treaties_109708-full.html) the treaty; former President Donald Trump refused to extend the treaty without including China.

Putin and Biden also promised to “embark together” on a “dialogue.” MORE-<https://www.breitbart.com/asia/2021/06/17/russian-media-summit-victory-putin-confused-biden/>

**Texas guv demands Biden return seized land so state can build wall**

***'We care about our fellow Texans and their safety'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published June 17, 2021 at 2:58pm*

If the federal government won't complete the building of the southern border wall on land seized for that purpose, we want it back so we can do the job ourselves. That essentially is the message Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott delivered to President Joe Biden in a letter Wednesday, [Breitbart News reported](https://www.breitbart.com/border/2021/06/16/texas-governor-demands-biden-return-land-seized-by-feds-for-border-wall/).

"I write now to demand that you immediately return to Texans any land taken by the federal government but not used for building a border wall," Abbott wrote.

The governor noted to Biden that before he took office, the federal government used condemnation powers to take property from Texans for the purpose of building a wall.

"Once you took office, however, your Administration made clear the federal government will not move forward with building the border wall at this time," Abbott wrote.

At a press conference in Austin Wednesday, Abbott said the building of the wall in Texas had "officially begun" and was going on "as we speak."

"There are state agencies talking to landowners on the border about putting up fencing on their private land to be able to prevent the dramatic influx that these landowners have been suffering from over the past few months," Abbott said.

He said the temporary fencing will later be replaced by taller, stronger barriers. Some 450 miles of border wall -- slatted steel planks 18 to 30 feet high -- was installed under the Trump administration. Texas and Mexico share 1,254 miles of border.

Abbott said his administration will begin by looking at using state property and donated private property.

"We will also visit with Texans whose land was taken by the federal government to determine if they will allow the state of Texas to build a wall on their land," he said.

In an interview last week with Breitbart Texas, Abbott said the "influx across the border is out of control, and the Biden administration has shown that is not going to step up and do its job."

More than 180,000 people tried to cross the border illegally or were denied entry at land ports of entry in May, the highest total in 21 years.

Abbott told reporters Wednesday he will seek donations to help pay for the wall.

In his letter to Biden, he said the current immigration policies are making Texas "ground zero" for "a dramatic influx of unlawful immigrants, but all of America will suffer from the flood of dangerous drugs, human traffickers, and convicted criminals that may cause harm in other states after entering through Texas."

"By immediately returning any Texas property that can be used to build a border wall, you will enable the State of Texas to work toward a more secure border that keeps not just Texans, but all Americans, safer," he concluded.

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/texas-guv-demands-biden-return-seized-land-state-can-build-wall/>

**Ron DeSantis will send law enforcement to Texas, Arizona to help fight Biden's border crisis**

***'Where the federal government has failed the states are stepping up'***

*By* [*Randy DeSoto, The Western Journal*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wj/) *Published June 17, 2021 at 9:48am*

GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida announced Wednesday his state would be the first to respond to requests by the governors of Texas and Arizona for help in addressing the migrant crisis at the U.S. southern border with Mexico. Thank God that Florida, the nation's third most populous state, is willing to help in this catastrophe that is largely of President Joe Biden's [making](https://www.westernjournal.com/gop-house-leader-calls-like-bidens-policies-created-border-crisis/).

"These states have sent Florida support when we’ve responded to emergencies here in our state," DeSantis said. "And they wanted support so that they could do what the federal government is either unwilling or unable to do: secure the border and protect the people not just of their states, but of the entire country because of the nationwide impact that has."

"We believe that securing the southern border is important for our country, but specifically we believe it will benefit the people of Florida to be able to get this under control," he added.

"And so where the federal government has failed the states are stepping up and doing our best to fill the void."

Gov. Ron DeSantis on sending law enforcement to Texas and Arizona: "We believe that securing the southern border is important for our country, but specifically, we believe it will benefit the people of Florida to be able to get this under control." [pic.twitter.com/I2wJnRQrbP](https://t.co/I2wJnRQrbP)

— The Hill (@thehill) [June 16, 2021](https://twitter.com/thehill/status/1405263616308387840)

DeSantis said that law enforcement officers from various sheriffs' offices around the Sunshine State, as well as members of the Florida Highway Patrol and other state agencies, would begin deploying immediately.

The move couldn't come soon enough.

Customs and Border Protection reported that over 180,000 people were apprehended attempting to enter the country illegally through the southwest border in May. MORE-<https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/ron-desantis-will-send-law-enforcement-texas-arizona-help-fight-bidens-border-crisis/>

**Stunner: Judge says state can force Christian to violate religious beliefs**

***'Act of making a pink cake with blue frosting is not speech'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published June 16, 2021 at 3:51pm*



Jack Phillips, owner of the Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood, Colorado, cited conflicting religious beliefs when he declined in July 2012 to bake a cake for a gay couple’s wedding reception (Photo: Twitter/Alliance Defends)

A Colorado judge has stunningly ruled that an artist's creations are not speech at all and the state is allowed to force a baker to violate his own religious beliefs in order to submit to the demands of a transgender activist.

The ruling from A. Bruce Jones, a judge in the state's Second Judicial District, came in a lawsuit brought by Autumn Scardina, a lawyer who was born a man and now lives as a woman.

He demanded a cake from Jack Phillips of Masterpiece Cakeshop in the Denver suburban area. He wanted it pink and blue to mark his "transition" to a woman.

Phillips is the baker who earlier was attacked under Colorado's anti-discrimination law for declining to provide a wedding cake for a same-sex duo. A state commission publicly excoriated him for his faith and likened him to Nazis, an act that ultimately brought a rebuke from the U.S. Supreme Court for being hostile to faith. The court decided that case in Phillips' favor. 7-2.

Critical to that decision was the fact that evidence revealed that when homosexual bakers in Colorado were asked to create a cake condemning homosexuality, they refused on the grounds it was a message they couldn't support. The state supported their refusal yet required Phillips to undergo re-indoctrination because he wanted the same control over his messages.

Jones' [opinion was that the Colorado law – and its demands on an artist's speech – "does not infringe on defendants' religious exercise."](https://adfmedialegalfiles.blob.core.windows.net/files/MasterpieceScardinaFOF-COL.pdf)

Alliance Defending Freedom counsel Kristen Waggoner, who has fought on behalf of Phillips for nearly 10 years since he was attacked in the same-sex wedding case, said the decision will be appealed.

"Jack Phillips serves all people but shouldn't be forced to create custom cakes with messages that violate his conscience. In this case, an activist attorney demanded Jack create custom cakes in order to 'test' Jack and 'correct the errors' of his thinking, and the activist even threatened to sue Jack again if the case is dismissed for any reason. Radical activists and government officials are targeting artists like Jack because they won't promote messages on marriage and sexuality that violate their core convictions," she said.

The judge claimed that the case was not in any way a "setup."

But Waggoner said, "This case and others—including the case of floral artist Barronelle Stutzman, whose petition is pending before the U.S. Supreme Court—represents a disturbing trend: the weaponization of our justice system to ruin those with whom the activists disagree. The harassment of people like Jack and Barronelle has been occurring for nearly a decade and must stop. We will appeal this decision and continue to defend the freedom of all Americans to peacefully live and work according to their deeply held beliefs without fear of punishment."

Scardina admitted he had "vented" against Phillips by writing him emails when his same-sex wedding cake case was going on. Scardina called him a bigot and hypocrite, according to testimony.

Then Scardina claimed to have forgotten about being upset and wanted Phillips to make a "birthday" cake.

The state of Colorado earlier had joined Scardina in the battle against Phillips' faith, but dropped its case when he sued the state for harassment in federal court. In 2019, the state and Phillips reached a settlement and withdrew their complaints.

Scardina then sued Phillips separately.

Evidence shows Phillips has a policy of declining to make cakes with messages regarding Halloween, alcohol, racism and marijuana, or other issues that violate his faith.

"Free speech protections still can apply where the customer is also a speaker," the judge said. "Although Ms. Scardina could be considered a speaker in this context, defendants … would not have joined in that speech by making the requested cake. …"

He admitted that many activities are "inherently expressive," and the application of the public accommodation laws in those cases had the effect of foisting "a third-party's message on another speaker."

But he denied Phillips' speech.

"That is not a concern here."

In fact, he claimed the "requested cake" would not be "any type of symbolic or expressive speech protected by the First Amendment." MORE- <https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/stunning-ruling-judge-says-state-can-force-christian-baker-violate-religious-belief/>

**Supreme Court uses technicality to rescue Obamacare again**

***Won't decide legitimacy of individual mandate over 'standing'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published June 17, 2021 at 12:28pm*

The Supreme Court on Thursday rescued Obamacare again – using a technicality to reject a claim that the fact that the individual mandate's penalty was reduced to $0.00 means the entire law has to fall.

The high court first rescued what apparently was a failing law that Barack Obama pushed through Congress with zero support from Republicans when it first came before the justices.

That was when the justices concluded Congress did not have the power under the Constitution's Commerce Clause to demand that consumers buy a specific product – health insurance – but Congress could demand that same procedure on its "taxing power."

So, at the time, Chief Justice John Roberts essentially changed the law's references to a "penalty" and made that a "tax" instead.

The latest dispute was because Congress reset the penalty, now re-assigned the moniker of a "tax," to $0, beginning in January 2019. A series of states led by Texas, along with the Trump administration, subsequently filed suit, believing that the change makes the mandate no longer a tax and therefore unconstitutional.

Instead of ruling on that issue, the Supreme Court, 7-2, ruled "plaintiffs do not have standing to challenge [the] minimum essential coverage provision because they have not shown a past or future injury fairly traceable to defendants' conduct enforcing the specific statutory provision they attack as unconstitutional."

The plaintiffs had argued, and the district court agreed, they had standing. The lower court also found the provision unconstitutional and not severable from the rest of the law, requiring the entire statute – which allowed the federal government's essential takeover of health care decision-making across the country – to be canceled.

Since the "penalty" for not following government demands to buy insurance at $0.00, the court ruled, "Unenforceable statutory language alone is not sufficient to establish standing."

The court admitted it did not "reach [any] questions of the act's validity," because it claimed the plaintiffs lack standing.

The penalties – changed to "taxes" by the earlier court decision – had depended on the income of the personal who failed to buy the "minimum" insurance demanded. But when the penalty was eliminated, there no longer even was a requirement for people to report whether they bought what the government told them to or not.

The court admitted not even considering the real question of whether the government can demand consumers buy specific products, impose a penalty, then remove that penalty and still mandate the requirement.

"We proceed no further than standing," they wrote. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/supreme-court-uses-technicality-rescue-obamacare/> [If anyone needs to resign form the SCOTUS it is Roberts. He was a very bad pick. – rdb]

**Scientist: We dismissed lab-leak theory because Trump promoted it**

***'It was scarier to be associated with Trump and to become a tool for racists'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published June 17, 2021 at 4:30pm*

One of the 18 scientists who recently [published a letter acknowledging the plausibility of the coronavirus lab-leak theory](https://science.sciencemag.org/content/372/6543/694.1) said she and her colleauges didn't speak out sooner because President Trump promoted that possibility for the origin of the pandemic.

"At the time, it was scarier to be associated with Trump and to become a tool for racists, so people didn’t want to publicly call for an investigation into lab origins,"[said Alina Chan in an interview with NBC News](https://www.nbcnews.com/science/science-news/lab-leak-theory-science-scientists-rcna1191).

Chan is a postdoctoral associate at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard University who specializes in genetic engineering.

On its website, NBC titled its Wednesday story about the interview "The science around the lab leak theory hasn’t changed. But here’s why some scientists have."

NBC wrote:

Chan said there had been trepidation among some scientists about publicly discussing the lab leak hypothesis for fear that their words could be misconstrued or used to support racist rhetoric about how the coronavirus emerged. Trump fueled accusations that the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a research lab in the city where the first Covid-19 cases were reported, was connected to the outbreak, and on numerous occasions he called the pathogen the "Wuhan virus" or "kung flu."

[One year ago, at the White House, Trump was asked by a reporter](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52496098): "Have you seen anything at this point that gives you a high degree of confidence that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was the origin of this virus?"

"Yes, I have. Yes, I have," Trump replied. "And I think the World Health Organization [WHO] should be ashamed of themselves because they're like the public relations agency for China." MORE- <https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/scientist-dismissed-lab-leak-theory-trump-promoted/> [Think on this for a while. This is one reason that it is absolutely foolish and impossible to put credence in much of anything that is promoted by the so called scientific groups. They consider ‘science’ less relevant than being political operatives. They will alter their thinking to avoid or appease the media and those with a differing point of view. THAT is NOT science at all. It is pandering to politics. – rdb]

**How Long Has the FBI Been in the Terror Biz?**

***Jack Cashill notes reported involvement by feds in Capitol fracas is nothing new***

*by* [*Jack Cashill*](https://americanconservativemovement.com/author/jack-cashill/)[*June 16, 2021*](https://americanconservativemovement.com/2021/06/16/how-long-has-the-fbi-been-in-the-terror-biz/)

In light of the revelations by [Revolver](https://www.revolver.news/2021/06/federal-foreknowledge-jan-6-unindicted-co-conspirators-raise-disturbing-questions/) about the likely infiltration by the FBI of the groups involved in the events of Jan. 6 as well as the FBI’s confirmed infiltration in the ludicrous plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, it might pay to revisit the 2016 plot to bomb a Kansan mosque and apartment complex.  
 In the way of background, in February 2015 [CNN reported](https://www.cnn.com/2015/02/19/politics/terror-threat-homeland-security/index.html) on an intelligence assessment, circulated by the Department of Homeland Security.  
 The report argued that the domestic terror threat from “sovereign citizen groups” was “equal to – and in some cases greater than – the threat from foreign Islamic terror groups, such as ISIS.”  
 Later that same year, without FBI assistance, a pair of Islamic terrorists killed or seriously injured 36 people in an attack on a San Bernardino Christmas party.  
 Six months after that attack, in June 2016, another Islamic terrorist shot more than 100 people, killing 49 of them, at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida.  
 As the 2016 election approached, one suspects that certain elements within DHS hoped to shift media attention back to the real threat, what CNN called “right-wing sovereign citizen extremists.” The media had not yet rediscovered the “white supremacist” label. That would come in time.  
 Over the spring and summer of 2016, a splinter group from the Three Percenters – one of the groups involved in the events of Jan. 6 – began to contemplate a “plan” to deal with the Somalis imported to western Kansas to work in the packing plants.  
 A surprisingly fair December 2017 article in [New York Magazine](https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2017/12/a-militias-plot-to-bomb-somali-refugees-in-garden-city-ks.html) by Jessica Pressler details how the plan progressed from something that was mostly barroom BS to a bomb plot for which three men were sentenced in a federal court to prison terms of up to 30 years.  
 “These defendants planned to ruthlessly bomb an apartment complex and kill innocent people, simply because of who they are and how they worship,” said FBI Director [Christopher Wray](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/three-southwest-kansas-men-sentenced-prison-plotting-bomb-somali-immigrants-garden-city) upon their sentencing in January 2019.  
 “Today, together with our law enforcement partners, we reaffirm our commitment to protecting all people in our communities from those who seek to terrorize and do harm.”  
 In her conversations with one of the men convicted, a predictably troubled soul named Patrick Stein, Pressler sheds some useful light on how the events played out in Kansas and how they may well have played out on Jan. 6.  
 In the conventional retelling of the story, the hero was one of the plotters, a fellow named Dan Day.  
 In an [Associated Press](https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/kansas-somali-bomb-plot-trial-1.4588360) story, tellingly headlined, “Trial begins for alleged bomb plotters who wanted more Trump voters on jury,” the reader is told, “Dan Day knew the plan would go forward and innocent people would die.”  
 Here the AP paraphrases prosecutor Risa Berkower who claimed that Day “struggled with what to do, prayed about what to do. And then he contacted the FBI, and later agreed to wear a wire.”  
 Reportedly, it was not until a hearing at the federal courthouse in Wichita that the conspirators realized it was Dan Day who set them up.  
 “He’s the one who fed us all the information, showed us how bad they were, doing this and that and the other,” Stein told Pressler. “He was working for the feds the entire time. It was all a setup.” MORE-<https://americanconservativemovement.com/2021/06/16/how-long-has-the-fbi-been-in-the-terror-biz/#> [Houston – we have a problem. – rdb]

**Disney+ Hosting LGBTQ Pride Concert Aimed at Children, Starring Drag Queen Nina West**

[*David Ng*](https://www.breitbart.com/author/dng/)

*17 Jun 20211,594*

Disney+ will host a LGBTQ Pride concert aimed at kids and starring drag queen Nina West, with performances of popular Disney songs that will reportedly be re-imagined with LGBTQ themes.

Disney+’s *This Is Me: Pride Celebration Spectacular,*which is set to stream on YouTube and Facebook on June 27, will feature appearances by Kermit the Frog as well as pop stars Hayley Kiyoko and Todrick Hall. Other performances will include gender-fluid singer Alex Newell and gender non-binary performer Jesse James Keitel.

Drag queen Jackie Cox is also set to appear during the concert. (Both West and Cox are alumni of *RuPaul’s Drag Race*.)

We’re throwing a [#DisneyPlusPride](https://twitter.com/hashtag/DisneyPlusPride?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) party! Join us Sunday, June 27 for the first ever [#DisneyPlus](https://twitter.com/hashtag/DisneyPlus?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) ‘This Is Me’ [#Pride](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Pride?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) Celebration Spectacular, hosted by [@NinaWest](https://twitter.com/NinaWest?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) with musical performances by [@TheAlexNewell](https://twitter.com/thealexnewell?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw), [@MrFrankieAR](https://twitter.com/MrFrankieAR?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) and [@Joe\_Serafini\_](https://twitter.com/joe_serafini_?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw), [@HayleyKiyoko](https://twitter.com/HayleyKiyoko?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw), [@Todrick](https://twitter.com/todrick?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw), & more. (1/2) [pic.twitter.com/C2I08cpbKY](https://t.co/C2I08cpbKY)

— Disney+ (@disneyplus) [June 17, 2021](https://twitter.com/disneyplus/status/1405503663934623744?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The virtual concert will feature performances of notable Disney tunes reinterpreted through a LGBTQ+ lens, according to a [report](https://deadline.com/2021/06/disney-pride-concert-nina-west-hayley-kiyoko-todrick-hall-kermit-the-frog-1234776595/) from Deadline. It remains unclear which songs will be featured in the concert. MORE-<https://www.breitbart.com/entertainment/2021/06/17/disney-hosting-lgbtq-pride-concert-aimed-at-children-starring-drag-queen-nina-west/> [It is way past time for people to start boycotting Disney and a bunch of other so called ‘entertainment venues’. Pandering to and trying to push the LGB-XYZ agenda into kids is just vile and disgusting. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**The Whiteness of Woke**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*June 16, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/06/the-whiteness-of-woke.html)

“If You're Not Outraged, You're Not Paying Attention” the bumper stickers on a thousand SUVs in the upscale bedroom communities of dysfunctional cities read. “Deutschland Erwache,” the National Socialists used to shout in the streets of Munich. Woke compresses it all to one word.  
 Wokeness means believing that politics is all there is to life. And nothing is whiter than that.

Those minorities who form the backbone of the activists and voting blocs of identity politics don’t care about politics. Identity politics is politics to white wokes and identitarianism to minorities. Critical race theory is only a theory to white people. To everyone else, it’s tribal hatred.  
 Political theories are abstractions. Tribal identity is very real. Wokeness is concerned with getting white people to buy into tribal identity as a political abstraction rather than a real force.  
 White wokes turned race into the abstraction that is whiteness. What is whiteness? It’s unconscious cultural habits and ways of thinking. The notion that race is a set of ideas rather than a tangible reality would be vocally denied by both white and black racial identitarians.  
 The consequence of race as an abstraction is the transracial idea that minorities can become infected with internalized whiteness and the spread of multiracial whiteness. If minorities can become white, it follows that white wokes can become minorities by shedding their whiteness.  
 Whiteness is a racial consciousness, but based on Marxist power relations, not blood and soil, or genetics, let alone the crude resentment of the ‘other’ that lurks at the heart of raw tribalism.  
 Critical race theory hijacks racism and racial identity to replace it with Marxist theories.  
 White wokes use critical race theory the way that elites always used Marxist theories to compete with more successful people of their own upper class. Class warfare was never about the rise of the oppressed: Lenin was a member of the nobility, Mao’s father was a landlord and a money lender, and Castro was a wealthy law student whose father owned a plantation.  
 Critical race theory is designed to thin out the overproduction of elites. It’s a weapon against meritocracy by the same mediocre cliques looking for a shortcut in the competition. Executives force critical race theory into workplaces to shut down ambitious younger rivals. Suburban soccer moms of dumber kids go woke and push it into schools to even the playing field.  
 What's whiteness? As the Smithsonian Museum of African-American Culture's chart of "white culture" put it, whiteness covers everything from a serious work ethic to self-reliance, rational thinking, delayed gratification, achieving goals, being on time, and, finally, "competition".  
 Get rid of academic standards, intellectual seriousness, punish success, and the mediocre woke white elites who first created quota systems a century ago have much more of a shot at the top.  
 The inherent assumption of class warfare was that the proles were too backward to be a competitive threat. The racist assumption behind critical race theory is that black people can’t compete. If the wokes thought otherwise, they would be denouncing black people as racist the way that Asian-Americans and Jews are repeatedly accused of racism and privilege.  
 Being accused of group privilege isn’t an insult: it’s a backhanded compliment. Wokes pander to those groups they think of as inferior and attack those groups they see as competition.  
 White wokes embrace anti-white racism the way that wealthy white lefties championed class warfare. It’s not self-hatred, but hatred of more successful members of their group by enlisting those below them whom they don’t see as competitors to bring down more successful rivals.  
 But the identitarian racism they’re cultivating among minorities is not theoretical or hypothetical. And neither is the response among working class whites whom they once courted and abandoned. Racial consciousness may only be a theory to woke elites, but it’s not theoretical to the people they’re pitting against each other. Identity politics is only politics to elites, it’s identity to everyone else, and in a country losing the commonalities of religion and patriotism, it’s lethal.  
 Building a Marxist flavor of racism makes elites Marxists and everyone else racist.  
 Critical race theory is meant to force white people to see themselves as an ‘other’ and to legitimize the idea of minorities viewing white people that way. Whiteness studies as an academic discipline exists to ‘other’ white people and minorities who can be accused of suffering from multiracial whiteness on account of their success or resistance to dogma.  
 Otherness undermines empathy and ethics. It licenses everything from hatred to violence to genocide. The more we view people as less than human, the more likely we are to do everything from cut them off in traffic to steal from them and even kill them. National media narratives demand sympathy for George Floyd or Breonna Taylor while refusing to cover the victims of crime because critical race theory denies that they deserve sympathy or humanity.  
 Ideas have horrifying consequences and leftists have a long history of failing to understand the murderous implications of their self-serving abstract intellectualizations. Only when millions of bodies start piling up do they occasionally begin to wrestle with some sort of moral reckoning. And even then, the reckoning is quickly shelved before it ever really comes into being.  
 Some Communists turned on the Soviet Union after the Hitler-Stalin pact and the revelations of Stalin’s crimes. Fewer have accepted any kind of moral reckoning for the millions killed by Mao, or the Cambodian genocide, not to mention generations of massacres in Latin America. Nearer to our own time, you won’t find a proponent of Obama’s foreign policy who has even dared to suggest that the Arab Spring was a catastrophic disaster that may have killed a million people.  
 The body count for Black Lives Matter is estimated as at least 4,000 when you account for the massive increase in murder and crime rates. Most of those would likely be of black people.  
 Being recruited into a war of liberation by white wokes comes with a high body count. And the blood price isn’t being paid by corporations who sent out emails about George Floyd or sorority sisters holding up ACAB signs. Just as they’re not the ones who paid the price for the collapse of the family or the social structure of both black and white working class communities.  
 As F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote in The Great Gatsby, "They were careless people, Tom and Daisy—they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness." But there are fewer places to retreat to in a completely polarized society.  
 Elites retreat into abstractions. They buy a copy of Robin DiAngelo’s book and Zoom into the latest call of the white allies caucus at their workplace knowing that they may not be good at much, but they are good at undermining those who are actually good at something. But the rising tide of tribalism is not an abstraction for those for whom identity becomes humanity.  
 Woke is very white, but its vastness is illusory. The woke elites control corporations and institutions, but what woke is feeding isn’t abstract discrimination, but violent racism.  
 In California, an Amazon driver beat an older lady who asked her about a package. The minority driver had [accused her victim](https://www.frontpagemag.com/point/2021/06/critical-race-theory-violence-woke-amazon-driver-daniel-greenfield/) of possessing "white privilege" before attacking her from behind. This is what critical race theory actually looks like outside the suburban bubble of social justice dinners and struggle sessions which, grueling as they are, are at least non-violent.  
 Last year, Amazon forced every employee to take diversity and inclusion training. Even as the Big Tech monopoly is looting the American economy by selling it out to China, it's doubled down on virtue signaling, promising to go 'green' by 2025 and building an HR infrastructure of 'equity'.  
 Amazon's new CEO Andy Jassy is a militant leftist who had previously [ranted that](https://twitter.com/ajassy/status/1309176233117257728?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1309176233117257728%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.businessinsider.com%2Fnew-amazon-ceo-andy-jassy-on-immigration-black-lives-matter-2021-2), "If you don't hold police depts accountable for murdering black people, we will never have justice and change.”  
 The monopolistic tech giant subjects workers to Conversations on Race and Ethnicity (CORE) when it isn’t forcing them to urinate into cups. The speakers at a Big Tech CORE hatefest [included](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/amazons-inaugural-coreconversations-race-ethnicity-events-maxine-gray/) BLM co-founder Alicia Garza, Farrakhan fan [Carmen Perez](https://www.influencewatch.org/person/carmen-perez/), and Robin DiAngelo.  
 But critical race theory looks very different in the conference room of a monopoly trying to launder its destruction of the country’s economy so that its former CEO can go off into space by bringing in a few racism profiteers to berate managers about their white privilege than on the street where abstractions of whiteness give way to vicious beatings of elderly white women.  
 Beyond academic wokeness is the gritty racial identitarian reality of tribal violence and murder.  
 While Amazon and other Big Tech monopolies compete with each other on woke virtue signaling, and Robin DiAngelo adds another million to her bank account, people are being beaten and murdered in the streets of American cities. While Jeff Bezos and other woke elites go off to space, woke translates into tribal hatred and violence down here on earth.

[*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/2021/06/the-whiteness-of-woke.html>

**Father's Day: Fatherless, America's Top Domestic Problem**[*Larry Elder*](https://townhall.com/columnists/larryelder/) *Posted: Jun 17, 2021 12:01 AM* A new powerful new documentary called "The Streets Were My Father" features three Chicago men, two Hispanics and one Black, who grew up without fathers. All three did hard time for serious offenses, including murder.  
 The film, with no narrator, just lets the men talk. None blames "systemic racism." All concede they made bad choices, but choices nonetheless. All talked about the pain they felt growing up without a father figure to instruct, scold, guide, motivate and instill confidence and direction. I highly recommend it.  
 In Barack Obama's first book, "Dreams From My Father," he talked about the hole in his soul, having last seen his father, briefly, when Obama was 10: "There was only one problem: my father was missing. He had left paradise (Hawaii), and nothing that my mother or grandparents told me could obviate that single, unassailable fact. Their stories didn't tell me why he had left. They couldn't describe what it might have been like had he stayed."  
 My brothers and I were fortunate. We grew up with two strong, hardworking parents, both born in the Jim Crow South. But when I grow up, *most* kids came from two-parent households. My father, on the other hand, never knew his biological father. A man named Elder was in his life longer than most of his mother's boyfriends. He was an alcoholic, who routinely beat my father's mother and would beat my father when he tried to intervene. Dad's illiterate mother sided with her boyfriend during a quarrel with my dad and threw him out of the house at the age of 13. He never returned. This was in Athens, Georgia, deep in the Jim Crow South, at the beginning of the Great Depression.  
 He took a series of menial jobs before becoming a Pullman porter for the railroads. As a porter, he traveled all over the country and was amazed when he traveled to California, where he eventually relocated, and could actually walk in the front door of a restaurant and get served. My father joined the Marines, did duty in Guam during World War II and became a staff sergeant in charge of making sure the "colored" troops were fed. When he returned, he sought a job as a cook but was told, "We don't hire (N-word)s." So, he worked two jobs as a janitor and cooked for a white family on the weekends. After a grueling day of work, he attended night school two or three times each week to get his GED. He took courses on restaurant management and then started a small cafe when he was 47 years old, an ancient age for a first-time entrepreneur. The cafe was successful. He owned the property and bought some rental property before retiring in his early 80s.  
 He tolerated no excuses and always gave my brothers and me the following advice: "Hard work wins. You get out of life what you put into it. You cannot control the outcome, but you are 100% in control of the effort. Before you complain about what somebody said or did to you, go to the nearest mirror and ask yourself, 'What could I have done to change the outcome?' And, no matter how hard you work, how good you are, bad things will happen. How you respond to those bad things will tell your mother and me if we raised a man."  
 I wrote a book about the eight-hour conversation I had with this crusty old Marine, whose old-school discipline my brothers and I did not appreciate at the time. The hardback is called "Dear Father, Dear Son," and the paperback is called "A Lot Like Me."  
 Several readers who, like my dad, grew up without a father wrote to me and said that the book "changed their lives." Many readers who, like my brothers and me, grew up with tough Depression-era World War II dads said the book changed how they saw their fathers.  
 Fathers matter. <https://townhall.com/columnists/larryelder/2021/06/17/fathers-day-fatherless-americas-top-domestic-problem-n2591106>

You would do well to look at…

**Cut Off the Checks -- America's Businesses Need Workers**[*Laura Hollis*](https://townhall.com/columnists/laurahollis/) *Posted: Jun 17, 2021 12:01 AM* Like a lot of other Americans, I have been shocked in recent weeks at the number of businesses that cannot find workers. My daughter and I stopped at a fast-food restaurant here in South Bend, Indiana, two weeks ago on our way home from Chicago. After waiting 40 minutes in the drive-thru line, the beleaguered employee at the window handed us our food and apologized profusely. "I'm so sorry. We are way understaffed," he explained. "I have to close the store." This was 5:30 on a Saturday evening. How much money did that particular store lose, having to close for lack of staff in the middle of the dinner hour on a weekend night? MORE- <https://townhall.com/columnists/laurahollis/2021/06/17/cut-off-the-checks--americas-businesses-need-workers-n2591117>

**Mysterious origins of COVID-19 raise some alarming possibilities   
*By Victor Davis Hanson*** *Published June 17, 2021* For over a year, the American establishment and media have ostracized anyone who dared to connect the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic with the Wuhan Institute of Virology.  
 Then, suddenly and without apologies for their past demagoguery, "journalists" and "experts" conceded that the Wuhan lab may well have been the most likely genesis.  
 Why the abrupt change? MORE- <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0621/hanson061721.php3>

**Did Fauci Commit Perjury?**[*Matt Vespa*](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/) *Posted: Jun 16, 2021 4:30 PM* Did Anthony Fauci commit perjury when asked about gain of function research? The egotistical bureaucrat stated repeatedly that the $600,000 in taxpayer money that was directed to the Wuhan Institute of Virology was not geared towards gain of function research that makes viruses more lethal and transmissible to find ways to kill them before things get out of hand. EcoHealth Alliance formed the third part of this research triangle. In fact, its president thanks Fauci in newly obtained emails when he dispelled the lab leak theory that is increasingly looking like fact.  MORE-  
<https://townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/2021/06/16/did-fauci-commit-perjury-n2591064>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**IDF attacks Hamas targets following balloon terrorism**

***In response to arson balloons launched from Gaza, IDF strikes military compounds and a rocket launch site belonging to Hamas.***

*Elad Benari , Jun 18 , 2021 12:12 AM | updated: 12:56 AM*



***Hamas compound attacked by IDF IDF Spokesperson's Unit***

In response to arson balloons launched from Gaza into Israel, the IDF on Thursday evening struck military compounds in Gaza City and Khan Yunis, and a rocket launch site belonging to Hamas.

After the air strike, sirens were sounded in communities in southern Israel located near the border with the Gaza Strip. The IDF said the sirens were triggered by fire from Gaza that was non-rocket related.

Earlier, the Chief of Staff conducted a situation assessment and ordered increased IDF readiness for a variety of scenarios, including the resumption of hostilities in the face of continued terrorist activities in the Gaza Strip.

At least eight fires caused by incendiary balloons fired from Gaza broke out in southern Israel on Thursday. This is the third day in a row that [fires have broken out](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308215) due to the balloon terrorism. MORE-<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308299>

**Kim: Prepare for both dialogue and confrontation with US**

***North Korean leader says Biden's policy shows North should prepare for both dialogue and confrontation with the United States.***

*Elad Benari , Jun 18 , 2021 4:12 AM*

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said on Thursday that the North should prepare for both dialogue and confrontation with the United States, Reuters reported, citing the North’s official KCNA news agency. His remarks came on the third-day of a plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party's central committee on Thursday, after he had called for measures to tackle the "tense" food situation caused by the coronavirus pandemic and typhoons last year.

Kim made a detailed analysis of the policy tendency of the administration of US President Joe Biden towards Pyongyang and urged the maintenance of "appropriate strategic and tactical counteraction" with the United States, *KCNA* said.

"The General Secretary stressed the need to get prepared for both dialogue and confrontation, especially to get fully prepared for confrontation in order to protect the dignity of our state and its interests for independent development," the news agency added.

Such moves would "reliably guarantee the peaceful environment and the security of our state."

Kim also emphasized the need to "further enhance the strategic position and active role" of the North, while creating a "favorable external climate" on its own initiatives, *KCNA* said.

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

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

The new Biden administration reached out to North Korea but the country [did not respond](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/298420) to those overtures.

In Biden’s [first policy speech to Congress](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305233), he said nuclear programs in North Korea and Iran posed threats that would be addressed through “diplomacy and stern deterrence”.

Responding to that speech, [North Korea dismissed the idea of talks with Washington](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305381), saying Biden’s speech was “intolerable” and “a big blunder." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308304>

**Settlement leaders urge Bennett to end building freeze**

***Yesha Council presses new Prime Minister to renew large-scale construction in Judea and Samaria and to end de facto building freeze.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Jun 18 , 2021 8:42 AM*

Settlement leaders are urging Prime Minister Naftali Bennett to end the de facto freeze on large-scale building projects in Judea and Samaria maintained over the last few years. In a letter to Bennett, David Elhayani, the chairman of the Yesha Council - the settlement umbrella group – noted that five months have passed since any new housing permits were issued for Israeli towns in Judea and Samaria.

“Mr. Prime Minister, the Higher Planning Committee has not convened in the last five months to advance or permit housing plans in Judea, Samaria, and the Jordan Valley,” Elhayani wrote.

“Over the last few years, the Higher Planning Committee has typically convened every three months to approve or advance new plans, with all plans that had been preliminary clearly being approved, without exception.” “We request that the residents of Judea, Samaria, and the Jordan Valley not suffer or be discriminated against in any matter regarding the advancement of plans. There are many housing plans which have been waiting a long time for approval. Therefore, the Higher Planning Committee should be convened as soon as possible to advance them.”

Following the release of the letter to Bennett, Elhayani said, “For five months already there have been no housing permits for Judea, Samaria, and the Jordan Valley.” “That massively delays settlement expansion. Housing permits are necessary, regardless of the makeup of the government. We are asking the prime minister to continue the status quo which was maintained in recent years and to continue to convene the Higher Planning Committee every three months without exception.” <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308315>

**Report: Netanyahu family to remain in PM's residence for weeks**

***Even after Bennett sworn in as Prime Minister, Netanyahu family still living in PM's residence and are expected to remain there for weeks.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Jun 18 , 2021 11:39 AM*

Opposition Leader Benjamin Netanyahu and his family are still living at the Prime Minister’s Residence in Jerusalem, five days after Netanyahu was ousted as prime minister, and the family is expected to remain at the official home of Israel’s head of government for several more weeks at least.

According to officials in the Opposition, the Netanyahu family has just “begun to pack” in the last few days, after Prime Minister Naftali Bennett was sworn in Sunday night, replacing Netanyahu. In a report by *Channel 12* Friday morning, Opposition officials said that the Netanyahu family will likely remain in the Prime Minister’s Residence for at least “several more weeks”.

Once the Netanyahu family does finally move, they are expected to live temporarily at their private residence in the coastal city of Caesarea, until security upgrades are completed to their property on Gaza Street in Jerusalem. The work on the Gaza Street property is expected to take several months.

[Earlier this week](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308101), it was reported that Netanyahu had conveyed the message to Prime Minister Bennett that his family would leave the residence within a month and a half. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308322> That is amazingly arrogant for Bibi and his family. – rdb]

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[**https://madmimi.com/p/a46e721?pact=1060360-163619866-1683292940-a84239476e4334062210119a1971916ac77b44ed**](https://madmimi.com/p/a46e721?pact=1060360-163619866-1683292940-a84239476e4334062210119a1971916ac77b44ed)

**[Gracias Choir] R.Løvland : You Raise Me Up**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2esOJcVEhL0>

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| --- |
| **"Here in America we are descended in blood and in spirit from revolutionists and rebels -- men and women who dare to dissent from accepted doctrine. As their heirs, we may never confuse honest dissent with disloyal subversion." -- Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969), 34th US President, WWII General Source: Speech, Columbia University, 1954** |

**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 BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for DH – Mother going into hospice.**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  NOTE: Our prayer list was getting very long and there will little follow up.  If you have people you want to have on the list please resubmit since we are revising it now– rdb]  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 31:29It is in the power of my hand to do you harm. But the God of your fathers spoke to me last night, saying, Watch out for yourself that you do not speak with Jacob from good to evil. 30And now surely you have gone because you have longed after your father's house. Why have you stolen my gods? 31And Jacob answered and said to Laban, Because I *was* afraid. For I said, Lest by force you take your daughters from me. 32With whomever you find your gods, he shall not live before our brothers here. See for yourself what *is* with me, and take *it* to you. For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.**

**Incendiary balloons from Gaza spark fires in south for second day in a row**

***[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/F210615FFF80.jpg)Firefighters battling four blazes in Eshkol region; fresh fires come after IDF struck Hamas terror targets overnight following airborne arson attacks***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:38 pm*

***Firefighters try to extinguish a blaze in southern Israel that was sparked by a ballon-borne incendiary device launched by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, June 15, 2021. (Flash90)***

Firefighters battled four blazes in southern Israel Wednesday that were sparked by balloon-borne incendiary devices launched from the Gaza Strip for the second day in a row.

The fires, all located in the Eshkol region, were small and posed no risk to nearby communities, the Fire and Rescue Services said in a statement.

“Unfortunately we have gotten used to this,” Ofer Lieberman a farmer from Kibbutz Am Nir told Ynet on Wednesday. “Our area remains tense even after [the Gaza] operation ends.

“We are the first to come under fire as soon as something happens elsewhere. This time it was the flag march in Jerusalem,” he added, referring to Tuesday’s march of ultranationalist Jews through the Old City, which Hamas warned would spark escalation.

טרור הבלונים נמשך: לפחות 4 שריפות פרצו היום בעוטף עזה כתוצאה מבלוני תבערה[@Itsik\_zuarets](https://twitter.com/Itsik_zuarets?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/ozm2N4qVMR](https://t.co/ozm2N4qVMR)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [June 16, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1405155153720885252?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Over 3 acres of lemon tree fields belonging to Kibbutz Nir Am were burned on Tuesday along with almost an acre’s worth of clementine trees, according to the Kan public broadcaster. Wheat fields and tangerine orchards were also burned, with over 30 acres of land torched in total.

The IDF struck Hamas military targets in Gaza after midnight on Wednesday in response to Tuesday’s arson attacks, which caused 26 fires in southern border towns.

The arson attacks and IDF counterstrikes were the first exchange between terror groups in Gaza and the army since last month’s 11-day conflict in the Strip.

