**06/26/2022 NEWS**

**Nehemiah- From Persia to Jerusalem - A personal Journal**

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_zF3EyHBgc>

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| "[A] public policy of simply discouraging people from owning or using firearms is not, in and of itself, a constitutionally permissible objective, any more than discouraging people from religious observance would be permissible to some oh-so-progressive government that considered religion as hopelessly declassé as progressives nowadays consider the right to keep and bear arms .... And any statute or regulation that burdens the right to keep and bear arms on the ground that guns are a public health hazard should enjoy the same frosty reception in court that would be given a statute or regulation that burdened the free exercise of religion as a mental hazard."-- Daniel D. Polsby (1945-) Dean of the Law School and Professor of Law at George Mason University |

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

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

|  |  |
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| **Please****Remember****These** **Folks** **In** **Prayer-****Check often****They** **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!** **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.****Pray for CF – fell off ladder and bad fracture leg.****Pray for EL – Had stoke – Now having coronary angiogram****Pray for KH – diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma** **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!****Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence****Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems****Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

Exodus 20:1And God spoke all these words, saying: 2I am the LORD thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. 4Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, nor any manner of likeness, of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5thou shalt not bow down unto them, nor serve them; for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; 6and showing mercy unto the thousandth generation of them that love Me and keep My commandments.

**Hezbollah said to have built 15 new observation posts, all along border with Israel**

***IDF tells Israeli TV the Lebanese terror group has set up lookouts on northern frontier meters from army positions, including at spot where it staged raid that sparked 2006 war***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 10:25 pm*

 Lebanon’s Hezbollah terror group has established over a dozen new observation posts all the way along Israel’s northern border in recent weeks, according to a Saturday television report.

 The Israeli military has long accused Hezbollah of conducting clandestine activities along the Israel-Lebanon border under the guise of an environmental group known as “Green Without Borders,” and published details of one such [new site](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-accuses-hezbollah-of-gathering-intelligence-under-guise-of-environmental-group/) earlier this month.

 Channel 12 news’s northern correspondent reported that at least 15 posts, which are manned by Hezbollah members 24 hours a day, have been built in recent weeks. They each include an observation post or tower and two or three residential and logistics buildings.

 Some of the posts are just meters away from the internationally recognized border between the countries — known as the Blue Line — and the Israel Defense Forces positions on the other side of the fence. One such post was recently built close to the site of the deadly Hezbollah border attack on Israeli soldiers that sparked the Second Lebanon War in 2006.



An observation post allegedly manned by members of the Lebanese Hezbollah terror group, is seen near the border with Israel, as seen in images released by the military on June 8, 2022. (Israel Defense Forces)

 “Hezbollah is basing itself on the confrontation line. They are trying to camouflage it as activities of a ‘green’ organization, but it is clear to us who is behind these [sites] and the people who operate in the area,” Lt. Col. Avshalom Dadon, commander of the IDF’s 601st engineering battalion. told Channel 12.

 Another senior officer said that some of the Hezbollah members — dressed in civilian clothing — man the sites while armed.

עוקבים אחרי כל תנועה של צה"ל: קו המוצבים שהקים חיזבאללה בצמוד לגבול עם ישראל | מגזין N12<https://t.co/IHIeAGeF2r>[@guyvaron](https://twitter.com/guyvaron?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/xEI79mgqWI](https://t.co/xEI79mgqWI)

— החדשות – N12 (@N12News) [June 25, 2022](https://twitter.com/N12News/status/1540605716817293312?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

 The network said two more sites — dozens of meters from the border — were being built in recent days. Earlier this month, the head of the IDF’s Northern Command said Hezbollah had recently stepped up construction of military infrastructure near the border.
 “We can see the operatives approaching the border area. We know them: their names, where they come from and where they are working. When the time comes, they will pay the price,”  Maj. Gen. Amir Baram said.
 Baram vowed that the IDF will “destroy all the infrastructure” in question and “will reduce it to nothing.”
 In some recent incidents, Lebanese men hurled stones at soldiers patrolling the border and damaged infrastructure related to the fence, the Channel 12 report said.
 According to the IDF, the alleged Hezbollah positions represent a violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the 2006 war.
 The resolution calls for armed groups besides the official Lebanese military and peacekeeping United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to remain north of the country’s Litani River.
 Advertisement
 The IDF has made similar claims in recent years, identifying several observation posts owned by the non-governmental organization, which the military said were actually being used to carry out intelligence and reconnaissance work for the Iran-backed terror group.
 In 2017, the United Nations rejected Israel’s claim that Hezbollah was using the NGO as a front for its activities.
 At the time, UNIFIL said that while “Green Without Borders” members have planted trees in the area, it “has not observed any unauthorized armed persons at the locations or found any basis to report a violation of resolution 1701.” MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-said-setting-up-new-observation-posts-meters-from-israeli-border/>

**Bennett: It sounds like fiction but Israel needs a coalition from Ben Gvir to Abbas**

***Outgoing PM says he should have spent more time supporting his own party’s MKs: There should have been ‘less Zelensky, more Silman’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *26 June 2022, 1:26 am*

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in a Channel 12 TV interview broadcast on June 25, 2022. (Channel 12 screenshot)

 Outgoing Prime Minister Naftali Bennett spoke about his mistakes on the job, the political changes he believes Israel needs and opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu’s suitability to lead in a wide-ranging and candid interview on Saturday night.
 Bennett and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid announced their decision on Monday to dissolve the 24th Knesset after just one year in power due to their inability to keep their narrow, politically diverse coalition together any longer.
 Lapid is set to become caretaker prime minister this week, as per their coalition agreement.
 Bennett called for a more inclusive approach to politics in Israel, and an end to the practice of “invalidating” certain parties by their political opponents.
 Before Bennett’s coalition took power, Israel went through a series of grueling, inconclusive elections, with no party able to assemble a majority coalition, as different political factions refused to sit with their opponents in a government.
 Bennett and Lapid formed a broad “change” government that spanned the political spectrum, with right-wing, centrist and left-wing parties, plus the Islamist Ra’am faction. The coalition only ever held a narrow majority, though, meaning it could not afford any renegade members, and infighting between its disparate elements caused its collapse.
 Bennett said Saturday that a government should not depend on “extremes,” like the opposition’s far-right Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben Gvir of the Religious Zionism party, or his coalition’s Ra’am party led by Mansour Abbas, but that they should not be ruled out.
 “Would a government that depends on Ben Gvir and Smotrich be good for Israel? No. I’m not saying they’re barred, but the government cannot be dependant on them,” Bennett said. “This year proved it’s not good to be dependent on the extremes.” MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-it-sounds-like-fiction-but-israel-needs-a-coalition-from-ben-gvir-to-abbas/>

**Bennett: I won't rule out sitting under Netanyahu in future**

***The Knesset may disperse as early as Monday, as the opposition has reportedly exhausted all attempts to form an alternative government without going to elections***

*By* [*ELIAV BREUER*](https://www.jpost.com/author/eliav-breuer) *Published: JUNE 25, 2022 20:56 Updated: JUNE 25, 2022 22:23*

The 24th Knesset may disperse as early as Monday evening, exactly a week after Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Alternate Prime Minister Yair Lapid’s [dramatic announcement to that effect](https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-710245).