The retaliatory airstrikes were also the first since Naftali Bennett took over Sunday as premier. The Yamina chairman has long insisted that the IDF’s response to arson attacks should be the same as for rocket fire.

Earlier Tuesday, the Hamas terror group had claimed victory after a march of [right-wing Jewish nationalists](https://www.timesofisrael.com/jerusalem-is-ours-nationalist-flag-march-held-under-ramped-up-security/) in Jerusalem’s Old City on Tuesday was rerouted away from the Muslim Quarter, claiming to have established a “new formula of deterrence” vis-à-vis Israel.

“The brave positions and decisions of the Palestinian resistance forced the Israeli occupation to change the path of the route away from Al-Aqsa Mosque, change the civil air routes and beef up the deployment of the Iron Dome,” the terror group said in a statement.

The parade, the first major test of the new government sworn in Sunday, was rescheduled after the original Flag March was halted on Jerusalem Day, May 10, when the Gaza Strip’s Hamas rulers fired rockets at Jerusalem, setting off 11 days of fighting.

Hamas had threatened to attack Israel again over the rescheduled march, but ultimately refrained from firing rockets.

According to Channel 12 news on Tuesday, Israel warned Hamas via Egypt that there would be a tough and immediate response to any rocket fire from Gaza.

The network also noted Hamas’s frustration over the stalling of the latest installation of monthly aid from Qatar. The payment of millions of dollars has not been transferred since last month’s Gaza war, with Israel refusing to allow it unless the terror group releases two civilians and two bodies of IDF soldiers it’s been holding captive. Egypt has also opposed restarting the Qatari payments, insisting that a new mechanism be used to transfer them to Gaza so that they don’t reach Hamas directly. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/incendiary-balloons-from-gaza-spark-fires-in-south-for-second-day-in-a-row/>

**Israeli tanks destroy outpost used by Iranian proxies on Syrian border — report**

***Syrian media says strike hit observation post near al-Qahtaniah, used by Hezbollah and other Tehran-linked groups; follows IDF attack on Syrian military base nearby***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 1:26 pm*

Israeli tanks shelled an observation post used by an Iran-aligned militia in the Syrian Golan early Thursday morning, Syrian media reported.

According to Syria’s Enab Baladi outlet, the outpost near the village of al-Qahtaniah in the Quneitra region was destroyed in the attack.

The Israel Defense Forces refused to comment on the matter, in line with its policy of not officially acknowledging specific strikes in Syria, save for those that are in retaliation for attacks against Israel.

According to Enab Baladi, the observation post, which was located some 150 meters from the border, was officially under the control of the 90th Brigade of the Syrian military’s 1st Corps, but was often used by Iran and its proxies, notably the Lebanese terrorist militia Hezbollah. Israel [has long maintained](https://www.timesofisrael.com/releasing-video-footage-idf-accuses-syria-of-helping-hezbollah-set-up-on-golan/) that this Syrian unit works closely with these Iranian-backed groups.

A Syrian activist from the area told the outlet that the outpost was regularly visited by a leading Hezbollah commander who goes by Jawad Hashem, and whose father — known as Hajj Hashem — is officially tasked with leading Hezbollah’s efforts along the Syrian-Israeli border, known as the Golan File.

On June 1, the IDF said it destroyed another Syrian regime observation post that was established on the Israeli side of the buffer zone in the Golan Heights.

The military “destroyed a forward observation post of the Syrian army that was set up in an Israeli area west of the Alfa line in the Golan Heights,” spokesman Avichay Adraee wrote on Twitter at the time, referring to the Israeli side of a UN-patrolled buffer zone between both countries.

He said troops attacked and blew up the post, adding that Israel would not “tolerate any attempt to violate the sovereignty” of the Jewish state. The site is on the Syrian side of the border fence, but still technically in Israeli territory.

Channel 13 showed footage of the troops going in and planting the explosives. Officers told the channel the posts were also used by Hezbollah fighters and pro-Iranian militias. “We vaporized it,” one officer told the TV.

The report said the IDF had deliberately used ground forces instead of targeting the site from the air in order to send a message to Syria and Hezbollah that Israel would not tolerate any violations of its sovereignty. No casualties were reported. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-tanks-destroy-outpost-used-by-iranian-proxies-on-syrian-border-report/>

**Ministers approve new security cabinet; Bennett holds 1st meeting with IDF chief**

***PM and Kohavi discuss last month’s military hostilities in Gaza; Israel struck Hamas-run enclave overnight following renewed arson attacks***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:57 pm*

The new government on Wednesday approved the makeup of the security cabinet, as Prime Minister Naftali Bennett held his first work meeting with Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi.  
 Ministers authorized the composition of the high-level forum, which is responsible for approving military operations, in a telephone vote.  
 The cabinet will include Bennett, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, Defense Minister Benny Gantz, Justice Minister Gideon Sa’ar, Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman, Transportation Minister Merav Michaeli, Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked, Housing Minister Ze’ev Elkin, Public Security Minister Omer Barlev, Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz, Religious Affairs Minister Matan Kahana and Education Minister Yifat Shasha-Biton.  
 Bennett heads the right-wing Yamina party, of which both Shaked and Kahana are also members. Sa’ar’s right-wing New Hope also includes Elkin and Shasha-Biton, while Liberman heads the right-wing secularist Yisrael Beytenu party. Lapid and Gantz are the leaders of the centrist Yesh Atid and Blue and White parties, respectively. Michaeli is chief of the center-left Labor party and Horowitz leads the left-wing Meretz.  
 The government also named a ministerial committee to vet candidates for senior diplomatic posts such as ambassadors and consuls-general before their appointments are approved by the government. The committee includes Lapid, Sa’ar, Kahane and Culture Minister Chili Tropper of Blue and White.  
 Separately, meeting at the Prime Minister’s Office in Jerusalem on Wednesday, Bennett and Kohavi discussed “the operation picture and security challenges on the agenda” and the lessons from last month’s military hostilities against Hamas and other Gaza-based Palestinian terror groups, the new premier’s office said. “Additionally, they discussed the importance of continuing to implement the multi-year ‘Momentum’ plan,” a statement from the Prime Minister’s Office said.  
 The plan — dubbed Momentum, or Tenufa in Hebrew — will see huge investments in developing the IDF’s arsenals, including increasing its collection of mid-sized drones, obtaining large numbers of precision-guided missiles from the United States and purchasing additional air defense batteries.  
 The statement also said Bennett told Kohavi that he will bring Defense Minister Gantz’s [recent decision](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/gantz-extends-idf-chief-kohavis-tenure-for-a-4th-year/) to extend the IDF chief of staff’s tenure for a fourth year up for a cabinet vote “as soon as possible.”  
   
Prime Minister Naftali Bennett (right) and IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi meet at the Prime Minister’s Office in Jerusalem on June 16, 2021. (Haim Tzach/GPO)

Bennett also held his [first work meetings](https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-one-of-1st-official-acts-bennett-extends-tenure-of-shin-bet-chief-argaman/) Tuesday with the head of the Shin Bet security service Nadav Argaman and Mossad chief David Barnea. During the meeting with Argaman, Bennett extended the Shin Bet chief’s tenure by another month until October.  
 The meeting with Kohavi came after the Israel Defense Forces [struck Hamas targets](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-strikes-gaza-terror-targets-after-arson-attacks-in-1st-raids-since-ceasefire/) in Gaza overnight after incendiary devices launched from the coastal enclave sparked two dozen fires in Israeli territory on Tuesday.  
 The strikes were the first since the May 21 ceasefire that ended the 11 days of fighting in the Gaza Strip, known in Israel as Operation Guardian of the Walls. They were also the first strikes in Gaza since Bennett, who has long insisted that the IDF’s response to arson attacks should be the same as for rocket fire, became premier on Sunday. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministers-approve-new-security-cabinet-bennett-holds-1st-meeting-with-idf-chief/>

**Palestinian teen shot by IDF, allegedly while throwing explosive, dies**

***16-year-old is the fourth Palestinian killed in clashes with Israeli forces near site of new illegal West Bank settlement outpost Evyatar***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:01 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/000_9BE3VG.jpg)

***Palestinian protesters attend a demonstration against the Evyatar settlement outpost, south of Nablus, on June 4, 2021, in the West Bank. (JAAFAR ASHTIYEH / AFP)***

A 16-year-old Palestinian who was shot by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank, allegedly after hurling an explosive device at them, died of his injuries on Thursday.

The Israel Defense Forces said Wednesday a group of dozens of Palestinians was making its way toward troops at the Evyatar illegal outpost when one charged at them and threw a suspicious object, which exploded. An IDF soldier fired first in the air and then toward the suspect, who was hit and critically injured. There were no Israeli casualties, the army said.

According to the Palestinian Authority’s Wafa news agency, the teenager, a resident of nearby Beita, south of Nablus, died in the hospital early Thursday of a gunshot wound to the head. He was identified as Ahmad Zahi Bani Shamsa.

Three other Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire during different clashes between Beita residents and Israeli forces in recent days, including another teenager, 15-year-old Mohammad Hamayel.

عاجل| مصادر محلية: "استشـــهاد الفتى أحمد زاهي داوود بني شمسه (16 عامًا) من بلدة بيتا جنوب [#نابلس](https://twitter.com/hashtag/%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%84%D8%B3?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) متأثراً بإصابته برصاص قوات الاحتلال قرب جبل صبيح يوم أمس". [pic.twitter.com/Gc6rseYCUd](https://t.co/Gc6rseYCUd)

— شبكة قدس الإخبارية (@qudsn) [June 17, 2021](https://twitter.com/qudsn/status/1405371665026928642?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The area around Beita has seen repeated clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinians in recent weeks following the reestablishment of a new West Bank outpost known as Evyatar on land close to the town. Palestinians have hurled stones at troops and burned swaths of land, while Israeli soldiers have responded with riot dispersal munitions and live bullets.

. MORE-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-teen-shot-while-throwing-explosive-at-idf-troops-dies/>

**Shirley Pinto, the first-ever deaf MK, is sworn into Knesset using sign language**

***PM Bennett lauds ‘one of the most meaningful moments for me,’ as Yamina lawmaker joins parliament under the ‘Norwegian law’ following resignation of a party minister***

*By* [*Amy Spiro*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/amy-spiro/) *Today, 2:20 pm*

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| Shirley Pinto, the first deaf Knesset member, during a swearing-in ceremony of new Israeli parliament members at the Knesset on June 16, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)  Shirley Pinto, the first deaf Knesset member, during a swearing-in ceremony of new Israeli parliament members at the Knesset on June 16, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90) | Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Yamina MK Shirley Pinto communicate via sign language on the Knesset floor on June 16, 2021. (Noam Moskowitz/Knesset)  Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Yamina MK Shirley Pinto communicate via sign language on the Knesset floor on June 16, 2021. (Noam Moskowitz/Knesset) |

Shirley Pinto, the first deaf member of Knesset, was sworn into office Wednesday morning using sign language.

Pinto, an MK from Yamina, entered the Israeli parliament following the [resignation](https://www.timesofisrael.com/knesset-to-receive-16-new-mk-after-ministers-resign-through-norwegian-law/) of one of the party’s ministers through the “Norwegian Law,” which allows any MK who is appointed to a cabinet post to step down temporarily from the Knesset, thereby permitting the next candidate on the party’s slate to enter parliament in their stead.

Shirley Pinto, the first deaf Knesset member, with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and other MKs during a swearing-in ceremony of new Israeli parliament members at the Knesset, June 16, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Knesset Secretary-General Yardena Meller-Horowitz called Pinto’s name in the plenum, and the lawmaker stood and, in both sign language and spoken Hebrew, swore her allegiance to the Knesset.

Pinto is a long-time activist for disability-related issues, particularly those dealing with the hearing-impaired, and serves as Yamina’s representative in the World Zionist Congress.

She [joined](https://www.timesofisrael.com/new-right-announces-deaf-rights-activist-as-first-ever-deaf-knesset-candidate/) the party — then called New Right — in early 2019 on its slate of candidates, but the party failed to cross the electoral threshold.

Upon joining the party, Pinto said that she would “continue to work with all my might, as I have in the past, for people with disabilities in Israel and to be your force in the Knesset with the goal of making Israel an accessible, equal, and inclusive society.”

הושבעה חברת הכנסת החירשת הראשונה בישראל, שירלי פינטו מימינה [pic.twitter.com/r1EXlY6IID](https://t.co/r1EXlY6IID)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [June 16, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1405080666681774080?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Newly appointed Energy Minister Karine Elharrar, a member of Yesh Atid, uses a wheelchair and is also a longtime activist for the rights of people with disabilities.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, the head of Yamina, congratulated Pinto and commended the historic occasion.

“One of the most meaningful moments for me — for all of us,” he tweeted after she was sworn in. “My dear Shirley, I am so proud of you.”

Fifteen other new MKs have been or will be sworn in this week under the Norwegian Law following the establishment of the government on Sunday evening. All three of Yisrael Beytenu’s ministers are giving up their Knessets seats, as are three of the four Blue and White ministers. In Yesh Atid, only two ministers will resign from Knesset, the same number as in New Hope. Two ministers in Meretz are resigning and just one of Labor’s three ministers is as well.

In the past, lawmakers of opposition parties — including Yamina and Yesh Atid — argued against implementing the Norwegian Law, claiming that it massively increased government expenditures.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/shirley-pinto-the-first-ever-deaf-mk-is-sworn-into-knesset-using-sign-language/>

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/Pshita2-1eadace1-8b10-4930-bdf3-a18134c7c192-1024x640-1.jpeg)**How a Negev police operation nearly foiled establishment of the new government**

***Hours before swearing in of coalition, a large patrol announced demolitions in a Ra’am party stronghold, prompting an MK to abstain in the key vote. But who ordered the move?***

*By* [*Tani Goldstein*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/tani-goldstein/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:11 pm*

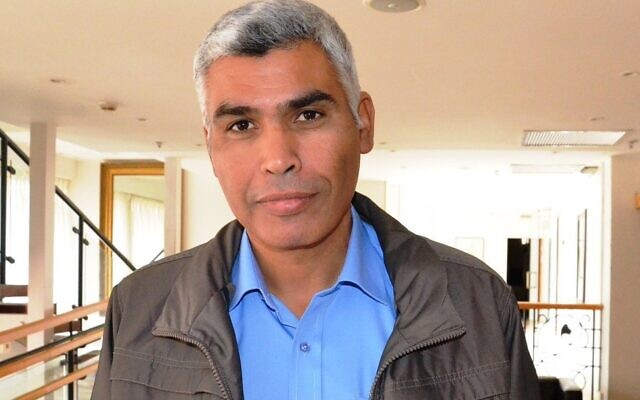
A police enforcement operation against illegal Bedouin construction in the Negev desert on Sunday, June 13, 2021 (Courtesy: Salman ibn Hamid)

A sudden show of force by police inspectors in one of Israel’s southern Bedouin communities nearly toppled the new Israeli government before it was formed earlier this week, The Times of Israel’s Hebrew-language sister site Zman Yisrael [reported](https://www.zman.co.il/229933/) on Wednesday.

State authorities offered contradictory explanations about the timing of the incident, which almost broke apart the tenuous political alliance — led by Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Alternate Prime Minister Yair Lapid — that on Sunday became the 36th government, removing former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu from power after 12 consecutive years.

 The new coalition includes the four-seat Islamist Ra’am party, much of whose base is scattered among the many recognized and unrecognized Bedouin villages in Israel’s southern Negev desert. Ra’am’s entry into the coalition was unprecedented. For decades, Arab Israeli parties remained firmly in the opposition. Jewish parties have boycotted them for their anti-Zionist and non-Zionist views, and Arab parties have also eschewed governing coalitions over Israeli policies toward the Palestinians.  
 Ra’am, however, took the plunge and agreed to join the government to advance policies and secure budgets benefiting its supporters. Ending home demolitions and legalizing Bedouin villages in the Negev were key campaign goals for Ra’am party chief Mansour Abbas.  
 Though ultimately promised generous funding for his constituents, Abbas managed to wring relatively few major concessions from the new Bennett-Lapid coalition. Many in his party, however, hoped their presence in government would advance Bedouin interests in the future.  
   
 A Bedouin man walks through the village of Umm Al-Hiran in the Israeli Negev desert. (AP Photo/Tsafrir Abayov, File)

**‘Like a military operation’**  Just a few hours before the so-called change government was set to be sworn in on Sunday with Ra’am’s crucial support, police officers descended on the legal Bedouin township of Bir Hadaj to warn residents that 30 structures would soon be demolished. The scale of the announced demolitions shocked residents.  
 “We haven’t seen anything like this for years — so many inspectors and police officers,” said former Bir Hadaj town council member Salman ibn Hamid, who now serves as director-general for the Neve Midbar Regional Council.  
 Ibn Hamid said that inspectors occasionally patrolled the neighborhood to crack down on building violations, but not like this. “This was like a military operation,” he said.  
 At least 80,000 Bedouins in Israel’s southern Negev desert live in villages unrecognized by the Israeli government. The townships are illegal, and the residents often do not receive basic utilities such as water and electricity.  
 The Israeli government says Bedouins in unrecognized villages are squatters on public land, while Bedouins have long insisted on their right to remain where they are.  
   
Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, left, and Ra’am leader MK Mansour Abbas, seated, at the swearing in of the new Israeli government, in the Knesset on June 13, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90

Much of the construction in these villages is illegal, as the towns do not exist in the eyes of the law. Even in recognized Bedouin villages such as Bir Hadaj, however, home demolitions are a regular occurrence due to a lack of updated urban master plans.  
 The show of police force and promise of imminent home demolitions in Bir Hadaj caused residents to call Ra’am MK Said al-Harumi to tell him to vote against the new coalition, Zman Yisrael reported.  
 A few hours later on Sunday, ahead of the nail-biting vote, al-Harumi said he would not vote in favor of the new coalition unless more concessions were made to his Bedouin constituents.  
 If al-Harumi had voted against the new coalition, the government could have been thwarted.  
   
***MK Said al-Harumi. (courtesy)***

Following pressure by Ra’am and other members of the “change bloc” that toppled Netanyahu, al-Harumi abstained, which allowed the new government to come to pass with a 60-59 vote in the Knesset. (Three members of the predominantly Arab Joint List waited until all other votes were counted before entering the chamber to vote against the new government. Had Harumi voted against, the Joint List MKs were apparently ready to abstain in order to provide a safety net for the new coalition.)  
**Political or coincidental?** Key questions remain over why the show of force was scheduled on one of the most politically sensitive days Israel has seen in years.  
 Zman Yisrael contacted numerous government bodies involved in regulating Bedouin affairs, but was given contradictory answers. Most were unwilling to take direct responsibility for the patrol in Bir Hadaj or explain its timing.

The Public Security Ministry, which administers the police, is charged with coordinating such patrols. Until this week, the ministry was controlled by close Netanyahu confidant Amir Ohana of Likud, who was often attacked by his political opponents for his alleged politicization of the ministry’s work.

But the ministry told Zman Yisrael that it had not coordinated any such police action in Bir Hadaj, or received any such permits to do so. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/a-negev-police-operation-almost-brought-down-the-new-government-before-it-rose/>

**King of Morocco congratulates Bennett on becoming PM; Putin thanks Netanyahu**

***PM praises kingdom as ‘important friend and partner,’ as his Moroccan counterpart invites Hamas chief to visit; Russian leader touts his years-long ties with the former premier***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 2:36 pmUpdated at 6:41 pm*

King of Morocco Mohammed VI sent a letter of congratulations to new Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in which he said the kingdom will continue to promote peace in the region, the Prime Minister’s Office announced on Wednesday.

In his letter, the monarch said that Morocco will “continue its efforts to promote peace, justice and coexistence in the Middle East, which will ensure security, stability and brotherhood for all peoples living side by side.”

The letter also sent Bennett “warm greetings and best wishes for great success” following his entry into office this week.

In response, Bennett thanked the king for his letter and noted that “Israel sees Morocco as an important friend and partner in advancing peace and security in the region.”

According to the PMO’s statement, Bennett added that he will “work to reinforce Israeli-Moroccan relations in all areas, for the well-being and prosperity of both peoples, whose friendship has been long-standing.”

 Morocco and Israel entered into a US-brokered normalization deal last year, following similar deals between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Israeli Envoy to Morocco David Govrin [arrived](https://www.timesofisrael.com/arriving-in-morocco-israeli-envoy-makes-expanding-ties-his-mission/) in Rabat in February, and direct flights between the countries are [expected](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-airline-to-launch-direct-route-to-moroccos-marrakesh-in-july/) to launch next month.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett arrives at the president’s residence in Jerusalem for a group photo of the new government, June 14, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/FLASH90)

However, Moroccan Prime Minister Saad-Eddine El Othmani said Tuesday that a Hamas delegation led by the Gaza-ruling terror group’s leader, Ismail Haniyeh, was due to visit Morocco at the invitation of his Islamist Justice and Development party.

 “The delegation will hold discussions with the leadership of the Justice and Development party regarding the latest developments in the Palestinian cause and how to support it. The visit will also include meetings with other political parties,” he said in a statement.

Last month, following an 11-day military conflict between Israel and Gaza, Othmani [reportedly](https://www.timesofisrael.com/moroccan-pm-congratulates-hamas-on-victory-over-israel-in-recent-fighting/) sent a personal message to Haniyeh congratulating him on his “victory” over the “Zionist entity.”

Moroccan Prime Minister Saad-Eddine El Othmani delivers a speech during the opening session of the Opportunities For All economic conference in Marrakech, Morocco, January 30, 2018. (AP Photo/Mosa’ab Elshamy)

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed his appreciation for former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu upon his exit from office.

The letter from Putin thanked Netanyahu for the “cooperation and mutual understanding between us for many years. I appreciate the great work you have invested in strengthening the ties between our nations in many areas,” he wrote, according to reports. “Your capabilities and experience will always be an asset to Israel.”

Netanyahu responded to the message on Twitter by thanking Putin for his comments.

Putin and Netanyahu have met face-to-face many times over the course of their respective lengthy terms in office. The two have closely coordinated over Russian and Israeli activity in Syria, and Putin has often served as a mediator on Israel’s behalf.

In January 2020 — shortly before elections in March of that year — Netanyahu personally traveled to Moscow to [escort home](https://www.timesofisrael.com/backpacker-naama-issachar-walks-free-in-russia-boards-pms-plane-back-to-israel/) Naama Isaachar, who was sentenced to more than seven years on drug charges, and was freed after Putin’s intervention.

And in April 2019 — just days ahead of the election that month — Netanyahu announced that the body of Zachary Baumel, an IDF soldier missing since 1982, had been discovered and was being returned to Israel for burial. Putin [said that](https://www.timesofisrael.com/putin-syria-helped-russian-army-find-remains-of-idf-soldier-missing-since-1982/) Russia aided in the search for Baumel’s remains, and [reports](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahus-office-denies-russia-found-body-of-legendary-israeli-spy-eli-cohen/) of other Russian efforts to recover the remains of other missing Israelis have circulated since then.

In 2018, relations between the leaders became [strained](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-putin-talk-amid-tensions-over-downing-of-russian-spy-plane/) when Syrian forces shot down a Russian plane amid an Israeli airstrike on the Latakia province of Syria, but their ties quickly recovered. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/king-of-morocco-congratulates-bennett-on-becoming-pm-putin-thanks-netanyahu/>

**No-confidence vote filed against new government**

***One was filed by Likud faction chairman Miki Zohar, another was filed by Shas and United Torah Judaism.***

*By* [*GIL HOFFMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/gil-hoffman) *JUNE 16, 2021 21:29*

The first two no-confidence votes against the new government of [Prime Minister Naftali Bennett](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/naftali-bennett-who-is-israels-incoming-prime-minister-670867) were filed on Wednesday.

The Likud wrote in its no-confidence motion that “the government was formed with lies and tricking the public, and has no mandate from the public.” The motion was filed by Likud faction chairman Miki Zohar and will be presented on Monday by MK Ofir Akunis.

A separate no-confidence motion, filed by Shas and United Torah Judaism, relates to [matters of religion and state](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/matan-kahana-wants-to-fix-israels-divisions-over-religion-state-671011).

“For the first time in the history of Israel, a government was founded that sees Judaism as an obstacle, as superfluous and redundant weight that needs to be removed,” it said.

Zohar announced that there would be no pairing off of coalition and opposition MKs that enables MKs to miss votes in the Knesset.

“If you treat us disrespectfully, we will treat you disrespectfully,” Zohar told coalition MKs at a meeting of the Knesset Arrangements Committee on Wednesday.

The opposition also did not help the coalition pass the extension of an ordinance preventing family reunification of Palestinians and Israeli Arabs.

The coalition needed right-wing opposition MKs because Ra'am (United Arab List) does not support the ordinance. But the Likud responded it would only help if the coalition would authorize outposts in return. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/no-confidence-vote-filed-against-new-government-671182> [Way to go! The land of Israel has been without a real government of substance for about 2 years and the first thing you want to do is destroy an attempt to put together one. While this may not be the ideal at least you may be able to get a valid budget going and deal with some of the difficult issues such as getting positions filled. The land of Israel has become as badly divided as the USA and both are in dire straits because of pigheaded politicians. – rdb]

**Iran says it has 6.5 kg of 60%-enriched uranium, inching closer to weapons-grade**

***In further breach of nuclear deal and amid talks on striking new agreement, spokesperson says Tehran has also stockpiled 108 kilograms of uranium enriched to 20% purity***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:28 am*

Iran said Tuesday that it has produced 6.5 kilograms (14.3 pounds) of uranium enriched to 60 percent purity and 108 kilograms of uranium enriched to 20% purity in five months, far ahead of the schedule set by a law passed earlier this year by Tehran.

The move takes the Islamic Republic even closer to the nuclear weapons-grade level of 90% purity.

The development came amid talks between Iran and world powers in Vienna aimed at rebuilding the 2015 nuclear deal that put curbs on Tehran’s nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. Iran has been increasingly violating the terms of the deal since the Trump administration withdrew the United States from it in 2018.

“Under parliament’s law… the Atomic Energy Organization was supposed to produce 120 kg of 20 percent enriched uranium in a year. According to the latest report, we now have produced 108 kg of 20% uranium in the past five months,” government spokesman Ali Rabiei was quoted as saying by state media, according to the Reuters news agency.

“In the area of 60% uranium production, in the short time that has elapsed… about 6.5 kg has been produced,” he added.

The United Nations’ atomic watchdog said last month that it had not been able to access data important to monitoring Iran’s nuclear program since late February, when the Islamic Republic started restricting international inspections of its facilities.

The International Atomic Energy Agency made the comment in a report that estimated that as of May 22, Iran’s stockpile included 62.8 kilograms (138.5 pounds) of uranium enriched to 20% purity, and 2.4 kilograms enriched to 60% purity — well above the 3.67% purity allowed under the deal.

In the same IAEA report, the agency for the first time released estimates of Iran’s stockpile rather than precise figures, saying that the total stockpile was 3,241 kilograms (7,145 pounds), up about 273 kilograms (600 pounds) from the last quarterly report.

That was down from an increase of nearly 525 kilograms (1,157 pounds) reported in the previous quarterly report.

Though it was not immediately clear what led to the decrease, it came as an explosion in April at Iran’s underground Natanz nuclear facility affected centrifuges there. Iran has yet to offer a full accounting of what happened in an attack it described as “nuclear terrorism.” Israel, which is widely suspected of carrying out the assault, has not commented publicly on it.

The nuclear deal signed in 2015 with the United States, Germany, France, Britain, China and Russia only permits Iran only to keep a total stockpile of 202.8 kilograms (447 pounds) of enriched uranium.

Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy nations and members of NATO on Monday [reaffirmed a commitment to stop Iran from making nuclear weapons](https://www.timesofisrael.com/un-nuclear-watchdog-says-no-access-to-key-iran-enrichment-data-since-february/), as diplomats from outside the European Union cautioned that negotiations with the Islamic Republic to salvage the 2015 nuclear deal still need more time. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-it-has-6-5-kg-of-60-enriched-uranium-inching-closer-to-weapons-grade/> [What they are doing is a mad rush to nuclear capability as a pressure tactic to get the EU group to make ridiculous concessions and then they will say they will agree but keep their nuclear capable uranium and persist in their quest for world dominance and ultimately attack Israel and potentially other countries. They will totally ignore all agreements that they make and just like the last accord probably not even sign it. – rdb]

**Dr. McCullough: COVID Vaccines Have Already Killed Up to 50,000 Americans, According to Whistleblowers**

*By* [*Debra Heine*](https://amgreatness.com/author/debra-heine/)  *June 15, 2021*

In an [extraordinary interview](https://www.bitchute.com/video/rKP61hruGxIt/) last week, [Dr. Peter McCullough,](https://www.cardiometabolichealth.org/peter-mccullough.html) an American professor of Medicine and Vice Chief of Internal Medicine at Baylor University, declared that the world has been subjected to a form of bioterrorism, and that the suppression of early treatments for COVID-19—such as hydroxychloroquine— “was tightly linked to the development of a vaccine.”  
 Dr. McCullough made the explosive comments during a webinar on June 11, with [Dr. Reiner Fuellmich,](https://www.stopworldcontrol.com/fuellmich/) a German trial lawyer, who believes the pandemic was planned, and is “a crime against humanity.”  
 McCullough said he believes the bioterrorism has come in two stages—the first wave being the rollout of the coronavirus, and the second, the rollout of the dangerous vaccines, which he said may already be responsible for the deaths of up to 50,000 Americans.  
 Dr. McCullough practices internal medicine and cardiology, is the editor of [Reviews in Cardiovascular Medicine,](https://rcm.imrpress.com/EN/10.31083/j.rcm.2020.04.264) senior editor of [the American Journal of Cardiology](https://www.ajconline.org/), editor of the textbook [Cardiorenal Medicine,](https://1lib.us/book/11250554/0ec131) and president of the [Cardiorenal Society.](https://cardiorenalsociety.org/)   
 “The first wave of the bioterrorism is a respiratory virus that spread across the world, and affected relatively few people—about one percent of many populations—but generated great fear,” McCullough explained during the [Oval Media](https://www.oval.media/en/about-us/) webinar with other doctors. He noted that the virus targeted “mostly the frail and the elderly, but for otherwise well people, it was much like having the common cold.”  
 Dr. McCullough later elaborated that he has treated many patients with the disease, written papers on it, had the disease himself, and has also seen a death in his own family due to COVID.  
 The doctor said he believes that fear of the virus was used very quickly to generate policies that would hugely impact human life, such as the draconian lockdowns.  
 “Every single thing that was done in public health in response to the pandemic made it worse,” he pointed out.  
 McCullough explained that early on, as a doctor treating COVID patients, he came up with an early treatment regimen for those struck with the virus, which reduced hospital stays by about 85 percent, and said he began publishing papers on what he had learned. The doctor noted that he was “met with resistance at all levels” in terms of actually treating patients and publishing his papers.  
 “Fortunately I had enough publication strength to publish the only two papers in the entire medical literature that teaches doctors how to treat COVID-19 patients at home to prevent hospitalization,” he said.  
 “What we have discovered is that the suppression of early treatment was tightly linked to the development of a vaccine, and the entire program—and in a sense, bioterrorism phase one— was rolled out, [and] was really about keeping the population in fear, and in isolation preparing them to accept the vaccine, which appears to be phase two of a bioterrorism operation.”  
 McCullough explained that both the coronavirus and the vaccines deliver “to the human body, the spike protein, [which is] the gain of function target of this bioterrorism research.”  
 He acknowledged that he couldn’t come out and say all that on national television because the medical establishment has done such a thorough job of propagandizing the issue.  
 “What we have learned over time is that we could no longer communicate with government agencies. We actually couldn’t communicate with our propagandized colleagues in major medical centers, all of which appear to be under a spell, almost as if they’ve been hypnotized.”  
 “Good doctors are doing unthinkable things like injecting biologically active messenger RNA that produces this pathogenic spike protein into pregnant women. I think when these doctors wake up up from their trance, they’re going to be shocked to think what they’ve done to people,” he said, echoing what he, and Dr. Harvey Risch, professor at the Yale School of Public Health, told Fox News host Laura Ingraham during an interview [last month.](https://amgreatness.com/2021/05/21/medical-experts-raise-alarm-over-safety-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-children-pregnant-women-and-those-who-already-have-antibodies/)  
 McCullough told Fuellmich that last summer, he started an early treatment initiative to keep COVID patients out of the hospital, which involved organizing multiple groups of medical doctors in the United States and abroad.  The doctor noted that some governments tried to block these doctors from providing the treatments, but with the help of [the Association of Physicians and Surgeons,](https://aapsonline.org/) they were able to put out a home patient guide, and in the U.S., organized four different tele-medical services, and fifteen regional tele-medical services.  
 This way, people who were stricken with COVID-19, were able to call in to these services and get the medications they needed prescribed to local pharmacies, or mail order distribution pharmacies, he explained.  
 “Without the government really even understanding what was going on, we crushed the epidemic curve of the United States,” McCullough claimed. “Toward the end of December and January, we basically took care of the pandemic with about 500 doctors and telemedicine services, and to this day, we treat about 25 percent of the U.S. COVID-19 population that are actually at high risk, over age 50 with medical problems that present with severe symptoms.”  
 The doctor said that his belief that the suppression of early treatment was “tightly linked” to the vaccines, is what that led him to focus his attention on warning the public about the vaccines.  
 “We know that  this is phase two of bioterrorism, we don’t know who’s behind it, but we know that they want a needle in every arm to inject messenger RNA, or adenoviral DNA into every human being,” he said. “They want every human being.” The doctor later warned that the experimental vaccines could ultimately lead to cancers, and sterilize young women.  
 Dr. McCullough said his goal is to set apart a large group of people that the system can not get to, which would include those who have already had the virus, those with immunity, children, pregnant women, and child-bearing women.  
 The cardiologist went on to say that because there is no clinical benefit in young people whatsoever to get the vaccine, even one case of myocarditis or pericarditis following the shots “is too many,” yet even though the CDC is aware of hundreds of alarming reports of cases of heart swelling in teenagers and young adults, they’re only going to [reevaluate the matter](https://amgreatness.com/2021/06/11/cdc-to-hold-emergency-meeting-on-heart-inflammation-cases-in-young-people-following-covid-vaccines/) later on in June. He accused the medical establishment of neglecting to to do anything to reduce the risks of the vaccines.  
 As someone who has chaired over two dozen vaccine safety monitoring boards for the FDA, and National Institute for Health, McCullough had room to criticize how the vaccines have been rolled out.  
 “With this program, there is no critical event committee, there is no data-safety monitoring board, and there’s no human ethics committee. Those structures are mandatory for all large clinical investigations, and so the word that’s really used for what’s going on is malfeasance, that’s wrongdoing of people in authority,” the doctor explained.  
 “Without any safety measures in place, you can see what’s going on,” he continued.  
 “Basically it’s the largest application of a biological product with the greatest amount of morbidity and mortality in the history of our country.”  
 “We are at over 5,000 deaths so far, as you know, and I think about 15,000 hospitalizations. In the EU it’s over 10,000 deaths. We are working with the Center for Medicaid (CMS) data, and we have a pretty good lead that the real number is tenfold.”  
 McCullough explained that because the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) database only amounts to about 10 percent of the bad reactions to the vaccines, his team has had to go to other sources for information.  
 “We have now a whistleblower inside the CMS, and we have two whistleblowers in the CDC,” the doctor revealed. “We think we have 50,000 dead Americans. Fifty thousand deaths. So we actually have more deaths due to the vaccine per day than certainly the viral illness by far. It’s basically propagandized bioterrorism by injection.”  
 Dr. McCullough said he’s seen people in his office with cases of portal vein thrombosis, myocarditis, and serious memory problems post-vaccination. “It’s so disconcerting,” he said.  
 He said he was recently viciously attacked in the media by a woman from Singapore who is linked to the Gates Foundation.  
 Dr. McCullough went on to express a chilling theory that the vaccines could have been designed to reduce the world’s population.  
 “If you said this is all a Gates Foundation program to reduce the population, it’s fitting very well with that hypothesis, right? The first wave was to kill the old people by the respiratory infection, the second wave is to take the survivors and target the young people and sterilize them,” he said.  
 “If you notice the messaging in the country, in the United States, they’re not even interested in old people now. They want the kids. They want the kids, kids, kids, kids kids! They’re such a focus on the kids,” he said, noting that in Toronto, Canada, last month, they lured the children with promises of ice-cream to get the jab. According to [one report,](https://www.newswars.com/canadian-government-lures-children-with-ice-cream-to-take-vaccine-without-parental-consent/) the government of Ontario—which doesn’t require parental consent for children to get vaccinated—encouraged the kids to get the Pfizer vaccine at a pop-up vaccine event.  
 “They held the parents back, and they were vaccinating the kids,” the doctor railed. He said his Canadian wife’s mother was forcibly vaccinated against her will.  
 McCullough predicted that the United States is gearing up to force people into getting the injections.

“We have to stop it, and we have to see what’s behind it,” he concluded. <https://amgreatness.com/2021/06/15/dr-mccullough-covid-vaccines-have-already-killed-up-to-50000-americans-according-to-whistleblowers/> [There are multiple posts from oftentimes somewhat obscure sources decrying what McCullough has said. From what I have seen in following this disaster, I really think he is probably underestimating the numbers with problems from the Jab. I also think the number of people dead as a result of the false information and statements from the NIH and Fauci is an absolute disaster which needs to have these people prosecuted. – rdb]

**Yuck! Parents send kids' masks to lab for analysis**

***Contaminated with dangerous bacteria, parasites, fungi after day of school***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published June 16, 2021 at 7:10pm*

A group of Florida parents concerned about the potential harm of wearing masks during the school day sent their children's face coverings to a lab for analysis.

"We need to know what we are putting on the faces of our children each day. Masks provide a warm, moist environment for bacteria to grow," [said a parent who participated in the analysis, Amanda Donoho](https://rationalground.com/).

Of the six masks that were examined, five were contaminated with bacteria, parasites and fungi, [noted Scott Morefield of Townhall.com](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/scottmorefield/2021/06/15/a-group-of-parents-sent-their-kids-face-masks-to-a-lab-for-analysis-heres-what-they-found-n2591047). Three of the masks had dangerous pathogenic and pneumonia-causing bacteria.

No viruses were detected on the masks, although the test is capable of detecting them.

The analysis by the University of Florida's Mass Spectrometry Research and Education Center found the following dangerous pathogens:

* Streptococcus pneumoniae (pneumonia)
* Mycobacterium tuberculosis (tuberculosis)
* Neisseria meningitidis (meningitis, sepsis)
* Acanthamoeba polyphaga (keratitis and granulomatous amebic encephalitis)
* Acinetobacter baumanni (pneumonia, blood stream infections, meningitis, UTIs— resistant to antibiotics)
* Escherichia coli (food poisoning)
* Borrelia burgdorferi (causes Lyme disease)
* Corynebacterium diphtheriae (diphtheria)
* Legionella pneumophila (Legionnaires' disease)
* Staphylococcus pyogenes serotype M3 (severe infections—high morbidity rates)
* Staphylococcus aureus (meningitis, sepsis)

Less dangerous pathogens also were identified, including those that can cause fever, ulcers, acne, yeast infections, strep throat, periodontal disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

The masks studied were new or freshly laundered before they were worn for five to eight hours by children aged 6 through 11. One was worn by an adult.

A T-shirt worn by one of the children at school and unworn masks were tested as controls. No pathogens were found on the controls.

**Study: Mask mandates don't slow spread**

[A recent study by the University of Louisville](https://www.wnd.com/2021/05/4919325/) found that state mask mandates did not help slow the spread of COVID-19.

The researchers found that "masks may promote social cohesion as rallying symbols during a pandemic, but risk compensation can also occur."

Among the risks:

* Prolonged mask use, more than four hours a day,  
  "promotes facial alkalinization and inadvertently encourages dehydration, which in turn can enhance barrier breakdown and bacterial infection risk."
* British clinicians have reported masks to increase headaches and sweating and decrease cognitive precision.
* By obscuring nonverbal communication, masks interfere with social learning in children.
* Likewise, masks can distort verbal speech and remove visual cues to the detriment of individuals with hearing loss.