 While there are still a number of parliamentary hurdles to clear, Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked said on Friday that the negotiations to form an alternate government led by opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu had been exhausted, leaving elections as the only remaining option.

 Bennett’s political future is unclear. He met with his longtime political partner Shaked on Friday for the first time since Monday’s announcement, which he made while she was on an official visit to Morocco. The two are set to meet again on Sunday, presumably to discuss their political future.

 In interviews on all three major television news outlets aired on Saturday evening, Bennett said that he would not announce [his plans for the future](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-709914) until the Knesset officially disperses, but that his decision will be based on whether his remaining in politics would or would not contribute to healing the schism between Israel’s different sectors.

 According to the coalition agreements, Bennett was meant to become interior minister, Shaked justice minister, and Sa’ar foreign minister. However, these changes require Knesset approval, and the coalition does not have a majority.

 If Bennett decides to leave politics either permanently or temporarily, Shaked will probably take over the leadership of Yamina. If he decides to remain, however, she may choose to end the partnership and leave the party, which won only four seats in a poll published on Friday.

 The vacating prime minister did not rule out joining a Netanyahu-led government. “Netanyahu style 2015 is ok,” but not if he does things that are unacceptable, Bennett said in an interview with Channel 12’s Dana Weiss. MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/israel-elections/article-710382>

**Israeli scientists discover how to make elderly human skin young again**

***After 20 years of research, Haifa scientists claim to have found the way to make elderly human skin young again – in lab rodents.***

*By* [*JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH*](https://www.jpost.com/author/judy-siegel-itzkovich) *Published: JUNE 24, 2022 21:25*

 Have scientists at Haifa’s Rambam Health Care Campus and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and colleagues abroad – after two decades of research – discovered the [fountain of youth](https://www.jpost.com/health-science/new-fountain-of-youth-hebrew-u-finds-link-between-optimism-longevity-670175)? This omnipresent human desire seems closer to fulfillment, at least in laboratory mice, on whom the researchers discovered a mechanism for rejuvenating human organs.

 Conducted by Dr. Aviad Keren, Dr. Yaniv Keren, Prof. Yehuda Ullman, Prof. Amos Gilhar of the Haifa institutions, Dr. Marta Bertolini of the Monasterium Laboratory in Germany and Dr. Ralf Paus of the University of Manchester, the study has just been published in the prestigious journal Science Advances published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science under the title “Human organ rejuvenation by VEGF-A: Lessons from the skin.”

 Using an old skin graft on young mice, they proved that it is possible to make skin and other organs young again via a change in molecular structure through all the layers of the skin.

 Transplanting aged human skin onto young mice with [severe combined immunodeficiency disease](https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/health-and-science/screening-saves-eight-potential-bubble-babies-474757#!:~:text=universal%20screening%20of%20newborns%20in%20hospital%20neonatal%20departments%20for%20severe%20combined%20immunodeficiency%20(scid)%2c%20hypothyroidism%20and%20a%20number%20of%20other%20diseases%20during%20the%20past%20year%20has%20saved%20eight%20infants%20from%20potentially%20fatal%20disorders.) (SCID) that genetically affects both B and T lymphocytes can rejuvenate the transplantation of living cells, tissues or organs from one species to another, they wrote. This is accompanied by angiogenesis (the growth of new blood vessels), repigmentation of the epidermis (outer layer of the skin) and significant improvements in vital biomarkers connected to aging.

***Reversing aging***

 If one accepts the view that aging is “an ultimately a fatal disease whose progress can be slowed and reversed and views aging as a druggable and reprogrammable target, dissecting the key drivers of human organ aging and developing effective molecular strategies to prevent or even reverse it surely constitutes one of the most fundamental missions of biomedical research,” they wrote.  MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/health-and-wellness/article-710319> [Hummm? Live forever? If it is just the skin this might put some plastic surgeons and dermatologists out of business. If it is all organs it means we are playing God again.- rdb]

**Palestinians reportedly assaulted by settlers near illegal West Bank outpost**

***Rights group says two hurt ‘in a very violent way,’ vehicles also torched; no immediate comment from Israeli authorities***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 4:20 pm*



A burnt out car is seen near the West Bank village of Mughayir, after an alleged assualt by Israeli settlers, June 25, 2022. (Mughayir Council via Yesh Din)

Two people were reportedly assaulted by Israeli settlers from an illegal West Bank outpost on Saturday morning.
 According to the Yesh Din rights group, some 60 settlers from Adei Ad assaulted Palestinian workers some two kilometers away, near the village of Mughayir.
 It said the settlers “physically assaulted the workers in a very violent way,” injuring two. The Kan public broadcaster said one of the wounded was an Israeli citizen.
 According to the network, the incident began after the settlers hurled stones at the workers. A little later, a violent brawl broke out between dozens of Israelis and Palestinians.
 A pair of vehicles belonging to the Palestinian workers were torched, images showed. Yesh Din said an excavator was also damaged.

There was no immediate comment from Israeli authorities on the incident.

A Palestinian man who was allegedly assaulted by settlers near the West Bank village of Mughayir, June 25, 2022. (Mughayir Council via Yesh Din)

 The alleged assault came days after a Palestinian man was stabbed to death in the northern West Bank, allegedly by an Israeli man.
 Palestinian witnesses said Ali Hassan Harb, a 27-year-old engineer, was stabbed in the heart by a settler on the outskirts of his hometown of Iskaka late on Tuesday afternoon. A group of Israelis had arrived in the area with construction materials in an apparent attempt to build a new illegal outpost.
 Israeli police [arrested](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-arrested-for-suspected-involvement-in-stabbing-death-of-palestinian/) an Israeli settler in his 40s on Wednesday for alleged involvement in an incident. He was held as an accomplice and not on suspicion of carrying out the stabbing himself, according to Kan.
 There has been a [rise](https://www.timesofisrael.com/settler-attacks-on-palestinians-are-on-the-rise-but-justice-remains-elusive/) in settler violence in recent years, and soldiers are sometimes seen[standing by](https://www.timesofisrael.com/two-left-wing-activists-hurt-in-west-bank-after-settlers-hurl-stones-at-them/) as they occur. Soldiers are legally permitted — even required in some cases — to intervene to prevent violent attacks, regardless of nationality. The military generally prefers that police deal with the attacks and settler arrests, but police do not have as much of a presence in the West Bank. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinians-reportedly-assaulted-by-settlers-near-illegal-west-bank-outpost/>

**Iran vows to press ahead with nuclear development until West ends ‘illegal behavior’**

***Senior Iranian official tells EU diplomat that breaches of 2015 deal a ‘legal and rational reaction to US unilateralism’; Israeli official warns against renewing ‘very bad’ accord***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 11:08 pm* The head of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council vowed on Saturday to push ahead with nuclear development until the West ends its “illegal behavior,” the [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-says-its-nuclear-development-continue-until-west-changes-its-illegal-2022-06-25/) news agency reported, citing Iranian state media.
 “Iran’s retaliatory actions in the nuclear sector are merely legal and rational responses to US unilateralism and European inaction and will continue as long as the West’s illegal practices are not changed,” Ali Shamkhani said in a meeting with top EU diplomat Josep Borrell.
 He added that Iran would reject any agreement that doesn’t include guarantees from the US and Europe or provide the Islamic Republic with economic benefits.
 Borrell tweeted that he and Shamkhani had an “important meeting” aimed at bringing the nuclear deal “back on track,” without elaborating further.
 The EU diplomat met Shamkhani while visiting Tehran as part of efforts to revive stalled nuclear talks.
 Talks on reviving the Iran nuclear deal, which have been stalled for three months, are expected to resume [within days](https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-nuclear-talks-to-resume-in-coming-days-says-top-eu-diplomat/), Borrell said earlier Saturday.