Current guidance from the CDC states that masks "are a simple barrier to help prevent your respiratory droplets from reaching others" and "studies show that masks reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth."

Recently, the CDC updated its guidance to allow for fully vaccinated individuals to ditch their masks, a revision that has led to several states and companies updating their mask mandates to allow the same.

[The first large, randomized controlled trial of its kind showed no statistically significant difference](https://www.wnd.com/2020/11/major-peer-reviewed-study-finds-masks-dont-work/) in COVID-19 cases between people who wore masks and those who did not.

A study by the Centers for Disease Control in October indicated that [Americans were adhering to mask mandates, but the requirements didn't appear to have slowed or stopped the spread of the coronavirus](https://www.wnd.com/2020/10/4861690/). And further, it found, mask-wearing has negative effects.

[The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons has compiled a page of "Mask Facts"](https://aapsonline.org/mask-facts/) showing that the consensus prior to the coronavirus pandemic was that the effectiveness of mask-wearing by the general public in slowing the spread of a virus is unproven, and there's evidence it does more harm than good.

The most recent [CDC guidelines still recommend mask use for anyone 2 years or older in public settings](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html) and when around people who don’t live in their household.​ However, in March 2020, the CDC said masks "are usually not recommended" in "non-health care settings."

The same month, [the World Health Organization recommended](https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/30/world/coronavirus-who-masks-recommendation-trnd/index.html) people not wear face masks unless they are sick with COVID-19 or caring for someone who is sick.

"There is no specific evidence to suggest that the wearing of masks by the mass population has any potential benefit. In fact, there's some evidence to suggest the opposite in the misuse of wearing a mask properly or fitting it properly," said Dr. Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO health emergencies program in March 2020. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/yuck-parents-send-kids-masks-lab-analysis/>

**'Fox came at my throat': Journalist told to stop reporting on 1 hot-button issue**

***'If you don't sense what that narrative is and go with it, there will be grave consequences'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published June 16, 2021 at 12:21pm*



Ivory Hecker (Video screenshot)

A reporter for a local Fox affiliate has confirmed she was threatened for posting online reports about hydroxychloroquine, a drug that studies have shown to help in the fight against COVID-19.

Then she was suspended for releasing those details.

"Fox came at my throat for standing up against censorship," confirmed Ivory Hecker, a reporter for Fox 26 in Houston.

Her charges came in a report from [Project Veritas,](https://www.projectveritas.com/news/breaking-fox-26-reporter-releases-tape-of-corruption-censorship-fox-corp/) as well as in a video posted online by the organization.

The report said Hecker was suspended after announcing live on-air she was in contact with Project Veritas for what she called "corruption" at the Houston affiliate.

"She said the station’s actions are an affront to real journalism and claimed leadership prioritizes corporate interests over the viewer," the report explained. "Hecker obtained recordings of her superiors telling her to prioritize the opinion of the station's general manager, and the company’s CEO, above that of the audience."

"What’s happening within Fox Corp is an operation of prioritizing corporate interests above the viewer's interest and, therefore, operating in a deceptive way," she said.

She also said she was told that the station's audience would not appreciate reports on bitcoin.

[Studies show that hydroxychloroquine actually can help in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.](https://www.kusi.com/medrxiv-study-hydroxychloroquine-and-zinc-treatments-increased-covid-survival-rate-by-almost-three-times/) Nevertheless federal health officials as well as legacy media outlets and social media megacorporations have consistently tried to suppress those details.

The campaign against the treatment has been relentless. Just days ago, Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., was suspended from YouTube for uploading "two videos of Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs hearings he led on early experimental treatments to the novel coronavirus, such as hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin," according to a report.

The Project Veritas report said Hecker got audio of Susan Schiller, the station's news director, telling her to "cease and desist" posting about the treatment on social media.

That was after she had interviewed Dr. Joseph Varon, chief of critical care at United Memorial Medical Center in Houston, who "told her of his success using hydroxychloroquine on certain patients."

Hecker also recorded her superior, Lee Meier, who said a "poor African-American audience" wouldn't care about bitcoin.

Hecker charged the decisions were "in line with the leadership of Fox Corp. and Fox's advertisers – "one of which is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

"There's a narrative. Yes, it is unspoken. But if you accidentally step outside the narrative, if you don't sense what that narrative is and go with it, there will be grave consequences for you," she said.

The station charged, "FOX 26 adheres to the highest editorial standards of accuracy and impartiality. This incident involves nothing more than a disgruntled former employee seeking publicity by promoting a false narrative produced through selective editing and misrepresentation."

The [video is here.](https://image.mux.com/qncTsLB00XZKxOm8OE8SFSvY4hOlusmSa/thumbnail.jpg?width=960&height=540&fit_mode=smartcrop&time=1)

On Hecker's recording, Jennifer Bourgeois, sales coordinator for Fox 26, "admitted" that the CDC "is heavily influencing stations such as theirs due to the amount of money they are pouring into ad campaigns – and how that, in turn, affects the network’s coverage of major health issues."

"Yeah, they [CDC] are spending money. They are spending money because they can," she told an undercover Project Veritas reporter. "Yeah, they can. They [CDC] are in the pocket. You know? They’re there."

Hecker said, "Vaccines are a potential money maker for Fox. Fox gets paid for that. As a viewer you need to look at who is advertising on this TV station, and you’ve got to realize -- surely that the TV station doesn’t want to hurt its advertisers."

She said, "The viewers are being deceived by a carefully crafted narrative in some stories, okay? In some areas they do fantastic journalism. For some reason, some of these stories have an incredible slant. If you accidentally step outside [the narrative], they try to internally destroy you -- as I've witnessed firsthand." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/fox-came-throat-tv-reporter-told-stop-reporting-hydroxychloroquine/>

**Did undercover federal agents help organize Jan. 6 Capitol riot?**

***Tucker Carlson: In potentially every case 'unindicted co-conspirators' are 'FBI operatives'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published June 16, 2021 at 12:05pm*

Some of those key individuals who planned the riot at the U.S. Capitol on January 6 likely were federal agents, or informers, according to a new report that documents multiple "unindicted co-conspirators" who are being cited in federal charges against some of the defendants stemming from the violent episode.

Yet the "unindicted co-conspirators," who allegedly committed many of the same acts as those who now are facing serious charges, are not being charged.

The circumstances first were reported by [Revolver](https://www.revolver.news/2021/06/federal-foreknowledge-jan-6-unindicted-co-conspirators-raise-disturbing-questions/) and got the attention of Fox News' [Tucker Carlson,](https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/tucker-carlson-government-agents-helped-organize-capitol-riot) who explained that answers are needed – urgently.

"Why is the administration hiding more than 10,000 hours of surveillance tape from the U.S. Capitol? What could possibly be the reason for that? Even as they call for more openness. We need to get to the bottom of it. They could release those tapes today, but they’re not. Why?" he wrote in his commentary.

"We ought to be asking those questions, urgently. Because as the attorney general reminded us, a lot depends on the answers. At least one news organization is. Revolver.news is a new site and turned out to be one of the last honest outlets on the internet. A new piece on the site suggests an answer to some of these questions. We know the government is hiding the identity of many law enforcement officers who were present at the capitol on January 6, not just the one who killed Ashli Babbitt. According to the government's own court filings, those law enforcement officers participated in the riot. Sometimes in violent ways.

"We know that because, without fail, the government has thrown the book at most of the people who were in the Capitol on January 6. There was a nationwide dragnet to find them. Many of them are still in solitary confinement tonight. But, strangely, some people who participated in the riot haven't been charged. Look at the documents. The government calls these people 'unindicted co-conspirators.' What does that mean? It means that in potentially every case, they're FBI operatives," he said.

"For example, one of those 'unindicted co-conspirators' is someone the government identifies only as 'Person Two.' According to those documents, 'Person Two' stayed in the same hotel room as an 'insurrectionist' named Thomas Caldwell, who's alleged to be a member of the group called the Oath Keepers. 'Person Two' also 'stormed the barricades' at the Capitol on January 6, alongside Thomas Caldwell.

"The government's indictments further indicate that Caldwell -- who by the way is a 65-year-old man -- was led to believe there would be a 'quick reaction force' also participating in January 6. That quick reaction force, Caldwell was told, would be led by someone called 'Person Three' -- who had a hotel room and an accomplice," Carlson documented.

"But wait. Here's the interesting thing. 'Person Two' and 'Person Three' were organizers of the riot. The government knows who they are, but the government has not charged them. Why is that? You know why. They were almost certainly working for the FBI. So FBI operatives were organizing the attack on the Capitol on January 6, according to government documents. And those two are not alone."

Revolver reported that there are – so far – "upwards of 20 unindicted co-conspirators in the Oath Keeper indictments, all playing various roles in the conspiracy, who have not been charged for virtually the exact same activities — and in some cases much, much more severe activities — as those named alongside them in indictments."

The Capitol events on January 6 happened when a group of violent individuals broke windows and barricades at the Capitol to enter and vandalize parts of the building.

There also were dozens, probably hundreds, of nonviolent protesters who in some cases simply walked past security officers into the building, and ended up doing no damage at all.

But the fact that President Trump had held a rally that morning, encouraging his supporters to protest the congressional adoption of the disputed 2020 presidential election results "peacefully" was used by Democrats to stage and launch their second failed impeach-and-remove scheme against him.

Since then, legacy media outlets, social media corporations and leftist politicians have compared the day to 9/11 and worse. Actually, one police officer died of natural causes and two by suicide in that time period, and several participants died of what apparently were natural causes. The only victim of violence was a protester, unarmed, who was shot and killed by a police officer, whose name has been concealed ever since then.

The [Revolver](https://www.revolver.news/2021/06/federal-foreknowledge-jan-6-unindicted-co-conspirators-raise-disturbing-questions/) report said the question actually was raised when a Democrat, Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, asked FBI Director Christopher Wray whether the government infiltrated those groups alleged to be responsible for the Capitol violence.

"Christopher Wray is able to uncomfortably weasel his way out of answering the question directly, partially because Klobuchar does him the courtesy of not asking him the question directly. Klobuchar instead asks the FBI director if he wishes he had infiltrated the militia organizations allegedly involved in 1/6 — assuming from the outset that there was in fact no infiltration, thereby providing the FBI director an easy way to avoid addressing the question one way or another," the report said.

But the three questions remain, the report noted, are to what extent were those groups like the Oath Keepers that the government accuses of organizing the violence infiltrated by informants for the government, how many federal undercover agents were at the Capitol that day and what roles did they play, and how many of those unindicted co-conspirators were working for the government.

"If it turns out the federal government did in fact have undercover agents or confidential informants embedded within the so-called militia groups indicted for conspiring to obstruct the Senate certification on 1/6, the implications would be nothing short of seismic," the report said. "Especially if such agents or informants enjoyed extremely senior-level positions within such groups."

The report noted a Senate investigation already has found intelligence "failures" leading up to the events.

"If it turns out that the federal government (FBI, Army Counterintelligence, or a similar agency) had undercover agents or confidential informants embedded in any of the groups involved in 1/6, the 'federal intelligence agencies failing to warn of a potential for violence' looks less like an innocent mistake and more like something sinister," the report said.

"Indeed, if the federal government knew of a potential for violence in or around the Capitol on 1/6 and failed to call for heightened security, the agencies responsible may in fact be legally liable for the damages incurred during that day."

Revolver found, by analyzing charging documents, that some members of "militia groups" that were at the Capitol” — the Oath Keepers, the Proud Boys, and the Three Percenters – align closely with the "violent insurrectionist" label Democrats have applied.

But those participants often actually are those unindicted co-conspirators, the report said.

"If it turns out that an extraordinary percentage of the members of these groups involved in planning and executing the Capitol Siege were federal informants or undercover operatives, the implications would be nothing short of staggering. This would be far worse than the already bad situation of the government knowing about the possibility of violence and doing nothing. Instead, this would imply that elements of the federal government were active instigators in the most egregious and spectacular aspects of 1/6, amounting to a monumental entrapment scheme used as a pretext to imprison otherwise harmless protestors at the Capitol — and in a much larger sense used to frame the entire MAGA movement as potential domestic terrorists."

The report noted that only months earlier, in an alleged plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, 14 people were arrested.

"And what if we told you that of the 14 individuals who allegedly plotted the 'kidnapping' and overthrow of the state government, at least five were undercover agents and federal informants? And as if that’s not enough, many of the individuals allegedly involved in this plot appear to belong to the 'Three Percenters,' one of the very same militia groups now blamed for storming January 6," the report noted.

"As crazy as it sounds, all of this is true," the report confirmed.

Explained Carlson, "There’s a huge difference between using an informant to find out what a group you find threatening might do, and paying people to organize a violent action, which is what happened, apparently according to government documents, on January 6.

"That’s a line, and the FBI has crossed it." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/undercover-federal-agents-help-organize-jan-6-capitol-riot/> [Folks the amount of corruption that has been occurring within the FBI/CIA and the rest of the federal alphabet soup groups over the past 30+ years has been astronomical. At the beginning of the FBI, J Edger Hoover literally kept blackmail files on thousands of people so he could control them. Things have changed very little over the years and now with the total socialism/communism bent of the demon-rats as they collude with the media and the rest of the crooks in DC things have gotten even worse. I believe practically nothing that comes from DC any more and that includes most of the CDC/FDA/NIH etc. They have all been politicized and actually “commun-ized”. The only real solution is to dump practically every one of the individuals who are government employees and change the entire direction which is what The Donald was attempting but he relied way too much on some of those in the establishment who were supposed ‘right leaning’ people but really were simply rino’s.– rdb]

**Commentary:**

**Yòng bùliǎo duōjiǔ wǒmen dūhuì shuō***By* [*Ron Ewart*](https://newswithviews.com/author/ronewart/)*|June 16th, 2021* “Yòng bùliǎo duōjiǔ wǒmen dūhuì shuō” *(It Won’t Be Long Before We’re All Speaking Chinese”)*  
 ***“The ICRC*** *(International Red Cross)* ***did not see Nazi Germany for what it was. Instead, the organization maintained the illusion that the Third Reich was a ‘regular partner,’ a state that occasionally violates laws, not unlike any army during World War II, occasionally using illegal means and methods of warfare.”*** —*Peter Maurer, Swiss diplomat who has been serving as the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross since 1 July 2012*  
 Don’t you get it?  We’ve seen this movie before, 90 years ago, with the rise of the Third Reich.  If you aren’t scared, you damn well should be.  The Red Cross and the Catholic Church all were complicit in looking the other way when it came to the Third Reich, just like corporate America and sports organizations are looking the other way when it comes to the atrocities of the Chinese Communist Party and its goal to dominate the world with military and economic might under a Chinese superpower regime.  
 England’s Neville Chamberlain thought he could appease and make nice with the Germans.  He gave in to German demands and left Czechoslovakia helpless against the German war machine.  History told us how that turned out.  Six million European Jews died brutally and needlessly.  Are we not doing the same thing with China?  
 America won two world wars because it could manufacture the weapons of war very rapidly and had the best war machines and military training in the world.  Even so, Germany and Japan although much smaller, proved to be formidable enemies that took four years to vanquish with a huge loss of life.  **America just might lose a war with China**.  
 China, a nation of 1.4 billion people, can also produce weapons of war very rapidly.  They have the natural resources and the manpower to do it, along with the technology they stole from America.  Through admittance to the World Trade Organization and corporate greed, America handed over the keys to the kingdom to China as American corporations exploited cheap Chinese labor.  With all that money and the technology they took from America, they are “buying up” and populating the planet.  
 In a Department of Defense Report entitled, “***Military and Security Developments Involving the People’s Republic of China (2020)***” they stated that:  
 ***“The PLA’s*** *(People’s Liberation Army)* ***objective is to become a “world-class” military by the end of 2049—a goal first announced by General Secretary Xi Jinping in 2017. Although the CCP has not defined what a “world-class” military means, within the context of the PRC’s national strategy it is likely that Beijing will seek to develop a military by mid-century that is equal to—or in some cases superior to—the U.S. military, or that of any other great power that the PRC views as a threat. As this year’s report details, the PRC has marshalled the resources, technology, and political will over the past two decades to strengthen and modernize the PLA in nearly every respect. Indeed, as this report shows, China is already ahead of the United States in certain areas such as:”***   
 ***“Shipbuilding: The PRC has the largest navy in the world, with an overall battle force of approximately 350 ships and submarines including over 130 major surface combatants. In comparison, the U.S. Navy’s battle force is approximately 293 ships as of early 2020.”***  
 ***“Land-based conventional ballistic and cruise missiles: The PRC has more than 1,250 ground-launched ballistic missiles (GLBMs) and ground-launched cruise missiles (GLCMs) with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers. The United States currently fields one type of conventional GLBM with a range of 70 to 300 kilometers and no GLCMs.”***  
 ***“Integrated air defense systems: The PRC has one of the world’s largest forces of advanced long-range surface-to-air systems—including Russian-built S-400s, S-300s, and domestically produced systems—that constitute part of its robust and redundant integrated air defense system architecture.”***  
 ***“More striking than the PLA’s staggering amounts of new military hardware are the recent sweeping efforts taken by CCP leaders that include completely restructuring the PLA into a force better suited for joint operations, improving the PLA’s overall combat readiness, encouraging the PLA to embrace new operational concepts, and expanding the PRC’s overseas military footprint.”***  
 In spite of China’s military and economic threat to America’s superiority, our lame brain president is going all over the world telling everyone that Climate Change is America’s greatest threat.  To add insult to injury President Biden’s budget decreases the amount for military spending and ends the off-budget funding pool for the Overseas Contingency Operations, shrugging off the China threat.  
 In contrast, China is increasing its footprint around the globe with strategic ports and even a 200 square mile wind farm in Texas, virtually adjacent to Laughlin Air Force Base. How did America let that happen?  
 It is projecting its military might into the South China Sea and threatening Taiwan almost daily with incursions into Taiwan air and sea space.  It has flagrantly violated the terms of the Hong Kong handover to China and subjected the inhabitants of Hong Kong to over-aggressive, brutal Chinese rule.  Get out of line and you go to jail, or you just disappear.  
 “***China has put more new vessels to sea between 2014 and 2018 than the total number of ships in the German, Indian, Spanish and British navies combined***.”  (Source: “*Carnegie Endowment For International Peace*”)  
 To this day, China is refusing to allow access to the Wuhan Virus Laboratory for investigators to determine if the Coronavirus was accidentally or purposely unleashed on the planet from the Lab, a lethal virus that has infected close to 180,000,000 people and killed almost 4,000,000.  By now lab scientists have disappeared and most of the evidence of a leak, accidental or purposeful, has long since been destroyed.  
 None of these revelations consider the possibility of a Russia-China alliance to counter American military might, or the combined threats of China, Russia, Iran and North Korea, should these four countries forge a mutual, military alliance.  
 General Milley of the Joint Chief’s of Staff just recently testified before Congress that: “***China is increasing its military capability at a very serious and sustained rate.  We must ensure that we retain our competitive and technological edge***.”  
 Two world wars using mostly conventional weapons *(except in two cases)* killed at least 100,000,000 people.  Can you imagine a world war where nuclear weapons are employed?  The death toll would be staggering and it could border on human extinction.  
 Meanwhile, the President of the United States is trying convince Americans that the fraud of man-caused global warming (See “[***Climate***](http://www.narlo.org/climate.html)”) is the world’s greatest threat and coupled with the Green New Deal we have to spend somewhere around 100 Trillion dollars to counter that threat.  That’s not just gross negligence and stupidity.  It is criminally insane.  
 The President and the Secretary of Defense are shoving this reverse racism Critical Race Theory (CRT), inclusion and equity garbage on the officers and ranks of our military and degrading military readiness in the process.  The military top brass, under the direction of the Secretary of Defense, are purging what they call “White Supremacists” *(Trump voters)* from the ranks.  There is significant dissension rippling through the services.  
 Huge American military industrial complex corporations that rake in billions of taxpayer dollars are doing the same thing to their executives and lower-tier employees and making (CRT) a condition of employment.  This is a form of intentional national suicide.  Extreme ruler Xi Zinping and China’s CCP must be literally “laughing” their heads off at America’s obsession with race and social phobia.  (See: “[***When Are White Males Going To Walk Out of CRT Training***](http://www.narlo.org/idarchives/053021.html)?”)  
 Although the number of Chinese national students in U. S. colleges has fallen sharply because of the pandemic, still in 2019 there were almost 400,000 Chinese nationals enrolled in American colleges.  If just a small percentage of these students were Chinese spies or CCP operatives, they could do a lot of damage to national security before they were detected.  A coordinated effort by a small number of Chinese individuals could interrupt or critically damage our easily accessed energy and food supply infrastructures.  And it wouldn’t have to be by direct physical action to inflict damage.  It could be by internal cyber attacks.  America’s infrastructure is negligently vulnerable to foreign enemy attacks as we outlined in our article entitled: “[***An RPG, EMP, or Hacker Could Turn Our Lights Off***](http://www.narlo.org/idarchives/052321.html)”).  As so many are fond of saying, “***when is somebody going to fix it***?”  
 For over 10 years America’s leaders watched as Hitler and Tojo built up their war machines.  Ladies and gentlemen, if America looks the other way again and ignores the ominous threat from China, someday your children will be speaking Mandarin Chinese and once again a megalomaniac will attempt to conquer the peoples of the world and in the process send planet earth back to the stone age where the only survivors, if there are any, will be living in deep underground caves.  The surface of the earth will be too contaminated, with some of the nuclear radiation having half-lives of 24,000 years.  
 It is more than likely that the only real threat to America are socialist Democrat voters, a President and Vice President and a Democrat Congress that are completely out of touch with reality.  They are purposely sabotaging America’s sovereignty, national and border security, military cohesiveness and readiness, the rule of law, its culture and its foundation for freedom.  There is only one word that describes their actions: ***TREASON***! <https://newswithviews.com/yong-buliao-duojiu-women-duhui-shuo/>

**Dems Caught in Bald-Faced Lie Over CRT in Schools**[Larry O'Connor](https://townhall.com/columnists/larryoconnor/) Posted: Jun 16, 2021 1:35 PM  
 Democrats are attempting to gaslight the American people on the ongoing outrage over divisive Critical Race Theory (CRT) doctrine in government training and public school curricula.   
 [NBC News](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/critical-race-theory-invades-school-boards-help-conservative-groups-n1270794) provides the perfect example of how they're trying to rewrite history and paint anyone who might be concerned over the extremist CRT agenda making its way into every facet of government and corporate diversity training as a racist conspiracy theorist:  
 New from us: How did Critical Race Theory become the new conservative cause célèbre?

Anger over the racial justice movement, cross-fertilization with parents upset about Covid response, and a whole lotta help from national groups and media. <https://t.co/MvOGJPtcaK>  
 — Brandy Zadrozny (@BrandyZadrozny) [June 15, 2021](https://twitter.com/BrandyZadrozny/status/1404787016269770752?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

While the efforts vary, they share strategies of disruption, publicity and mobilization. The groups swarm school board meetings, inundate districts with time-consuming public records requests and file lawsuits and federal complaints alleging discrimination against white students. They have become media darlings in conservative circles and made the debate over critical race theory a national issue.  
 NBC goes on to blame their favorite boogeyman, "Fox News," for amping up the attention on an issue the Left would have preferred to stay under the radar and in the shadows. The last thing they were expecting was for American parents to actually see the divisive and destructive direction their children were being led as they are instructed to acknowledge their "white privilege."   
 As children in classrooms across the nation are divided into 6-year-old "oppressors" and 6-year-old "pressed," parents are finally saying enough is enough.   
 Meanwhile, Terry McAuliffe, the Democratic candidate for governor in Virginia, went to a tired playbook when faced with a question about the controversy over CRT training in Virginia schools.   
 "That's another right-wing conspiracy," he said. "This is totally made up by Donald Trump and Glenn Youngkin. This is who they are. It's a conspiracy theory."   
 McAuliffe doesn't know any new tricks to deceive Virginia voters into thinking he's not a radical, social justice warrior like so many in the Democratic Party, so he's had to fall back on that Clinton-era golden oldie, "The Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy." I mean, why not? It worked so well for Hillary, right?   
 One big thing is getting in the way of the NBC News and Terry McAuliffe's rewriting of history here. It's a little thing called "The Truth."   
 NBC News's assertion that concerns over CRT are some kind of "new conservative cause célèbre" that's just being exploited by political opportunists is belied by the fact that many in the conservative commentariat have been warning about this anti-intellectual and demeaning agenda for nearly a decade.   
 Andrew Breitbart began work on a series of articles about CRT back in early 2012, just before his death. Writers like Alex Marlow, John Nolte, Joel Pollack, Ben Shapiro, Dana Loesch, and this author participated in exposing Prof. Henry Louis Gates's brainchild and how it influenced his favorite student at Harvard, Barack Obama.   
 Since then, reams of digital content have been written about CRT and its influential grasp on university campuses and in public school classrooms. To suggest that it's some newfangled political trend for angry, dispossessed conservatives is just a flat-out lie.   
 But, that lie doesn't hold a candle to McAuliffe and his Virginia Democrats.   
 For months, they've been echoing Terry's ham-handed "right-wing conspiracy theory" slander by denying that CRT had any influence or role in the curricula or the training of public school teachers.   
 "LCPS is not indoctrinating students using critical race theory. Critical race theory is not a part of the curriculum," said Interim Superintendent Scott Ziegler recently when faced with the uproar from parents in the Northern Virginia DC suburb.   
 Most corporate propagandists in the mainstream media have taken Ziegler's denials as Gospel truth and repeated his political talking point to paint concerned parents as McAuliffe's "conspiracy theorists."   
 "Those fragile, white Trumpers are just terrified to lose all their privilege, so they're making up lies about CRT for political weaponry," they'd claim.   
 No, Loudoun County is not teaching CRT, reports [@ardzes](https://twitter.com/ardzes?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw).  
"It has become politicized by people who don’t really understand critical race theory," says VCU prof [@BelgraveFaye](https://twitter.com/BelgraveFaye?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw). "They have been using it for political division." <https://t.co/C0MGtQyIyM>  
 — Ben Paviour (@BPaves) [June 16, 2021](https://twitter.com/BPaves/status/1405165881924202498?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 The lie would've held if it weren't for a pesky bill-paying system in the Loudoun County school district.   
 Tuesday, an invoice was uncovered that showed that the district paid for something referenced as "Critical Race Theory Development," according to [Fox News.](https://www.foxnews.com/us/virginia-loudoun-officials-acknowledge-critical-race-theory-influences-work)   
 Here's the invoice that shows Loudoun County Public Schools paying for "Critical Race Theory Development" <https://t.co/3iPo40RH6t> <https://t.co/WFRdsTDcBx> [pic.twitter.com/U3wmlToiDa](https://t.co/U3wmlToiDa)  
 — Matt Wolking (@MattWolking) [June 16, 2021](https://twitter.com/MattWolking/status/1405174723747667972?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 It's the same pattern over and over again:   
 The Left pushes a radical agenda upending basic norms of the American culture.   
 Conservatives cry foul and push back, rallying talk radio and cable news commentariat to point out the extremism and build support in opposition.  
 The media lies and claims that conservatives are "starting a culture war over a conspiracy theory."   
 Lather, rinse, repeat. Only this time, there are literal receipts exposing their lies. And, this time, they're messing with our children.  <https://townhall.com/columnists/larryoconnor/2021/06/16/dems-attempt-to-gaslight-on-critical-race-theory-going-down-in-flames-n2591086>

**The Leftists Writing Your Child's Social Studies Lessons**[Betsy McCaughey](https://townhall.com/columnists/betsymccaughey/) Posted: Jun 16, 2021 12:01 AM  
 It's hard to know what's worse -- brainwashing kids or lying about it.  
 Parents worried their kids are being indoctrinated with critical race theory can't get straight answers. Local school boards and principals lie to them, claiming children are merely being taught to be "critical thinkers."  
 On Saturday, the truth came out. Teachers unions and activists held rallies in 22 cities to support critical race theory. What they said was eye-popping. They unabashedly declared that their goal is indoctrinating students in far-left causes.  
 The Zinn Education Project, which organized Saturday's events, produces race-centric material for junior high and high schools across the country. Lesson plans are offered free for teachers to download. Parents wondering where the critical race theory their children are getting comes from can go to the website. They'll be shocked.  
 Zinn was founded by the late Howard Zinn, a Marxist historian who said that teaching social studies wasn't about dates and events. It was to make students want to change the world, overthrowing the status quo.  
 A Zinn lesson called "Students Design a Reparations Bill" explains that students will be asked to improve on the "flimsy" reparations bills currently in Congress. Critical thinking isn't encouraged. This isn't a debate about whether there should be reparations. This is one-sided indoctrination. "As racial justice activists, student are all on the 'same side,' in this role play," says the Zinn website.  
 Other extreme left groups supplying social studies materials for schools include the Southern Poverty Law Center and Black Lives Matter at School. SPLC tells educators to stand their ground against parents "and vigorously resist efforts to maintain the status quo." No wonder parents are getting the run around.  
 It's not just white families protesting. Keisha King, a Black mother from Duval County, Florida, warned the Florida Board of Education that telling a child he's the victim of oppression is "the essence of holding a child back."  
 Michael Rivera, a Virginian, explains that he "married a wonderful woman who happens to be white. My son is white." He objects that "according to critical race theory, my son should have white guilt and white privilege."  
 More than 500 people have signed a petition demanding a curriculum that allows students to learn "without the titles of racist and victim" in Guilford, Connecticut, a small town outside of New Haven. Yet the Guilford school superintendent insists schools aren't teaching critical race theory. Does he think parents are lying about the homework in their kids' backpacks?  
 In Greenwich, Connecticut, parents went to the microphone at a May 20 school board meeting, parents to quote materials their children had brought home, including a "white bias" survey for seventh graders. The school board members and school superintendent sat silently. Last week, the superintendent sent out an email to parents explaining that Greenwich wants students to be "critical thinkers" but deftly denying that critical race theory is part of the curriculum.  
 That may be technically true. Critical race theory originated in law schools. But what's being taught in elementary and secondary schools across the country is a simplified version.  
 Since school administrators will lie and obfuscate to push ahead with critical race theory, parents have only one choice. They have to organize and run candidates to replace the local school boards. School board elections are usually quiet, because unions and other insiders like it that way. Now's the time for parents to grab control.  
 Twenty states with Republican legislative majorities are trying to ban critical race theory. They're not calling for whitewashing American history, as some activists claim, but they require diversity of viewpoints and prohibit lessons that would shame students for their "privilege."  
 Even so, state bans are not ideal. They may run afoul of the First Amendment. And it's hard to know what's going on in each school. That's what local school boards are for.  
 Even in blue states, Republican candidates who challenge local school boards will make inroads and gain converts to the GOP. This is a winning issue.  
 Parents -- whether Democrats or Republicans, Black or white -- want their children to be educated, not indoctrinated.

<https://townhall.com/columnists/betsymccaughey/2021/06/16/the-leftists-writing-your-childs-social-studies-lessons-n2591054>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**UK Labour MP sparks outrage for appearance at anti-Semitic rally**

***MP gives speech at pro-Palestinian rally where crowd chants "khybar ya yahud” battle cry for attacking Jews and Israelis.***

*Dan Verbin , Jun 16 , 2021 9:20 PM*

A UK Labour Party politician is the [latest member of his party to spark outrage](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/305258) after he appeared at a pro-Palestinian rally where the crowd chanted anti-Semitic slogans and issued a battle cry for attacking Jews, reported the Jewish Chronicle.

Geraint Davies, the Swansea West MP, is under fire for making a [speech at the rally](https://twitter.com/habibi_uk/status/1404885122718048256?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1404885122718048256%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thejc.com%2Fnews%2Fuk%2Flabour-mp-stands-by-as-protesters-chant-antisemitic-slogans-1.517735) where he said, “I stand in solidarity today” and “I’m here with you, I’m representing you.”

At the close of his speech, protestors in the crowd began to shout slogans, including “Free, free Palestine,” and then chanted “khybar ya yahud” as he stood by and watched.

The “khybar ya yahud” chant refers to a Muslim massacre of Jews that took place in 628 in Khaybar, an oasis in northwestern Arabia.

The Arabic chant, telling Jews to remember the incident and warning that Mohammed’s army is returning, is used as an Islamic battle cry for attacking Jews or Israelis.

In a Twitter response to video footage of the clip of his speech posted to social media, Davies defended his presence at the rally.

“I called in Swansea for an end to the killings of civilians in Palestine & Israel, peace & reconciliation, a two-state solution and adherence to international law. I therefore do not support any chanting in Arabic that followed that called for the opposite," he [tweeted](https://twitter.com/GeraintDaviesMP/status/1405037395964272640).

The explanation did not sit well with UK Jewish activists.

British investigative journalist David Collier, who specializes in writing about anti-Semitism, [tweeted](https://twitter.com/GeraintDaviesMP/status/1405037395964272640), "This (Labour) MP shared a platform with those chanting the Khaybar war chant about a massacre of Jews. Instead of 'sorry' he mumbles something. Except he EXPLICITLY said 'I am here with you.’ So are you with them Geraint or are you sorry?”

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308229>

**Americans for Peace Now calls for conditions on US aid to Israel**

***For first time, a group calling itself 'pro-Israel' has called on conditions for US defense assistance to Israel.***

*Ron Kampeas/JTA , Jun 16 , 2021 9:35 PM*

Americans for Peace Now is calling for concrete conditions on defense assistance to Israel, a first for a group that calls itself “pro-Israel” and is a member of the Jewish community’s foreign policy umbrella group, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

“If the US wants to nurture peace and support international law, we must explicitly ensure that our taxpayer dollars serve our foreign policy objectives, that they do not go towards human rights violations, and that there are specific consequences if they do,” Hadar Susskind, the group’s CEO, said Wednesday in an op-ed in Time magazine. “If new settlements are legalized or existing ones expanded — these international law violations would come with specific US aid reductions.”

Until recently, assistance to Israel has been been sacrosanct in the pro-Israel community and in Congress, even among Israel’s critics.

In an interview, Susskind said part of the group’s reasoning was to protect assistance to Israel in the wake of calls from some progressive Democrats during Israel’s conflict with Hamas last month to cut assistance outright.

Susskind said the Americans for Peace Now proposal would offer a path to lawmakers who were alarmed with the calls to cut aid but are no longer happy with unconditional assistance to Israel.

“I want every sentence to begin ‘I support aid to Israel’,” he said. “We need a middle ground between a blank check and cutting aid.”

Americans for Peace Now and another liberal Jewish Middle East policy group, J Street, said in April that they were in favor of a bill backed by progressive Democrats that would prohibit Israel from using US funds to detain Palestinian Arab minors, appropriate or destroy Arab property or forcibly move Arabs, or annex parts of Judea and Samaria. The measure does not spell out specific consequences should Israel violate the restrictions. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308228>

**Jews walking in Central Park West after Shabbat pelted with eggs**

***One of the group who was hit in the head with an egg suffers concussion, police are investigating.***

*Dan Verbin , Jun 16 , 2021 6:38 PM*

On Saturday night, a group of Jews walking down Central Park West in [New York City](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/tags/New_York) were followed by a car and pelted with eggs.

The victims were visibly Jewish. The women were dressed in Shabbat clothes and the men had on kippahs, reported website I *Love The Upper West Side*.

The incident took place in the Upper West Side neighbourhood of Manhattan.

The woman who gave an interview to the website said that one of the eggs hit her in the head causing a concussion.

“It was just so clear and obvious as to why we were targeted. There were so many people around us, and they only targeted us. A doorman who saw what happened said that they were behind us and sought us out. So in my eyes, it’s clear,” she said.

She immediately called the police but they refused to take a report unless she called an ambulance. She was in shock and instead went home. She later began to feel unwell and went to the hospital where she was diagnosed with a concussion.

At that point, she called police who opened an assault investigation.

“I understand how other people might not think that this could have been a hate crime, but in my head it’s just so beyond obvious and I feel like so many other people just don’t get it,” she said.

Other Jews living in the Upper West Side have reportedly experienced similar assaults and threats but are afraid to speak out publicly.

“I think it’s so important to speak out, because this time it was an egg, but if we don’t stop these people, what’s going to be next?” she said. “I don’t want to put someone else in danger. I feel like this was just simply a stepping stone to a bigger potential crime.”

In the last few months, New York City has experienced a surge in anti-Semitic attacks, including a [May incident](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/306652) where a Jewish man was punched, kicked, pepper-sprayed and beaten with his crutches. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308219>

**Putin ate Biden's lunch in Geneva**

***Summarizing the meeting, America got nothing back from Putin but it lost face. Op-ed.***

*Barry Shaw , Jun 17 , 2021 11:30 AM*



***Russian President Vladimir Putin Flash 90***

Vladimir Putin held a long press conference in Geneva after his meeting with Biden, answering questions from many of the world's media.

When asked about the atmosphere of his meeting with Biden he said he felt no pressure.

In response to an American reporter's question about political prisoners in Russia, referring to Navalny, Putin compared America's recent record speaking about 400 American political prisoners being held in what he described as under criminal persecution in solitary confinement by an US Government who are calling them*"domestic terrorists."*

He also spoke about Ashli Babbitt, an unarmed woman who, on January 6, threatened no one but was shot dead by a US official who has not been named or arrested.  
 He also spoke to the BLM riots as being in violation of US law yet were allowed to burn and destroy American cities.  
 Dubious Democrat actions and non-actions are coming back to bite them internationally.  
 When they tried to put a mirror up to Russia, Putin artfully turned the mirror around into America's political face.  
 Putin answered more questions in under an hour than Biden and Harris combined did in six months giving the impression he was more amenable to the press than the two top US officials.  
 It was a major diplomatic mistake by the United States to allow Putin to go first with his press conference. Biden's press meet was subsequently reactive.  
 They didn't hold a joint press conference because the Biden camp reckoned their guy would not have been able to compete with Putin. The optics would have looked bad.  
 The Putin conference went on for 55 minutes. Biden's 24.  
 Summarising the meeting, America got nothing back from Putin for the Russian cyber attacks, nothing for Biden lifting the sanctions on the Russian pipeline to Europe that boosts Putin's economy for decades and increases his power and influence in Europe.  
 By approving Putin's pipeline, Biden gave Putin trillions of Euros while simultaneously paying Europe billions of dollars to protect them from Russia.  
 Welcome to Biden logic even as Biden couldn't even get the return of imprisoned Americans in Russian jails from Putin.  
 America has surrendered the moral high ground on human rights, trapped by the Democrats' lying narrative of American*"systemic racism"* played back to them by China at their Summit in Alaska and now from Russia in Geneva.  
 The optics looked really bad in Europe.

America lost BIG TIME in Geneva. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308258>

**More coalition headaches - this time from Meretz**

**MK Mossi Raz refuses to support "law that discriminates and imposes limitations on Arab citizens."**

*Hezki Baruch , Jun 17 , 2021 1:19 PM*



***MK Mossi Raz Meir Elifur, TPS***

Thursday brought more aggravation for the new coalition, with the expectation of failure to extend the law preventing family unifications between Arabs, where one spouse holds Israeli citizenship and the other resides in a Palestinian Authority-controlled area. The law is designed, among other things, to prevent Arabs from entering into fictitious marriages for the purpose of freely entering Israel.

The United Arab List, headed by MK Mansour Abbas who brought his party into the coalition led by Yair Lapid and Naftali Bennett, refuses to vote in favor of extending the law, depriving the coalition of four votes out of its total of 61 MKs. The Likud and Religious Zionism parties have also vowed to oppose the government on this issue, even though extending the law is usually supported by the entire right wing. And now another member of the government, MK Mossi Raz of the far-left Meretz party, has announced that he, too, will be opposing the law’s extension, “because it is a law that discriminates and imposes limitations on Arab citizens, a law that establishes whom he is permitted to love and whom not, and a law that views all Arab citizens as demographic and security threats.”

MK [Miki Zohar (Likud)](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308233) has already indicated that his party will only support the extension of the family reunification ban if the government also passes a law regulating Young Settlements. Zohar added that, “The new coalition is simply incapable of protecting the State of Israel and maintaining it as Jewish and democratic state.”