Josep Borrell, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy speaks during a meeting with Iran’s Foreign Minister at the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Iran’s capital Tehran on June 25, 2022. (Atta Kenare/AFP)

 Israel is fiercely opposed to a return to the 2015 deal, which it campaigned against at the time of its signing, viewing Iran as untrustworthy and unable to keep its commitments.
 Successive Israeli governments have warned for decades that Iran seeks to build a nuclear weapon.

 “If it’s signed, the current deal is very bad for Israel,” an unnamed senior security official told Channel 12 news on Saturday.
 “[The agreement] is limited to 2.5 years and will allow Iran economic prosperity that will cause its military capabilities in the Middle East to advance,” the official added. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-vows-to-press-ahead-with-nuclear-development-until-west-ends-illegal-behavior/>

**US amends ban, allowing entry to Iranian former IRGC members**

***Former IRGC compulsory service members will be allowed entry into the US if they "pose no danger to the safety and security of the US."***

*By* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff) *Published: JUNE 25, 2022 18:13 Updated: JUNE 25, 2022 19:42*

Iranian men who served in the [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-710232) as part of their compulsory military service will now be allowed entry into the United States, a US Secretary of Homeland Security and Secretary of State notice published on Thursday said.

 According to the notice, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken have, following consultations with Attorney General Merrick Garland, decided that aspects of the Immigration and Nationality Act will no longer apply to individuals who have either "provided insignificant material support or limited materiel support...to a designated terrorist organization."

 A designated terrorist organization is an organization listed on the US' Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) blacklist, such as the Islamic Republic's IRGC.

The entry ban on these individuals will be lifted "provided they satisfy relevant agency authority that the individual...poses no danger to the safety and security of the United States." Mt-<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-710376> HUMMMM? Idiocy is rampant in DC. – rdb ]

**Russia Launches Thermobaric Warheads at Ukrainian Targets: Report**

*By Joseph Golder, Zenger News Newsweek 1 day ago*

 A Russian thermobaric multiple rocket launcher that is mounted on a tank chassis fired at Ukrainian targets with devastating effects, according to reports from Russia military.

 The TOS-1A "Solntsepyok" vehicle, which has a multiple rocket launcher mounted on a T-72 tank chassis, is being deployed somewhere in Ukraine and reportedly firing thermobaric warheads at Ukrainian targets, as images reportedly show.

 The vehicle can be seen sporting a white "Z" daubed its side. The "Z" is one of the symbols, as well as the letters "V" and "O" that can be seen painted on Russian military vehicles taking part in the invasion of Ukraine.

 The footage then cuts to an aerial view, reportedly showing the missiles exploding as they hit the ground. The video then shows missiles being fired at night before the footage ends.

The images were obtained Friday from the Russian Ministry of Defense (MoD) along with a statement saying that they show "the combat work of the crews of heavy TOS-1A 'Solntsepek' systems of the Western Military District to destroy fortified, long-term strongholds and positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine."

 The Russian MoD added that drones assisted the vehicle with targeting.

 The MoD also said: "After completing the combat mission, the crews of the TOS-1A 'Solntsepyok' in the shortest possible time carry out a change of combat positions and promptly reload the installations.

 "There are 24 thermobaric projectiles in the package. They are capable of covering an area of up to 40 thousand square meters [430,000 square feet], while destroying lightly armored vehicles and fortifications.

 "It is impossible to hide from the Solntsepeka volley even in trenches and dugouts: after a 200-kilogram [440 pounds] projectile hits the target, the thermobaric mixture dissipates in the air and explodes under tremendous pressure, creating a temperature of 3,000 degrees [5,400 degrees Fahrenheit]. Even steel armor melts in such an inferno." MORE - <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2647200351996/russia-launches-thermobaric-warheads-at-ukrainian-targets-report>

**Ukraine won’t pursue NATO membership – Zelensky adviser**

***However, Kiev wants the alliance to acknowledge its role as a “cornerstone” of European security***

*25 Jun, 2022 18:14*

 Ukraine has accepted that NATO membership is off the table, and will not take any further steps toward joining the US-led military alliance, Igor Zhovkva, an adviser to President Volodymyr Zelensky, told the Financial Times on Saturday. Nevertheless, Kiev wants a say in NATO’s policies.

 NATO leaders are set to meet in the Spanish capital of Madrid next week, and during two days of meetings and consultations, the alliance will unveil its Strategic Concept – a document that outlines the alliance’s mission and stance toward non-members, including China and Russia.

Zhovkva told the Financial Times that Zelensky’s government wants the alliance to acknowledge that Ukraine is *“a cornerstone of European security,”* and to reaffirm its partnership with Kiev, first established in 1997.

 However, he said that Ukraine will not push to become a member of NATO.

“Nato members have declined our aspirations. We will not do anything els*e in this regard,”* he said.

 Ukraine’s prospective membership in the alliance was a key factor behind the current conflict with Russia. Ukraine wrote its goal of becoming a NATO member into its constitution in 2019, despite Moscow’s warnings that having the alliance’s forces and weapons on its border would constitute an unacceptable security threat.

 NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has insisted that the alliance’s membership books remain open for interested nations, but has not promised or ruled out membership for Ukraine in the near term. Under the 2008 Bucharest Declaration, NATO’s official position is that Georgia and Ukraine *“will become members of NATO”* at an unspecified future date.

 NATO’s Strategic Concept has not been updated since 2010, with that version of the document stating that the alliance seeks *“a true strategic partnership”* with Russia.

 Zhovkva wants NATO to purge any mention of Russia as a *“partner”* from the coming MORE - update.  <https://www.rt.com/russia/557824-ukraine-doesnt-want-to-join-nato/> [That is at least ONE positive things NATO and those folks have done. – rdb]

**US and NATO lack capability to supply a long war**

***As weapons inventories dwindle, there’s little chance the West today can build a surge hardware-making capacity***

*by* [*Stephen Bryen*](https://asiatimes.com/author/stephen-bryen/) *June 24, 2022*

 The long and short of it is that, while the US and NATO can fight a short conflict, neither can support a long war because there’s insufficient equipment in the now-depleted inventory and the timelines to build replacement hardware are long.

 Despite a history of having done so before, starting in 1939, there is little chance that the US today can put in place a surge capacity, or that it any longer knows how to do so if it is even feasible.

 Based on those circumstances alone – and there are additional, compelling reasons – the US and NATO should be thinking about how to end the war in Ukraine rather than sticking with the declared policy of trying to bleed Russia.

 Let’s start by looking back at a time when the United States did know how to plan for surge weapons-building capacity.

***WW2 precedent***

 In 1939 the Roosevelt administration, with Congressional support, passed the [Protective Mobilization Act.](https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/ADA613533.pdf)  Ultimately this would lead to the creation of a [War Production Board](https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/united-states-and-canada/us-history/war-production-board), the Office of Production Management and the marshaling of US industry to fight the Nazis and Japanese

 In 1941 the President declared an unlimited national emergency, giving the administration the power to shift industrial production to military requirements. Between 1940 and 1945, the US supplied almost two-thirds of all war supplies to the allies (including the USSR and China) and for US forces – producing some 297,000 aircraft, 193,000 artillery pieces (all types) and 86,000 tanks (light, medium and heavy). MORE - <https://asiatimes.com/2022/06/us-and-nato-lack-capability-to-supply-a-long-war/> [It appears the US has become a paper tiger thanks to the stupidity of our Congress and military who are more interested in “woke” than preparation. – rdb]

**Norway raises terror alert to highest level after deadly mass shooting near gay bar**

***Security chief calls attack that left 2 dead and over 20 wounded an ‘extreme Islamist terror act’; suspect has ‘long history of violence and threats’***

*By* [*Maria Sanminiatelli*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/maria-sanminiatelli/) *and* [*Karl Ritter*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/karl-ritter/) *Today, 4:56 pm*



Flowers are left at the scene of a shooting in central Oslo, June 25, 2022. (Hakon Mosvold Larsen/NTB Scanpix via AP)

 OSLO, Norway (AP) — A gunman opened fire in Oslo’s night-life district early Saturday, killing two people and leaving more than 20 wounded in what Norwegian security service called an “Islamist terror act” during the capital’s annual Pride festival.

 Investigators said the suspect, identified as a 42-year-old Norwegian citizen originally from Iran, was arrested after opening fire at three locations in downtown Oslo.

 The PST security service raised its terror alert level from “moderate” to “extraordinary” — the highest level — after the attack, which sent panicked revelers fleeing into the streets or trying to hide from the gunman.

 PST acting chief Roger Berg called the attack an “extreme Islamist terror act” and said the suspect had a “long history of violence and threats” as well as mental health issues.

 Upon the advice of police, organizers canceled a Pride parade that was set for Saturday as the highlight of a weeklong festival. One of the shootings happened outside the London Pub, a bar popular with the city’s LGBTQ community, just hours before the parade was set to begin.

 Police attorney Christian Hatlo said the suspect was being held on suspicion of murder, attempted murder and terrorism, based on the number of people targeted at multiple locations.

 “Our overall assessment is that there are grounds to believe that he wanted to cause grave fear in the population,” Hatlo said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/norway-raises-terror-alert-to-highest-level-after-deadly-mass-shooting-near-gay-bar/>

**News agency telling 'journalists' to promote LGBT ideology**

***'Well, how is that impartial?'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published June 25, 2022 at 11:17am*

 The worldwide Associated Press long promoted an LGBT journalists' association to its employees, while at the same time declining to even mention an organization for Christian journalists.

 Now the BBC has been caught instructing its journalists to promote the LGBT ideology.

 [The Christian Institute](https://www.christian.org.uk/news/bbc-training-instructs-journalists-to-influence-politicians-and-push-lgbt-agenda/) reports the broadcaster is "advising journalists to use their influence to advance the LGBT agenda."

 The instructions come in a "training course" delivered to the BBC by group called Global Butterflies, which instructed journalists to use "their magical ally powers" to access influential people in political and entertainment.

 It was BBC journalist Stephen Nolan, who revealed the training, who explained, "If these new impressionable young trainees are being told at the beginning of their BBC careers to be lobbyists, how is your news impartial?"

 One of those who attended the training told Nolan anonymously that those in attendance were "given a lot of different points of how allies could use their influence" to impose the LGBT ideology on the public. MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2022/06/news-agency-telling-journalists-promote-lgbt-ideology/>

**U.S. Paying More to Borrow as Fed Raises Rates, Inflation Stays Elevated**

***Interest costs on national debt are up 30% this fiscal year and could increase more***

*By* [*Amara Omeokwe*](https://www.wsj.com/news/author/amara-omeokwe)*June 25, 2022 10:00 am ET*

 Yields on U.S. Treasurys are rising as the Federal Reserve lifts interest rates to try to cool inflation, a development that could increase the federal government’s borrowing costs over time to levels higher than currently projected.

 Government spending on net interest costs in the fiscal year that began last October totaled about $311 billion through May, a nearly 30% increase from the same period a year earlier, according to Treasury Department data. While the annual federal deficit has narrowed 79% this fiscal year, the higher borrowing costs are a rising government expenditure at a time when other federal spending is declining and tax revenue is increasing.

 The average interest rate on marketable, fixed-rate Treasury securities had been on a downward trend since mid-2019, but began to rise this year amid [the fastest rate of inflation in four decades](https://www.wsj.com/articles/us-inflation-consumer-price-index-may-2022-11654810079?mod=article_inline).

 Some budget analysts say an increase in the federal government’s borrowing costs could potentially crowd out spending for other priorities and add to the overall U.S. debt held by the public, which [is projected to reach its highest-ever levels as a share of the economy](https://www.wsj.com/articles/cbo-projects-inflation-economic-growth-to-cool-this-year-next-11653501643?mod=article_inline) over the next decade, according to estimates from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. MORE - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-paying-more-to-borrow-as-fed-raises-rates-inflation-stays-elevated-11656165602>