On Wednesday, Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked announced that she would be bringing the extension of the family reunification ban to a Knesset vote next Monday, even though it appears that the government will lack a majority to pass it. “I refuse to believe that the Opposition will damage the security of the State in the name of playing political games,” she wrote on Twitter. “I have no doubt that the head of the opposition will keep the promises he made as regards Israel’s security. There is no opposition and coalition in matters such as these – we’re all on the same page here.” <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308272>

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**06/16/2021 NEWS AM**

**Itzik Orlev - Lo Nishbar**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xX6QQAAfDo**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xX6QQAAfDo)

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| You who opened a door for me, gates of mercy, a kiss of angels  Not broken, not finished  You are the one who drew a smile on children's lips at people's prayers  In length, there is life  My God, hear my voice  How do you see everything !!!  Even when it's dark inside me  My God, hear my voice  On the bitter and sweet  I thank | You are the one who made me a part  Distant dreams  That have become life  A great miracle, a sea of magic  How an infinite light always reminds me of me  That we are just a song  Children, in your shadow  My God, hear my voice ... |

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| **"The history of government management of money has, except for a few short happy periods, been one of incessant fraud and deception." -- Friedrich August von Hayek (1899-1992), Nobel Laureate of Economic Sciences 1974** |

**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 BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for DH – Mother going into hospice.**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  NOTE: Our prayer list was getting very long and there will little follow up.  If you have people you want to have on the list please resubmit since we are revising it now– rdb]  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 31:25And Laban overtook Jacob. And Jacob had pitched his tent at the Mount. And Laban with his brothers had pitched at Mount Gilead. 26And Laban said to Jacob, What have you done? And you have deceived my heart and have taken my daughters like captives of the sword. 27Why did you hide so as to flee, and have deceived me and have not told me. And I would have sent you away with rejoicing and with music, with tabret and with harp. 28And you have not let me kiss my sons and my daughters. Now you have been foolish to do *this*.**

**IDF hits Gaza terror targets after arson attacks, in first raids since ceasefire**

***After two dozen fires in southern Israel, army says it struck Hamas ‘terror sites’ in Khan Yunis and Gaza City; initial Palestinian reports say none injured***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:38 am*

The IDF carried out a series of airstrikes throughout the Gaza Strip early Wednesday morning in response to over two dozen fires in southern Israel caused by incendiary devices launched from the coastal enclave.

Footage posted by Palestinian media outlets in Gaza showed explosions lighting up the sky in both the northern and southern Strip overnight Tuesday-Wednesday, with reporters saying sites belonging to Hamas’s military wing, the Al-Qassam Brigades were among those targeted.

No Gazans were injured in the strikes, the Hamas-affiliated Palestinian media center initially reported.

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| Explosions light-up the night sky above buildings in Gaza City as IDF planes shell the Palestinian enclave, early on June 16, 2021. (MAHMUD HAMS / AFP)  Explosions light-up the night sky above buildings in Gaza City as IDF planes shell the Palestinian enclave, early on June 16, 2021. (MAHMUD HAMS / AFP | Explosions light-up the night sky above buildings in Gaza City as IDF planes shell the Palestinian enclave, early on June 16, 2021. (MAHMUD HAMS / AFP)  Explosions light-up the night sky above buildings in Gaza City as IDF planes shell the Palestinian enclave, early on June 16, 2021. (MAHMUD HAMS / AFP) |

The IDF later released a statement saying its fighter jets had struck military targets that housed Hamas operatives in Khan Yunis and Gaza City.

Video showing an [#Israeli](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Israeli?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) air strike, the first since the ceasefire, targeting a site of the Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of [#Hamas](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Hamas?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw), in the southern [#Gaza](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Gaza?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) Strip [pic.twitter.com/NrCkZR58Or](https://t.co/NrCkZR58Or)

— Rushdi Abualouf (@Rushdibbc) [June 15, 2021](https://twitter.com/Rushdibbc/status/1404924194949939201?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

“Terrorist activity took place in the attacked compound,” the IDF said, adding that the strikes were in response to the launching of incendiary devices at southern Israel earlier in the day.

“The IDF is prepared for all scenarios, including the resumption of hostilities, in the face of continued terror acts from the Gaza Strip,” the army added.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/F210615NS24-1-e1623790647433.jpg)

Firefighters try to extinguish a blaze in southern Israel that was sparked by a ballon-borne incendiary device launched by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, June 15, 2021. (Flash90)

The air raids were the first since an Egyptian brokered ceasefire ended an 11-day round of violence between Israel and Palestinian terror groups in Gaza. They came at the closing of a day of heightened tensions, during which Israeli authorities allowed thousands of right-wing nationalists to rally through the Old City in the annual flag parade, despite threats from Hamas that the controversial demonstration would lead to an escalation.

Amid warnings from Gaza terror groups, the IDF vowed to maintain its deterrence and respond to all breaches of its sovereignty, including arson attacks, which caused 26 fires in communities bordering the enclave on Tuesday. Some Palestinians also rioted along the border, one of whom was reportedly shot in the leg, suffering light injuries.

These were also the first Gaza strikes since Naftali Bennett took over Sunday as premier. The Yamina chairman has long insisted that the IDF’s response to arson attacks should be the same as it is for rocket fire.

[#صور](https://twitter.com/hashtag/%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) | لحظة استهداف موقع للمـöـاومة غرب مدينة [#غزة](https://twitter.com/hashtag/%D8%BA%D8%B2%D8%A9?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/VtJfyq44wH](https://t.co/VtJfyq44wH)

— المركز الفلسطيني للإعلام (@PalinfoAr) [June 15, 2021](https://twitter.com/PalinfoAr/status/1404926234346328064?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Earlier Tuesday, the Hamas terror group had claimed victory after the flag march, claiming to have established a “new formula of deterrence” vis-a-vis Israel.

“The brave positions and decisions of the Palestinian resistance forced the Israeli occupation to change the path of the route away from Al-Aqsa mosque, change the civil air routes and beef up the deployment of the Iron Dome,” the terror group said in a statement.

The march, attended by several thousand nationalist Jews, was rescheduled from Jerusalem Day, March 10, when it was cut short due to Hamas rocket fire that targeted the city, setting off 11 days of fighting between Israel and Palestinian terror groups in the Gaza Strip.

In the run-up to the march, Israel took a number of measures to beef up security, including having 2,000 police officers secure the parade in Jerusalem, sending reinforcements to the West Bank and deploying Iron Dome missile defense batteries, including reportedly near the capital. Flight trackers showed air traffic to and from Ben Gurion Airport was being rerouted northward further away from Gaza to avoid any potential rocket fire. MORE-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-strikes-gaza-terror-targets-after-arson-attacks-in-1st-raids-since-ceasefire/>

**‘Death to Arabs’: Nationalist Jerusalem flag march held under ramped up security**

***Lapid slams ‘disgrace’ of racist chant; 33 Palestinians said hurt in police clashes; signs say ‘Bennett the liar’; flights rerouted amid Gaza threats; arson balloons spark 20 fires***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:15 pmUpdated at 8:28 pm*

Thousands of right-wing nationalists marched through parts of Jerusalem’s Old City on Tuesday under a heavy police presence, as Israeli security forces braced for possible fresh violence from Gaza amid threats from terror groups in the coastal enclave.

Police estimated turnout at 5,000 participants and some 2,000 officers were deployed across the city for the event.

Footage posted to social media showed the right-wing marchers chanting “Death to Arabs” as well as “Shuafat is on fire,” referring to the East Jerusalem neighborhood, and “Jerusalem is ours.”

While voicing support for the decision to approve the march, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid denounced the chants of “Death to Arabs.”

“The fact that there are extremist elements for whom the flag of Israel represents hate and racism is revolting and unforgivable,” Lapid tweeted. “It is incomprehensible that people can hold the Israeli flag in one hand and shout ‘Death to Arabs’ at the same time. This isn’t Judaism or Israeliness, and it is definitely not what our flag symbolizes. These people are a disgrace to the nation of Israel.”

מוות לערבים [pic.twitter.com/PD9Aq4HQoL](https://t.co/PD9Aq4HQoL)

— نير حسون Nir Hasson ניר חסון (@nirhasson) [June 15, 2021](https://twitter.com/nirhasson/status/1404838850174894085?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The parade, the first major test of the new government sworn in Sunday, was rescheduled after the original Flag March was halted on Jerusalem Day, May 10, when the Gaza Strip’s Hamas rulers fired rockets at Jerusalem.

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| [Jewish men dance with Israeli flags during the March of Flags near Jerusalem's Old City, June 15, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/F210615YS115.jpg)  ***Jewish men dance with Israeli flags during the March of Flags near Jerusalem's Old City, June 15, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)*** | A poster reading ‘Bennett the liar’ is seen at the nationalist flag march, outside the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem’s Old City, June 15, 2021. (Nati Shohat/Flash90) |

As the march began just before 6 p.m., clashes broke out near the Old City between police and Palestinians, 33 of whom the Palestinian Red Crescent said it treated. Six of the injured were hospitalized for wounds from rubber or sponge-tipped bullets, according to the medical service, which also said another Palestinian was injured by live fire, but that police were preventing them from evacuating him for treatment.

Video showed Palestinians throwing rocks at mounted police officers and one fell off his horse.

Police arrested 17 people on suspicion of disturbing the peace, throwing rocks and assaulting officers. Two cops were injured and taken for medical treatment, according to police.

ברשתות החברתיות הפלסטיניות פורסם תיעוד בו נראה לוחם מג"ב נופל מסוס בעקבות יידוי אבנים לעברו, ברחוב צלאח א-דין[@AlonAmitzi](https://twitter.com/AlonAmitzi?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/hQlbQHOJ5I](https://t.co/hQlbQHOJ5I)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [June 15, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1404818280607531009?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The clashes came as marchers gathered on Jerusalem’s Hanevi’im Street, from where they headed toward the Damascus Gate, a flashpoint in the Old City. As part of the route agreed upon with police, the marchers weren’t permitted to pass through the gate but could go past it, with some participants allowed to go down to the plaza just outside the gate.

The marchers then entered the Old City via the Jaffa Gate and marched toward the Western Wall.

A number of participants accosted Arab journalists, with a reporter sharing video showing marchers shouting curses at them, and one man spitting in their direction.

הערבים היחידים שהיו בשער שכם בזמן המצעד הם אנחנו העיתונאים

הותקפנו פיזית קיללו מולנו את הנביא מוחמד   
ירקו עלינו וזרקו דגלים עליי ועל העמיתים שלי [pic.twitter.com/rXrMZp4MXK](https://t.co/rXrMZp4MXK)

— Yanal Jbareen | ينال جبارين | ינאל ג׳בארין (@JbareenYanal) [June 15, 2021](https://twitter.com/JbareenYanal/status/1404850793971343364?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Some of the marchers chanted against Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and posters were seen depicting the new premier alongside the text “Bennett the liar.”

The posters apparently referred to Bennett’s breaking of his pre-election pledge not to form a government in which he switched off the premiership with Yair Lapid and not to rely on the Islamist Ra’am party’s support.

Several far-right lawmakers opposed to the government took part in the march, among them Religious Zionism leader Bezalel Smotrich and his faction’s lawmakers Itamar Ben Gvir and Orit Struck.

MKs May Golan and Shlomo Karhi of former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud party were also taking part, with video showing the latter dancing with Smotrich outside the Damascus Gate.

מצעד הדגלים: חברי הכנסת שלמה קרעי ובצלאל סמוטריץ' רוקדים בשער שכם [pic.twitter.com/PVX99xvl6K](https://t.co/PVX99xvl6K)

— amir ettinger – אמיר אטינגר (@amirettin) [June 15, 2021](https://twitter.com/amirettin/status/1404838445877534727?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Lawmakers from the Joint List rallied outside the Old City to denounce the march, with the predominantly Arab political alliance’s leader Ayman Odeh saying that the Israeli capital will one day be the capital of a Palestinian state.

“On these walls the flag of Palestine will be hoisted and Jerusalem will be the capital of recaptured Palestine,” he told the Kan public broadcaster.

“Our people will cause them to be ashamed and withdraw from these places,” he said, referring to the Jewish marchers in the parade.



Nationalist Israel Jews wave Israeli flags as they march outside the Damascus Gate to Jerusalem’s Old City, on June 15, 2021. (Ahmad Gharabli/AFP)

Ra’am chief Mansour Abbas, whose Islamist party is part of the diverse ruling coalition, earlier called the march an “unbridled provocation” and said it should have been canceled.

Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces deployed Iron Dome missile defense batteries outside Jerusalem ahead of the march, according to Palestinian media reports. The IDF also deployed Iron Dome batteries elsewhere in the country and sent reinforcements to the West Bank.

Flight trackers showed air traffic to and from Ben Gurion Airport was being rerouted northward further away from Gaza to avoid any potential rocket fire.

כחלק מהכוננות הבטחונית לקראת צעדת הדגלים תנועת המטוסים הנוחתים והממריאים בישראל הוסטה למסלולים צפוניים [pic.twitter.com/oYwoSDTi2U](https://t.co/oYwoSDTi2U)

— איתי בלומנטל Itay Blumental (@ItayBlumental) [June 15, 2021](https://twitter.com/ItayBlumental/status/1404811476817358859?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The apparent precautions came as numerous blazes were sparked in southern Israel near Gaza, with fire services reporting at least 20 were sparked by balloon-borne incendiary devices launched from the Strip.

An explosive device attached to one balloon exploded over a kibbutz in the Sha’ar Hanegev Regional Council, startling children in a playground, according to Hebrew media reports. The children were said to have run to a bomb shelter after hearing the blast and there were no reports of injuries.



An Israeli firefighter attempts to extinguish a fire caused by an incendiary balloon launched by Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, on the Israel-Gaza border, Israel, June 15, 2021. (AP Photo/Tsafrir Abayov)

Clashes also broke out between dozens of Palestinian protesters and IDF troops on the Gaza border. One Palestinian was reportedly shot in the leg, suffering light injuries.

The IDF has been bracing for a resurgence in Gaza fighting and a flare-up of clashes across the West Bank following Palestinian threats of violence if the march went ahead.

Amid Tuesday’s violent incidents around Gaza, Channel 13 news cited unnamed Palestinian sources saying Egypt had asked Hamas not to cause an escalation, warning that such a move would “embarrass” Cairo and that Bennett’s government — which approved the parade on Monday — would respond forcefully. Mr- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jerusalem-is-ours-nationalist-flag-march-held-under-ramped-up-security/>

**Though no longer premier, Netanyahu hosts Nikki Haley at official residence**

***Former US envoy to the United Nations posts photo of herself with opposition leader, calling him ‘prime minister,’ also meets Foreign Minister Lapid***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:12 am*

Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu hosted former US ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley and Christians United for Israel founder John Hagee on Monday at the official Prime Minister’s Residence in Jerusalem, despite no longer being prime minister.

A legal adviser at the Prime Minister’s Office has already recommended that the state stop covering Netanyahu and his family’s utility costs at the residence. Netanyahu was replaced Sunday as prime minister by Naftali Bennett.

Haley, who was appointed envoy to the UN by former US president Donald Trump, later tweeted a photo from the meeting inside the residence, and referred to Netanyahu as “prime minister.”

“Time with Prime Minister @netanyahu is always invaluable. His contributions to Israeli security and prosperity are historic. We have not heard the last from him,” wrote Haley, who is often mentioned as a possible 2024 Republican presidential contender.

Time with Prime Minister [@netanyahu](https://twitter.com/netanyahu?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) is always invaluable.  His contributions to Israeli security and prosperity are historic. We have not heard the last from him. [pic.twitter.com/RX9PVzVl64](https://t.co/RX9PVzVl64)

— Nikki Haley (@NikkiHaley) [June 14, 2021](https://twitter.com/NikkiHaley/status/1404545186135412740?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Earlier in the day Haley and Hagee, who are both visiting from the US, met with newly installed Foreign Minister Yair Lapid.

Lapid thanked the visitors for their “unwavering support for the State of Israel.”

“The relationship between our countries is based on a deep bond and vital shared interests,” he tweeted.

During a handover ceremony earlier at the Foreign Ministry when he took up his new post, Lapid [vowed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-vows-to-rebuild-international-ties-after-reckless-last-government/) to continue engagement with Israel’s evangelical supporters, while doubling down on efforts to reach out to Diaspora Jewry. The strategy veers away from that taken by Netanyahu and his ambassador to the US, Ron Dermer, who suggested investing greater efforts in the former group.

Lapid has also pledged to improve relations with US Democrats, which underwent blips during the Netanyahu era.

I met today with [@PastorJohnHagee](https://twitter.com/PastorJohnHagee?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw). and [@NikkiHaley](https://twitter.com/NikkiHaley?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) and thanked them for their unwavering support for the State of Israel.

The relationship between our countries is based on a deep bond and vital shared interests. [pic.twitter.com/23iO68U3Ea](https://t.co/23iO68U3Ea)

— יאיר לפיד – Yair Lapid???? (@yairlapid) [June 14, 2021](https://twitter.com/yairlapid/status/1404483765133529089?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Netanyahu will not leave the official residence on Jerusalem’s Balfour Street for several more weeks at least, Channel 12 reported Monday.

In any event, Bennett’s family plans to remain in their private home in the central city of Ra’anana for the time being. He is not planning on fully relocating to the official residence due to his children’s schooling arrangements.

On Saturday, the day before the new government was confirmed by the Knesset, Hebrew media reported that Shlomit Barnea-Pargo, a legal adviser at the Prime Minister’s Office, had [recommended that the state stop paying the utility bills](https://www.timesofisrael.com/state-may-end-funding-for-netanyahus-at-official-residence-from-sunday/) as long as the Netanyahus remain at the residence.

The legal opinion by Barnea-Pargo — which requires the approval of the Justice Ministry to be binding — suggested that, effective Sunday, the government stop funding the residence expenses and all chefs and cleaners be immediately fired. The state should also end its funding of cleaning and utilities for the Netanyahus’ private Caesarea residence, which it also currently covers, she wrote.

During his 12 consecutive years in office, Netanyahu lived in the official Jerusalem residence during the week with his wife and two children, while spending weekends in the family’s Caesarea home.

Bennett plans for his family to stay in their hometown of Ra’anana during the week while he uses the official residence for meetings, and on weekends they may join him in Jerusalem, according to Channel 12.

Bennett has four children — aged 16, 14, 12 and 9 — who all study in different schools near their home in Ra’anana. His wife, Gilat Bennett, also works in the city. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/though-no-longer-premier-netanyahu-hosts-nikki-haley-at-official-residence/>

**No tax hike, mass investment: The new government’s seemingly contradictory plans**

***Ministers in right-center-left coalition have presented a mixture of policies that include overhauling public transportation, splitting AG’s role, 5-day school week***

*By* [*Michael Bachner*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/michael-bachner/) *Today, 11:36 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/F210614YS46.jpg)

***Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman (L) with Environmental Protection Minister Tamar Zandberg (C) and Transportation Minister Merav Michaeli at the President's Residence in Jerusalem, June 14, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)***

Israel’s most diverse government ever got to work Monday, a day after it was sworn in, with the various new ministers presenting plans that together reflect an unusual mix of right-wing and left-wing, conservative and secularist reforms.

They include a promise by Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman to completely avoid tax hikes alongside a plan by Transportation Minister Merav Michaeli to greatly increase investment in public transportation — just one example of policies within the new coalition that could prove difficult to reconcile.

After two straight years without a national budget as a result of the unprecedented political crisis, the passage of one is the most pressing challenge for the fledgling government, especially after the economy took a hit due to the coronavirus pandemic.

But agreeing on a budget with a razor-thin parliamentary majority will likely require much negotiation between the right-wing, centrist, left-wing and Islamist parties that make up the so-called change government — headed by Naftali Bennett in a power-sharing deal with Yair Lapid — that replaced longtime premier Benjamin Netanyahu.

Liberman, the leader of the Yisrael Beytenu party, who is a security hawk and economic right-winger, presented several guidelines Monday for his time in office, declaring in a press conference that as far as he was concerned taxes wouldn’t be raised anytime soon.

He said he aimed to immediately stop government handouts to those aged up to 45 who lost their jobs during the pandemic, although passing the move requires discussion and legislative changes. His predecessor as finance minister, Likud’s Israel Katz, had planned to nix the payments only for those aged 28 and under.

The secularist Liberman, who employed strong anti-Haredi rhetoric in recent election campaigns, said he wouldn’t harm the ultra-Orthodox community but would incentivize its schools to adopt the state’s curriculum and would work to incorporate more Haredi men into the workforce.

Michaeli, the leader of the social democratic Labor party, presented her vision for vast investment in public transportation to improve services, reduce social gaps and cut pollution, a plan that would presumably require a big budget and tax hikes.

In a press conference, Michaeli said she aimed to form metropolitan transportation authorities to solve the problem of traffic jams, particularly in central Israel. She said transportation to the country’s periphery should be improved to create equal opportunities for marginalized communities, particularly Arabs.

She said she wanted to advance a move to electric vehicles within public transportation, as well as more bicycle lanes and better work conditions for employees.

Justice Minister Gideon Sa’ar, meanwhile, said his first goal is to separate the position of attorney general from that of legal adviser to the government — two roles currently held by one person.

Conservative critics have long argued that the current situation creates an inherent conflict of interest whereby the official tasked with representing the government’s legal position is also in charge of potentially prosecuting members of that same government.

Previous attempts to split the role were widely seen as vengeful moves motivated by political or personal interests, since they typically came from governments whose prime ministers were facing criminal indictment — Ehud Olmert in 2007-2008 and Benjamin Netanyahu several years ago.

The Kan public broadcaster quoted sources within and outside the justice system as saying Sa’ar’s chances of passing the reform were better than ever, since the anti-Netanyahu right-winger and judicial conservative is seen as having no non-ideological agenda.

Speaking Monday, Sa’ar said the justice system has problems he wants to fix, but he wasn’t aiming to destroy the system. His move to split the role would mean one official advises the government on legal matters, while another gets the power to prosecute officials — likely an upgraded version of the current role of state attorney.

Sa’ar also said he aimed to give more care to civil rights in criminal and civil lawsuits, reducing the number of indictments and removing bureaucratic hurdles. He also wants to pass a quasi-constitutional Basic Law regulating when the High Court of Justice can intervene in the Knesset’s legislative work.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/F210614OF02.jpg)

New Minister of Education Yifat Shasha-Biton speaks at a ceremony as she takes over from Yoav Gallant, at the Education Ministry in Jerusalem on June 14, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/FLASH90)

Education Minister Yifat Shasha-Biton said she wants to move to a five-day school week in high schools, with elementary schools students studying for five days and having enrichment classes on Fridays. She emphasized, however, that the change would take time and its implementation depended on the longevity of the government.

Shasha-Biton, a member of Sa’ar’s New Hope party who has a PhD in education, also said she planned to transfer responsibility for daycares from the Welfare Ministry to the Education Ministry, give more autonomy to school principals, advance teachers’ rights and reduce the number of matriculation exams. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/no-tax-hike-mass-investment-the-new-governments-seemingly-contradictory-plans/>

**Tourists from ‘white countries’ won’t need serological test - official**

***According to the plan approved by the previous government, Israeli skies are supposed to reopen to vaccinated visitors on July 1. New government still to look into details.***

*By* [*ROSSELLA TERCATIN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/rossella-tercatin) *JUNE 15, 2021 21:19*

TRAVELERS CONVERGE at Ben-Gurion Airport late last month, as the skies begin to open up. (photo credit: YOSSI ALONI/FLASH90)

[Vaccinated](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/coronavirus-over-half-of-israels-citizens-are-fully-vaccinated-663114) tourists coming from “white countries” will be able to enter Israel without the requirement of undergoing a serological test, according to the current outline the Health Ministry is working on, a health official said Tuesday.

So-called white countries meet the Health Ministry’s criteria in terms of their coronavirus situation and are considered to be very low risk.

According to the official, the professionals at the ministry are continuing to work on the outline to allow vaccinated foreign nationals from selected nations to enter the country starting July 1. However, this will need to be discussed with Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz along with the rest of coronavirus regulations. Some changes in policies might still occur.

Last Thursday, former tourism minister Orit Farkash-Hacohen said inoculated individuals would be able to enter the country next month after former interior minister Arye Deri signed a document to that effect. While there was no indication that the plan would change, it was still too early to tell, a Tourism Ministry representative said Tuesday.

During the transition ceremony at the Tourism Ministry, Tourism Minister [Yoel Razvozov](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/incoming-tourism-minister-promises-to-rehabilitate-israels-tourism-671094) said bringing back foreign tourists would be his No. 1 priority and that he and Horowitz had been discussing the topic.

“I see creating a correct and effective outline to bring back foreign tourists to Israel as my first mission in this position, obviously without endangering [the health of] Israeli citizens,” Razvozov said.

“I have already spoken to incoming Health Minister Horowitz, and we will set up a meeting with the professional staff,” he said, adding that the pilot program that has already allowed a limited number of tourists to enter Israel has proven that this can be done safely.

At the moment, all those who are vaccinated abroad and enter Israel are required to prove the presence of antibodies in their blood with a serological test and to quarantine until they receive its results, which makes traveling to the country especially burdensome.

The goal of the outline the Health Ministry has been working on is to simplify things and eliminate the need for the serological test, the health official said.

According to the outline that is currently under discussion, only people from countries that meet the criteria set by the ministry and only those who have been vaccinated – not those who have had COVID-19 and recovered – will be allowed in. Regarding the types of vaccines accepted, all those developed in the Western world would be considered valid.

The ministry’s staff is also working on the technological aspect of the matter, including online forms to complete; currently, anyone who enters Israel is required to fill out an entry statement.

The ministry’s professional staff is working on the outline, and new decisions on policy might still be made since all aspects of the coronavirus regulations are in the process of being presented to Horowitz, the official said.

<https://www.jpost.com/health-science/tourists-from-white-countries-wont-need-serological-test-official-671104>

**Israeli camouflage tech makes soldiers ‘invisible’**

***Polaris Solutions developed an innovative new material that provides multispectral concealment***

*By MAYA MARGIT/THE MEDIA LINE   JUNE 15, 2021 17:25*



***Look closely! Polaris Solutions shows how their Kit 300 camouflage sheet can be used for a wide variety of purposes, including setting up a nearly undetectable post to spy on the enemy. (Notice the binocular near the center of the frame). (photo credit: MAYA MARGIT)***

Israeli survivability products company Polaris Solutions has developed a camouflage technology that renders soldiers on the battlefield virtually [undetectable](https://www.jpost.com/health-science/bgu-researchers-make-optical-chip-invisible-514120).

In cooperation with the Defense Ministry, the company recently unveiled Kit 300, an innovative camouflage sheet made out of a material that provides multispectral concealment.

According to Polaris Solutions, nothing else like its [camouflage](https://www.jpost.com/health-science/fireflies-use-invisible-musical-armor-against-bats-study-suggests-664186) sheet exists on the market today.

“As far as we know, or as far as we saw in other armies around the world, we are very unique,” Asaf Picciotto, co-founder and CEO of Polaris Solutions, told The Media Line. “To establish that, we actually registered a patent on it in many countries around the world.”

The lightweight sheet is made out of a special thermal visual concealment (TVC) material, comprised of metals, polymers and microfibers. Thanks to TVC, soldiers are much more difficult to see both with the naked eye and with thermal imaging equipment.

Thus, it can be used for counter-surveillance in a wide variety of military scenarios.

The idea for the technology was born in 2006 during the Second Lebanon War. At the time, Picciotto was in a special IDF unit and saw firsthand that soldiers on the ground required better protection from their enemies’ thermal cameras and night-vision equipment.

“You have to be better than the enemy and we understood that there were big gaps in the survivability part,” Picciotto recalled.

Polaris Solutions was founded a few years later, in 2010, and is now headquartered in the Israeli port city of Caesarea. Several former IDF soldiers with special forces training have lent their expertise to the company, which also produces a range of tough and durable tactical textiles and patented military products.

Kit 300 was specifically developed to counter new and ever-evolving challenges on the battlefield.

“Camouflage nets haven't changed too much in the past 50 year,” Yonatan Pinkas, director of marketing at Polaris Solutions, told The Media Line.

“We wanted to bring in a new type of material,” he added. “So TVC was born.”

Each sheet comes with different coloration on each side: one for dense vegetation and the other for more desert-like landscapes. In addition, the company customizes patterns and coloring based on client needs and geographic region.

The sturdy material can be molded into three-dimensional shapes or folded into a compact roll. It also is waterproof, can provide shelter or be fashioned into a stretcher to carry wounded soldiers on the battlefield.

  “It has additional value in medical use,” Pinkas noted. For example, he said, it can carry weight up to 250 kilograms, can be used as a splint to immobilize a broken bone and can serve as a hypothermia blanket.

Polaris Solutions is working with Israel’s defense industry as well as government agencies abroad, including special forces units in both Canada and the United States. Internationally, Kit 300 is known as Jag Hide.

“Our products are being tested by some units, which I cannot name, and we have several mutual operations there,” Picciotto said.

Though the company’s TVC products are unique, other tech innovators have recently made groundbreaking forays in the stealth materials arena.

Last year, Canadian company HyperStealth Biotechnology Corporation revealed a light-bending material called Quantum Stealth that appears to make a person vanish. The company refers to the invention as a “broadband invisibility cloak,” though its efficacy largely depends on the angle and distance from which it is viewed.

A number of technical hurdles remain before a true invisibility cloak is developed.

While invisibility was once the realm of science fiction or fantasy, Polaris Solutions has revealed that it is in the process of developing products that could soon turn the idea into a reality. But it’s going to take between five years and 10 years to develop “real deep tech” that can be turned into a line of products, according to Picciotto.

<https://www.jpost.com/jpost-tech/israeli-camouflage-tech-makes-soldiers-invisible-671096>

**Palestinians said to assemble new peace negotiating team at initiative of US**

***Report says the Biden administration began effort to revive talks before Israel’s new government was sworn in; PA said set to demand expansion of its authority in West Bank***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:25 pm*

The Palestinians have assembled a new team of negotiators, with the encouragement of the United States, for renewed peace talks with Israel, according to a television report Tuesday as the new Israeli government settled into office.

Citing a “senior official in Ramallah,” the West Bank city where the Palestinian Authority is based, Channel 12 news said the PA negotiating team was set to demand an extension of the PA’s authority in the West Bank as part of talks brokered by US President Joe Biden’s administration. Nobody on the reported team was named.

The demands were said to include blocking Israel Defense Forces soldiers from entering Area A of the West Bank, which is under the full control of the PA, and to have expanded authority — including on security issues — in Areas B and C. The PA has civil control in Area B, while Israel has security control. Israel maintains control over both civil and security matters in Area C.

The PA was also reportedly to demand other unspecified “trust-building measures” aimed at maintaining the viability of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The report said the US had already begun working on the initiative before longtime prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu was ousted from office on Sunday, when a government headed by Naftali Bennett, in a power-sharing deal with Yair Lapid, was sworn in.

The Palestinians reportedly sped up their efforts to get ready for potential peace talks after it became clear to them a government not led by Netanyahu could be formed.

According to the network, the PA is hoping the talks will be led by Foreign Minister Lapid and Defense Minister Benny Gantz, both centrists, rather than the right-wing Bennett, an opponent of the two-state solution who has previously called for Israel to annex Area C.

The report came after Gantz spoke with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin earlier Tuesday, with Gantz’s office saying he told the Pentagon chief that he would work to strengthen the PA, echoing remarks he has made since last month’s 11-day military conflict with the Gaza-ruling Hamas terror group. Gantz also spoke with Austin on Sunday after the new government was sworn in.

In a [congratulatory phone call](https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-congratulates-israels-new-pm-bennett-as-netanyahu-ousted/) on Sunday with Bennett, Biden “conveyed that his administration intends to work closely with the Israeli government on efforts to advance peace, security, and prosperity for Israelis and Palestinians,” according to the White House. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinians-said-to-assemble-new-peace-negotiating-team-at-initiative-of-us/>

**Poll finds dramatic rise in Palestinian support for Hamas**

***Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research survey shows 53% of Palestinians believe Hamas is 'most deserving of representing and leading the Palestinian people' and 77% believe the terror group won the recent war with Israel***

*Associated Press | Published: 06.15.21 , 19:56*

A new poll released Tuesday finds a dramatic surge in Palestinian support for Hamas following last month’s Gaza war, with around three quarters viewing the Islamic militants as victors in a battle against Israel to defend Jerusalem and its holy sites.

The scientific poll by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research also found plummeting support for President Mahmoud Abbas, who was sidelined by the war but is seen internationally as a partner for reviving the long-defunct peace process.



Armed Hamas men talk with children in Gaza (Photo: AFP)

The poll found that 53% of Palestinians believe Hamas is “most deserving of representing and leading the Palestinian people,” while only 14% prefer Abbas’ secular Fatah party.

Head pollster Khalil Shikaki, who has been surveying Palestinian public opinion for more than two decades, called it a “dramatic” shift, but said it also resembles previous swings toward Hamas during times of confrontation. Those all dissipated within three to six months as Hamas failed to deliver on promises of change. [You may recall that when Dubya insisted on a vote in about 2005 he got his “PA” vote but with unsuspected results when the terrorist Hamas group actually got more votes for their parliament than did the Fatah or ‘more moderate’ terrorist group did. – rdb]

 The march to war began in April, when Palestinian protesters clashed with Israeli police on a nightly basis in east Jerusalem over restrictions on public gatherings during the holy month of Ramadan. The clashes eventually spread to the Al-Aqsa mosque compound, a flashpoint holy site, and were also fueled by Jewish settlers’ attempts to evict dozens of Palestinian families.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, along with the West Bank and Gaza, in the 1967 war and annexed it in a move not recognized internationally. The Palestinians want a state in all three territories, with east Jerusalem as its capital. Hamas, which is seen as a terrorist organization by Israel and Western countries, does not recognize Israel.

Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar (Photo: TPS)

After warning Israel to halt the evictions and withdraw security forces from Al-Aqsa, Hamas launched a barrage of long-range rockets at Jerusalem on May 10, disrupting an annual parade by Jewish ultranationalists celebrating Israel’s conquest of east Jerusalem. That sparked an 11-day war in which more than 250 Palestinians were killed, as well as 13 people in Israel.

The poll found that 77% of Palestinians believe Hamas emerged as a winner, with nearly as many saying that it fought the war to defend Jerusalem and its holy sites, rather than as part of an internal struggle with Abbas’ Fatah party.

The pollsters held face-to-face surveys with 1,200 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza last week, with a 3 percentage point margin of error.

“Clearly, in the eyes of the public, Hamas came out as a winner,” Shikaki said, adding that it may struggle to maintain those gains as it has little control over events in Jerusalem.



***Hamas-organized riots on the Israel-Gaza border in wake of Flag March in Jerusalem (Photo: AFP)***

An early test loomed Tuesday, when Jewish ultranationalists planned to march through east Jerusalem again. Hamas has called on Palestinians to “resist” but may be reluctant to risk another war just weeks after the last one was halted by an informal cease-fire.

The Biden administration and the international community are meanwhile looking to bolster Abbas. Hamas drove his forces out of Gaza in 2007, confining his Palestinian Authority to parts of the West Bank.

Abbas faces a major crisis of legitimacy among Palestinians after calling off the first elections in 15 years in April.

At the time, it appeared Fatah would suffer another humiliating defeat to Hamas, which won a landslide victory in 2006 parliamentary elections. But his decision, citing Israel’s refusal to grant permission for voting in east Jerusalem, also helped clear the way for Hamas to draw attention to Abbas’ weakness in the holy city. MORE <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rkwYKLUi00>

**Iran intensified efforts for nuclear weapons, missile tech in Germany**

***The report showed a dramatic increase in the number of members and supporters from the internationally recognized terrorist movements, Hamas and Hezbollah, who are active in Germany.***

*By* [*BENJAMIN WEINTHAL*](https://www.jpost.com/author/benjamin-weinthal) *JUNE 15, 2021 21:15*

Germany’s federal intelligence agency on Tuesday released a report detailing security threats faced by the federal republic in 2020, ranging from Iran’s drive to obtain illicit technology for its nuclear weapons program to its increased attempts to secure material for its missile program.

The report revealed a significant increase in membership and support for Iran-backed Hamas and Hezbollah, who are active in Germany.

The Jerusalem Post examined the 420-page German-language report for The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution—the formal name for the national intelligence agency.

According to the report, “the indications of proliferation-relevant procurement attempts by the Islamic Republic for its nuclear program increased in 2020.”

The intelligence officials wrote "However, a violation of the JCPOA in these cases could not be determined," The report appears to contradict itself. On the one hand, the document asserts Iran's regime sought illicit nuclear weapons technology in 2020 in Germany but, on the other hand, the attempts are not a violation of the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

It is unclear how German intelligence arrived at different conclusions. Germany's government is one of the strongest advocates of the atomic deal and Berlin has long been the most important European trade partners for Tehran. Germany stands to benefit economically from the Iran nuclear accord.

The intelligence officials define proliferation activities as “the spread of atomic, biological or chemical weapons of mass destruction (ABC weapons) or the goods and technologies used in their manufacture, and corresponding weapon carrier systems (e.g. missiles and drones), including the necessary know-how, is called proliferation.”

The Iranian regime, cited 100 times in the document, sought technology for its missile program. “The ambitious Iranian launcher technology/missile program is not covered by the JCPOA or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action—the 2015 nuclear agreement that aims to restrict Tehran’s nuclear activities in exchange for economic sanctions relief. Therefore for this purpose Iran’s procurement activities in Germany have remained continuously high.… the trend is rising” when compared with the previous year, wrote the intelligence officials.

The intelligence report could impact the current negotiations in Vienna where the world powers are seeking to bring Iran’s regime into compliance the nuclear accord. MORE- <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-intensified-efforts-for-nuclear-weapons-missile-tech-in-germany-671101>

**Antisemitism ‘mainstreamed’ in Western European politics, says Israeli study**

***Researchers see convergence of far-left and far-right, crack in consensus against hatred of Jews; warn that Israel should not take leading role in fight against world antisemitism***

*By* [*Lazar Berman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/lazar-berman/) *Today, 10:58 am*

Fringe ideas and political parties are moving into the mainstream in Western Europe, bringing with them antisemitic views, according to an Israeli study to be released Tuesday that found a worrying convergence of far-right and far-left hate.

“We are seeing the penetration of the extremes into the political mainstream,” said Adi Kantor, one of the authors of “Contemporary Antisemitism in the Political Discourse of Five Western European Countries: Germany, France, Britain, Spain, Ireland.”  
 The study, a joint project of the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv and the Jewish Agency, studied expressions of antisemitism by politicians and political parties in the five Western European nations between late 2019 and late 2020. The research does not include the spike in antisemitism that occurred in Europe and the US during Israel’s 11-day Operation Guardian of the Walls against Hamas in May 2021.  
 “We wanted to try to understand how this phenomenon is on the one hand influenced by deep, global trends and broad social trends, where it is influenced by local characteristics, like Islamists in France, the right-wing in Germany, (former Labour Party leader Jeremy) Corbyn in the UK, and where it is influenced by unanticipated events like the coronavirus or the ‘yellow vest’ protests in France,” said INSS researcher Shahar Eilam, a former high-ranking IDF intelligence officer. The project investigated antisemitism on the far right, which often distorts historical facts, claims victimhood, denies and minimizes the role of its country in the murder of Jews during the Holocaust, and scapegoats minorities, especially immigrants, Muslims, and Jews.  
 According to the researchers, far-right parties in Western Europe have been portraying themselves as Israel supporters and even defenders of Jews, at the same time that party members continue to use expressions of classic antisemitism. They also examined antisemitism on the far left, which is usually disguised as criticism of Israel.  
 The study found that the most common expressions of antisemitism – defined as “malicious attitudes and stereotypes,” “comparison between Israel and Nazis,” and “denial of the right of the Jewish people to self-determination” — are overwhelmingly expressed by politicians on the left.  
 Worryingly, the researchers identified a growing convergence of left- and right-wing antisemitism, with similar messages and symbols being used by both extremes.  
 “We have to ask ourselves why,” said Kantor. “Why have people who were once centrists found homes in far-right and far-left positions?”  
 “For the extreme left and right to meet, there needs to be a certain space that allows it. There needs to be a vacuum in the middle that allows the two edges to meet.”  
**Hatred in liberal democracies** The researchers chose to focus on Western Europe for several reasons. “It is particularly interesting to see in the liberal democracies – which are based on freedom of speech, freedom of press, individual rights, human rights, minority rights – it is there we discovered how present antisemitism is in the political discourse,” said Kantor. “We found, in the very countries you wouldn’t expect to find it, very prolific antisemitism from public officials.”  
 They also determined that Eastern Europe had its own particular history that shapes antisemitic discourse there, and a separate research project should focus on those countries.  
 The study found that there are several common features across the five countries. MORE-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/antisemitism-mainstreamed-in-western-european-politics-says-israeli-study/>

**Outsider Khan must steer war crimes court through choppy waters**

***New top prosecutor at ICC will be closely watched as he replaces Fatou Bensouda amid a host of ongoing, controversial probes, including alleged Israeli 'war crimes' in the Palestinian territories and atrocities committed by U.S. troops in Afghanistan***

*Reuters | Published: 06.15.21 , 17:56*

British barrister Karim Khan, an outsider who cut his teeth as a top international defense lawyer, steps into a political minefield this week when he begins a nine-year term as the top prosecutor at the international war crimes court.