**Commentary:**

**How to Bring Washington, D.C. Back Under Control***By* [*Paul Engel*](https://newswithviews.com/author/paulengel/)*|June 25th, 2022* Are the solutions to America’s problems in Washington, D.C.?
 Where can the American people find answers if not in Washington, D.C.?
 How can reading and studying the Constitution help you find those answers?
 There are plenty of problems in America today, too many to number most likely. I’m frequently asked what we can do. Too often, it seems everyone is looking to Washington, D.C. for answers. By studying the Constitution, and a couple of Supreme Court opinions, I think we can find some answers a lot closer to home.
 John Jay said:
 *Every member of the State ought diligently to read and to study the constitution of his country, and teach the rising generation to be free. By knowing their rights, they will sooner perceive when they are violated, and be the better prepared to defend and assert them.*
 **John Jay – First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court**
 So let’s start our investigation by reading some clauses from the Constitution.
 *This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.*
 [**U.S. Constitution, Article VI**](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript#toc-article-vi-)**, Clause 2**
 We need to start by understanding the Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Only laws of the United States made pursuant to the Constitution are considered the supreme law of the land. And if only the laws of the United States made pursuant to the Constitution are the supreme law of the land, it makes sense that any law not made pursuant to the Constitution is not the supreme law of the land. I know that seems obvious, but I have to be sure we’re all on the same page.
 *The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.*
 [**U.S. Constitution, Amendment X**](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript#toc-amendment-x)
 If the Constitution is the supreme law of the land, then when it says the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution belong either to the states or the people, that would supersede any law to the contrary. For example, when Congress passes a law to regulate something that’s not a power delegated to the United States (for example, health insurance), it’s not the supreme law of the land. Which raises the question: What do we do with a law that’s not the supreme law of the land?
 *There is no position which depends on clearer principles, than that every act of a delegated authority, contrary to the tenor of the commission under which it is exercised, is void. No legislative act, therefore, contrary to the Constitution, can be valid. To deny this, would be to affirm, that the deputy is greater than his principal; that the servant is above his master; that the representatives of the people are superior to the people themselves; that men acting by virtue of powers, may do not only what their powers do not authorize, but what they forbid.*
 *Not only is a law contrary to the Constitution not the supreme law of the land, it cannot be valid. Remember, every government position is an authority delegated either by the Constitution that created it or legislation created under the authority of a Constitution. By the way, it’s not just Alexander Hamilton, but the Supreme Court that says so:*
[**Alexander Hamilton – Federalist Papers #78**](https://guides.loc.gov/federalist-papers/text-71-80#s-lg-box-wrapper-25493470)
 *Certainly all those who have framed written Constitutions contemplate them as forming the fundamental and paramount law of the nation, and consequently the theory of every such government must be that an act of the Legislature repugnant to the Constitution is void.*
[**Marbury v. Madison Opinion**](https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/5/137)
 Even the Supreme Court recognizes that legislatures cannot make valid laws that violate the Constitution. So who is responsible for determining if a law violates the Constitution? Most people think it’s the Supreme Court who determines if something is Constitutional or not. While the judicial power does extend to cases in law and equity arising under the Constitution, the federal courts are creations of the Constitution, not its master. So who is ultimately responsible to to keep the federal government within the powers delegated to it by Constituiton?
 *In the typical case we look to the States to defend their prerogatives by adopting “the simple expedient of not yielding” to federal blandishments when they do not want to embrace the federal policies as their own.*
[**National Federation Of Independent Business v. Sebelius**](https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/11-393#writing-11-393_SYLLABUS)
 The court expects the states to defend themselves. How? By not yielding to federal blandishments (attempts to coax them into compliance). If a law is not made pursuant to the Constitution, if it is not the supreme law of the land and the states are not required to abide by it. This is the first big clue about how we can rein in an out of control federal government.
 **State Sovereignty**
 *The States are separate and independent sovereigns. Sometimes they have to act like it.*
[**National Federation Of Independent Business v. Sebelius**](https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/11-393#writing-11-393_SYLLABUS)
 The American people have forgotten, or maybe we’ve spent too many generations not teaching the fact, that when we declared independence we did not create a new country, but thirteen of them.
 *That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States;*
[**Declaration of Independence**](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript)
 It was the states that created the federal government when they ratified the Constitution. And as the Tenth Amendment confirms, any power not delegated to the United States generally remain with the states. It is not only the right of the states to push back when Washington, D.C. goes too far, but I would say it’s their duty. And that is the second clue of how we can rein in Washington, D.C. There is one more.
 **Separation of Powers**
 *The Framers rejected the concept of a central government that would act upon and through the States, and instead designed a system in which the State and Federal Governments would exercise concurrent authority over the people. The Federal Government’s power would be augmented immeasurably and impermissibly if it were able to impress into its service-and at no cost to itself-the police officers of the 50 States*
[**Printz v. United States**](https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/521/898/)
 The idea that the federal government can order the states around is antithetical to the union of sovereign states the Framers of the Constitution created. Your Sheriff is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) of your county. They are elected by the people, and therefore serve the people. As the court stated:
 *We adhere to that principle today, and conclude categorically, as we concluded categorically in New York: “The Federal Government may not compel the States to enact or administer a federal regulatory program.” … The mandatory obligation imposed on CLEOs to perform background checks on prospective handgun purchasers plainly runs afoul of that rule.*
[**Printz v. United States**](https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/521/898/)
 The federal government cannot order the states, or CLEOs, to enact or administer a federal program. In other words, there are limitations to the powers of Washington, D.C. Couple that with an understanding of the limited and enumerated powers delegated to the United States and we can put together a formula to finally rein in this out of control federal government.
**Conclusion**
 Putting all of these clues together, what can the American people do to regain control of the behemoth we call Washington, D.C.? Let’s review the clues.
 First, the states need to remember that they are separate and independent sovereigns, not vassals of Washington, D.C. The states created the federal government to serve them, not the other way around. The states delegated to the federal government certain limited and enumerated powers, which means only the states have the legal authority to amend the Constitution to give them more.
 Second, the states need to defend themselves against government overreach. Today it seems when government goes too far, all most states will do is sue in federal court. That’s like asking the bully’s sister to protect you. Sure, we may want the courts opinion, but that’s all it is: An opinion. We need to states to learn to stand their ground against Washington, D.C. Yes, they’ve made it harder when they ratified the 16th and 17th Amendments, but that doesn’t excuse those in our state governments who roll over every time a new edict comes out of Washington, D.C.
 And lastly, our Sheriffs, the chief law enforcement officers, are bound by oath or affirmation to the Constitution of our states and the United States. They need to take up their responsibility to protect the rights of the people of their county.
 Hopefully, the solution to an out of control federal government has become obvious. We need to have strong county and local governments, especially Sheriffs. We need to educate ourselves and our neighbors of the importance of our Sheriffs. If your Sheriff and their deputies will not protect your rights, then it’s time to find a better Sheriff. As people in neighboring counties place a premium on the fidelity to their oath of their local officials, they will naturally have an impact on their state governments. As more and more people are vetting their candidates for state offices based on how they fulfill their oath of office, our states will not only change, but can regain the fortitude to stand up to Washington, D.C. Finally, as more and more states restore themselves to their position as parties to the compact that is the Constitution of the United States, Washington, D.C. will take care of itself.
 I am not suggesting that this will be a quick or easy fix, but if you look really closely, you will find you don’t need to be dependent on others to live free. You may not be able to make your county, state, or federal government constitutionally sound all by yourself, but you can live as a free citizen, especially when you remember the words of Abraham Lincoln:
 *The people — the people — are the rightful masters of both Congresses, and courts — not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert it*
 **Abraham Lincoln, [September 16-17, 1859] (Notes for Speech in Kansas and Ohio)**
<https://newswithviews.com/how-to-bring-washington-d-c-back-under-control/>