Khan, 51, who starts on Wednesday, inherits probes opened in hotspots like the Palestinian territories, Afghanistan, Myanmar and the Philippines by outgoing prosecutor Fatou Bensouda.



***Karim Khan, the incoming prosecutor at the ICC, pictured in Baghdad, July 27, 2019, (Photo: AFP)***

"He's inheriting far too many situations for the office of the prosecutor, there is no way they can investigate them all," Kevin Heller, professor of international law at the university of Copenhagen, said.

Already short of resources, the International Criminal Court is dealing with 14 full-blown investigations and eight preliminary examinations.

Khan will be closely watched as he takes on investigations opposed by powerful, non-member nations such as Israel, the United States and Russia.

Bensouda faced sanctions under the administration of former U.S. President Donald Trump, which opposed her decision to examine war crimes allegations in Afghanistan, including by U.S. troops, and alleged atrocities in the Palestinian territories by Israeli troops, Palestinians and other armed groups.

"The newest investigations in terms of some of the parties to the conflict will be difficult if not impossible to investigate," Heller said.

Khan did not respond to an interview request, but he told the Opinion Juris legal blog in March: "It is important to be realistic about what the court can achieve."

"The worst scenario would be trying to do it all and ending up doing nothing," he added, as that would erode the credibility of international criminal justice in the eyes of the public.

***WAR ON DRUGS***

In her final hours in office, Bensouda asked judges to open an investigation into thousands of killings during the Philippines war on drugs. President Rodrigo Duterte will not cooperate with an investigation, his spokesperson said on Tuesday, while defending his administration's record on human rights.

U.S. sanctions were lifted after President Joe Biden took office, but they were a reminder that Washington still opposes the ICC's attempts to claim jurisdiction over U.S. or Israeli military personnel.

"The sanctions were a bit of a wake up call," said Kate Orlovsky, Director of the Hague Office of the International Bar Association.

Khan was previously head of the United Nations' special investigative team looking into Islamic State crimes in Iraq.

Last month, he told the United Nations Security Council that his team had found "clear and convincing evidence that the crimes against the Yazidi people clearly constituted genocide".

In an interview with Reuters last month Bensouda said Khan's priority should be to get support from state parties and non-members for the court. She urged him not to be swayed by personal attacks, criticism or even praise.

"What we do in this office is critically important, history will judge us," she said.

At the ICC, Khan faces both external and internal pressure. An independent expert review last year criticized a "culture of fear" in the office of the prosecutor and called for reforms to improve the workplace environment.

According to Heller, Khan is the type of outsider the prosecutor's office really needs. "You need a little creative destruction, you need turnover at senior positions, you need a new prosecutor with a new set of perspectives, you need to shake things up," he said. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/HJlTiQLou>

**28 Chinese military planes enter Taiwan’s air defense zone in largest fly-over to date, Taipei says**

*15 Jun, 2021 14:55*

Taiwan’s government has reported that 28 Chinese planes, including fighter jets and nuclear-capable bombers, entered its air defense identification zone (ADIZ) in the largest ‘incursion’ to date.

In a statement released on the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense website, the nation outlined the alleged violation of its ADIZ by the Chinese Communist People’s Liberation Army, which reportedly included fourteen J-16 and 6 J-11 jet fighters, as well as anti-submarine aircraft and nuclear-capable bombers.

Taiwan, which China considers an integral part of the country, has reported an increase in China’s fly-overs in recent months, including 25 PLA planes entering the ADIZ in April, days after 10 jets had entered the island’s defense area.

Beijing has not yet acknowledged the reported activity, but it comes days after the G7 group of leaders released a joint statement *“calling on China to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.”* The G7’s remarks were seen as directly referring to China’s behavior around the South China Sea and Taiwan.

China responded to the G7’s statement on Monday, expressing its *“strong dissatisfaction”* with the criticism, which Beijing claimed was a *“serious violation of the basic norms of international relations.”* Addressing the concerns raised by the G7, China defended its actions, claiming it *“will resolutely defend national sovereignty, security and development interests.”*

Earlier in June, China and the United States clashed over a visit to Taipei by three American senators on a military transport plane. The two Democrats and one Republican met with Taiwanese officials during a three-hour trip to the island, in what the Chinese Defense Ministry described as a *“political show”* and *“vile political provocation.”* [*https://www.rt.com/news/526629-taiwan-fly-over-chinese-military-planes/*](https://www.rt.com/news/526629-taiwan-fly-over-chinese-military-planes/)

**With inflation surging, poll shows Americans blaming familiar face**

***Rising costs for fuel, housing hitting U.S. consumers***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published June 15, 2021 at 2:47pm*

A new poll shows that a majority of Americans blame President Biden and the current Congress for the surging inflation that has developed in the United States.

Some economists have warned about the problem, which most recently was estimated to have reached the 6% level and more, while others say it likely will not last for an extended period.

Nonetheless, it is raising costs for American consumers, in some cases such as lumber for new homes, precipitously.

The [poll](https://thetrafalgargroup.org/COSA-National-Inflation-Full-Report.pdf) by the Trafalgar Group shows 39% of Americans hold Biden "most responsible" for inflation, and 14.4% hold the current Congress most responsible.

Some 17.7% blame President Trump, even though Biden has abandoned many of his foreign policy and economic strategies, and another 10.9% blame the former Congress.

It is telling that 21.5% of the Democrats responding blame Biden, while another 27.3% blame Trump. Similar numbers of 14.6% and 13.6% blame the current and former Congresses.

Republicans were much more unified, with 64.3% blaming Biden and 11.6% blaming the current Congress.

Only 6% blamed Trump.Bottom of Form

Independents were in between, with 35.5% blaming Biden and 17.5% blaming the current Congress. Only 16.9% blamed Trump.

Hispanic and Asian respondents largely blamed Biden, while blacks blamed Trump, under whose leadership the nation saw some of the highest employment levels for minorities ever recorded.

The [assessment](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/americans-blame-rising-inflation-on-biden-poll) by the Washington Examiner was blunt: "A new poll reveals that voters pin most of the blame for rising inflation on President Joe Biden."

"Independent voters swung closer to Republicans on the issue, with 35.5% saying Biden is to blame for inflation, compared to 16.9% who blame Trump. Another 31.3% blamed either the current or last Congress for the issue." MORE-

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/inflation-surging-poll-shows-americans-blaming-familiar-face/>

**The existential threat Google-Facebook represent to America**

***Exclusive: Joseph Farah vows to continue his battle against freedom-quashing Big Tech***

*By* [*Joseph Farah*](https://www.wnd.com/author/jfarah/) *Published June 14, 2021 at 7:15pm*

For several years, I've been explaining patiently and relentlessly to all who would listen how and why Google and Facebook pose existential threats to American freedom – freedom of speech, press, religion, privacy and elections.

In other words, threats to everything America stands for.

As a media business pledged to be "A Free Press for a Free People," and meaning it, this has really hit home for us.

For almost 25 years, WND has blazed trails in the new media world as the first independent online news site. We were challenged, vilified and made sport of by the state-run media, but it was not until 2017 that Google and Facebook – along with Twitter, Apple and Amazon – joined forces against us.

And then I suffered a series of strokes in 2019 – talk about a double-whammy!

At least it's no secret now. But WND has continued to tumble – Google and Facebook denying us revenues and readers, Amazon killing WND books and movies.

While in normal times WND regularly showed up among the top of Google News results, it now *never* does. Even worse are the words it uses to characterize our stories – "dangerous," "derogatory," even "shocking content." These are all applied to TRUE stories – all of which have panned out. But few got to read them, because Facebook censored them and Google made sure they weren't read by most people.

I don't want reform. I want real justice for those harmed by these companies. What they have done to the American landscape with these tactics is a disgrace!

Here's a primer on why these two companies, along with others like Apple, Amazon, YouTube and Twitter, must be broken up through anti-trust actions, stripped of their inexcusable protections against consumer liability, stopped from invading the privacy of Americans for profit, blocked from using the most intimate personal data to inject extreme bias into the national debate, rigging elections, and least of all for its restraint of trade practices against WND. Anyone know a good lawyer?

Furthermore, and most important, they need to be stopped from blocking, banning and blacklisting legitimate political speech, imposing speech codes, enforcing "political correctness" standards in either content or advertising sales or punishing opinions with which they disagree.

Under no circumstances should these corporations be permitted to engage in political lobbying, soliciting, accepting government contracts or participating in any political activities, operating as they currently do under special government protections against liability claims.

By law, Google and Facebook must be ideologically neutral in all they do, since, under the law, they are not "publishers" but "carriers" of information – the same goes for Twitter, Amazon and Apple.

The U.S. Justice Department should immediately begin an investigation of the Google-Facebook-YouTube-Amazon-Twitter-Apple axis of evil. Such relationships by the most powerful media organizations in the world clearly defy U.S. law. But that will have to wait for the second coming of President Donald Trump, or a fair and square election.

Robert Epstein, a Ph.D. psychologist who focuses on search engine manipulation, warned that Google's attempts to manipulate public opinion are more terrifying than the Chinese government's attempts to control its citizens.

"To me, [China's manipulation] is scary, but people are aware of it," he told PJ Media. "It's done openly by the government. I think what is happening elsewhere in the world that's being driven mostly by Google is much more dangerous, because it's mostly invisible," said a prescient Epstein back in 2018. He added, "There's no transparency; there's no accountability. It's a more ambitious kind of surveillance than that of the Chinese government."

Epstein says he is certain Google employed elements of its ability to change its users' opinions on whom to vote for in the 2018 midterm election – thus potentially affecting control of the House of Representatives during Trump’s presidency. His research also suggested, before the fact, that it was possible for Google to select the winner of the 2020 presidential election – and without detection.

A Hillary Clinton supporter in the 2016 election, Epstein says his research suggests Google's demonstrable pro-Democrat activism in that race explains most of her vote lead in the popular vote.

Epstein says Google has "enormous power to shift opinions and votes, but they're aware that they have the power, they talk about using the power, and my own data suggests that they do in fact use the power."

Epstein argued that bias impacts algorithms, even without a conscious attempt to influence people.

"There is solid research showing that programmers have a bias of some sort; that bias ends up getting expressed in their code unconsciously," he said. "Even without deliberateness, we still will end up with algorithms that have biases embedded in them."

However, Epstein adds: "We know that the bias is explicit. We know that. It's impossible for me to believe that Google executives and employees are not deliberate in their manipulations."

The 2020 presidential race was one for the books. Joe Biden got 80 million votes – come on!

It's time to stand up to this imminent and existential threat to free speech, the free press, freedom of religion, the right to privacy, American sovereignty, and free and fair elections.

Indeed, there's not much time left.

Support WND – including its ongoing investigations into the Digital Cartel. As the internet's first independent online news outlet, founded back in 1997, WND has been systematically victimized by Google-Facebook through its manipulative algorithms, ad blocks and biased search results. We ask for your prayers and your critical financial support, without which WND will cease to exist. MORE- <https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/existential-threat-google-facebook-represent-america/>

**United Nations Celebrates Birthday of Mass Murderer Che Guevara**

*15 Jun 2021*

The official Spanish-language Twitter account of UNESCO, the United Nations’ cultural agency, celebrated the birthday of Irish-Argentine mass murderer Ernesto “Che” Guevara on Monday with a selected excerpt of his “historic” speech to the U.N. in 1964.

[*AFP PHOTO*](http://www.imageforum-diffusion.afp.com/ImfDiffusion/Search/ViewMedia.aspx?numPage=170&srchMd=8&fsearch=Che+Guevara&hashDocID=605029F1DDB8594CA1290D49C5A0FBEDA248B23057CC1294987BF21A1BEA78F7B3AE750B8BC334787DB992D240332C8E&nbItems=2757&IndexNumberInRequest=2709&ID_Fulcrum=-59634659_0&NumPageOriginal=170&Psv=0&returnURL=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5pbWFnZWZvcnVtLWRpZmZ1c2lvbi5hZnAuY29tL0ltZkRpZmZ1c2lvbi9TZWFyY2gvUmVzdWx0cy5hc3B4P251bVBhZ2U9MTcwJnNyY2hNZD04JmZzZWFyY2g9Q2hlK0d1ZXZhcmEmSURfRnVsY3J1bT0tNTk2MzQ2NTlfMCZtdWk9MQ%3d%3d&mui=1) [*Frances Martel*](https://www.breitbart.com/author/frances-martel/)

Guevara, born to an economically comfortable family in Argentina, became a central figure in the 1959 Cuban Revolution alongside Fidel Castro. Guevara routinely discussed in his writings the need to kill opponents, how he personally enjoyed killing others, and was responsible for many of the [thousands](https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-38153673) of firing squad executions in the aftermath of Castro’s hijacking of the country. Guevara also wrote extensively about his distaste for black people and lead an initiative to use slave labor to turn gay people into “men.”

Despite this, Guevara has become a fashion icon and popular figure on the left. President Barack Obama [posed](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2016/03/21/obama-poses-in-front-of-che-guevara-image-in-cubas-revolution-square/) before a monument to Guevara during his visit to Havana in 2016.

“[On this day] was born in Rosario, #Argentina Ernesto Guevara de la Serna, known as el Che,” the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) account wrote in Spanish. “We remember his figure watching his historic speech to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1964.”

The attached video consists of about a minute of his speech in which Guevara says, in part, “We want to build socialism. We have declared that we are supporters of those who strive for peace. We have declared ourselves to be within the group of Nonaligned countries, although we are Marxist-Leninists, because the Nonaligned countries, like ourselves, fight imperialism.” <https://www.breitbart.com/latin-america/2021/06/15/united-nations-celebrates-birthday-of-mass-murderer-che-guevara/>

[This is just one more reason that the US should be out of the UN and should ban them from our country. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**Anthony Fauci: Guilty Bureaucrat Extraordinaire**[*Ted Noel*](https://townhall.com/columnists/tednoel/) *Posted: Jun 15, 2021 12:01 AM* The Law of the Bureaucrat states simply:  
 “The Bureaucrat is the smartest person in the room.”  
 This Law has a huge impact on everyday life, and if fully understood, will make it clear that we must clean out all the Federal bureaucracies. Further, it demonstrates why Anthony Fauci felt free to pursue gain of function research in collaboration with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. And finally, it explains why he feels free to completely dismiss any criticism of his actions. Let’s break it down.  
 Congress passes lots of laws. But Congress has no interest in actually dealing with the details. They love to paint with a broad brush and say they’ve “helped you” by passing a multi-thousand page act with a wonderful sounding title. How this should be implemented is too much trouble for such important people to deal with. Instead, they hand it off to a bureaucratic agency. Or, if they are “[Faced with a problem, be it real or imagined, that stirs voters, politicians propose new programs to solve the problem](https://www.aier.org/article/bureaucracy-as-constituency/).”  
 Congress (and this applies at many lower levels as well) simply isn’t smart enough to give these bureaucrats adequate direction. “[Formulating rules now often requires bureaucrats specializing in finance, economics, statistics, and numerous fields of science](https://www.aier.org/article/bureaucracy-as-constituency/).” Imagine Alexandria Airhead Cortez explaining to the CDC how it should “control” diseases. Of course, diseases cannot be “controlled.” Whatever doctors do simply helps your God-given mechanisms do the work. (ICYMI, I am a doctor.) The Supreme Court has blessed this situation, codifying the Law of the Bureaucrat in [Chevron](https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/467/837) and [Auer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/95-897.ZS.html), anointing them with the divine authority of the ultimate expert. This has created the Fourth Branch of Government, one that does not exist in the Constitution.  
 Fauci came into being not so much by his birthing person, but by the doddering inaction of Congress who ultimately anointed him the “Virus Czar” at NIAID. Congress declared that the Federal Government should be involved in virus research, and then declared him the smartest person in the room so they wouldn’t have to be bothered with any details. This gave him free rein to go anywhere and do anything he wanted.  
 A bureaucrat is infallible by definition. This corollary of the Law became Fauci’s [first hit parade](https://www.aier.org/article/fauci-was-duplicitous-on-the-aids-epidemic-too/). Early on he trotted out a theory that the AIDS virus could be airborne, causing a pandemic. [UPI](https://www.upi.com/Archives/1983/05/05/Household-contact-may-transmit-AIDS/7738420955200/) trumpeted his unsubstantiated speculation, as did the [New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/1983/05/06/us/family-contact-studied-in-transmitting-aids.html). Neonatal AIDS led to a huge scare, and Fauci was a hero. His amazing intellect would guide us. The fact that he hadn’t read the [paper with his name on it](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/386561) in the Journal of the American Medical Association was lost. HIV was actually transmitted by blood across the placenta, not in the air or by casual contact.   
 Two months later, Fauci reversed course, never admitting his error. After all, as the smartest man in the room, he could not make possibly be mistaken! Of course, when you tracked down his public statements, most of them were couched in “fuzzy” language, making it hard to pin down what he had actually said. But he sounded so authoritative saying it.  
 Ebola gave him a second chance at the brass ring. Remdesivir, his pet project, looked promising, but ultimately failed to halt the disease. Excellent supportive care allowed a handful to recover, while the deadly course of the disease in Africa killed its victims too quickly to allow it to spread. Then came COVID-19. But this story is a bit more complicated.  
 Remember that Fauci, as a Bureaucrat, is the smartest person in the room. He was hired to solve the problem of viral diseases. He is unable to make the mistakes we mortals make. But if by some unfortunate miracle, he found the secret cure for viral diseases, he’d be out of a job. No bureaucrat can survive that.  
 Since bureaucrats can never actually solve the problem they’re handed, Fauci, with his buddy Peter Daszak, started engineering new viruses. There wasn’t enough fun or glory in simply dealing with the existing bugs. We know this started as early as 2012, and he was explicit in his emails that he might create a bug that would kill millions, but he really didn’t care. He was too far above us, and “science” was too important.   
 The Patron Saint of Wuhan could not be thwarted. When gain of function research was officially halted in 2014, he looked for ways around it, and in [December of 2017](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099%2818%2930006-9/fulltext), found it in a footnote to the rule. There was a national security exception, and “science” was obviously (to him, and no one else mattered) a national security issue. As the smartest man in the room, the decision was his to make.  
 Since “[Lord Fauci Is Science](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/scottmorefield/2021/06/09/i-am-science-says-the-sun-king-tucker-carlson-megyn-kelly-others-scorch-fauci-claim-n2590775),” our Dear Leader’s word is the same as God’s. But there are pesky investigators out there who might discover his nefarious plot. Videos did get out, but fortunately no one noticed their import. And the Regent of Remdesivir could not get his fingers dirty. Instead, he funneled money through Peter Daszak at the EcoHealth alliance, offshoring millions to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, where no prying American eyes would be allowed.   
 When the pandemic hit, Fauci was ready. He had multiple pronouncements on what we should and should not do. Since the virus was new, old drugs (think: HCQ) couldn’t possibly be useful, so he actively worked against them, likely killing thousands. But as the smartest person in the room, he could not be questioned. If someone died, it was because his prescription hadn’t been perfectly followed, not because he blocked an effective prescription. After all, no one could possibly be as smart as him.  
 Masks, lockdowns, and the like were blithely “recommended” while extensive data showing those measures were uniformly harmful were ignored. When they caused great harm, the CDC, in lockstep with Fauci commanded a moratorium on tenant evictions, creating new harm for landlords.   
 As the highest paid employee of the Federal Government, there was little of pecuniary interest left for him. But fame was a new currency, the ultimate aphrodisiac for a bureaucrat. COVID-19, when mismanaged by Fauci, was his ticket to a most exhilarating extended orgasm. The little people did not matter.  
 By now, I think it is very clear that the establishment of bureaucracies to fill in the blanks Congress leaves behind is an extremely bad thing. The Law of the Bureaucrat causes the corruption of people who might start out as worthy into mavens of destruction, unaccountable to anyone, because they are the smartest people in the room. Any failures in their arena are never theirs, but fall on you because you did not perfectly follow their prescriptions. Flip flops on their part are simply your misunderstanding of what they commanded in the beginning. And on…  
 Fauci is the quintessential bureaucrat. He plays a doctor on TV because that suits his objectives. And he is criminally responsible for millions of deaths worldwide. When will a State Attorney General grow the brass ones required to charge him with complicity in those murders?

*Ted Noel MD writes and posts as DoctorTed and @VidZette.* <https://townhall.com/columnists/tednoel/2021/06/15/anthony-fauci-guilty-bureaucrat-extraordinaire-n2590993>

Something to think about….

**The Moral and Religious Case Against Unconditional Love**[*Dennis Prager*](https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/) *Posted: Jun 15, 2021 12:01 AM* Unconditional love is neither biblical nor rational nor moral.  
 Can you name anything good that is or should be given with no moral or ethical conditions?  
 Take salary, for example: Do you see a problem with continuing to pay employees no matter how they perform? In other words, do you see a problem with unconditional salaries?  
 The question is rhetorical.  
 If people believe they will receive the same salary no matter how well or poorly they work, few will work hard. The fact that a worker can be fired is precisely what prevents most people from slacking off.  
 Furthermore, paying the same salary to the lazy and careless worker as to the hardworking and responsible one is so unfair that it would completely undermine workplace morale.  
 Now substitute love for salary.  
 If everyone received the same amount of love no matter how terrible or beautiful their actions, wouldn't that create the same problems as unconditional salaries?  
 If we gave everyone the same amount of love no matter how they behaved, what would motivate anyone to behave better? And would it be fair? If kind, self-sacrificing, responsible people were to receive no more love than narcissists, murderers and thieves, the world would be a far more unjust place than it already is.  
 Unconditional love is no more desirable, no more fair and no more goodness-inducing than unconditional salary. Yet, remarkably, unconditional love has become the great human and even divine ideal.  
 This is a recent development.  
 Google charts the use of words and terms in English-language books from the beginning of the 19th century until the present. If you look at its chart for the term "unconditional love," you will learn that until the 1970s, the term almost never appeared in English-language books. And then, all of a sudden, it was everywhere.  
 In other words, when America was religious, no one used the term "unconditional love." Only as America became less religious, its culture more secular, did usage of the term soar. This alone should help dispel the widespread notion that unconditional love is a religious ideal.  
 It isn't. In a lifetime of teaching Judaism and now writing volume four of a five-volume Bible commentary, I have never come across the concept of unconditional love. In fact, God makes it clear that His love is conditional on obeying Him. For example, he tells the Israelites: "If you will obey Me faithfully and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession."  
 The Book of Psalms makes this even clearer: "(God) hates all evildoers. You doom those who speak lies; murderous, deceitful men the LORD abhors" (Psalm 5:6-7). Obviously, God doesn't give unconditional love.  
 As for Christianity, many Christians assert that unconditional love is the ideal for humans to aspire to. Yet, I could not find a single direct statement about unconditional love -- divine or human -- in the New Testament. As a Canadian Christian pastor and theologian, George Sinclair, wrote: "The Bible does not teach that God loves unconditionally or that you should love unconditionally."  
 Why modern Christians so frequently speak of God's unconditional love and of unconditional love as what humans should aspire to is a mystery to me. The very fact that according to Christian theology, only those who believe in Christ are saved from hell should make it clear that salvation is conditional. Some Christians respond that God continues to love the nonbeliever even as he descends to hell -- because it is the nonbeliever, (SET ITAL)not God,(END ITAL) who has sent himself to hell by rejecting God's love through His offer of salvation. However, that hardly argues against God's conditional love -- that love (and the salvation prompted by it) is conditioned on the human being's acceptance of God's terms.  
 It is true that countless people who have strayed far from a righteous life have been immensely helped by the belief that God loves them -- but they must repent to benefit from that love.  
 Unconditional love is, in the final analysis, a bad secular idea.  
 Aside from undermining people's reasons for pursuing excellence and undermining group morale -- as we saw in the example of unconditional salaries -- there are three other reasons it's a bad idea.  
 First, if people are loved no matter how immorally they act, love becomes the one thing in life that is completely divorced from morality. (SET ITAL)Unconditional love makes love amoral.(END ITAL)  
 Second, what means more to you -- someone who loves you because they love everyone unconditionally or someone who loves you because they consider you special?  
 Third, unconditional love often leads to very unloving behavior. If husbands and wives, for example, know they will receive the same amount of love no matter how they treat their spouse, do you think this is likely to lead to spouses acting better or worse?  
 But, many people will respond, don't parents have unconditional love for their children? And isn't that the ideal?  
 Yes, many parents do love their children unconditionally -- because it is instinctive in most people to so love their children. But is this a good message to convey to your children: "No matter how you treat your siblings or even us, your mother and father, not to mention non-family members, we will love you just the same"?  
 And even if parents' love for their child is unconditional, why should that be a model for how we ought to feel toward every other person on the planet? Would your children be happy to know that you loved everyone just as much as you love them? Should you? There would actually be something psychologically and morally wrong with a parent who loved everyone as much as they loved their child.  
 Yes, babies should receive unconditional love. The rest of us should want to grow up.  
 As for God, I have never believed I was the recipient of unconditional love from Him, nor have I ever sought it. I seek His approval. That's a better way to live. <https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/2021/06/15/the-moral-and-religious-case-against-unconditional-love-n2590998>

And then…

**Idiots with Money**[*Derek Hunter*](https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/) *Posted: Jun 15, 2021 12:01 AM* I don’t begrudge anyone their success and couldn’t care less how much money someone has. But our culture puts people who have a lot of money on a pedestal more for having a lot of money and less for how they got it or what they do with it. More often than not, what they do with it is, quite frankly, stupid.   
 “A fool and his money are soon parted,” as the saying goes. But sometimes a fool has so much money that there’s nothing they can do to be parted from all of it, which frees those people up to be recurring fools forever.   
 Bill Gates is one such example. Yes, he created Microsoft, and depending on when and how often you’ve seen the “blue screen of death” and what word it cost you, you may or may not think he’s an idiot. But there’s no discounting his success. He earned his fortune. Now that fortune is causing him endless humiliation.   
 When you thought about Bill Gates before this year you probably thought a lot of things…none of which were “ladies man.” Yet, as Bill goes through a divorce from his wife Melinda, someone most people in an office pool would have pegged as the only woman he’d ever kissed, we’re finding out that [little Billy was quite the player](https://nypost.com/2021/05/16/bill-gates-asked-out-several-women-in-his-office-report/).   
 Gates is someone who, without question, caught the eye of the ladies with his wallet. It wasn’t the slightly Moe-like bowl-cut hairdo or the endless parade of sweaters with collars popping out the neck-hole, nor was it his suave demeanor, or his uninformed declarations about COVID or demands about global warming, it was the billions. Nothing wrong with that, I guess, but there is something wrong with [stepping up your philandering after you get married](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/16/business/bill-melinda-gates-divorce-epstein.html).   
 Story after story has come out since the divorce was announced about how [Bill would sneak off for rendezvous with various women](https://www.businesstoday.in/current/world/how-bill-gates-used-to-vanish-from-work-to-meet-women-secretly/story/441355.html) or come on to women in the office, leading to credible speculation that a “me too” scenarios led to his departure from the company he founded.   
 How hard is it to not be a jerk? Did the money make him an idiot, or did it just empower him to be what he always was? It’s hard to say since there’s little chance the opportunity to be a womanizer would have presented itself to him without the money.   
 He picked the wrong woman to cheat on, that’s for sure. Since the announcement that their marriage was over, Bill has been on the business end of one long public relations nightmare. He had this woman here, pressured that woman there, and hung out with noted pedophile Jeffrey Epstein thinking it would help him win a Nobel Peace Prize are but a few of the blows his once “I’m just a nerd” reputation has taken. All the money in the world can’t make you a good person.  
 But idiots who earned a fortune aren’t the only idiots with money, a lot of idiots inherit their money. James Murdoch is one such example. You can’t go a week without a story about how Jimmy looks the gift horse of his birth in the mouth.   
 His father, Rupert Murdoch, created a media empire that includes Fox News and the Wall Street Journal. The accomplishments of James include being the lucky sperm that cracked the egg, and they end there. [With a string of failed business ventures](https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/2020/10/15/the-ungrateful-generation-n2578065) under his belt, his birth and father’s actions netted him $2 billion. And James has been attacking his father ever since.  
 James Murdoch is a big lefty, marrying another big lefty in his wife Kathryn. Together, comforted by the golden parachute of a fortune they didn’t earn, James set out to make Oedipus look well-adjusted.   
 With the fortune his family gave him, James is funding left-wing attacks on his father’s businesses – he got his, what does he care?   
 I [saw Ann Coulter tweet a CNBC report](https://twitter.com/AnnCoulter/status/1404136760783917058) this week that James “[invested](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/06/08/james-murdoch-spent-100-million-to-fund-political-causes-during-2020-election.html)” $100 million in left-wing group he founded to influence the 2020 election on behalf of Democrats. Calling it an “investment” is a weird word choice since investments generally generate a return, not a tax dodge. But everything the younger Murdochs do is framed as magnanimous because they’re on the same team as the media covering them.   
 James and his wife have teamed up with left-wing groups to damage his family and the conservatism that enables them to live a life of leisure for years. While decrying Fox News as disinformation, they cut checks to disinformation outlets like Courier Newsroom, which the [Washington Times described as](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/feb/22/rupert-murdochs-son-funds-dem-allied-fake-news-whi/) a group that “disguises Democratic Party talking points and Democratic candidates’ press releases as news reports.”  
 The lesser Murdochs, naturally, teamed up with another ungrateful offspring, Prince Harry, on a board assembled by the liberal Aspen Institute to fight “misinformation and disinformation,” [according to CNN](https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/24/media/prince-harry-aspen-institute-commission-on-information-disorder/index.html). It will undoubtedly be yet another Democrat attack on Fox. This isn’t biting the hand that feeds you, it’s eating the whole arm.   
 I suppose there’s an argument that a board focused entirely on fighting disinformation should have documented funders of disinformation since they would know how it works. But if you ask me, the Aspen Institute completely discredits itself by having Kathryn Murdoch involved, on top of taking her money (which is likely why she’s on the board), when she and her husband have poured millions into lying to Americans and literally creating fake news. The comparison of James Murdoch to Oedipus may be unfair…to Oedipus.    
 Bill Gates and James Murdoch are two examples of people, presumably with intelligence and education, who are essentially morons who have money. One apparently used that money to fulfill their personal perversions, the other to humiliate and harm people they claim to care about. You can decide which is which. But if either wish to unburden themselves of the money that corrupted them, I’ll happily make the sacrifice and take it off their hands. <https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/2021/06/15/idiots-with-money-n2590976>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Biden nominates Thomas Nides as US Ambassador to Israel**

***Former Obama Administration official tapped to be next US envoy to Israel.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Jun 15 , 2021 10:36 PM*



***Thomas Nides REUTERS/Lee Jin-man/Pool***

US President Joe Biden has officially nominated Thomas R. Nides to be the next American Ambassador to Israel, the White House announced Tuesday.

Nides served as the State Department’s Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources from 2010 – 2013 and is the current vice-chairman of the Morgan Stanley investment banking company. He has close ties with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Nides will need to be confirmed by the Senate, where Democrats have a slim majority.

President Biden has faced some criticism from members of Congress and foreign policy experts for not appointing an ambassador to Israel since taking office in January. The need to appoint a permanent ambassador became even more apparent during the 11-day war between Israel and the Hamas terrorist organization in Gaza last month. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308159>

**Earthquake felt in southern Israel**

***The epicenter of the magnitude 4.2 earthquake was 68 kilometers north of Eilat. No injuries or damages reported.***

*Elad Benari , Jun 16 , 2021 2:55 AM*

A magnitude 4.2 earthquake was felt in southern Israel overnight Tuesday.

The Geological Survey stated that the epicenter of the earthquake was 68 kilometers north of Eilat. No injuries or damages have been reported. The earthquake was also felt in Jordan.

In December of 2020, visitors and residents of the city of Eilat [reported feeling an earthquake](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/293118) in the city.

The Geological Survey of Israel said that the 3.7 magnitude earthquake originated in Jordan, some 19 kilometers northeast of Eilat.

No injuries or damages were reported.

Earlier that month, a magnitude 5.2 earthquake which originated northwest of Cyprus [was felt in the northern part of Israel](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/292549).

The quake was also felt in Turkey, where a magnitude 5.5 earthquake was reported off the coast of Antalya. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage to buildings. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308163>

**Roger Waters: Zuckerberg is part of 'insidious movement of them to take over everything'**

***Waters lashes out at Zuckerberg after turning down his song for Instagram ad, calls him "one of the most powerful idiots in the world.”***

*Dan Verbin , Jun 15 , 2021 6:35 PM*



***Roger Waters Reuters***

Former Pink Floyd bassist and longtime BDS campaigner Roger Waters described Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg as part of “an insidious movement of them to take over absolutely everything.”

Waters was referring to Zuckerberg, who is Jewish, while speaking at a recent pro-Julian Assange event, reported Rolling Stone magazine.

He told the assembled media that Facebook had asked him to use the 1979 Pink Floyd hit song “Another Brick in the Wall, Part 2” in an advertisement for Instagram, which Facebook owns.

“It arrived this morning, with an offer for a huge, huge amount of money,” Waters said. “And the answer is, ‘F\*\*\* you. No f\*\*\*\*\*’ way.’”

Waters added, “I only mention that because this is an insidious movement of them to take over absolutely everything. I will not be a party to this bullshit, (Mark) Zuckerberg.”

During his rant, Waters read from a letter that he said was sent to him by Facebook: “We want to thank you for considering this project. We feel that the core sentiment of this song is still so prevalent and so necessary today, which speaks to how timeless the work is.”

He continued, “And yet, they want to use it to make Facebook and Instagram more powerful than it already is, so that it can continue to censor all of us in this room and prevent this story about Julian Assange getting out into the general public so the general public can go, ‘What? No. No More.'”

Waters ended by describing Zuckerberg as “one of the most powerful idiots in the world.”

Waters has in recent years been widely denounced by Jewish groups for his support for the BDS movement, his anti-Israel statements and his urging of other musicians to cancel their engagements in Israel.

During last month’s conflict between Israel and Hamas, Waters [told RT](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/306294) that Gazans had a “moral responsibility” to “fight back.” MORE- <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308149> [I may not agree with much of who and what Waters is but in this instance he is right. The Zuckerberg is evil like most of the big tech critters are. – rdb]

**1 wounded in terror attack at entrance to Jerusalem**

***Female terrorist eliminated after combination ramming and stabbing attack against Israeli soldiers on outskirts of Jerusalem.***

*David Rosenberg , Jun 16 , 2021 11:06 AM | updated: 11:49 AM*

***Hizma. Archive image צילום: חזקי ע***

One person was wounded Wednesday morning on the outskirts of Jerusalem in a terrorist attack. The incident occurred just outside of the Hizma checkpoint at the northern entrance to Jerusalem, on Route 60, when a female terrorist carried out a combination ramming and stabbing attack against Israeli security personnel.

After driving to the scene, the terrorist attempted to run down several IDF soldiers. Afterwards, the terrorist exited her vehicle and tried to stab the soldiers.

The Israeli soldiers opened fire on the terrorist, eliminating her.

One IDF soldier was lightly wounded in the attack. "A soldier was very lightly wounded in his limbs in a ramming attack next to Hizma," the emergency response group Rescuers Without Borders said, after initially reporting there were no injuries among the Israeli security forces.

"The female terrorist who left her car with a knife and tried to continue the terror attack by stabbing was shot and now we've declared her dead." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308183>

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**06/15/2021 NEWS AM**

**Itzik Orlev - Cheshbon Hachaim**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzvwBTbJy8c>

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Lord  Time to come now and reckon with life  Shake the dust off the words  Time to kick the pain now  Scrape what sticks to my heart | A person grows out of himself from his pains  Even when night comes illuminates all his fears  Listens to the soul that shouts and cries  When the truth kicks in tries to get out | There are moments when anything can happen  There are hours when all the prayers are heard  Now is the time again to imagine believing  And how much power awake people have |

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| **"The essential characteristic of Western civilization that distinguishes it from the arrested and petrified civilizations of the East was and is its concern for freedom from the state." -- Ludwig Von Mises (1881-1973) Economist and social philosopher** |

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for DH – Mother going into hospice.**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  **NOTE: Our prayer list was getting very long and there will little follow up.**  **If you have people you want to have on the list please resubmit since we are revising it now– rdb]**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 31:22And on the third day Laban was told that Jacob had fled. 23And he took his brothers with him and pursued him, seven days journey. And he overtook him in Mount Gilead. 24And God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream of the night, and said to him, Watch out for yourself, that you not speak with Jacob from good to evil.**

**Bennett said to eye ex-general Yadlin for national security adviser job**

***PM’s office said to deny Channel 12 report; Arab affairs analyst reportedly to be appointed senior adviser***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 11:10 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/F201114MA01.jpg)

***Director General of the National Security Studies (INSS) Amos Yadlin speaks at a protest against then-Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv on November 14, 2020. (Miriam Alster/ Flash90)***

**Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is said to be considering tapping the director of the Institute for National Security Studies as the next chairman of Israel’s National Security Cou**ncil.

**Amos Yadlin, who heads the INSS, is the leading contender to replace Meir Ben-Shabbat as national security advi**ser, Channel 13 reported on Monday.

**Yadlin served as head of the IDF Military Intelligence Unit and was military attaché to Washing**ton. He was the center-left’s Zionist Union’s candidate for defense minister ahead of the 2015 election, and **is seen as more moderate than the hawkish Bennett**.

**However, sources in the Prime Minister’s Office told the Makor Rishon daily that the report was fabrica**ted.

**According to a separate report on Monday by Channel 12, Bennett will appoint Arab affairs analyst and Yedioth Ahronoth columnist Shimrit Meir as his adviser for international a**ffairs.



***Arab affairs analyst Shimrit Meir (Channel 12 screenshot)***

**Bennett assumed office on Sunday after an unlikely alliance of right-wing, left-wing, centrist, and Islamist parties bo**und together to end former Benjamin Netanyahu’s 12-year rule and prevent the nation from heading to a possible fifth round of elections in two years.

Speaking before the confidence vote in a speech repeatedly interrupted by the new opposition members, [Bennett presented](https://www.timesofisrael.com/full-text-pm-to-be-bennett-presents-govt-that-will-work-for-the-sake-of-all/) his new “reasonable and responsible” government, pledging that it would “end a terrible period of hatred among the people of Israel.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-said-to-eye-ex-general-yadlin-for-national-security-adviser-job/>

**Setting budget is ‘most pressing challenge’ for new finance minister: Moody’s**

***Investor service sees government’s ‘lack of ideological cohesion’ as incentive for it to focus on economic policies***

*By* [*Shoshanna Solomon*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/shoshanna-solomon/) *Today, 1:51 pm*

**The most pressing challenge for Israel’s new Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman will be to draw up a new budget for the nation, its first since 2019, Moody’s Investor Service said Monday in a note, after Israel** [**swore in a new government**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-sworn-in-as-prime-minister-unseating-netanyahu-after-12-years-in-power/) **led by Naftali Bennett on Sunday, ousting premier Benjamin Netanyahu after 12 years at the helm**.

**“The budget will offer clues on whether the new government is able to elaborate and implement an effective post-crisis fiscal strategy that would target eventually returning the debt burden to its historic downward trend,” Kathrin Muehlbronner, a Moody’s senior vice president, wrote.** “Pent-up spending pressure in a number of areas, including health, infrastructure and defense, make it likely that any future deficit-reduction strategy will need to rely in part on revenue measures.”

**The new budget will likely be biennial, covering 2022 and the remainder of 202**1, she said.

The new government, made up of a coalition of left-wing, centrist and right-wing parties and one Arab party, “is likely to result in a fragile and potentially short-lived government,” wrote Muehlbronner. But this “lack of ideological cohesion” is expected to “to **increase incentives to focus primarily on economic policies rather than more divisive issues**.”

Internal consensus in the new government “will be difficult to achieve on many issues, including foreign policy and the approach to the Palestinian territories,” Muehlbronner wrote. “Still, there is a broad consensus among the mainstream political parties on the basic tenets of economic and fiscal policy; we expect the government to focus primarily on these issues as the economy and labour market continue to recover from the coronavirus-induced shock.”

In **May, Israel’s fiscal deficit, which was already high before the pandemic, was 10.5% of GDP**.

“We expect the general government deficit to narrow to around 8% of GDP by the end of the year, in line with the strong economic recovery” and as pandemic-related fiscal support measures expire, Muehlbronner wrote. Moody’s **forecasts 2021 real GDP growth of 4.7%**

Israel’s debt burden is expected to continue to rise in the coming years to around 80% of GDP by 2024, from 60% of GDP in 2019, according to Moody’s, “indicating that the coronavirus-induced shock will have a lasting effect on the government’s fiscal metrics. By contrast, we expect the economic and fiscal effect of the recent heightened Israel-Gaza conflict to be limited.”

**At a meeting of his Yisrael Beytenu faction on Monday, Liberman said that “there will be no tax increase” and that the new government’s aim is to manage a “responsible” state budget,** Calcalist reported.

Liberman is scheduled to meet Monday with the governor of the Bank of Israel, Amir Yaron, the chairman of the Histadrut, Arnon Bar-David; the president of the Manufacturers’ Association, Ron Tomer; and the president of the Israel Business sector, Dovi Amitai <https://www.timesofisrael.com/setting-budget-is-most-pressing-challenge-for-new-finance-minister-moodys/>

**Amid threats from Gaza, police minister says flag march to proceed as scheduled**

***IDF bolsters Iron Dome batteries, presence in West Bank, as Hamas says nationalist parade in Jerusalem’s Old City could spark another war***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 7:16 pmUpdated at 8:07 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/F210614YS09.jpg)

***Israel's new minister of public security, Omer Barlev, arrives for a group photo of the newly sworn-in government at the President's Residence in Jerusalem, on June 14, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)***

**The Hamas terror group warned on Monday that a contentious march by Jewish ultranationalists through parts of Jerusalem’s Old City on Tuesday could spark a regional war, as Israel’s new police minister said there were no plans to scrap the eve**nt.

**“The flags march is like an explosive that will cause a new campaign to protect Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque to ignite,” Hamas spokesperson Abd al-Latif Qanou said in a statement**.

**The group also called on Palestinians to “confront Israeli settlers” during the marc**h. “The nation and the resistance are behind you in the effort to thwart the plans of occupation,” Qanou said.

The march, rescheduled after the original event on Jerusalem Day, May 10, was stopped short by Hamas rocket fire at Jerusalem, is expected to be the first major test faced by Israel’s new government, which was sworn in on Sunday.

The May 10 attack, which came amid already rising tensions over planned East Jerusalem home evictions and police actions against Muslim rioters on the Temple Mount, touched off 11 days of intense fighting between Israel and Hamas-led terrorists in the Gaza Strip, as well as a rash of lower-level clashes in the West Bank and mob violence between Arabs and Jews inside Israel.

**Since the fighting ended, Hamas has repeatedly warned that it could reopen hostilities over developments in Jerusalem, and has responded with increased belligerence to plans for the march, an annual event** — held to mark Israel’s 1967 capture of East Jerusalem — during which thousands of nationalist youths parade through the Muslim Quarter of the Old City toward the Western Wall.

**In an interview published Monday with Hamas mouthpiece Shehab, top Hamas official Mahmoud al-Zahar warned that his group would respond to any perceived Israeli crime,** but also indicated that it would not shoot from the hip.

“We have passed the stage of understanding their crimes against our people or being silent about them,” he said, but added that “our steps must also be disciplined and governed by the public interest, and we must preserve our weapons so that we can fully utilize them” in future fighting.

**Hamas’s warnings appeared to hinge on whether or not the march would pass through the Damascus Gate a**nd into the heart of the Muslim Quarter of the Old City.

While the route of the march usually does pass through the Damascus Gate, police have ordered that it be changed so that marchers enter the Old City through the Jaffa Gate instead, passing the outside of the Damascus Gate on their way there.

Other Gaza-based terror groups issued threats as well. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-threats-from-gaza-police-minister-says-flag-march-to-proceed-as-scheduled/>

**IDF ups alert among Iron Dome batteries ahead of Jerusalem flag march**

***Israel is bracing for potential violence in the West Bank as Palestinian groups warn against the march set to take place Tuesday.***

*By* [*ANNA AHRONHEIM*](https://www.jpost.com/author/anna-ahronheim) *JUNE 14, 2021 21:56*

**Israel’s defense establishment is bracing for potential violence in the West Bank as Palestinian groups warn against the controversial** [**flag march**](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/palestinians-call-for-day-of-rage-to-combat-jerusalem-flag-march-670892) **set to take place Tuesday in the Old City of Jer**usalem.

**Border Police troops have reportedly been reinforced in Jerusalem’s Old City and the IDF has carried out ongoing situational assessments** with other security bodies ahead of the planned march.

According to a security source quoted by Walla News, the IDF will beef up troops near known areas of friction in the West Bank for fear of potential terror attacks and will also increase the level of alert for Iron Dome batteries due to Hamas’s threats to respond to the flag march in Jerusalem.

In May, similar threats led to [rocket fire](https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/gaza-news/op-guardian-of-the-walls-behind-the-scenes-of-targeting-hamas-terror-669989) towards the capital.

**Incoming Public Security Minister Omer Barlev (Labor) met on Monday morning with Police Commissioner Kobi Shabati and received an overview of the police’s preparations for the march and at 4 p.m. is expect**ed to hold a situational assessment where a decision will be made on whether or not to convene the security cabinet.

Ahead of the meeting, Barlev said that the march would go on as planned.

“In a democracy it is allowed and important to demonstrate within the confines of the law,” Barlev says. “We will hold a police assessment about the events and we will operate according to the recommendations of the police.”

Also on Monday – on the sidelines of the traditional picture of the new cabinet at the President’s Residence – Prime Minister Naftali Bennett spoke with Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Barlev regarding the march, Walla News reported. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/idf-beefs-up-troop-presence-ahead-of-planned-flag-march-670968>

**Israel drops indoor mask requirement Tuesday, as daily cases near zero**

***Face coverings still required for those unvaccinated in healthcare facilities, people on their way to quarantine, and airplane passengers***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *15 June 2021, 1:18 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/F210526OF15.jpg)

***People shop some with face masks at the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem, May 26, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)***

**The Health Ministry announced that from Tuesday the requirement for masks to be worn indoors will be lifted, marking the end of one of the only major coronavirus restrictions remaining in Israe**l.

**The Ministry said there were three exceptions. Workers or guests who have not been vaccinated or recovered at welfare institutions, long-term care facilities or homes for the elderly, individuals en route to quarantine, and travelers on a flight**.

**The Health Ministry did not address schools**. In the past it has said that masks would still be required because the majority of those under 16 have yet to be vaccinated.

**The ministry said that if the declining trend in morbidity continues and the campaign to vaccinate 12- to-15-year-olds, which began last Sunday, succeeds, there would be another discussion to consider dropping the mask requirement in schools as we**ll.

The Health Ministry will also continue updating its list of red countries from which travelers will be required to quarantine for 10 days upon return.

Last Sunday, Israel kicked off its vaccine drive for children aged 12 to 15, with 600,000 eligible for inoculation.

The move came six months after [Israel began its vaccination drive](https://www.timesofisrael.com/health-providers-launch-booking-for-vaccinations-first-appointments-on-monday/) for adults, and after the US Food and Drug Administration okayed the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for the age group.

Some HMOs have already vaccinated children under 16 in at-risk groups and have seen no significant side effects from the shot.

Israel’s mass vaccination drive, which has already given both shots to over half the population, along with lockdown measures, brought down the number of new daily cases (based on a weekly average), from 8,600 at the peak of the health crisis to just 19 on Sunday.

At the height of the pandemic, there were 88,000 active cases in the country and 1,228 serious cases; as of Monday, there were 212 active infections and 29 people in serious condition. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-drop-indoor-mask-requirement-from-tuesday-as-daily-cases-near-zero/>

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2018/08/Wadi_Araba_Border_Terminal_Israel-e1535146231822.jpg)**Israel to reopen border crossing with Jordan closed since start of pandemic**

***The Wadi Araba Crossing, known as the Yitzhak Rabin terminal in Israel, set to open on July 4 amid downward trends in infection rates on both sides of border***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *15 June 2021, 12:39 am*

***The Yitzhak Rabin Border Terminal at the Wadi Araba crossing between Israel and Jordan. (CC BY 2.5, Wikipedia, NYC2TLV)***

**One of Israel’s border crossing to Jordan that had been closed since March 2020 is set to reopen next month, as the pandemic fades in both countries, the Foreign Ministry said Monday**.

**The Wadi Araba Crossing, known as the Yitzhak Rabin terminal on the Israeli side closed during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and has remained shuttere**d since.

**Israelis will be able enter and leave the Hashemite kingdom through the crossing from July 4, the ministry s**aid.

**The statement did not say if a second crossing in the south of both nations that connects the resort cities of Aqaba and Eilat would also op**en.

Israelis going into Jordan will need to present a vaccination certificate or proof of recovery from COVID-19. Those who stay for more than 72 hours will need to present a negative PCR test result upon their return.

Israel’s mass vaccination drive, which has already given both shots to over half the population, along with lockdown measures, brought down the number of new daily cases (based on a weekly average), from 8,600 at the peak of the health crisis to just 19 on Sunday.

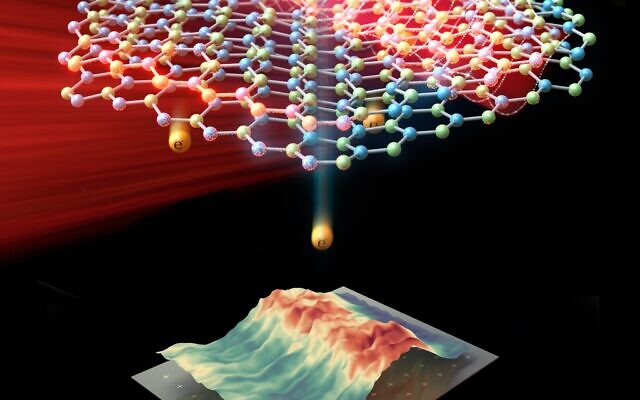
At the height of the pandemic, there were 88,000 active cases in the country and 1,228 serious cases; as of Monday, there were 212 active infections and 29 people in serious condition.

In Jordan, the number of new daily cases was also on a downward trend, with 500 based on a weekly average, and 7,520 active cases as of Monday according to Health Ministry data. At the height of the pandemic, there were 137,385 active cases in the country. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-reopen-border-crossing-with-jordan-closed-since-start-of-pandemic/>

**Israeli scientists show they can ‘shrink’ optical technology by 1,000 times**

***Trapping and observing light in super-thin materials, Technion researchers say their work may pave way for new generation of tiny light-powered tech***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 7:10 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/imagenew.jpg)

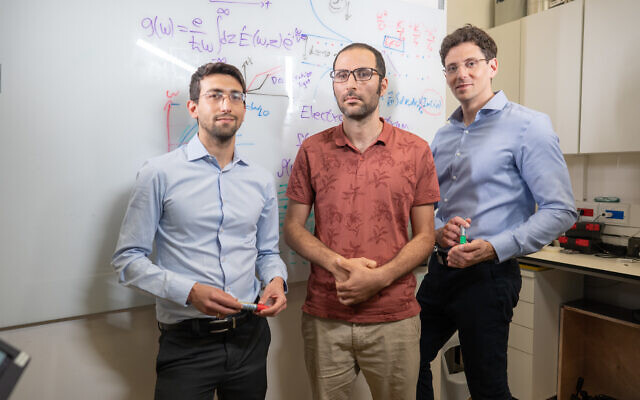
***Light in single layer materials, as captured by researchers from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology (Prof. Ido Kaminer and his research team)***

**Israeli scientists have passed light waves through a material 1,000 times thinner than fiber optics, in an advance they say c**ould pave the way for new technologies.

**“One thing that is limiting optical technology in general is the size of the light waves that need transmitting,” Professor Ido Kaminer told The Times of Israel. “They are too big to interact with microchips, which means our devices are slower than we would** like.”

**If the fiber optic cables that carry internet to our homes had a core much smaller than their current one micron, they simply wouldn’t carry the required information,** he said.

**“What we have done is taken a step toward more compact optical technology — we’ve actually made a discovery that helps to shrink optical technology**,” he said.

 **“Instead of having a fiber optic cable with a core of one micron, we’ve shown it is possible that in the future we could be using the materials my lab is working with, which can be as thin as one nanometer,” or a thousandth of a** micron.

Kaminer and his PhD students Yaniv Kurman and Raphael Dahan documented their achievement [in a newly published article in the peer-reviewed journal Science,](https://science.sciencemag.org/content/372/6547/1181) prompting plaudits from scholars unconnected to the research.

***The Technion researchers behind the new study on light waves, from left to right, Yaniv Kurman, Raphael Dahan and Professor Ido Kaminer (courtesy of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology)***

**“I was thrilled by these findings,” said Professor Harald Giessen, from the University of Stuttgart, who was not a part of this research, in comments he provided to the** Technion. “This presents a real breakthrough in ultrafast nano-optics, and represents state of the art and the leading edge of the scientific frontier.”

**The scientific community is fascinated by the potential 2D materials, so-called because they are so thin they consist of just one layer of atoms (**they are also called single-layer materials). But while scientists have designed experiments confirming that light passed through them, they couldn’t observe it directly, which meant they couldn’t start harnessing 2D materials for optical technology.

**Now, Kaminer’s lab in the electrical and computer engineering faculty at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology has successfully “trapped” light in this unique material — a few layers of it gathered together** — and observed it with a [groundbreaking quantum microscope that was built on site.](https://www.timesofisrael.com/groundbreaking-israeli-microscope-can-change-the-face-of-tech-scientists/)

**The scientists shone pulses of light along the edge of a 2D material. They noted a range of interesting behaviors, some of which they don’t yet fully understand — the light generated hybrid sound-light waves, the pulses can spontaneously speed up and slow down,** and the waves split into two separate pulses, moving at different speeds.

All of this will be studied, but the very fact that his team could observe — and record — the light in such tiny materials is an important first step to harnessing them for technology, Kaminer said.

“ Eventually, these materials could be used for high-speed communications, and could change our devices,” he said.



***The setup in the lab used in the new research, including a quantum microscope, developed and used by Prof. Ido Kaminer (courtesy of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology)***

**“There is a gap between the fast internet that arrives in our homes and the devices we have, which don’t use optical technology but rather electronics. They need to use electronics because today light technology is too big to sit on** chips. However, the dream is to scale it down so that optical technology can be used within devices,” Kaminer added.

“Our achievement now with 2D materials may help to make this dream possible.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-scientists-show-they-can-shrink-optical-technology-by-1000-times/>

**Scientists warn that flooding cave will ruin unique 5-million-year-old ecosystem**

***Blind, colorless arthropods make their home in Ayalon Cave in central Israel, thriving in dark, oxygen-free environment, fed by sulfurous water rising from deep in the earth***

*By* [*Sue Surkes*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/sue-surkes/) *Today, 9:18 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/lake-in-ayalon-cave-Y-Neeman.jpg)

***The subterranean lake in the Ayalon Cave near Ramle, in central Israel. (Israel Ne'eman)***

**An underground cave cut off from the world for five million years and inhabited by strange and unique creatures that have adapted to sulfurous waters and complete darkness is being threatened by a plan to use the quarry in which it is located as a receptacle for seasonal floodwaters from the Ayalon R**iver basin in central Israel.

Monday is the last day on which [public objections](https://forms.gov.il/globaldata/getsequence/getHtmlForm.aspx?formtype=Vatal@planning.gov.il) can be submitted.

**The National Infrastructure Committee and the Water Authority are looking for a place to which surface runoff water can be directed in the wint**er. This is in connection with plans for an additional rail line in the area that would require narrowing a section of the Ayalon River.

The quarry, near the city of Ramle, is owned by the Nesher cement factory.

**Scientists from the fields of biodiversity, evolution, the beginnings of life, and hydrology are fiercely opposed to using the quarry, and say that planning committee members have not been told about the ecological im**plications of flooding it.

**The Israel Nature and Parks Authority is also against the idea and has announced that it wants to turn the c**ave — only accessible to researchers to protect it — into an official nature reserve.

Originally hidden 100 meters (109 yards) below the surface, the cave was exposed when a bulldozer hit one of the tunnels in 2006. It includes 2.7 kilometers (1.67 miles) of narrow tunnels and a subterranean lake, today just a few meters below the surface. The lake is fed by the region’s aquifer and in a good year, can swell to hundreds of cubic meters of water. **While the cave is made of common limestone, the water is warm, saline and contains hydrogen sulfide. Known as the Ayalon anomaly, the water comes up from deep in the belly of the earth**.

**Digging has been completed in that part of the quarry, leaving the cave enclosed beneath a small** hill.

***Blind scorpion. (Amos Frumkin)***

**Over the past 15 years, scientists have discovered eight species of arthropod (invertebrate animals with an exoskeleton), some terrestrial and some aquatic. All are found only in this cave and were previously unknown to science. All are blind and colorless, having no need for eyes or color in the dark**. The blind cave prawn, the largest species discovered, has known relatives from other underground caves in Italy, Libya and in the vicinity of the Sea of Galilee. One theory is that the caves in all three places were refuges for creatures during a period some five million years ago when the Mediterranean Sea was drying up.

An eyeless scorpion has been categorized into a new zoological family of its own. Its closest known relatives are from Central America.

Without the sun, photosynthesis — which creates the foundation for the foodwebs of most living creatures — cannot take place.

***Rappelling down into the Ayalon Cave. (Israel Cave Research Center)***

**In the cave, the foodweb is based on microorganisms that perform chemosynthesis, breaking down hydrogen sulfides in the groundwat**er.

**Fewer than 10 similar underground ecosystems are known in the world, but each one is markedly different from** the other.

 Prof. Amos Frumkin, who heads the Israel Cave Research Center at the Hebrew University’s Institute of Earth Sciences in Jerusalem, told The Times of Israel that “Surface runoff water is completely different from the groundwater that serves as the basis of life in the cave, and entry of the former, in quantities three orders of magnitude greater than the latter, would be certain to destroy this unique ecosystem.”

He noted that the plans contain alternative sites that could be used for the floodwaters.

**“The ecosystem in the Ayalon Cave is unique in the world,”** wrote Ariel Chipman, an associate professor at the university’s Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, in his objection. Chipman studies the evolution and adaptation to their environment of arthropods. (These include include lobsters, crabs, spiders, mites, insects, centipedes, and millipedes.)

***Blind cave prawn. (Sasson Tiran)***

“No other ancient system is known which is so exclusively concentrated on a foodweb disconnected from the [earth’s] surface and sunlight,”  he said.

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority is one of many organizations, including international ones, that is opposing the plan. It wants the cave recognized as a nature reserve.

“The Ayalon cave is a unique phenomenon on a global scale,” it said in a statement. “The cave was formed and continues to form due to specific conditions of groundwater. The entire ecosystem relies on primary sulfur-assisted production under oxygen-free conditions. Therefore, after a professional examination, the Nature and Parks Authority has decided to promote declaration of the cave as a nature reserve.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/scientists-warn-that-flooding-cave-will-ruin-unique-5-million-year-old-ecosystem/>

**The Emirati oil deal that has infuriated Israeli environmentalists**

***Agreement between Israeli and Emirati companies will see tons of crude oil transferred through a pipeline across Israel, as well as hundreds of tankers docking alongside the fragile coral reefs in Eilat***

*Reuters | Published: 06.14.21 , 22:50*

**The first cargo ships from Dubai that docked last year in the Mediterranean port of Haifa were met by celebration in Israel. Flags waved. Reporters gathered. The prime minister walked the pier and gave a speech about the fruits of making pea**ce.

**There was zero fanfare, however, when oil tankers began arriving at the smaller Israeli port of Eilat on the Red Sea in an arrangement with Emirati partners. Rather than washing machines and cleaning supplies for consumers, the ships unloaded oil to be transferred through a pipeline across Israel to** the Mediterranean.

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| ***אלמוגים שנפגעו במפרץ אילת***  ***A coral reef polluted by oil in Eilat (Photo: Environmental Protection Ministry)*** | ***דליפת נפט גולמי מצינור של קצא"א אשקלון***  ***An oil tanker off the coast of Ashdod swimming in a pool of oil after a pipeline burst (Photo: Environmental Protection Ministry)*** |

**The companies involved say this land bridge is the shortest, most efficient and cost-effective route to transport oil from the Gulf to the West. But the risks to the environment are far too great, say their opponent**s who are hoping to end the deal.

**About a month after Israel normalized ties with the United Arab Emirates last September, Israel's state-owned Europe-Asia Pipeline Company (EAPC) announced the new colla**boration.

**The deal was signed in Abu Dhabi with MED-RED Land Bridge, a company with Emirati and Israeli owners. In attendance was then-U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven** Mnuchin.

EAPC's roots are in the Persian Gulf. It was first set up as a joint venture between Israel and Iran in 1968 when the two countries were friendly. That partnership collapsed after the 1979 revolution that brought the ayatollahs to power.

**The Israeli pipeline still operates in both directions but well below capacity in recent years**, energy experts say. With the UAE stepping into the role once held by Iran, EAPC hopes to increase quantities by "tens of millions of tons per year".

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| אלמוגים שנפגעו במפרץ אילת  ***A coral reef in Eilat damaged by pollution (Photo: Environmental Protection Ministry)*** | ***הזפת שנסחפה לחוף ראש הנקרה***  ***Tar that washed ashore in Rosh Hanikra, after an oil spill polluted most of Israel's coastal beaches***  ***(Photo: Raviv Shapira)*** |

**CORAL REEFS AND TAR SPILLS**

**The influx of ships set to dock alongside the fragile coral reefs in Eilat and the large amounts of oil to pass through Israel have outraged the country's biggest environmental advoc**ates.

**Fresh in their minds is an offshore oil spill in February that blackened much of Israel's Mediterranean c**oast with tar. And in 2014, one of EAPC's own pipelines ruptured, spilling 5 million liters of crude oil into a desert nature reserve.

"Most of the details (of the deal) are confidential by law. We know just a little bit, but the little bit makes us very anxious," said Noa Yayon, head of the legal department at the Society for the Protection of Nature.

Eilat's coral reef is unique in that it has proved to be more resilient to climate change, when many reefs around the globe are dying. It is also a big tourism draw.

**But its proximity to the port means that even the smallest leak from one tankers would cause big, possibly irreversible, damage, Yay**on said.

**"We are of course very happy with the current geopolitical status with the Arab countries in our area, but we don't think that it has to come with the super-specific risks to our environment,"** she said. "We think that we better promote business with these countries based on clean energy and not oil."

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| ***שילמו בחייהם. צבים שנפגעו מהזפת בחוף דור***  ***Turtles smeared in tar at Gador Nature Reserve after the oil spill off Israel's coast (Photo: Yosef Segal)*** | ***A whale on Nitzanim Beach***  ***A body of a whale believed to have died due to pollution found on Nitzanim Beach (Photo: Ynet)*** |

**Former Minister of Environmental Protection Gila Gamliel sent a letter to Israel's national security adviser saying "the warning lights are already flashing" and demanded the deal be scr**apped.

Too much was decided behind closed doors and remains secret, she said.

EAPC has not made public details of the deal.

**"From a rate of six tankers a year, we expect an increase to more than 50 tankers a year docking in Eilat,**" Gamliel wrote. "The continuation of this deal will be a tragedy for generations, whether from mishaps that may occur or in a wartime scenario."

Gamliel is being replaced with the swearing-in of the country's new government, and her successor on Monday called the deal a mistake and said the government should oppose it.

EAPC said the new business is part of its routine operations and that it meets the strictest international standards. Plus, the broader geopolitical gains cannot be ignored.

**"Israel is expected to benefit greatly from the agreement, which will strengthen the Israeli economy and its international standing, as** well as ensure its energy independence and security," the company said in a statement.

The Society for the Protection of Nature together with other groups have petitioned Israel's Supreme Court for a temporary order to freeze the deal. Yayon said the state is due to present its official position in coming days.

The Finance Ministry, which oversees EAPC, declined to comment due to the open court case.

A representative of UAE's National Holding, which owns Petromal, one of the owners of MED-RED Land Bridge, had no immediate comment on the issue. <https://www.ynetnews.com/environment/article/Hkrz6oVju>

**'Who is Bennett?' Arab media enthralled by Israel's change of guard**

***Arab news outlets cover extensively Yamina chief's accession to power, ending former mentor Netanyahu's long grasp over Israeli politics, and voice skepticism of far-right leader and alliance with Islamist Abbas***

*Liad Osmo | Published: 06.14.21 , 20:23*

** Much like the rest of the world, the Middle East followed closely after the change of government in Israel, and Arab media has extensively covered the swearing-in of the Bennett-Lapid administration.**

**Arab outlets focused heavily on the identity of the incoming premier, Naftali Bennett; on the historic integration of an Arab party in the coalition; and on the windup of Benjamin Netanyahu's 12-year tenure.**

***Asharq Al-Awsat***

**Some outlets, such as Qatar's Al-Jazeera, even broadcast large parts of the Knesset session live**.

"After yesterday's vote on a new government led by Naftali Bennett, which won the support of 60 members [of Knesset] and whose broad composition includes eight parties from the right and left and even the Islamic Movement faction led by Mansour Abbas, the 12-year tenure of Benjamin Netanyahu has ended," the London-headquartered Arabic international newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat, which airs the line of the Saudi government, reported Monday morning.

**The newspaper also noted that the new government will also include an Arab minister — Issawi Frej of Meretz, who serves as regional cooperation minister**.

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| ***סיקור ב תקשורת הערבית ל השבעת ממשלה בנט***  ***Al-Quds-Al-Arabi*** | ***סיקור ב תקשורת הערבית ל השבעת ממשלה בנט***  ***A caricature of Bennett and Netanyahu published on Al-Quds-Al-Arabi*** |

**Al-Quds-Al-Arabi, a widely popular newspaper that leads an anti-Israeli line, led with "Netanyahu spearheads the opposition and launches an attack on the government for chang**e."

**The London-based paper described Bennett as "the leader of the far-right" and mentioned the chaotic Knesset session that preceded his swearing**-in.

**"The Knesset vote on the government for change concludes a political crisis of four consecutive elections in two and a half years, and also b**rings an end to Netanyahu's rule, which lasted 12 consecutive years," Al-Quds-Al-Arabi relayed to its readership.

**"Netanyahu failed to form a government after four elections in Israel, but he did not accept the loss and announced that he would continue to lead the opposition** until this 'weak and dangerous' government falls within a short period of time."

The Hezbollah-affiliated Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar led with "a government of contrasts falls heir to power; Netanyahu stays on the rostrum."

**"Israel has entered a new age after the end of the Benjamin Netanyahu era, temporarily for the time bein**g. It will be replaced by a coalition comprised of elements from all over the political spectrum — from the extreme right to the left, and some Arab factions," Al-Akhbar reported.

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| ***סיקור ב תקשורת הערבית ל השבעת ממשלה בנט***  ***Al-Ghad*** | ***סיקור ב תקשורת הערבית ל השבעת ממשלה בנט***  ***Al-Araby Al-Jadeed*** |

The Beirut-based daily did not hide its surprise by the composition of the newly inaugurated administration.

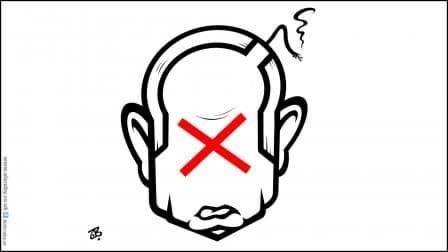
"Out of all the possible scenarios, the one that had the slimmest chances came to be."

**The paper, which reflects a line affiliated with the Shi'ite terrorist group, also covered Bennett's remarks, who stated in his speech in Knesset that the country's policies on Iran, the nuclear agreement, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian issue were not expected to ch**ange.

**However, Al-Akhbar also mentioned the outgoing prime minister alleging that the new government would be reluctant to approve operations on Iranian soil if the United States ends up reviving the tattered 2015 nuclear** accord.

Syrian regime mouthpiece Al-Watan also quoted Netanyahu's speech in Knesset in which he claimed the incoming government would be too weak to stand up to Iran.

Jordanian daily Al-Ghad tried to explain to the residents of the neighboring kingdom to the east who was the new prime minister in an article titled, "Who is Bennett? The Netanyahu protégé who took his place?"



***A caricature of Netanyahu in Al-Araby Al-Jadeed***

**"The hi-tech millionaire and former businessman heads the extremist Yamina party, calls for a liberalized economy, wider social openness and also the annexation of more than a third of the occupied West Bank**," Al-Ghad wrote.

Lebanon's leading daily newspaper An-Nahar described Bennett in a similar approach, saying "he paved his own path next to his 'mentor' Netanyahu."

The Qatari-funded newspaper Al-Araby Al-Jadeed highlighted how quickly the new Israeli government has won the blessing and support of prominent world leaders.



***Al-Etihad***

"Biden and Merkel were first to congratulate the incoming prime minister," the report was titled.

The Monday morning edition of the paper featured a caricature of Netanyahu with an X sign on his head that resembled a bomb — perhaps a reference to his famous 2012 United Nations General Assembly speech against the Iranian nuclear program where he held up a bomb diagram.

 The United Arab Emirates' Al-Etihad newspaper, like other Arab newspapers, summed up Netanyahu's tenure, which lasted 12 consecutive years. Similar to Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, the Al-Etihad story also highlighted Biden's statement in support of Israel's security.

***Al-Arabiya shares post to its Twitter account critical of Bennett-Abbas alliance***

**The Saudi-based Al-Arabiya network voiced criticism at the inclusion in the coalition of the Islamist Ra'am party, which represents the southern faction of the Islamic Movement and the Muslim Brotherhood in Isr**ael.

The channel, which is affiliated with the Saudi government, takes a hard line against the Muslim Brotherhood — hence the suspicion of Ra'am chair Mansour Abbas and his political movement.

Al-Arabiya's Twitter account shared a photo of Bennett shaking hands with Mansour Abbas, and wrote, "a handshake between Mansour Abbas, the Muslim Brotherhood's representative, and Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, after the Knesset vote on the new government." <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/r1bKzJBj00>

**Tehran on new Israeli government: ‘Iran’s enemies are gone’**

***But foreign ministry spokesperson doubts new leadership will bring about a change of policies***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:18 pm*

**The day after the installation of a new government in Israel, Iran’s foreign ministry on Monday expressed skepticism that there would be any change in its policies under fresh lea**dership.

**“Iran’s enemies are gone and powerful Iran is still here**,” a ministry spokesman said, according to a [report by the Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-politics-iran/iran-says-israels-policy-will-not-change-with-new-government-isna-idUSKCN2DQ0F1?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews) news agency. “I don’t think Israel’s policies will change with the new government.”  
 In a speech to the Knesset shortly before he was confirmed as premier, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett of the nationalist, right-wing Yamina party said his attitude toward Iran matches that of outgoing leader Benjamin Netanyahu.  
 **Bennett expressed staunch opposition to an American return to the 2015 nuclear deal limiting Iran’s nuclear program**, maintaining Netanyahu’s hawkish stance toward Tehran. However, the new government is expected to keep disagreements with the US behind closed doors.  
 Bennett said the Iranian nuclear program “is approaching a critical point.”  
 “**Israel will not allow Iran to obtain nuclear weapons. Israel is not a party to the [international nuclear] deal and will maintain full freedom to act,” he** said.  
 In a message to Washington, he added: “Renewing the nuclear deal is a mistake.”  
 Former Mossad spy agency chief Yossi Cohen, who retired earlier this month, last week gave a [candid interview](https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-stunning-revelatory-interview-mossad-chief-warns-iran-defends-netanyahu/) that included information about Iran and incidents that have hampered its nuclear program over the years.  
 Cohen intimated that his agency blew up Iran’s underground centrifuge facility at Natanz, gave a detailed description of the 2018 operation in which the Mossad stole Iran’s nuclear archive from safes in a Tehran warehouse, confirmed that Iran’s assassinated top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh had been in Mossad’s sights for years, and said the regime needs to understand that Israel means what it says when it vows to prevent Iran attaining nuclear weapons.  
 Aside from Israel’s efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, which are alleged to have included sabotage bomb attacks and assassinations, it has also in recent years been fighting a shadow war against Iran in Syria. The Jewish state under Netanyahu repeatedly said it would not allow Iran to obtain a military foothold in the territory or to supply advanced weapons to its proxy, the Hezbollah terror group in Lebanon. Israel has carried out hundreds of airstrikes in Syria in an effort to achieve those goals. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/tehran-on-new-israeli-government-irans-enemies-are-gone/>

**Biden likely to tap Hady Amr for U.S. consul-general to Palestinians**

***Veteran diplomat — seen as a key figure behind Biden's policies on Israeli-Palestinians affairs —would also be tasked with overseeing reopening of American mission in East Jerusalem***

*i24NEWS | Published: 06.14.21 , 22:05*

**U.S. President Joe Biden appears set to appoint Deputy Assistant Secretary for Israeli and Palestinian Affairs, Hady Amr, as the American Consul-General to the Palestinians. Amr would work from the U.S. Consulate to the Palestinians in East Jerusalem — which Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced last month would reopen, the Jerusalem Post reported Monday, citing multiple diplomati**c sources.



***U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Israeli and Palestinian Affairs, Hady AmrHady Amr***

**Representatives from Israel’s new government, many of its members still moving into their offices Monday, did not comment on the spe**culation.

**The U.S. State Department would not confirm or deny Amr’s appoint**ment to the Jerusalem Post nor comment on whether Blinken discussed the reopening of the consulate to the Palestinians in Jerusalem with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid when the two spoke recently.

**Amr is seen as a key figure behind the Biden administration’s policies towards Israel and the Palestinians, including U.S. plans to unconditionally restore aid to the latter** — assistance which was curtailed during Donald Trump's presidency.

**He was also sent to facilitate de-escalation efforts during the latest round of fighting between Israel and armed groups in the Gaza Strip last m**onth.

Amr served as a policy analyst and economist for former U.S. presidents Bill Clinton and Barak Obama and worked at the World Bank, World Economic Forum and the Brookings Institution.

He is seen as a practical figure, focused on humanitarian issues, by Israeli officials who have worked with him in the past. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rkKBb11Bo00>

**State senator threatens Biden AG with jail over election meddling**

***'You will not touch Arizona ballots or machines'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published June 14, 2021 at 3:04pm*

**Attorney General Merrick Garland late last week issued a threat to states that are adopting new rules and regulations intended to assure the integrity of U.S. elections. Some of those states even have begun audits of the 2020 results to see what problems there were the**n. Garland said, according to a [report](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/merrick-garland-targets-republican-voting-laws-2020-election) in the Washington Examiner, he's beefing up the number of lawyers in his Civil Rights Division to investigate voter rights.

"We are scrutinizing new laws that seek to curb voter access, and where we see violations, we will not hesitate to act," he promised.

**However, one state senator in Arizona, where the state senate is just about finished with an audit of all 2.1 million ballots from Maricopa County, took offe**nse.

**"You will not touch Arizona ballots or machines unless you want to spend time in an Arizona prison," said state Sen. Wendy Rogers. "Maybe you should focus on stopping te**rrorism…"

You will not touch Arizona ballots or machines unless you want to spend time in an Arizona prison. Maybe you should focus on stopping terrorism. The Justice Department is one of the most corrupt institutions in the USA.<https://t.co/Jl2pKNpfJR>

— Wendy Rogers (@WendyRogersAZ) [June 11, 2021](https://twitter.com/WendyRogersAZ/status/1403456229486247942)

**The U.S. Constitution, in fact, gives state lawmakers authority over state elections.**

**Rogers added that her state will not "tolerate this federal meddling."**

The free state of Arizona will not tolerate this federal meddling. <https://t.co/1O7ieEEnVR>

— Wendy Rogers (@WendyRogersAZ) [June 11, 2021](https://twitter.com/WendyRogersAZ/status/1403471091662737435)

If Attorney General Merrick Garland thinks he has a right to our ballots and machines he should go to court. If he uses force when multiple courts have already authorized this audit he will be in violation of the law. Lawless thugs is all they will be!

— Wendy Rogers (@WendyRogersAZ) [June 11, 2021](https://twitter.com/WendyRogersAZ/status/1403473698959642630)

**The concern about what Garland might try was raised not by just his comments, but by a warning from a lawyer who has been pursuing a lawsuit over the accuracy of the vote count in one Michigan** County.

**Lawyer Matthew DePerno has a lawsuit over Antrim County voting procedures, which he said could have been manipulated, on ap**peal.

He said, "A source tells me Merrick Garland and the DOJ are weighing two options."

**One would be to "shut down the AZ audit by seizing everythi**ng…"

A source tells me Merrick Garland and the DOJ are weighing two options: 1️⃣shut down the AZ audit by seizing everything now or 2️⃣allowing the results to be published. They are debating the anger of 72 million voters vs. the potential decertification of multiple states.

1 or 2?

— Matthew S. DePerno, Esq. (@mdeperno) [June 11, 2021](https://twitter.com/mdeperno/status/1403468280355037190)

Many state legislatures have **adopted new regulations for their elections** following the 2020 presidential race that was rife with accusations of election fraud and mismanagement.

"Fact-checkers" across the country repeatedly have claimed that the elections were run without significant issues, but the fact is that courts almost uniformly refused to even consider the evidence provided in hundreds of sworn statements and more.

**Several states still are running audits of their result**s.

**What is not in dispute is that in multiple states various officials simply changed state laws to accommodate the ballots during the COVID-19 pandemic, even though the Constitution allows only state legislatures to make those changes**.

Further, there's still no quantification of any impact that might have resulted from $400 million from Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg that was turned over to various local election commissions on the condition that the leftist organizations he chose could have a hand in running the voting.  
 Garland claimed those voter integrity laws have been aimed at making "it harder to vote."  
 And he charged that those audits "may undermine public confidence in our democracy."  
 The Examiner noted the 2020 elections "saw an expansion of early and mail-in voting because of the coronavirus pandemic. When President Joe Biden claimed victory over former President Donald Trump, many Republican-led states disagreed with the results and challenged them at the Supreme Court."  
 While that court did not accept that case for review, Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito said it should have been heard. Later, after the high court refused to even hear another case, Thomas said the court was in a position to calm fears about election integrity and suggested that should have happened.

"By doing nothing, we invite further confusion and erosion of voter confidence," he warned.