**Under the Biden Administration's Watch, Iran Sanctions are Violated with Impunity**

***by*** [***Majid Rafizadeh***](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Majid%2BRafizadeh)***June 25, 2022 at 5:00 am*** With total disregard to the Biden administration and the European powers, the ruling mullahs of Iran are defiantly and rapidly advancing their nuclear program to a point where they are now reportedly only few weeks away from manufacturing nuclear weapons [according](https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/06/politics/iaea-iran-nuclear-warning/index.html) to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the [White House](https://www.timesofisrael.com/white-house-says-iran-a-few-weeks-or-less-from-bomb-breakout/).
 The Biden administration's weak leadership -- to hold accountable those who are violating Iran sanctions -- is likely a critical reason the Iranian regime is flamboyantly ignoring the US and forging ahead -- soon, most likely, to become a nuclear state.
 The US sanctions are not hurting Iran's economy anymore or cutting off the flow of funds to Tehran. The ruling mullahs are now producing more oil and [selling](https://www.voanews.com/a/iran-s-president-says-oil-exports-have-doubled-since-august-/6564304.html) it at levels close to the pre-sanctions era to countries such as China, which desperately [needs](https://www.reuters.com/world/china/chinas-oil-demand-grow-q2-covid-rules-weigh-cnpc-researcher-2022-04-07/) more oil, while the Biden administration has [cut off](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/27/biden-suspends-oil-and-gas-drilling-in-series-of.html) US oil exploration.
 Ever since the Biden administration assumed office, Iran's oil exports have been on the rise. During the Trump administration, Iran's oil exports were significantly [reduced](https://sports.yahoo.com/iran-plans-oil-exports-gulf-143429955.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAKMBGdeIzRzFg5t5FOzItR1dqCoSR3aCvoXaG2IjOdZplYVJ73LdW9GdA3E3eKj7t-Xs7TwVMs2askiS-2uae_RcHsnuVvSHogHwJcmRvH4Th3MFZRaxf4bgHg-CTbtgjhtD98pMNx1qrkBhKzhODSrn-HHMYIgKhDsaQRZ_ZzKI) to 100,000 to 200,000 barrels a day. Iran is currently [exporting](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/nuclear-talks-resume-irans-oil-exports-increase-2022-02-10/) more than 1 million barrels a day. Roughly 700,000 to 800,000 barrels a day of this oil are being [exported](https://freebeacon.com/national-security/iranian-oil-sales-to-china-skyrocket-as-experts-say-biden-admin-turns-blind-eye-to-sanctions-enforcement/) to China. "Oil sales have doubled," Iran's hardline President Ebrahim Raisi recently [boasted](https://www.voanews.com/a/iran-s-president-says-oil-exports-have-doubled-since-august-/6564304.html). "We are not worried about oil sales."
 Tehran's major revenues [come](https://www.csis.org/analysis/new-estimates-iran%E2%80%99s-petroleum-exports-and-income-after-nuclear-implementation-day-and-0) from exporting oil. The Iranian regime reportedly [possesses](https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/iran/overview#:~:text=Iran%20ranks%20second%20in%20the,have%2C%20therefore%2C%20been%20volatile.) the second-largest natural gas reserves and the fourth-largest proven crude oil reserves in the world, and the sale of oil [accounts](https://www.csis.org/analysis/new-estimates-iran%E2%80%99s-petroleum-exports-and-income-after-nuclear-implementation-day-and-0) for nearly 60% of the government's total revenues and more than 80% of its export revenues. Several Iranian leaders have, in fact, hinted at Iran's major dependence on oil exports. "Although we have some other incomes," former President Hassan Rouhani previously [acknowledged](https://en.radiofarda.com/a/rouhani-admits-without-oil-exports-the-government-in-iran-is-broke/30266398.html), "the only revenue that can keep the country going is the oil money."
 Iran is also [shipping](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/tanker-carrying-iranian-crude-pdvsa-arrives-venezuelan-waters-document-2022-06-13/) considerable amounts of oil to Venezuela without either country fearing repercussions from the Biden administration. [According](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/tanker-carrying-iranian-crude-pdvsa-arrives-venezuelan-waters-document-2022-06-13/) to Reuters on June 13, an Iran-flagged tanker that was carrying nearly a million barrels of crude "arrived in Venezuelan waters over the weekend, according to a shipping document seen by Reuters on Monday."
 "The cargo is the third of Iranian crude supplied by Iran's Naftiran Intertrade Co (NICO) to Venezuela's state-run oil firm PDVSA following a supply contract providing the South American nation with lighter crude. Venezuela has been processing the Iranian oil in its refineries.... Other two Iran-flagged tankers, the very large crude carriers (VLCCs) Dino I and Silvia I, had arrived last month at Venezuelan ports carrying the first cargoes of Iranian crude for Venezuela."
 Presumably to take even further advantage of the Biden administration's weak leadership, the Iranian regime is also [signing](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/11/iran-venezuela-sign-20-year-cooperation-plan-during-maduro-visit) long-term agreements with its oil clients to permanently insulate its economy from the US sanctions. Most recently, Iran also [signed](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/11/iran-venezuela-sign-20-year-cooperation-plan-during-maduro-visit) a 20-year cooperation agreement with Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro to expand ties in the oil and petrochemical industries, as well as the military. "We have important projects of cooperation between Iran and Venezuela in the fields of energy, petrochemicals, oil, gas and refineries," Maduro [stated](https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20220611-hit-by-us-sanctions-iran-and-venezuela-sign-20-year-co-operation).
 In addition, China and Iran [announced](https://www.forbes.com/sites/arielcohen/2019/09/19/chinas-giant-400-billion-iran-investment-snubs-trump/?sh=51d1b97384d1), in January 2022, the launch of the implementation of a comprehensive cooperation plan between the two nations after Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian visited China and met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The "comprehensive cooperation" plan refers to the 25-year deal that was reached between Tehran and Beijing. One of its terms is that China will [invest](https://www.forbes.com/sites/arielcohen/2019/09/19/chinas-giant-400-billion-iran-investment-snubs-trump/?sh=51d1b97384d1) nearly $400 billion in Iran's oil, gas and petrochemicals industries. In return, China will have priority to [bid](https://www.mei.edu/publications/making-sense-iran-china-strategic-agreement) on any new project in Iran that is linked to these sectors. China will also [receive](https://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/China-Inks-Military-Deal-With-Iran-Under-Secretive-25-Year-Plan.html) a 12% discount and can delay payments by up to two years. China will also be able to [pay](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/11/world/asia/china-iran-trade-military-deal.html) in any currency it chooses. It is also estimated that, in total, China will [receive](https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2020/07/iran-government-rouhani-secretive-deal-china.html) discounts of nearly 32%.
 Such agreements will most likely help the Iranian regime to more easily circumvent US sanctions, gain access to funds, empower its militia and terror groups in the region and continue advancing its nuclear program.
 The Biden administration must impose drastic economic sanctions on Iran's energy and financial sectors: that would threaten the ruling clerics' hold on power, forcing the leadership to recalculate its priorities. The US must hold those who violate the sanctions strictly accountable, and make clear to the ruling mullahs that if they continue advancing their nuclear program, military options are on the table.
 Currently -- thanks to Biden administration's weak leadership and its unwillingness to hold those who violate Iran sanctions accountable, and unwillingness to cut the flow of funds to Iran -- the Iranian regime has no incentive to halt its march towards manufacturing nuclear weapons. The ruling mullahs of Iran and their oil clients are simply having their way without the US.
 *Dr. Majid Rafizadeh is a business strategist and advisor, Harvard-educated scholar, political scientist, board member of Harvard International Review, and president of the International American Council on the Middle East. He has* [*authored*](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref%3Dnb_sb_ss_i_1_9?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=majid+rafizadeh&sprefix=majid+raf%2Caps%2C757&crid=22WY06JIYF98T) *several books on Islam and US foreign policy. He can be reached at* *Dr.Rafizadeh@Post.Harvard.Edu*
 <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/18631/iran-sanctions-violated>