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/state-senator-threatens-biden-ag-jail-election-meddling/>

**Georgia official admits 'paperwork' missing from 2020 presidential vote**

***Chain of custody affirmations not present for thousands of votes***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published June 14, 2021 at 11:20am*

**An elections official in Georgia has admitted that "a few" legally required forms documenting the chain of custody for ballots during the 2020 presidential election are missing, blaming the significant problem on the fact some "core personnel" were quarantined due to positive COVID-19 tests** at the time.  
 **But actually, a report** [**in the Georgia Star News**](https://georgiastarnews.com/2021/06/14/fulton-county-election-official-admits-chain-of-custody-documents-missing-for-2020-absentee-ballots-deposited-in-drop-boxes/) **reveals that 385 official transfer forms, of an estimated 1,565 that would have been present in Fulton County, are** missing.  
 "The **total number of absentee ballots whose chain of custody was purportedly documented in these 385 missing Fulton County absentee ballot transfer forms was 18,901, more than 6,000 votes greater than the less than 12,000 vote margin of Biden’s certified victory in the state," the** report said.  
 The report explained the "stunning admission" about the missing documents came from Mariska Bodison, of the Fulton County Registration & Elections office.  
 "As we review the documents provided to you and our daily log. We noticed that a few forms are missing, it seems when 25 plus core personnel were quarantined due to positive COVID-19 outbreak at the EPC, some procedural paperwork may have been misplaced," she told the Star News.  
 It **just the most recent question to be raised about the 2020 presidential election nationwide, and specifically Georgia, one of a handful of swing states where odd election circumstances appeared that were called for Joe Biden, giving him the election victory.**  
 Paul Sperry reported at Real Clear Investigations only days ago the Fulton County poll manager Suzi Voyles found "an alarmingly odd pattern of uniformity in the markings for Joseph R. Biden" on mail-in ballots.  
 "**One after another, the absentee votes contained perfectly filled-in ovals for Biden — except that each of the darkened bubbles featured an identical white void inside them in the shape of a tiny crescent**, indicating they'd been marked with toner ink instead of a pen or pencil," Sperry reported. "Adding to suspicions, she noticed that all of the ballots were printed on different stock paper than the others she handled as part of a statewide hand recount of the razor-thin Nov. 3 presidential election. And none was folded or creased, as she typically observed in mail-in ballots that had been removed from envelopes. In short, the Biden votes looked like they’d been duplicated by a copying machine."

The Star News based its new analysis on an Open Records Request revealed that one in four of the required documents, confirming the validity of those ballots, was absent.  
 "**This is the first time that any election official at either the state or county level from a key battleground state has made an admission of significant error in election procedures** for the November 3, 2020 election," the report said.  
 The **chain of custody is at issue because, the report said, Biden's win in the state was by fewer than 12,000 votes, and Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger "has taken no action in 156 of Georgia’s 159 counties to secure copies of any absentee ballot drop box transfer** forms and review them for accuracy and consistency with reported absentee ballot vote counts," the report said.  
 **Further, "More than seven months after the November 3 election, 28 Georgia counties have failed to respond at all to The Star News Open Records Requests to produce absentee ballot drop box transfer forms.** To date, The Star News has obtained absentee ballot drop box forms from 59 counties that provide chain of custody documentation for 266,492 absentee ballots deposited in drop boxes during the November 3, 2020 election, which means that no chain of custody documentation has been produced for about 333,000 absentee ballots deposited in drop boxes out of an estimated 600,000 absentee ballots deposited in drop boxes during that election."  
 Those ballots are the focal point of a lawsuit filed by a handful of residents who want Fulton County's ballots made available for a forensic audit.  
 The Star News said, "The admission of missing chain of custody documents came as a response to The Star News follow-up to Fulton County’s incomplete responses to Open Records Requests for the transfer forms that document the chain of custody of absentee ballots placed by voters into 37 drop boxes installed through Fulton County over the 41-day November 2020 presidential election period that began on September 24 and ended on November 3, election day."  
 The dispute in Georgia already has been raised by the Georgia GOP, which issued a censure to Raffensperger for "dereliction of his Constitutional duty."  
 It said, "Undermining the security of our elections by allowing mass mailings of absentee applications by his office and third parties which created opportunities for fraud and overwhelmed election offices; rendering accurate signature matching nearly impossible; allowing ballot drop boxes without proper chain of custody; and ignoring sworn affidavits and disregarding evidence of voter fraud."  
 The [Gateway Pundit](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/06/accounting-bogus-ballots-missing-legally-required-chain-custody-documentation-president-trump-likely-won-2020-election-landslide/) documented in a report that the same issue is appearing in other states, too.  
 "For months and again today we’ve reported on over 300,000 missing chain of custody documents in Georgia. Notably, most if not all of these ballots are likely for Biden and Biden was given Georgia by around 12,000 votes which included these bogus ballots," the report said.  
 "In Arizona, the Maricopa Count Board of Elections has not turned over any chain of custody documentation on any ballots in the county. Any ballots lacking this documentation are invalid. Thousands of ballots reported for Biden fall in this box. In Wisconsin, there were over 140,000 ballots dropped early the morning after the election. Do these all have proper chain of custody documentation? In Pennsylvania, over a million ballots were recorded after Election Day as absentee ballots. Do these all have the proper chain of custody? In Michigan, a white van dropped off thousands of ballots in the early morning after the election. Did these ballots include chain of custody documentation?"  
 There were six battleground states that drew charges of election fraud after the 2020 presidential race results were announced. Several states suspended counting on Election Night with Trump leading. Hours later, after massive ballot dumps that were nearly 100% for Biden, the Democrat took the lead when counting resumed.  
 Further, in many of those states, officials arbitrarily changed state laws in order to accommodate ballots during the COVID-19 disaster, even though the Constitution requires only state lawmakers to made such changes.  
 In Michigan, another one of the states, a lawyer has charged that someone remotely accessed the voting machines days after the election, and those machines contained software that would have allowed changes to be made.  
 A lawsuit there is on appeal.  
 Such fights have been stirring up "fact-checkers" across the political spectrum in recent weeks. They insist that the claims of vote manipulation or fraud are "in dispute." That's because, they say, government officials have claimed there are "safeguards" in place to protect "against fraud, including hand counts and audits."

Currently there's a forensic audit being done on the votes in Maricopa County, Arizona, and results are expected within a few weeks. Officials from several other states have reviewed the process there already, but have not yet begun their own audits.

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/georgia-official-admits-paperwork-missing-2020-presidential-vote/>

**'Even North Korea was not this nuts': Defector recalls Ivy League education**

***Warns America headed for future 'just as bleak' as communist nation she fled***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published June 14, 2021 at 3:50pm*

[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Yeonmi-Park.jpg)

***North Korean defector Yeonmi Park talks about her experience as a Columbia University student in a Fox News interview (Video screenshot)***

**After attending an Ivy League university, a defector from North Korea is warning Americans that if they continue on the current path, their future is "as bleak as North Korea**."

**The anti-Western sentiment, collective guilt and suffocating political correctness at Columbia University was deeply disturbing, said Yeonmi Park** [in an interview with Fox News](https://www.foxnews.com/us/north-korean-defector-ivy-league-nuts).  
 "Even North Korea is not this nuts," she said. "North Korea was pretty crazy, but not this crazy."  
 Park, 27, said she expected that in exchange for the time, effort and "fortune" she gave to attend the prestitious university, she would be taught how to think.  
 "But they are forcing you to think the way they want you to think," she said.  
 "I realized, wow, this is insane. I thought America was different, but I saw so many similarities to what I saw in North Korea that I started worrying."  
 Park said she saw red flags immediately upon transferring to Columbia from a South Korean university in 2016. A staff member scolded her during orientation for admitting she enjoyed classic Western literature and authors such as Jane Austen.  
 Park recalled the staffer saying: "Did you know those writers had a colonial mindset? They were racists and bigots and are subconsciously brainwashing you."   
 Bottom of Form

But it got worse, as every class was filled with the kind of anti-American propaganda she grew up with in North Korea.  
 She initially pushed back, getting into arguments with faculty and students. But she eventually "learned how to just shut up" for the sake of maintaining a good GPA and graduating.  
 Under the isolated, rogue communist state, Park grew up without knowing concepts such as love and liberty. She recalled witnessing people drop dead of starvation.  
 "Because I have seen oppression, I know what it looks like," she said.  
 But fellow students kept saying "how they’re oppressed, how much injustice they've experienced."  
 "They don't know how hard it is to be free," Park said.  
 **'They've just completely lost the ability to think critically'**  
 In 2007, at the age of 13, she and her mother fled, crossing the frozen Yalu River into China, where they were captured by human traffickers and sold into slavery. Christian missionaries helped them flee to Mongolia, where they walked across the Gobi Desert and finally found refuge in South Korea.  
 In North Korea, she said, people are deceived by propaganda because they aren't taught to think critically.  
 "That is what is happening in America," she said. "People see things but they've just completely lost the ability to think critically."  
 Unlike North Korea, Americans have access to great thinkers, but they "choose to be brainwashed."  
 She said she is very disappointed after having come to the United States with great expectations.  
 "You guys have lost common sense to degree that I as a North Korean cannot even comprehend," she said.  
 Park pointed to the erosion of the rule of law and morality.  
 "I guess that's what they want," she said of the nation's progressive influencers, "to destroy every single thing and rebuild into a communist paradise."

*See the interview:* **[Go to web site. – rdb]**

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**Commentary:**

**Here is How I See the WorldToday [This about sums of the world of today. – rdb]**

By E. P. Unum June 14, 2021

● Joe Biden isn’t winning. We are losing. But that will change soon.

● Bubba Wallace wasn’t a victim.

● Black lives do matter; so do White lives, and Asians, Hispanics, Indians, in fact, All Lives Matter.

● What happened to George Floyd should never happen again. But he is no martyr. He is certainly not a hero. He was a career criminal with a rap sheet as long as your arm.

● All cops definitely aren’t bad, nor are they all racist. They are fathers, mothers, sons, daughters who put themselves in harm's way every day to enforce the rule of law and protect us. Without laws, we become savages subject to the laws of the jungle. Here is a thought: if we teach our children to respect those in authority like the police, I would bet there would be less conflict and confrontation. It’s really quite simple: If you obey the law, cops will generally leave you alone.  What a novel thought!

● Rioters, looters, and people who burn churches and deface monuments have nothing to do with George Floyd and should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Destroying other people’s property and defacing churches is illegal. More than that, by God, it is downright wrong.

● Unborn babies are human beings and their lives should be protected, not aborted. If you have ever witnessed a late-term abortion, I guarantee you would never support abortions again. Trust me on that.

● ANTIFA is a terrorist organization and should be dealt with as such.

● Colin Kaepernick isn’t a hero, and never will be. Pat Tillman is a hero. There is a difference.

● MLB, the NFL, and the NBA desperately need new leadership and a fresh new marketing image.

● CNN isn’t news, and neither is MSNBC.

● Elizabeth Warren isn’t Native American.

● Facebook and Twitter only censor conservatives. That is a fact.

● We need to bring God back into our lives, and that means in the classroom and in the courtroom.

● COVID 19 is being used to gauge just how much of our freedom can be taken away.

● All FEAR is fueled by the media who have become CORRUPT in our nation. That issue needs immediate attention because our nation cannot survive a press that is corrupt.

● GOD is still in control!

● Epstein neither killed nor cremated himself.

● Critical Race Theory is a Marxist/Communist Ideology that corrupts the minds of our children and, as such, is an attempt to weaponized our entire education system to undermine and eliminate the principle upon which our nation was built.

● There is NO SUCH THING AS White Privilege!

● LIFE is what YOU make of it!

● No one OWES you ANYTHING!

● I stand for the FLAG, our MILITARY, and our NATIONAL ANTHEM.

● Blacks in the USA have achieved a higher standard of living, and have risen further than anywhere on earth. It is important to remember that over 600,000 predominantly white Americans died so that slavery could be abolished in this nation. And, it was Republicans who voted to free the slaves and passed the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution. The DEMOCRATS voted against them.

● I will never forget BENGHAZI nor how President Obama and Hillary Clinton abandoned our people to die and lied about it to the American people. All to cover their tracks for illegal arms sales.

● Removing historical statues of figures like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, General Ulysses S. Grant, Christopher Columbus, Father Junipero Serra is not about slavery, the Confederacy, or George Floyd, but rather an attempt to abolish history and rewrite it.  Revisionist history is a false god. You cannot erase history as people like Josef Stalin, Mao Tse-tung, and Adolph Hitler found out. All you can and should do is learn from history so as to not repeat the mistakes made. Santayana said, “Those who ignore the lessons of history are condemned to repeat it.” And, Churchill reminded us that  “A nation that forgets its past has no future.”  Act worthy of yourselves!

● George Soros is a person who finances terror and should be arrested and prosecuted.

● Whatever happened to the secret slush fund Congress used to help pay for legal settlements of Congressmen and Senators accused of sexual abuse by staffers? Did you forget about that?

● Why is it that we do not hear much about Hunter Biden anymore?  Did he spend all of the $1.5 billion he received from China? How about the $83K per month he got from Ukraine's Burisma?

● I kneel only for my Lord and Savior JESUS CHRIST, our Lord, and to RETURN FIRE

● Where is John Durham and his report? Why is no one asking about this?

● “Dr.” Jill Biden needs to hire a new fashion consultant.

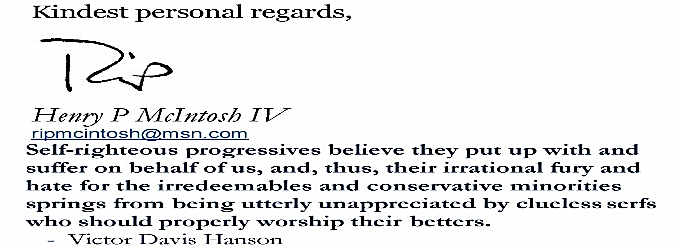
●  Are you happy with Bidenomics? Do you think his economic programs are working for all Americans? I don’t.

● Maybe it is just me, but how is it justified to call people names like homophobic, xenophobic, racist when their opinions differ from yours?

●  Have you looked closely at the people with whom Joe Biden has surrounded himself? You will be hard-pressed to find many who have had successful careers in managing businesses or experience in leadership. This does not bode well for our country.

●  The Media is making a big deal about the upcoming Biden/Putin Meeting on the 16th of June. Putin will likely have Biden for lunch and it pains me to say that. But Biden is weak, and cannot put coherent sentences together. Beware of the new Sino-Russia alliance with Iran. Russia has provided Iran with a Soviet anti-Missel Defense System against Israeli attacks

●  Why in God’s Name is Biden so intent on restoring relationships with Iran?

●  How is it possible to “*lose*” $400 Billion in unemployment funds…who the hell is in charge of this?

●  Did Mayor DiBlasio of New York find out what happened to the $850 million “*lost*” by his adoring wife, Charlene? That happened two years ago, but I haven’t heard much about that since.

●  Are you happy about the precipitous rise in inflation in the U.S.?

**Biden’s War on Jerusalem**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*June 13, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/06/bidens-war-on-jerusalem.html)

A decade ago, Vice President Biden paid a visit to Jerusalem.

Like any trip by an emissary of the Obama administration, it wasn’t a goodwill tour, but a combination of a provocation and a shakedown. While Biden was in Israel, two construction projects received partial approval in a multi-stage process from the City of Jerusalem.  
 Biden responded by staying up in his hotel room and refusing to come down for an hour.  
 When he did come down, he hugged Netanyahu and assured him, “Just remember that I am your best f\_\_\_\_ friend here.”  
 Biden’s definition of friendship is the backstabbing kind because after that he and the entire Obama administration began attacking Israel over a decision made by a local urban agency.  
 "It was not only an insult to Biden, but an insult to the United States," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton ranted. Then she spent two hours yelling at Netanyahu over the phone.  
 “I was often the ‘designated yeller,’” Hillary would [later brag](https://archives.frontpagemag.com/fpm/muslim-terrorists-and-jewish-anti-semites-against-daniel-greenfield/) about her relationship with Israel.  
 "There was an affront, it was an insult," David Axelrod, Obama's senior adviser falsely claimed.  
 The media launched a disinformation campaign falsely claiming that Prime Minister Netanyahu had deliberately caused a Jerusalem urban planning committee to reach a decision on housing in two areas that until then no one had even been paying much attention to.  
 One of those housing projects was going up in the Shimon HaTzadik (Simon the Righteous) neighborhood named after the last true high priest who had dissuaded Alexander the Great from putting up an idol in the Temple.  
 The Jewish neighborhood had been built in the 19th century. In 1936, Muslim rioters drove out the community while shouting, "Allahu Akbar" and "Ibtach Al Yahood" or "Kill the Jews".  
 This was the first modern Muslim attempted genocide of the indigenous Jewish population of Israel. A British truck driver [recollected a massacre](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2010/03/barack-hussein-obama-vs-israel.html) in Tiberias in which "the bodies of children, apparently set alight with gasoline in a nursery, were still smoldering" and "the naked bodies of the women exposed the evidence that the knives had been used in the most ghastly fashion."  
 In 1947, the Muslims came for the Jews of the neighborhood again and they fought back with the few weapons they had. Then British forces came along and disarmed the Jews to "keep the peace". The Jewish population fled again. Jordan's Arab Legion, under British officers, seized half of Jerusalem, and ethnically cleansed its Jewish population Some of the homes in Shimon HaTzadik (referred to by Muslims as Sheikh Jarrah after one of Saladin's colonizing invaders) were [used by the](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/05/how-un-stole-jewish-homes-in-occupied.html) UNRWA to settle Muslims in violation of international law.  
 The other housing project in Jerusalem in Ramat Shlomo was set to be built [on uninhabited land](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2010/03/barack-hussein-obama-vs-israel.html) that not even the PLO was claiming as its own.  
 This was what Biden, Hillary, the Obama administration and the media were howling about.  
 Obama used fake outrage over Jews living in Jerusalem to engineer the beginning of the Democrat Party’s break with Israel. Biden played a key role in staging an international incident to manufacture a narrative in which Israel was somehow provoking a conflict with Obama.  
 11 years later, Biden is so short of ideas that he went right back to the same neighborhood.  
 The Muslim squatters [planted by UNRWA](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/05/how-un-stole-jewish-homes-in-occupied.html) in Jewish homes have refused to pay rent to their owners or leave. After two generations of court cases, Israel’s Supreme Court was moving to issue a final decision. The Islamic terrorists of the PLO and Hamas used this as a pretext for a murderous campaign against Israel. And everyone from Biden on down has warned Israel against actually following the law and allowing the Jewish owners to reclaim the property.  
 Biden funded Iran, backed the terrorists inside Israel, and then warned the Jewish State against “provoking” them by allowing Jews to take part in a parade or allowing courts to follow the law.  
 On May 10th, well before the fighting began, Biden's people [ordered](https://www.frontpagemag.com/point/2021/05/biden-demanded-israel-cancel-jerusalem-day-parade-daniel-greenfield/) Israel not to evict any of the Muslim squatters and to cancel the annual Jerusalem Day celebrations. Netanyahu tried to appease Biden by rerouting the parade and asked the Supreme Court to postpone a decision.  
 Despite these efforts at appeasement, the Islamic violence escalated anyway. But that hasn’t stopped the Biden administration and its media allies from blaming Israel anyway.  
 That’s how this game of diplomatic Catch 22 with Israel always works.  
 The Supreme Court, which is independent and doesn’t answer to either Biden or Netanyahu, refused to halt the eviction case. That hasn’t stopped the Biden administration from continuing to make illegal demands that another nation’s supreme court should refuse to follow the law.  
 But Biden is also moving to open a consulate for the ‘Palestinians’ in Jerusalem to counteract the embassy that President Trump moved to Jerusalem. The consulate would violate Israeli sovereignty and [would be illegal](https://nypost.com/2021/05/26/bidens-plan-for-diplomatic-mission-to-the-palestinians-violates-us-law/) under United States law. Neither bothers Biden.  
 There’s also no reason to set up a consulate to the terrorists in Jerusalem except to violate Israeli sovereignty over the city and stake a claim to the Jewish city for Hamas and the PLO.  
 The Palestinian Authority operates out of Ramallah. The Russians and Chinese have their diplomatic missions in Ramallah. That’s not out of sensitivity to Israel, just common sense.  
 Biden wants to set up a consulate to the PA miles away from the terror state regime that he wants to have close diplomatic relations with. State Department personnel told the media that during the war they thought they were “flying blind” without a consulate. But a consulate in Jerusalem puts them no closer to Abbas and the Palestinian Authority’s government than the embassy they already have in Jerusalem does. If Biden wants a consulate close to Abbas, he could erect one in Ramallah. Otherwise the consulate could operate out of the embassy.  
 Secretary of State Blinken claims that Biden wants a consulate in Jerusalem "to be able to more effectively engage not just the Palestinian Authority, but Palestinians from different walks of life, the NGO community, the business community, and others.”  
 Countries don’t have diplomatic relations with NGOs and businesses, but with countries. France doesn’t operate a consulate to Coca Cola or the Sierra Club.  
 But if Biden and Blinken want to “engage” the non-profit NGOs that are funded by the State Department, the European Union, George Soros, and other anti-Israel billionaires to wage a campaign against Israel, they can just open a consulate in D.C., Brussels, or the Open Society Foundations in Berlin. And the Muslim “business community” of the [600 Hamas millionaires](https://www.algemeiner.com/2014/07/28/gazas-millionaires-and-billionaires-how-hamass-leaders-got-rich-quick/) in Gaza, (falsely depicted as an “open air prison” in the media’s disinformation campaign) would be best engaged by opening a consulate in Gaza City right next to the AP’s offices.  
 There’s no legal or rational reason for Biden to open a “Palestinian” consulate in Jerusalem.  
 Biden wants a terrorist consulate in Jerusalem for the same reason that every Democrat White House insisted on keeping the US embassy in Tel Aviv 40 miles from the actual location of the Israeli government in Jerusalem. The State Department didn’t complain it was “flying blind” through multiple wars by refusing to have close access to the Israeli government.  
 It was more important to make a point by refusing to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.  
 The Soviet Union and European media made a point of referring to Tel Aviv as shorthand for Israel’s government the way that we would refer to London as shorthand for the British government which was like insisting that the White House is really in Boston.  
 Deutsche Welle, Germany’s state-owned broadcaster, falsely [captioned](https://www.facebook.com/HonestReporting/posts/10159598788234954) a recent photo of Blinken and Netanyahu meeting in Jerusalem as “Blinken met with Netanyahu in Tel-Aviv”.  
 It’s not just Iran that refers to Israel as “the regime in Tel Aviv”.  
 That’s the denialist mindset behind Biden’s push to open a terror consulate in Jerusalem. Biden’s people, especially his [pro-terrorist point man Hady Amr](https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/2021/04/bidens-anti-israel-point-man-behind-plan-fund-daniel-greenfield/) are, as the State Department often accused Israel of doing, “creating facts on the ground” for the PLO and Hamas.  
 And no politician has been more hypocritical and dishonest about Jerusalem than Biden.  
 In 1990, Biden [co-sponsored](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2010/03/full-measure-of-joe-bidens-hypocrisy-on.html) Senate Concurrent Resolution 106 which condemned "ambiguous statements by the Government of the United States concerning the right of Jews to live in all parts of Jerusalem".  
 Two decades later, Biden became a key figure in attacking the right of Jews to "live in all parts of Jerusalem".  
 In 1992, Biden [co-sponsored](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2010/03/full-measure-of-joe-bidens-hypocrisy-on.html) Senate Consecutive Resolution 113 stating that "Jerusalem must remain an undivided city" and in 1995 co-sponsored the Jerusalem Embassy Act declaring that "Jerusalem should remain an undivided city" and "be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel". All the way back in 1984, Biden was [saying](https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/views-on-israel-of-u-s-presidential-candidates-2020-joe-biden), “I happen to support this move”, but “I think it is the wrong fight to make it this time.” And it always went on being the wrong time.  
 When President Trump called Biden’s bluff by moving the embassy to Jerusalem, Biden conceded that “I wouldn’t reverse it. I wouldn’t have done it in the first place.”  
 Biden promised to open a consulate to the “Palestinians” in Jerusalem and he’s on it. The proposed consulate has no legitimate government function because it’s not in Ramallah.  
 The only purpose of the consulate is to undermine President Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem.  
 After years of enthusiastic speeches at AIPAC, Biden offered a sonorous video in 2020 warning of a "humanitarian crisis" in Gaza and telling Israel that it needed to stop Jewish "settlements".  
 Biden threatened Israel that if it didn't keep Jews from living on land claimed by the terrorists, it would "choke off any hope for peace" and undermine support from Democrats.  
 During his campaign, Biden promised, “I will reopen the U.S. consulate in East Jerusalem”.  
 He’s not reopening it to “engage Palestinians”, but to counter Israel’s claim to Jerusalem. After decades of pretending that he supported recognizing a united Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel, Biden is doing everything he can to undermine Israel’s presence in Jerusalem.  
 In 2013, Biden told AIPAC that he was jealous because Obama "gets to be the one to say ‘This year in Jerusalem'". In 2021, he’s promising, “This year in Jerusalem” to the terrorists.

[*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/2021/06/bidens-war-on-jerusalem.html>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Senior Likud members oppose Netanyahu plan**

**Netanyahu's push to move up Likud leadership primaries opposed within the party.**

Arutz Sheva Staff , Jun 14 , 2021 10:11 PM

Senior Likud members oppose Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu's push to move up the party's leadership primaries

*Kan 11* reported that MK Yisrael Katz said in closed talks: "I intend to insist on this, the primaries will not be brought forward. We will not engage in civil wars now, matters within the Likud will wait."

Apart from Katz, Haim Katz, Yuli Edelstein, Nir Barkat, David Bitan and others also strongly oppose the early primaries.

Likud chairman Benjamin Netanyahu today held the first meeting of the leaders of the opposition to the current government, which included the leaders of the right-wing parties, but not the members of the Joint List. "I see the weaknesses in this government," Netanyahu said. "It can be overthrown provided we act together and with iron discipline. If we clash within, we will not accomplish it." The opposition leader asked the right-wing leaders to put aside the differences between them. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308088>

**Sa'ar planning to split A-G's duties before end of Mandelblit's term**

***Incoming Minister of Justice will speed up the move along with legislation that will regulate the status of the Attorney General.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Jun 15 , 2021 2:04 AM*



***Sa'ar, Mandelblit and Benny Gantz Olivier Fitoussi/Flash 90***

**Sources in the judicial establishment told Channel 13 News on Monday evening that the incoming Minister of Justice, Gideon Sa'ar, intends to split the position of Attorney General, to one chief prosecutor and one chief legal adviser, even before the end of Avichai Mandelblit's term as Attorney Gen**eral.

The move was approved as part of the coalition agreements that were signed with Sa'ar and his New Hope party.

In the first stage, Sa'ar will need a government decision, after which he will promote legislation that will regulate the status of the Attorney General for the first time.

In September, Sa'ar intends to establish a search committee for the position of chief prosecutor and the position of chief legal adviser, and by January 2022, he intends to fill the positions. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308095>

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**06/14/2021 NEWS AM**

**ישתבח שמו ⚡ Yaakov Shwekey**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_hzOuAK5gY>

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| --- | --- |
| Lord of the Worlds  I found two words  That Jews say everywhere  For what already was  Which has not yet happened  It does not matter because it will always be true  We thank him every day  And glorify to heaven | Thank God  For everything he created for me  For everything that happened to me  Thank God  On moments of happiness  About light in the dark  Thank God  Together forever  Thank God |

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| **"These men - ..., the politicians, ... - use their position, their knowledge, and their power of disseminating misinformation to arouse and stimulate the latent instinct for bloodshed. When they have succeeded, they say they are reluctantly forced to war by the pressure of public opinion." -- Bertrand Russell [Bertrand Arthur William Russell] (1872-1970) Philosopher, educator Source: "War and Non-Resistance," Atlantic Monthly, August 1915, p. 274.** |

**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 BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for DH – Mother going into hospice.**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  NOTE: Our prayer list was getting very long and there will little follow up.  If you have people you want to have on the list please resubmit since we are revising it now– rdb]  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 31:17And Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels. 18And he drove all the livestock, and *he took* all his goods which he had gotten, livestock of his property which he had gotten in Padan-aram, to come to his father Isaac, to the land of Canaan. 19And Laban went to shear his sheep. And Rachel stole the household idols which were her father's. 20And Jacob deceived the heart of Laban the Syrian, for he did not tell him that he *was* about to flee. 21And he and all that *was* to him fled. And he rose up and crossed the River and set his face to Mount Gilead.**

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| **Sorry for no news postings for a couple days but had a great family celebration !**  **RDB** |

**Bennett sworn in as prime minister, unseating Netanyahu after 12 years in power**

***Government approved 60-59; Yamina head heckled throughout his Knesset speech; Yesh Atid’s Yair Lapid becomes alternate PM; Netanyahu derides new PM and vows: ‘We’ll be back soon’***

*By* [*Raoul Wootliff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/raoul-wootliff/) *13 June 2021, 9:22 pm*

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| (From left) Benny Gantz, Yair Lapid, Naftali Bennett, Gideon Sa'ar and Merav Michaeli sit together after their new coalition wins Knesset approval, June 13, 2021 (Haim Zach / GPO)  (From left) Benny Gantz, Yair Lapid, Naftali Bennett, Gideon Sa'ar and Merav Michaeli sit together after their new coalition wins Knesset approval, June 13, 2021 (Haim Zach / GPO) | Prime Minister Naftali Bennett with his familyt, in the Knesset in Jerusalem, on June 13, 2021. (Ariel Zandberg/Yamina)  Prime Minister Naftali Bennett with his familyt, in the Knesset in Jerusalem, on June 13, 2021. (Ariel Zandberg/Yamina) |

In a history-making vote, Israel’s 36th government was sworn in at the Knesset on Sunday, installing Yamina chair Naftali Bennett as prime minister and ousting Benjamin Netanyahu after 12 years of consecutive rule as premier.

MKs voted by a wafer-thin 60-59 in favor of the new government, made up of right-wing, left-wing, centrist, and Islamist parties that came together to oust Netanyahu and end two years of political deadlock.

One MK, Ra’am’s Saeed al-Harumi, abstained from the vote. Three MKs from the predominantly Arab Joint List — Ayman Odeh, Ahmad Tibi and Osama Saadi — stayed out of the chamber until the votes were initially counted, apparently ready to abstain if necessary to ensure the coalition was elected, but entered to vote against once it was clear that the required simple majority was assured.

Immediately following the confidence vote, members of Netanyahu’s government vacated the seats on the government table in the Knesset plenum, with Netanyahu leaving the prime minister’s chair.

Passing Bennett, the now-former prime minister shook his successor’s hand in a symbol of the peaceful transition of power. Earlier in the session, Netanyahu had derided Bennett in a speech as a fraudster unfit for office, and Netanyahu-loyalist MKs had heckled Bennett through his address introducing his government and setting out its plans.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/000_9C33UY.jpg)

(L to R) Israel’s outgoing prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu shakes hands with his successor, incoming Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, after a special session to vote on a new government at the Knesset in Jerusalem, on June 13, 2021. (EMMANUEL DUNAND / AFP)

Following the nail-biting vote, Bennett was sworn in as prime minister, as were his new government colleagues. His election represents the first time that Israel has been led by a religiously observant, kippa-wearing prime minister. He is also the leader of the smallest faction ever to appoint a prime minister, as his Yamina has a mere seven MKs, one of whom, MK Amichai Chikli, voted against the new government.

Bennett, 49, is also Israel’s second-youngest prime minister — the record for youngest stays with Netanyahu, who was just 46 the first time he assumed the role in 1996.

Yesh Atid chairman Yair Lapid, who put together the coalition after being tasked by outgoing President Reuven Rivlin with doing so, was sworn in as “alternate prime minister and future prime minister,” as well as foreign minister. Referring to the coalition agreements between the two, Bennett promised from the podium to hand over the premiership to Lapid on August 27, 2023.

After Bennett and Lapid, the new ministers were sworn in one by one, before taking their places at the government table. In all, 28 ministers were sworn in, including a record nine women.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/WhatsApp-Image-2021-06-13-at-21.26.42-1.jpeg)

Israel’s Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is sworn into office, in the Knesset, June 13, 2021. (Noam Moscowitz / Knesset spokesperson)

The new cabinet, which will also have six deputy ministers, is the third-largest in Israel’s history, second only to the outgoing government (35 cabinet ministers) and Netanyahu’s 2009-2013 government (30 ministers).

In terms of the top ministerial positions, Blue and White leader Benny Gantz remains defense minister and Yisrael Beytenu leader Avigdor Liberman was sworn in as finance minister. New Hope leader Gideon Sa’ar was appointed justice minister, while Yamina’s Ayelet Shaked was named interior minister and Yamina’s Matan Kahana took on the role of religious affairs minister. Labor’s Merav Michaeli received the transportation portfolio, and her fellow party member Omer Barlev became the new public security minister. Meretz leader Nitzan Horowitz was appointed health minister. The full list of portfolios can be seen [here.](https://www.timesofisrael.com/whos-who-in-the-bennett-lapid-government/)

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| Israel’s new Prime Minister Naftali Bennett (right), alternate PM Yair Lapid (center), and Defense Minister Benny Gantz, in the Knesset, June 13, 2021. (Noam Moscowitz / Knesset spokesperson) | The heads of the eight parties making up the prospective new government meet in the Knesset on June 13, 2021. Left to right: Ra’am head Mansour Abbas, Labor chief Merav Michaeli, Blue and White head Benny Gantz, Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid, Yamina chief Naftali Bennett, New Hope head Gideon Sa’ar, Yisrael Beytenu chief Avigdor Liberman and Meretz leader Nitzan Horowitz (Ariel Zandberg) |

Before the vote of confidence in the government, Yesh Atid MK Mickey Levy was elected to replace Likud’s Yariv Levin as Knesset speaker, with 67 votes to 52.

The government is backed by eight of the 13 parties that won seats in the March 23 election, for a total of 60 votes in the 120-member Knesset: Yesh Atid (17 seats), Blue and White (8), Yisrael Beytenu (7), Labor (7), Yamina (6 of its 7 MKs), New Hope (6), Meretz (6) and Ra’am (3 of its 4 MKs, with the fourth, al-Harumi). The parties shunted to the opposition are: Netanyahu’s Likud, the ultra-Orthodox Shas and United Torah Judaism parties, the far-right Religious Zionism, and the predominantly Arab Joint List.

The coalition represents an unprecedentedly diverse mix of parties, from right (Yamina, New Hope and Yisrael Beytenu) to center (Yesh Atid and Blue and White), to left (Labor and Meretz), in addition to the conservative Islamist Party Ra’am. Their leaders have vowed to try to work via consensus to heal rifts in Israeli society without crossing their own ideological red lines.

Speaking before the confidence vote in a speech repeatedly interrupted by the new opposition members, [Bennett presented](https://www.timesofisrael.com/full-text-pm-to-be-bennett-presents-govt-that-will-work-for-the-sake-of-all/) his new “reasonable and responsible” government, pledging that it would “end a terrible period of hatred among the people of Israel.”

As members of Netanyahu’s party shouted at Bennett that he was “a criminal” and a “liar,” Bennett said Likud MKs were providing proof of the urgent need to bring back decency and unity to Israeli politics.

He said the new government would work “for all the citizens of Israel” and bring an end to a cycle of elections and divisiveness. Israel has held four national elections since April 2019, which until now had yielded just one government: the short-lived power-sharing coalition last year of Likud and Benny Gantz’s centrist Blue and White.

In his [final speech](https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-fiery-exit-netanyahu-assails-bennett-says-he-cant-stand-up-to-iran-biden/) as prime minister of Israel before the new government was sworn in, Netanyahu unleashed his fury on Bennett and vowed to work tirelessly to topple the new coalition.

“I will fight daily against this terrible, dangerous left-wing government in order to topple it,” Netanyahu said at the conclusion of a lengthy speech in the Knesset plenum. “With God’s help, it will happen a lot earlier than you think it will.”

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/AP21164510190231.jpg)

Outgoing prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks during a Knesset session in Jerusalem on June 13, 2021. (AP Photo/Ariel Schali22

In comments warning Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah that he is not going anywhere, he declared in English: “We’ll be back soon!”

Netanyahu’s downfall comes amid an ongoing criminal trial in which he has been indicted for bribery fraud and breach of trust, charges which he denies.

Despite declarations by most of the parties in the new coalition that they would not side with him, Netanyahu had been trying to woo defectors from the ranks of some of those parties in recent days, without success.

On his way to the vote, Netanyahu told reporters that it was “a very sad evening for millions of Israelis.”

Following the swearing-in ceremony, members of the newly installed government headed to the President’s Residence for the traditional group photograph of ministers with outgoing President Reuven Rivlin, who will end his seven-year term on July 9. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-sworn-in-as-prime-minister-unseating-netanyahu-after-12-years-in-power/>

**Biden congratulates PM Bennett in phone call as US embraces new government**

***US leader says he looks ‘forward to working’ with premier ‘to strengthen all aspects of the close and enduring relationship between our two nations;’ FM Lapid invited to Washington***

*By* [*Amy Spiro*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/amy-spiro/) *13 June 2021, 10:34 pm*

US President Joe Biden congratulated new Prime Minister Naftali Bennett Sunday night on being sworn in as the head of a new government coalition, issuing a statement and immediately following it up with a phone call.

“On behalf of the American people, I congratulate Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, and all the members of the new Israeli cabinet,” Biden said in a statement. “I look forward to working with Prime Minister Bennett to strengthen all aspects of the close and enduring relationship between our two nations.”

US Secretary of State Blinken also called Lapid to congratulate him and invite him to visit London. The Biden’ administration’s move to quickly embrace the fledgling government came after Benjamin Netanyahu used his final speech as prime minister to air his grievances with Washington.

Biden, who took office in January, said that “Israel has no better friend than the United States. The bond that unites our people is evidence of our shared values and decades of close cooperation and as we continue to strengthen our partnership, the United States remains unwavering in its support for Israel’s security.”

The president added that his administration “is fully committed to working with the new Israeli government to advance security, stability, and peace for Israelis, Palestinians, and people throughout the broader region.”

 In response, Bennett [tweeted](https://twitter.com/naftalibennett/status/1404150231923572736?s=21) his thanks to Biden.

“Thank you Mr. President! I look forward to working with you to strengthen the ties between our two nations,” he wrote.

Prime Minister-designate Naftali Bennett in the Knesset, June 13, 2021. (Kobi Gideon/GPO)

The two leaders spoke by phone later in the evening, with the White House releasing a statement saying Biden congratulated Bennett reiterated his intention to work with him to bolster the relationship between the US and Israel.

“President Biden highlighted his decades of steadfast support for the U.S.-Israel relationship and his unwavering commitment to Israel’s security. He expressed his firm intent to deepen cooperation between the United States and Israel on the many challenges and opportunities facing the region,” the statement said.

“The leaders agreed that they and their teams would consult closely on all matters related to regional security, including Iran. The President also conveyed that his administration intends to work closely with the Israeli government on efforts to advance peace, security, and prosperity for Israelis and Palestinians,” it concluded.”

According to a readout from Bennett’s office, the prime minister thanked “Biden for his warm wishes on the inauguration of the new government, and for his long-standing commitment to the State of Israel and its security.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett spoke this evening by telephone with US President [@JoeBiden](https://twitter.com/JoeBiden?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) .

The Prime Minister thanked [@POTUS](https://twitter.com/POTUS?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) Biden for his warm wishes on the inauguration of the new government, and for his long-standing commitment to the State of Israel and its security. [pic.twitter.com/RdRQsD9ILN](https://t.co/RdRQsD9ILN)

— PM of Israel (@IsraeliPM) [June 13, 2021](https://twitter.com/IsraeliPM/status/1404175401245679680?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

“Prime Minister Bennett noted his appreciation for the President, and for his support for Israel during the recent operation in Gaza (Guardian of the Walls), and noted that he considers him a great friend of the State of Israel,” the statement said. “In their conversation, the leaders emphasized the importance of the alliance between Israel and the United States, as well as their commitment to strengthening ties between the two countries, and maintaining the security of the State of Israel.”

Blinken also congratulated Bennett on becoming prime minister.