**We must Harden Our Schools – Mentally and Physically – Here’s How and Why***By* [*Kate Stansell*](https://newswithviews.com/author/kate/)*|June 25th, 2022* While we’re considering, yet again, how to protect our school children against physical attack, I submit that we must also protect them against mental attack.
 Marxist ideology is taking over our children’s minds, and is causing the violence we are seeing today.
 Our societal bedrock of Judaeo-Christian morals and ethics has been replaced with situational ethics, in which decision-making is based on the circumstances of a particular situation, and not upon fixed laws. “If it feels good, do it” is the code of the day. No real punishment is handed out for deviance anymore, so kids don’t learn that if they do wrong, punishment will follow.
 No one can know right from wrong without having moral guideposts against which to measure their actions. Law, just because written and codified, does not compel obedience.
 Children today are taught to disregard the rules, disrespect family, and cling to a society that will raise them without interference from those pesky feelings of personal responsibility to themselves or others. Our morals are missing.
 Today, children are taught WHAT to learn, never HOW. Deductive and inductive reasoning have been replaced by mandates, to accept what is said, without question or reason.
 Society will decide which lives matter, says the New Order. Murder in the womb is considered a “right” and a “freedom”. So, if a drugged up kid or a confused sycophant decides to go kill some people one day, how can he know that is wrong? Crazed killers are given lots of attention, and a lot of today’s children crave that. Besides, the perp is never punished in any meaningful way, and something or someone else is always to blame.
 It matters not what we call it – Socialism, or Marxism, or Communism – the system being foisted on America at breakneck speed, has been tried 24 times in world history, and has killed well over 100 million people. There are no fine points of difference that matter, in mass murder. Totalitarian societies have always failed and forced people to live lives of misery.
 Those kind of facts just get in the way of the Leftist juggernaut, so they are omitted, along with so much of real history that would help to give children truth and perspective.
 The Violence Today Comes From our educational system, NOT GUNS
 I truly believe that the violence in today’s society stems from the destruction of our moral bedrock, which is the intended curriculum of the Left. Violence does not come from guns, nor from knives, or any other weapon. It is coming from our public schools.
 Our children must be taught moral responsibility and personal strength. We must return to teaching the core values on which this nation was founded. If we can change the lesson plan, we can change the course of history and steer the ship of state back on course.
 Our culture has been canceled and its replacement is filled with lies and fairy tales. We must stop allowing the rainbow unicorn of insanity to lead the nation. Let’s cancel the Cancel Culture, and fight back!
 This is where local action comes in. The power we have is in our own communities, NOT on the national stage. Very few of us have ANY sway on the federal level. We must start at home.
 We must organize and work hard, as has the Left for decades. A young Obama volunteer in 2012 said, “We didn’t just come out (to work for Obama), we INCONVENIENCED OURSELVES.”
 This is exactly what we must do to save the Republic.
 Remember, it was the parents of Virginia, last year, who were the leading force in turning a blue state red. Thanks to covid school closures, they saw what was being taught, and went to the school boards. Repeatedly. The treatment they received at the hands of the Coup fueled their fire, became front-page news, and they got a Republican elected Governor. You can do the same.
 Forming a Freedom Pod is a proven way to go on the offense for Liberty. Here’s how. [\*\*\*]
 A Freedom Pod\* is an ongoing group of citizen activists organized to effectively and efficiently address any and all community issues. Freedom Pods in many states are scoring victories against public officials who run roughshod over our rights.
 Gather five or six people who care enough about their country to be involved. The more, the better! A few hours a week is a small price for freedom. Inconvenience yourselves. PLEASE!
 Begin with RESEARCH.
 Assign team members to learn what is going on. Know your enemy. Who are the players at City Hall? At the school board?
 What is being taught, in every subject? What funding from non- governmental organizations (NGO’s) is involved in programs? Is there money from any of these being funneled into your schools? Where and how?
 Then, recruit WATCHERS.
 These are the people who attend every meeting. EVERY meeting. They will record what is said, who said it, and learn who are the movers and shakers. Who is friends with whom? Who is pushing the agenda? Where is the teachers’ union in all this? Learn who plans the curricula for the different grades. Find the funding sources, and who controls them. Spot the non- governmental organizations (NGO’s) who influence the outcome. Who calls the final decisions? You’ll be surprised to learn that is it NOT you, the citizen who pays the taxes.
 Your STRATEGIST is the main leader of the effort. He or she will study all the research and meeting notes and determine how to approach the fight. This can be a small group instead of one person, but they are the main leaders.
 The AGITATORS are your spokesmen to stand up and address the public meetings. They will present your case. Everyone helps here, to make sure the presentation is targeted and effective, but it’s the presenters who stand up and speak.
 The VICTIMS are the group members who are the most impacted by the policies that you are trying to change. For the school board, these will be the parents whose children have suffered behavioral or physical issues, or even confusion traceable to the curriculum being taught. Some may well speak to the failures in instruction, and what the kids are NOT learning, as well as what they are. These are the individuals most feared by the group whose ways you want to change.
 Recruit ACTIVISTS who will go to rallies, carry and post signs, and show up on the steps of City Hall or the Board offices to protest. They will also be the ones who come to pack the seats at meetings where a show of numbers will help the cause.
 Create a MEDIA TEAM to stay in touch with local media and post your group and its activities on social media. How concerned citizens are treated is big news today.
 Remember that, just as the children don’t see consequences for their actions, your officials often don’t, either. This is why they feel free to ignore you and your cause. If handled properly, though, your elected representatives can be held personally responsible, legally, for violation of your civil rights, should they do so. Often backroom meetings result in the unconstitutional taking of property, closure of businesses, and passage of arbitrary regulations. Tools for holding them liable are Sec. 1983 of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and Sec. 3 of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. Research will tell you when each is appropriate to use. Frequently, just the knowledge that they are being held legally accountable will wipe the smirk from their officials’ officious faces, and make them pay attention to you and your requests.
 Develop a grading system to show how well officials are defending your liberty. Then, award Freedom Hero certificates, with fanfare if possible, to those who are doing a good job. Make public note of those who didn’t pass the test. Make each official sign a pledge to follow the Constitution. If they will not, that is news as well. BIG news.
 Replacing bad officials with constitutional ones is the most effective way to control policy. Find candidates who are willing to run, then help them with their campaigns. You will already know the issues.
 Yes, commitment to being a freedom fighter involves some work. Living under a system of totalitarianism involves suffering and pain. We can see it coming at us, more every day. I would rather work. So, get off the couch and out the door. We have a country to save!
 [\*\*\*] Freedom Pod is the concept of Tom DeWeese of the American Policy Center. The steps outlined here are from Tom, and activist, Mary Baker, author of Citizen Ninjas: Stand Up to Power (2016) which is a primer for local activism The concepts here are borne of decades of personal struggle to retain our freedoms against the incursion of our government. Currently, there are Freedom Pods forming in many states. Add yours to the list of Americans helping to save America. <https://newswithviews.com/we-must-harden-our-schools-mentally-and-physically-heres-how-and-why/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Blue and White to run together with New Hope in next election?**

***New Hope receives offer from Blue and White to examine option of joint run in upcoming elections.***

[*Israel National News*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/author/Israel_National_News) *25.06.22 22:11*

 Justice Minister Gideon Sa'ar (New Hope) has received an offer from Defense Minister Benny Gantz (Blue and White) to examine the option of running together in the upcoming elections, Ulpan Shishi reported.

 The whole, Gantz emphasized, is greater than the sum of its parts, but in any case, the parties will not join before the Knesset dissolves.

 Most of the [recent polls](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/355270) show that New Hope, if it runs alone, barely passes the electoral threshold.

 According to a new poll by *Maariv*, the opposition parties would win 57 seats in an upcoming election, and the coalition parties would also win 57 seats. The Joint Arab List, which will join no coalition, would win the remaining six seats.

The poll showed Yamina as losing three Knesset seats, Likud as losing two, and Religious Zionism as losing one. Meretz, on the other hand, would pass the electoral threshold, unlike in the previous poll, and Yesh Atid and United Torah Judaism would gain one seat each.