The US “warmly welcomes the announcement of a new government of the State of Israel,” Blinken said in a statement. The secretary of state added that the US looks forward to working closely with the new coalition. “The United States will continue to work with Israel to advance the cause of peace, and we remain unwavering in our commitment to Israel’s security.”



Israeli Foreign minister Yair Lapid arrives to the new government’s first cabinet meeting on June 13, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

He then also spoke with Lapid, with the talks focusing on the “US commitment to Israel’s security, the importance of maintaining a cessation of hostilities, opportunities to deepen and broaden normalization of diplomatic relations, the threat posed by Iran, and other regional priorities,” State Department spokesman Ned Price said in a statement.

“The Secretary noted that he looked forward to welcoming the Minister to Washington soon as the two governments work to build an even stronger relationship between our countries and our peoples,” the statement said.

Also Sunday, Defense Minister Benny Gantz spoke with his American counterpart, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, after being sworn in again following the formation of an Israeli government.

“I greatly look forward to continuing the paramount work alongside Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin to protect the steadfast alliance between Israel and the US, the stability of the Middle East, and the safety of our peoples,” Gantz said after the call.

In [his speech](https://www.timesofisrael.com/full-text-pm-to-be-bennett-presents-govt-that-will-work-for-the-sake-of-all/) ahead of the vote and swearing-in on Sunday evening, Bennett thanked Biden for his support during the recent 11-day conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

“I want to thank the president of the United States of America, Joe Biden, for standing alongside Israel during the last operation in Gaza, ‘Guardian of the Walls,’ and for his longstanding commitment to the security of Israel,” Bennett told the Knesset plenum. “We greatly appreciate the support of the United States, our greatest friend. My government will make an effort to deepen and nurture relations with our friends in both parties — bipartisan. If there are disputes, we will manage them with fundamental trust, and mutual respect.” MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-congratulates-israels-new-pm-bennett-as-netanyahu-ousted/>

**Thousands in Tel Aviv celebrate ousting Netanyahu with foam, confetti and flags**

***Contrasting scenes in Jerusalem where religious Jews gather at Western Wall to offer prayers against the new government; Ex-PM thanks supporters, urges them to protest***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 2:03 am*

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| [Israelis celebrate the new government at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv on June 13, 2021.(Tomer Neuberg/FLASH90)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/F210613TN15.jpg)Israelis celebrate the new government at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv on June 13, 2021.(Tomer Neuberg/FLASH90) | Israeli demonstrators celebrate the new government in the coastal city of Tel Aviv on June 13, 2021. (JACK GUEZ / AFP) |
| Israeli demonstrators celebrate Netanyahu’s fall from power in Tel Aviv on June 13, 2021. (JACK GUEZ / AFP) | Israelis celebrate the new government at Rabin Square in Tel Aviv on June 13, 2021. (Tomer Neuberg/FLASH90) |

Several thousand Israelis turned out in Tel Aviv on Sunday, spraying foam and confetti, and jumping into fountains to celebrate the establishment of a new government in Israel and to revel in the ousting of former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Contrasting emotions were seen at a small demonstration in support for Netanyahu and in prayers by hundreds of Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox Jews at the Western Wall, where an atmosphere of public mourning held sway.

In Tel Aviv, thousands thronged to Rabin Square. Its iconic fountain, so often a scene of revelry at times of national celebration was drained due to the construction of a subway line, but revelers brought along a foam cannon and confetti instead.

Other’s headed to the nearby fountain in Dizengoff square for a celebratory splash.

“Bibi go home,” a man led a chant from the podium Rabin Square, where anti-Netanyahu demonstrators have been calling for him to step down for more than a year.

VIDEO: Thousands of Israelis flood Tel Aviv to celebrate departure of long-serving PM Benjamin Netanyahu

“Bibi go home”, they sang Sunday night.

A new complicated coalition led by hardliner Naftali Bennett was sworn in Sunday, ending Netanyahu's 12-yr rule, the longest reign [pic.twitter.com/8XOpKrvOya](https://t.co/8XOpKrvOya)

— The Chronicles (@ChroniclesRW) [June 13, 2021](https://twitter.com/ChroniclesRW/status/1404206219129241602?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Participants, danced, hugged and cheered. Many brought their children.

In liberal Tel Aviv, turning the page on the Netanyahu era is considered a “historic” moment, said Chen Nevo, one of those celebrating.

“I’m a little bit in shock because we waited so long for this moment,” said the 49-year-old who came to the square with her small children despite the late hour.

“They are supposed to sleep right now, but I thought it was really an important moment.”

“I don’t know if the government will last, but it is a change, and we needed a change,” she said, as a Hebrew rendition of John Lennon’s “Imagine” blared in the background.

The nearby Tel Aviv City Hall was lit up in the colors of Israel’s flag.

Rubi Sofer, 48, also arrived at the celebration with his family in tow.

The foursome all sported black t-shirts emblazoned with the white letters signaling the anti-Netanyahu protest movement, which has been a feature of Israeli life every Saturday for over a year under the slogan: “Get out.”

“We don’t like Bibi at all,” said Sofer, adding that they’ve been attending protests every weekend for 10 months.

There were contrasting scenes in Jerusalem.

Outside the Official Prime Minister’s Residence in Jerusalem, where Netanyahu was presumably spending his last night after 12 years as a resident, a few dozen Netanyahu supporters waved flags and sang “we love you.”

Others chanted “Shame, a government of Hamas and Abbas,” in reference to Ra’am party leader Mansour Abbas, who joined the change coalition to oust Netanyahu.

Netanyahu came out to thank them, saying they had “moved him.” He then called on them to join a protest against the new government set for Tuesday in Tel Aviv.

Meanwhile, Channel 20, a right-wing TV station that has long backed Netanyahu, published a homage to him consisting of a video of his greatest moments, with background music of the “Thank you for all you have created,” a traditional song of praise to God.

תודה לך ראש הממשלה נתניהו![@netanyahu](https://twitter.com/netanyahu?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/YMO63unGKi](https://t.co/YMO63unGKi)

— ערוץ 20 (@arutz20) [June 13, 2021](https://twitter.com/arutz20/status/1404093421535600641?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Earlier, hundreds of religious Zionist and ultra-Orthodox Jews gathered at the Western Wall in Jerusalem to blow trumpets and offer prayers against the incoming government.

The service was being led by Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu, the chief rabbi of the northern city of Safed.

Hundreds of ultra-Orthodox Jews participate in a joint prayer at the Western Wall in Jerusalem’s Old City against the new change government which is being sworn in at the Knesset on June 13, 2021. (Noam Revkin Fenton/FLASH90)

The ultra-Orthodox parties, now also out of power, have railed against the new government and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett [as “wicked”](https://www.timesofisrael.com/haredi-mks-jewish-state-in-danger-if-wicked-bennett-succeeds-netanyahu/) and claimed his new government’s policies would endanger the Jewish state.

Bennett, who is Israel’s first Orthodox prime minister, dismissed the attack as embarrassing and unhinged, a “hysterical outburst,” and vowed he would safeguard religious life in the country. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/thousands-in-tel-aviv-celebrate-ousting-netanyahu-with-foam-confetti-and-flags/>

**In speech before swearing-in, Ra’am leader vows to ‘reclaim expropriated lands’**

***Mansour Abbas also pledges to tackle violence in Arab community; Joint List leaders bemoan ‘right-wing’ policies underpinning new government***

*By* [*Amy Spiro*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/amy-spiro/) *and* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *13 June 2021, 9:46 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/דני-שם-טוב-663.jpg)

***Ra'am leader Mansour Abbas speaks to the Knesset plenum on June 13, 2021. (Noam Moskowitz/Knesset)***

Ra’am leader Mansour Abbas, whose support provided the key backing needed for the incoming change government’s majority, vowed to reclaim land in Israel that was “expropriated” from Arab Israelis.

“We will reclaim the lands that were expropriated from our people, this is a national cause of the first degree,” Abbas said in Arabic in his speech before the Knesset plenum Sunday evening.

Switching to Hebrew for the end his speech, Abbas noted that “we come from different nations, different religions, and different sectors. There is one thing that connects all citizens of Israel and that is citizenship.” [That is a typical two headed pronouncement from an islamist. Believe nothing of what they say. – rdb]

Abbas rejected claims from the right that the incoming government “sold the south of Israel” to his party.

“Nobody sold the south to Ra’am, it remains in the State of Israel,” Abbas said. “The citizens of the south are citizens of the State of Israel. There is a disagreement about the ownership of the lands — this happens in all modern countries that deal with situations like this.”

The [coalition deal](https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-inks-formal-coalition-deals-with-raam-yisrael-beytenu/) signed between Ra’am and Yesh Atid includes the formal recognition of three Bedouin communities in the South, as well as extending the freeze of the Kaminitz Law — which cracks down on on illegal construction — until the end of 2024.

Abbas also emphasized that his party would seek to handle violent crime among Arab Israelis.

“Violence and organized crime pose grave danger to our lives, and the highest value we believe in is the value of human life. How can we claim to be patriots even as we fail to protect our nation’s children?” Abbas said.

“Our patience is long. We shall proceed onward in this path,” Abbas said.

Abbas said his party will work “to advance a dialogue that will bring about better, new, principled relations for all citizens of the state: Jews and Arabs.” The Ra’am leader said joining the new coalition “will also bridge the gaps on the national level and the religious level, and will bring us together to a dialogue that will help us understand each other and not view each other as enemies.”



Joint List head Ayman Odeh addresses the Knesset plenum on June 13, 2021. (Noam Moskowitz/Knesset)

Joint List leader Ayman Odeh, whose party did not support the incoming government, called the new coalition “a bad government.”

“Today, a lot of people in the country are happy, and it’s easy to understand why,” he said. “There is room for joy, but there is no room for complacency.”

Odeh lamented that the interior, justice, and finance ministries are held by representatives of “the extreme right” — Yamina’s Ayelet Shaked, New Hope’s Gideon Sa’ar, and Yisrael Beytenu’s Avigdor Liberman, respectively.

“We are looking for a different type of cooperation between Jews and Arabs, based on peace, equality, democracy, and social justice that is not in this government,” Odeh said.

Before he was sworn in as health minister in the new government, Meretz leader Nitzan Horowitz said during his speech that Ra’am’s participation “is the answer to all the racism and those who carried out violence who want to mark all Arabs in this country as the enemy.” The move “is good news to those who believe in Arab-Jewish cooperation also in the hallways of the Knesset and the government.”



Meretz leader Nitzan Horowitz speaks to the Knesset on June 13, 2021. (Noam Moskowitz/Knesset)

Joint List MK Ahmad Tibi warned that the new government will be even more right-wing than the coalition it is replacing.

“Something good is happening today,” namely Benjamin Netanyahu’s removal from power, following years of his “division and hatred” directed at Arab Israelis, said Tibi.

“But the alternative is right-wing, even more right-wing. I heard the prime minister-designate, and he spoke about strengthening the settlements. He spoke about regulation and sovereignty in the south,” Tibi said, adding that Arab Israelis know those words are euphemisms for plans that will harm the Bedouin communities in southern Israel.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz, formerly Netanyahu’s coalition partner, thanked him for his contributions to Israel despite the bad blood between them.

“We’ll take it from here,” said Gantz during his speech.



Religious Zionism MK Bezalel Smotrich waves photos of victims of terror during Prime Minister-designate Naftali Bennett’s speech on the Knesset floor on June 13, 2021. (Noam Moskowitz/Knesset)

Earlier Sunday, Prime Minister-designate Naftali Bennett’s [speech to the Knesset floor](https://www.timesofisrael.com/end-this-chaos-constantly-heckled-bennett-says-new-government-here-to-work/) ahead of the vote [that propelled him into office](https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-sworn-in-as-prime-minister-unseating-netanyahu-after-12-years-in-power/) was repeatedly disrupted by shouting, heckling, and Knesset members being ejected from the plenum for their behavior.

At the very outset of [his speech](https://www.timesofisrael.com/full-text-pm-to-be-bennett-presents-govt-that-will-work-for-the-sake-of-all/), Bennett was interrupted by Religious Zionism party leader Bezalel Smotrich, who held up images of victims of terror, shouting, “You should be ashamed of yourself!” along with other members of his faction.

Smotrich and several other Religious Zionism MKs were removed from the Knesset floor for breaking the rule against waving banners or signs in the plenum. The hecklers shouted “liar,” “crook” and “vote stealer,” as Bennett spoke.

Outgoing Knesset Speaker Yariv Levin, of Likud, repeatedly and consistently warned the offending lawmakers that they would be removed from the floor for their disruptions. A series of Likud and Shas MKs was also evicted from the Knesset floor for their ongoing heckling of Bennett.

As the interruptions continued, Bennett’s children, who were sitting in the Knesset gallery, formed heart shapes with their hands to send a message of support for their father. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-speech-before-swearing-in-raam-leader-vows-to-reclaim-expropriated-lands/>

**Homes evacuated, highway partially closed due to fire near Jerusalem suburb**

***Closing of Route 1 to eastbound traffic comes ahead of Knesset vote on new government; 3 MKs evacuated by police***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *13 June 2021, 3:57 pmUpdated at 4:43 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/Screen-Shot-2021-06-13-at-15.27.03-e1623587581882.jpeg)

A fire near the Jerusalem suburb of Mevasseret Zion on June 13, 2021. (Screen capture: Twitter)

Police evacuated residents from several homes in the Jerusalem suburb of Mevaseret Zion on Sunday after a fire broke out in the area. An old age home in the nearby town of Motza was also evacuated as the flames spread Sunday afternoon.

The homes that were evacuated were those closest to the fire.

Numerous firefighting crews were working to gain control of the blaze, with six tanker planes assisting in the effort. The Israel Fire and Rescue Services suggested that the fire could have been started intentionally, according to Haaretz. Firefighters indicated that the hot, dry weather on Sunday and the low winds were aiding the flames to spread quickly.

Due to the fire, police closed the eastbound lane on part of the main highway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

The shuttering of Route 1 came shortly before lawmakers were set to vote at the Knesset in Jerusalem on a new government. Three members of the Knesset — Merav Ben-Ari of Yesh Atid, Esawi Frej of Meretz and Keren Barak of Likud — were reportedly rescued from the traffic jam by police and escorted to the Knesset in order to take part in the vote.

שריפת חורש פרצה ליד מבשרת ציון, תושבים בקו הבתים הראשון בשכונת נוף הרים מפונים[@VeredPelman](https://twitter.com/VeredPelman?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)   
(צילום: לילך גביש) [pic.twitter.com/yx0GWYtTfd](https://t.co/yx0GWYtTfd)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [June 13, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1404039504789491712?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Last week, several large wildfires erupted on the outskirts of Jerusalem and the West Bank, leading to the temporary evacuation of some residents and numerous road closures. Reports at the time said [authorities suspected](https://www.timesofisrael.com/huge-forest-fires-near-jerusalem-contained-as-terror-suspicions-mount/) the fires may have been deliberate acts of arson. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/homes-evacuated-highway-partially-closed-due-to-fire-near-jerusalem-suburb/>

**Hamas appoints new prime minister in Gaza**

***The Hamas announcement came shortly after Egypt decided to call off a meeting of Palestinian factions in Cairo to discuss the formation of a Palestinian unity government***

*By* [*KHALED ABU TOAMEH*](https://www.jpost.com/author/khaled-abu-toameh) *JUNE 13, 2021 22:58*

As the [new government](https://www.jpost.com/israel-elections/voting-begins-to-confirm-bennett-as-israels-new-prime-minister-670918) was being sworn in in Israel, Hamas announced that its new prime minister assumed office in the Gaza Strip on Sunday.

The new premier, Issam al-Da’alis, succeeded Dr. Mohammed Awad, who resigned after two years in the job. It was not clear why Awad submitted his resignation.  
 The handover ceremony for the Hamas prime minister was held on Sunday.  
 The Hamas announcement came shortly after Egypt decided to call off a meeting of Palestinian factions in Cairo to discuss the formation of a Palestinian unity government. The announcement is likely to intensify tensions between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, which has previously expressed opposition to the formation of a Hamas government in the Gaza Strip.  
 In 2017, Hamas announced its decision to dismantle the administrative committee it had set up as a de facto government in the Gaza Strip. The move was taken to promote reconciliation with the PA.  
 Abbas, who had demanded that [Hamas](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/israeli-victims-of-hamas-terror-file-suit-against-qatari-banks-charities-670836) dismantle the committee, imposed a series of sanctions on the Gaza Strip as part of an effort to undermine Hamas.  
 A statement issued by Hamas said that the appointment of the new prime minister came after he won the approval of the Palestinian parliament, the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC).  
 Elected in 2006, the 132-seat PLC has been effectively paralyzed since the Hamas takeover of the coastal enclave in 2007. However, the PLC members in the Gaza Strip have since been holding their own sessions of the parliament.  
 Da’alis was elected earlier this year as a member of the Hamas politburo and served as head of its “Information Department.” He also served as an adviser to Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, who is currently based in Qatar.  
 After Hamas won the 2006 parliamentary election, Haniyeh was nominated as prime minister, establishing a Palestinian national unity government with the rival Fatah faction headed by PA President Mahmoud Abbas.  
 After the 2007 Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip, Abbas dismissed the Hamas-led government and appointed Salam Fayyad as prime minister.  
 In April, Abbas decided to delay elections for the Palestinian parliament and presidency, citing Israel's alleged refusal to allow the vote to take place in Jerusalem. The decision drew criticism from Hamas and other Palestinian factions, whose representatives accused Abbas of using the Jerusalem issue as a pretext to call off the vote because he feared another Hamas victory.  
 <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/hamas-appoints-new-prime-minister-in-gaza-670938>

**Mystery: TV news reporter who exposed the Clintons found dead**

**Sounded alarm of 'significant death threats,' protected kids with code words**

*By* [*Joe Kovacs*](https://www.wnd.com/author/jkovacs/) *Published June 13, 2021 at 6:01pm*

In yet another [mysterious death with a connection of some kind to the Clinton family](https://www.wnd.com/2016/08/clinton-death-list-33-most-intriguing-cases/), the TV news reporter who broke news of the infamous "tarmac meeting" in 2016 between former President Bill Clinton and then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch is dead at the age of 45.

Christopher Sign, who authored a book about his big story titled "Secret on the Tarmac," was found dead Saturday at 8:13 a.m. by police in Hoover, Alabama, after authorities received a report of a "person down."



***Christopher Sign (ABC 33/40)***

Police and Sign's employer say his death is being investigated as a suicide. [It is just amazing how many people related to the Clinton family seem to die of suicide when the people start to reveal the treachery of this vile couple of criminals. – rdb]

Eric Land, vice president and general manager of ABC 33/40 in Birmingham where Sign worked, released a statement, saying: "Our deepest sympathy is shared with Christopher's loving family and close friends. We have lost a revered colleague who's indelible imprint will serve forever as a hallmark of decency, honesty and journalist integrity.

"We can only hope to carry on his legacy. May his memory be for blessing."

His TV station gave an on-air obituary for Sign, [stating](https://abc3340.com/news/local/abc-3340-anchor-christopher-sign-passes-away):

"What most people don't know has Chris turned down an opportunity to work for one of the national networks to come to ABC 33/40, and he made that decision because of his family. That decision put him in a place where he could see his boys off to school in the mornings, watch them play baseball in the evenings, and take them fishing on the weekends.

"Chris was a tremendous leader in our newsroom. He worked with our reporting staff on a daily basis, but also worked behind the scenes with the I-Team and with news managers on coverage of major events. You were very likely to get an email from him with a story idea in the middle of the night. He was passionate about journalism and showed it each and every day as he pushed himself and his colleagues to be the best.

"Those are all things he learned while he was at the University of Alabama playing football for Coach Gene Stallings. Chris often gave Coach Stallings credit for getting him into the television news business. Today, our hearts are heavy and our prayers are with his wife Laura, their three boys, and their families."

Journalist Jamie Hale tweeted, "I can’t believe we have an article with this title. It doesn’t feel real. We were in the office together last night cutting up like we always do. I don’t understand why. I can’t talk about you in the past tense. The grief today is unbearable."

I can’t believe we have an article with this title. It doesn’t feel real. We were in the office together last night cutting up like we always do.

I don’t understand why. I can’t talk about you in the past tense. The grief today is unbearable.<https://t.co/iL3vFvG4DS>

— Jamie Hale (@JamieHaleSports) [June 12, 2021](https://twitter.com/JamieHaleSports/status/1403858446525599752)

In February 2020, Sign talked with "Fox & Friends" about Clinton's secret tarmac meeting with Lynch at Phoenix's Sky Harbor Airport while the attorney general at the time was probing Hillary Clinton's use of a private e-mail server as the former first lady was the Democratic presidential candidate.

"We knew something had occurred that was a bit unusual," Sign [said](https://nypost.com/2021/06/13/christopher-sign-alabama-news-anchor-who-broke-clinton-tarmac-story-dead-at-45/), ahead of his book's release. "It was a planned meeting. It was not a coincidence."

He told Fox his life had become a living hell due to the investigation, with death threats to his family.

"My family received significant death threats shortly after breaking this story," he indicated.

"Credit cards hacked. You know, my children, we have code words. We have secret code words that they know what to do."

Christopher Sign went on Fox recently about the death threats he received after breaking the Clinton tarmac story [pic.twitter.com/IbXYnl1LgK](https://t.co/IbXYnl1LgK)

— Jewish Deplorable (@TrumpJew2) [June 13, 2021](https://twitter.com/TrumpJew2/status/1403950963719868417)

Sign's death is the latest in what has become known worldwide as the ["Clinton Death List"](https://www.wnd.com/2016/08/clinton-death-list-33-most-intriguing-cases/) and ["Clinton Body Count,"](https://www.wnd.com/2016/08/clinton-death-list-33-most-intriguing-cases/) a tally of individuals associated with the Clintons who have died under mysterious circumstances, from falling off buildings to dying in plane crashes and freak accidents.

See the ["Clinton Death List" here.](https://www.wnd.com/2016/08/clinton-death-list-33-most-intriguing-cases/)

Some observers online are finding it hard to believe Sign would kill himself.

"No way this guy Christopher Sign, who was a successful author, who wrote about the Clinton tarmac meeting just up and committed suicide," one person [tweeted](https://twitter.com/BonaFideSlimLo/status/1403897294974562308). "I'm not a conspiracy person but this is weird. Too weird."

Another said, "I don't think so. This is murder and it has Clintons all over it. Christopher Sign, Birmingham TV anchor and former Alabama football player, dead in an apparent suicide."

I don't think so. This is murder and it has Clintons all over it. Christopher Sign, Birmingham TV anchor and former Alabama football player, dead in apparent suicide <https://t.co/P5xBNalljA>

— DOUG AMERICAN ACTOR (@DougBAllen) [June 13, 2021](https://twitter.com/DougBAllen/status/1403881882660618241)

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/mystery-tv-news-reporter-broke-clintons-secret-tarmac-meeting-dead/>

**Judge issues ruling on hospital workers challenging COVID-vaccine mandate**

*By* [*Jack Davis, The Western Journal*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wj/) *Published June 13, 2021 at 5:48pm*

Employees of a Houston hospital who refused to take the coronavirus vaccine, despite orders from their employer, were left out in the cold Saturday after a judge tossed out their lawsuit against the hospital.

In March, [Houston Methodist Hospital](https://www.westernjournal.com/hospital-system-suspends-178-employees-not-complied-covid-vaccine-mandate/) said all of its employees had to be vaccinated by June 7 to continue working there.

Marc Boom, president and CEO, has said 99 percent of the hospital's 26,000 workers complied.

However, 117 employees who refused to be vaccinated sued the hospital. U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas Judge Lynn N. Hughes threw out the suit saying that lead plaintiff and nurse Jennifer Bridges and her fellow workers had no case, according to [NBC News](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/judge-dismisses-lawsuit-houston-hospital-employees-over-covid-19-vaccinations-n1270597).

The lawyer for the employees, who were all suspended from their jobs on Tuesday, said the fight is not over.

“This is the first battle in a long fight,” attorney Jared Woodfill said, according to [KHOU-TV](https://www.khou.com/article/news/local/houston-methodist-hospital-lawsuit-covid-vaccine/285-7511e2fb-6022-4a77-be93-eba77737b003).

“There are going to be many battles fought. Not just in this courtroom, but in courtrooms all across the state. There are battles that are going to be fought in the higher courts, the 5th Circuit, the Texas Supreme Court, even the United States Supreme Court. So this is just one battle in a larger war. It’s the first round, if you will," he said.

The lawsuit claimed that [requiring vaccination](https://www.westernjournal.com/fda-finds-60-million-covid-vaccine-doses-potentially-contaminated-report/) was a violation of the rights of employees. The lawsuit likened the requirement to be vaccinated to forced participation in a clinical trial, and a violation of an ethics standard known as the Nuremberg Code, created after World War II to ban experimentation on individuals without their consent.

Judge Hughes [did not agree](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16CMnYZPxPARc0TiUmqX4g6Wmldi_FnuT/view).

Hughes wrote that Bridges "is refusing to accept inoculation that, in the hospital's judgment, will make it safer for their workers and patients in Methodist's care." [That is total garbage. I have spent a year looking at everything I can find and this is totally bogus. – rdb]

Hughes said workers were not being coerced. [That is also a lie- they were coerced. It was a case of Jab or Job. – rdb]

"This is not coercion. Methodist is trying to do their business of saving [patients'] lives without giving them the COVID-19 virus. It is a choice made to keep staff, patients and their families safer," he wrote.

He further rejected the contention that the vaccine was not approved by noting that it was approved for emergency use.

He also rejected the lawsuit's reference to [Nazi Germany](https://www.westernjournal.com/jill-biden-speak-front-flag-giant-nazi-eagle/).

"Equating the injection requirement to medical experimentation in concentration camps is reprehensible," he wrote.

Bridges had said when she opposed taking the vaccine that “[p]eople trying to force you to put something into your body that you’re not comfortable with, in order to keep your job, is just insane," to a [KHOU-TV](https://www.khou.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/vaccine/117-employees-sue-houston-methodist-covid-19-vaccine-requirement/285-1c6d1749-c125-4b0c-be4f-823e1131b99f) report from May 28.

“I’m not an anti-vax person. If you want to get it, by all means, get it. I don’t take that away from anybody. Just let everybody have a choice and the right to make their own decision," Bridges said.

This article appeared originally on [The Western Journal](https://www.westernjournal.com/). <https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/judge-dismisses-lawsuit-challenging-hospital-vaccine-mandate/> [Obviously this is a paid of judge that needs to be defrocked. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**Biden’s War on Jerusalem**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*June 13, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/06/bidens-war-on-jerusalem.html)

A decade ago, Vice President Biden paid a visit to Jerusalem.

Like any trip by an emissary of the Obama administration, it wasn’t a goodwill tour, but a combination of a provocation and a shakedown. While Biden was in Israel, two construction projects received partial approval in a multi-stage process from the City of Jerusalem.  
 Biden responded by staying up in his hotel room and refusing to come down for an hour.  
 When he did come down, he hugged Netanyahu and assured him, “Just remember that I am your best f\_\_\_\_ friend here.”  
 Biden’s definition of friendship is the backstabbing kind because after that he and the entire Obama administration began attacking Israel over a decision made by a local urban agency.  
 "It was not only an insult to Biden, but an insult to the United States," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton ranted. Then she spent two hours yelling at Netanyahu over the phone.  
 “I was often the ‘designated yeller,’” Hillary would [later brag](https://archives.frontpagemag.com/fpm/muslim-terrorists-and-jewish-anti-semites-against-daniel-greenfield/) about her relationship with Israel.  
 "There was an affront, it was an insult," David Axelrod, Obama's senior adviser falsely claimed.  
 The media launched a disinformation campaign falsely claiming that Prime Minister Netanyahu had deliberately caused a Jerusalem urban planning committee to reach a decision on housing in two areas that until then no one had even been paying much attention to.  
 One of those housing projects was going up in the Shimon HaTzadik (Simon the Righteous) neighborhood named after the last true high priest who had dissuaded Alexander the Great from putting up an idol in the Temple.  
 The Jewish neighborhood had been built in the 19th century. In 1936, Muslim rioters drove out the community while shouting, "Allahu Akbar" and "Ibtach Al Yahood" or "Kill the Jews".  
 This was the first modern Muslim attempted genocide of the indigenous Jewish population of Israel. A British truck driver [recollected a massacre](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2010/03/barack-hussein-obama-vs-israel.html) in Tiberias in which "the bodies of children, apparently set alight with gasoline in a nursery, were still smoldering" and "the naked bodies of the women exposed the evidence that the knives had been used in the most ghastly fashion."  
 In 1947, the Muslims came for the Jews of the neighborhood again and they fought back with the few weapons they had. Then British forces came along and disarmed the Jews to "keep the peace". The Jewish population fled again. Jordan's Arab Legion, under British officers, seized half of Jerusalem, and ethnically cleansed its Jewish population Some of the homes in Shimon HaTzadik (referred to by Muslims as Sheikh Jarrah after one of Saladin's colonizing invaders) were [used by the](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/05/how-un-stole-jewish-homes-in-occupied.html) UNRWA to settle Muslims in violation of international law.  
 The other housing project in Jerusalem in Ramat Shlomo was set to be built [on uninhabited land](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2010/03/barack-hussein-obama-vs-israel.html) that not even the PLO was claiming as its own.  
 This was what Biden, Hillary, the Obama administration and the media were howling about.  
 Obama used fake outrage over Jews living in Jerusalem to engineer the beginning of the Democrat Party’s break with Israel. Biden played a key role in staging an international incident to manufacture a narrative in which Israel was somehow provoking a conflict with Obama.  
 11 years later, Biden is so short of ideas that he went right back to the same neighborhood.  
 The Muslim squatters [planted by UNRWA](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/05/how-un-stole-jewish-homes-in-occupied.html) in Jewish homes have refused to pay rent to their owners or leave. After two generations of court cases, Israel’s Supreme Court was moving to issue a final decision. The Islamic terrorists of the PLO and Hamas used this as a pretext for a murderous campaign against Israel. And everyone from Biden on down has warned Israel against actually following the law and allowing the Jewish owners to reclaim the property.  
 Biden funded Iran, backed the terrorists inside Israel, and then warned the Jewish State against “provoking” them by allowing Jews to take part in a parade or allowing courts to follow the law.  
 On May 10th, well before the fighting began, Biden's people [ordered](https://www.frontpagemag.com/point/2021/05/biden-demanded-israel-cancel-jerusalem-day-parade-daniel-greenfield/) Israel not to evict any of the Muslim squatters and to cancel the annual Jerusalem Day celebrations. Netanyahu tried to appease Biden by rerouting the parade and asked the Supreme Court to postpone a decision.  
 Despite these efforts at appeasement, the Islamic violence escalated anyway. But that hasn’t stopped the Biden administration and its media allies from blaming Israel anyway.  
 That’s how this game of diplomatic Catch 22 with Israel always works.  
 The Supreme Court, which is independent and doesn’t answer to either Biden or Netanyahu, refused to halt the eviction case. That hasn’t stopped the Biden administration from continuing to make illegal demands that another nation’s supreme court should refuse to follow the law.  
 But Biden is also moving to open a consulate for the ‘Palestinians’ in Jerusalem to counteract the embassy that President Trump moved to Jerusalem. The consulate would violate Israeli sovereignty and [would be illegal](https://nypost.com/2021/05/26/bidens-plan-for-diplomatic-mission-to-the-palestinians-violates-us-law/) under United States law. Neither bothers Biden.  
 There’s also no reason to set up a consulate to the terrorists in Jerusalem except to violate Israeli sovereignty over the city and stake a claim to the Jewish city for Hamas and the PLO.  
 The Palestinian Authority operates out of Ramallah. The Russians and Chinese have their diplomatic missions in Ramallah. That’s not out of sensitivity to Israel, just common sense.  
 Biden wants to set up a consulate to the PA miles away from the terror state regime that he wants to have close diplomatic relations with. State Department personnel told the media that during the war they thought they were “flying blind” without a consulate. But a consulate in Jerusalem puts them no closer to Abbas and the Palestinian Authority’s government than the embassy they already have in Jerusalem does. If Biden wants a consulate close to Abbas, he could erect one in Ramallah. Otherwise the consulate could operate out of the embassy.  
 Secretary of State Blinken claims that Biden wants a consulate in Jerusalem "to be able to more effectively engage not just the Palestinian Authority, but Palestinians from different walks of life, the NGO community, the business community, and others.”  
 Countries don’t have diplomatic relations with NGOs and businesses, but with countries. France doesn’t operate a consulate to Coca Cola or the Sierra Club.  
 But if Biden and Blinken want to “engage” the non-profit NGOs that are funded by the State Department, the European Union, George Soros, and other anti-Israel billionaires to wage a campaign against Israel, they can just open a consulate in D.C., Brussels, or the Open Society Foundations in Berlin. And the Muslim “business community” of the [600 Hamas millionaires](https://www.algemeiner.com/2014/07/28/gazas-millionaires-and-billionaires-how-hamass-leaders-got-rich-quick/) in Gaza, (falsely depicted as an “open air prison” in the media’s disinformation campaign) would be best engaged by opening a consulate in Gaza City right next to the AP’s offices.  
 There’s no legal or rational reason for Biden to open a “Palestinian” consulate in Jerusalem.  
 Biden wants a terrorist consulate in Jerusalem for the same reason that every Democrat White House insisted on keeping the US embassy in Tel Aviv 40 miles from the actual location of the Israeli government in Jerusalem. The State Department didn’t complain it was “flying blind” through multiple wars by refusing to have close access to the Israeli government.  
 It was more important to make a point by refusing to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.  
 The Soviet Union and European media made a point of referring to Tel Aviv as shorthand for Israel’s government the way that we would refer to London as shorthand for the British government which was like insisting that the White House is really in Boston.  
 Deutsche Welle, Germany’s state-owned broadcaster, falsely [captioned](https://www.facebook.com/HonestReporting/posts/10159598788234954) a recent photo of Blinken and Netanyahu meeting in Jerusalem as “Blinken met with Netanyahu in Tel-Aviv”.  
 It’s not just Iran that refers to Israel as “the regime in Tel Aviv”.  
 That’s the denialist mindset behind Biden’s push to open a terror consulate in Jerusalem. Biden’s people, especially his [pro-terrorist point man Hady Amr](https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/2021/04/bidens-anti-israel-point-man-behind-plan-fund-daniel-greenfield/) are, as the State Department often accused Israel of doing, “creating facts on the ground” for the PLO and Hamas.  
 And no politician has been more hypocritical and dishonest about Jerusalem than Biden.  
 In 1990, Biden [co-sponsored](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2010/03/full-measure-of-joe-bidens-hypocrisy-on.html) Senate Concurrent Resolution 106 which condemned "ambiguous statements by the Government of the United States concerning the right of Jews to live in all parts of Jerusalem".  
 Two decades later, Biden became a key figure in attacking the right of Jews to "live in all parts of Jerusalem".  
 In 1992, Biden [co-sponsored](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2010/03/full-measure-of-joe-bidens-hypocrisy-on.html) Senate Consecutive Resolution 113 stating that "Jerusalem must remain an undivided city" and in 1995 co-sponsored the Jerusalem Embassy Act declaring that "Jerusalem should remain an undivided city" and "be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel". All the way back in 1984, Biden was [saying](https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/views-on-israel-of-u-s-presidential-candidates-2020-joe-biden), “I happen to support this move”, but “I think it is the wrong fight to make it this time.” And it always went on being the wrong time.  
 When President Trump called Biden’s bluff by moving the embassy to Jerusalem, Biden conceded that “I wouldn’t reverse it. I wouldn’t have done it in the first place.”  
 Biden promised to open a consulate to the “Palestinians” in Jerusalem and he’s on it. The proposed consulate has no legitimate government function because it’s not in Ramallah.  
 The only purpose of the consulate is to undermine President Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem.  
 After years of enthusiastic speeches at AIPAC, Biden offered a sonorous video in 2020 warning of a "humanitarian crisis" in Gaza and telling Israel that it needed to stop Jewish "settlements".  
 Biden threatened Israel that if it didn't keep Jews from living on land claimed by the terrorists, it would "choke off any hope for peace" and undermine support from Democrats.  
 During his campaign, Biden promised, “I will reopen the U.S. consulate in East Jerusalem”.  
 He’s not reopening it to “engage Palestinians”, but to counter Israel’s claim to Jerusalem. After decades of pretending that he supported recognizing a united Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel, Biden is doing everything he can to undermine Israel’s presence in Jerusalem.  
 In 2013, Biden told AIPAC that he was jealous because Obama "gets to be the one to say ‘This year in Jerusalem'". In 2021, he’s promising, “This year in Jerusalem” to the terrorists.

[*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/2021/06/bidens-war-on-jerusalem.html>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Jerusalem Chief Rabbi: Return to the synagogues**

***Rabbi Shlomo Amar criticizes people who continue to pray in the street after COVID restrictions on synagogues have been lifted.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Jun 14 , 2021 5:10 PM*



***Rabbi Shlomo Amar Hezki Baruch***

Rabbi Shlomo Amar, the Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem, called on religious Jews to return to the synagogue following the removal of coronavirus restrictions.

In a special video that will be broadcast tonight at the "Returning to the Synagogues" conference of the World Synagogue Organization, Rabbi Amar referred to the people who continue to pray in street minyans even though prayers can already be resumed at synagogues.

"How unfortunate it is to hear that there are other people who want to continue to pray in the courtyards. Do you really have such great contempt for synagogues from this thing, that after G-d has dealt kindly with us, opened the gates of mercy, that we can pray - that we should go and choose a quick and disrespectful prayer?"

Rabbi Amar's full remarks will be broadcast tonight at a conference to be held by the World Organization of Synagogues to mark the return to synagogues. The conference will be broadcast on Arutz Sheva at 8:30 PM tonight, Tuesday night, and Wednesday night. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308057>

**Ayelet Shaked: 'I will work to return infiltrators to their homelands'**

***Ayelet Shaked, Israel's new Interior Minister, promises to protect Israel's borders and character, remove illegal infiltrators.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Jun 14 , 2021 4:16 PM*



***Ayelet Shaked at the ceremony Hezki Baruch***

On Monday afternoon, former Interior Minister Aryeh Deri (Shas) officially gave his position to his replacement, Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked (Yamina).

Speaking at the official ceremony, Deri said: "The ambition of every incoming minister is not to ruin what others did that needs improvement. In a conversation with Shaked in the room, before the ceremony, I told her that other than the minister's office, there are no political appointments in the ministry."

"This is not the government I expected would be formed," he added. "I expected a right-wing government, but this is the democratic game. I am split in my prayers. On the one hand, I wish Ayelet much success, on the other, as Aryeh Deri, I promise to do everything to ensure that this government falls quickly."

Shaked said: "In the coalition negotiations, I was able to choose which ministry I wanted, and I chose to come here. The Interior Ministry is one of the most important ministries in the State of Israel. As the Justice Minister, I sat with representatives of the Interior [Ministry] and I saw how important it is to every citizen and to society in Israel. Today we are here without masks and without coronavirus - because the local authorities have done a good job."

"I will adopt the decision of Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, and I will appoint ministers over hundreds and over thousands. I will give authority to local authorities. The State of Israel is a Jewish state; I will work with all my might to implement a responsible emigration policy, while providing an appropriate solution for solid humanitarian situations. I will work to bring the infiltrators [back to their countries](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/279110), and to encourage voluntary exit from Israel [to safe third countries."](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/241377)

Noting that "the State of Israel has been in the midst of a housing crisis for many years already," Shaked added that the Interior Ministry "has many tools which can provide an appropriate solution for this crisis."

"I will work vigorously to shorten and speed up the planning processes," she promised.

The new Interior Minister also promised to implement a reform to ease bureaucracy for business owners and the self-employed.

"I believe that we must work with all our might to fix warps in bureaucracy, reduce regulations, create cooperation between the various bodies of government, reduce the gaps between the various sectors in the population, protect the State's borders and character, and above all else, protect the welfare and security of Israel's citizens," she concluded. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308047>

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