 The poll showed Likud as winning 34 seats, followed by Yesh Atid with 21 seats, and Religious Zionism with nine seats. Blue and White would win eight seats, and three parties - United Torah Judaism, Labor, and Shas - would win seven seats each. The Joint Arab List would win six seats, followed by Yisrael Beytenu with five seats. Four parties would win four seats each, barely passing the threshold: Yamina, Meretz, New Hope, and the United Arab List (Ra'am). <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/355523>

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**06/25/2022 NEWS**

**Secrets of the Ark of the Covenant**

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eG2MJFePJmo>

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| "Search the Constitution and you will find no power granted to the legislative branch to make laws governing agriculture, housing, medicine, energy, private ownership or weapons, and a great deal more."-- John F. McManus Source: Ignoring the Obvious, THE NEW AMERICAN p. 44, April 1, 1996 |

**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 CF – fell off ladder and bad fracture leg.****Pray for EL – Had stoke – Now having coronary angiogram****Pray for KH – diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma** **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!****Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence****Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems****Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

Exodus **19:23And Moses said unto the LORD: 'The people cannot come up to mount Sinai; for thou didst charge us, saying: Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it.' 24And the LORD said unto him: 'Go, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee; but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest He break forth upon them.' 25So Moses went down unto the people, and told them.**

**In landmark reversal, US Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade, okaying abortion bans**

***Conservative majority ends constitutional protection in place nearly 50 years in move foreshadowed by unprecedented leak of draft opinion last month***

*By* [*Mark Sherman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/mark-sherman/) *Today, 5:41 pm*



Abortion rights demonstrators rally, Saturday, May 14, 2022, outside the Supreme Court in Washington, during protests across the country. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

 WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court has ended constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place nearly 50 years in a decision by its conservative majority to overturn Roe v. Wade. Friday’s outcome is expected to lead to abortion bans in roughly half the states.

 The decision, unthinkable just a few years ago, was the culmination of decades of efforts by abortion opponents, made possible by an emboldened right side of the court that has been fortified by three appointees of former President Donald Trump.

 The ruling came more than a month after the stunning leak of a draft opinion by Justice Samuel Alito indicating the court was prepared to take this momentous step.

 It puts the court at odds with a majority of Americans who favored preserving Roe, according to opinion polls.

Alito, in the final opinion issued Friday, wrote that Roe and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the 1992 decision that reaffirmed the right to abortion, were wrong the day they were decided and must be overturned. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-landmark-reversal-us-supreme-court-overturns-roe-v-wade-okaying-abortion-bans/>

**UN condemns US abortion decision**

***SCOTUS decision ending nationwide right to an abortion a ‘huge blow’ to human rights, says UN***

*24 Jun, 2022 19:38*

 The US Supreme Court’s ruling reversing 1973’s Roe v Wade decision will not stop women from seeking abortions, a spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Friday following the high court’s decision. Instead, it may put their lives at risk.

 “*Restricting access to abortion does not prevent people from seeking abortion, it only makes it more deadly*,” spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters. “*Sexual and reproductive health and rights are the foundation of a life of choice, empowerment and equality for the world's women and girls*,” he added.

 UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet agreed, calling the court’s decision “a major setbac*k*” and “*a huge blow to women’s human rights and gender equality*.”

 The Supreme Court’s decision to reverse the 50-year-old ruling protecting women’s right to abortion nationwide places the decision in the hands of the states instead. While some states prepared for the looming repeal by passing laws protecting abortion rights, others did the opposite, adopting “*trigger laws*” meant to formalize a ban or other restrictions on the procedure in case Roe was rolled back.

 The UN Population Fund states that 45% of all abortions worldwide are unsafe. The agency also says that nearly half of all pregnancies worldwide are unplanned, with over 60% of those ending in abortion. <https://www.rt.com/news/557775-un-condemns-abortion-decision-scotus/> [Just one more reason the US needs to get out of the UN and throw them out of the country. People can still get abortions they just have to travel to a place that provides them and it may be some distance. Carlson had a great program Friday PM really exposing the flimsy basis for the Roe case and the fact that the Court had no constitutional basis for the decision in the first place. The practice of medicine and the decisions involved are an individual state issue not a federal one. The idea that the fed can impose their will concerning individual health issues is not within the purview of the constitution. The idea that the fed can authorize the murder of infants is obscene. A fetus is a living being. RDB

**In major ruling, US Supreme Court says Americans have right to carry guns in public**

***Landmark 6-3 decision against New York law has far-reaching implications for states and cities across US confronting a surge in gun violence***

*By* [*Chris Lefkow*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/chris-lefkow/) *Today, 3:40 am* AFP — The US Supreme Court ruled Thursday that Americans have a fundamental right to carry a handgun in public, a landmark decision with far-reaching implications for states and cities across the country confronting a surge in gun violence.
 The 6-3 decision strikes down a more than century-old New York law that required a person to prove they had a legitimate self-defense need to receive a permit to carry a concealed handgun outside the home.
 Five other states, including California, and Washington, DC have similar laws and the ruling will curb their ability to restrict people from carrying guns in public.
 Democratic US President Joe Biden denounced the decision, saying it “contradicts both common sense and the Constitution, and should deeply trouble us all.”
 “We must do more as a society — not less — to protect our fellow Americans,” Biden said. “I call on Americans across the country to make their voices heard on gun safety.” MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-major-ruling-us-supreme-court-says-americans-have-right-to-carry-guns-in-public/>

**Official says Mossad foiled 3 Iranian plots to attack Israelis in Turkey**

***Israeli security source briefing reporters notes situation stabilizing in Turkey but predicts travel warning will remain in place for now as Iranian agents remain at large***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:41 pm* The Mossad spy agency managed to thwart three Iranian attacks targeting Israeli civilians in Turkey in recent days, a senior security official briefing Hebrew media said Friday, after Iran dismissed Jerusalem’s warnings of a Tehran-directed plot as malarkey.
 The account came a day after Turkish media reported that 10 people had been arrested as part of an Iranian plot targeting Israelis in Turkey, including a former diplomat.
 Jerusalem earlier this month imposed a travel warning against its citizens flying to Turkey after receiving significant intelligence that Iran was seeking to carry out attacks against Israeli tourists in the country to avenge a series of killings and strikes on Iranian military and nuclear targets that have been attributed to the Jewish state.
 The security official said Mossad intelligence had led Turkish authorities to 10 members of an Iranian cell who were allegedly planning to kidnap and murder a former Israeli ambassador to Turkey and his wife. The 10 were arrested Thursday, the official said.
 Israel’s Mossad spy agency chartered private aircraft to immediately bring the pair and others in Istanbul despite the travel warning back to the country, Hebrew reports said. The name of the diplomat has not yet been released.
 According to the official, the Mossad managed to thwart two other plots against Israelis in Istanbul in recent days as well, with the tourists escaping the country at the “last possible second.”
 He said the raids were carried out in coordination with Turkish authorities, thanking them for their efforts in thwarting Iranian attacks to date.
 The reports came hours after Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh said that Israeli claims that Tehran is targeting Israelis are “baseless” and part of a “pre-designed scenario to destroy relations between the two Muslim countries.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/official-says-mossad-foiled-3-iranian-plots-to-attack-israelis-in-turkey/>

**‘Where’s the bullet’: Israel rejects UN probe blaming reporter’s death on IDF**

***Hours after UN rights office claims Shireen Abu Akleh killed by Israeli security forces, military says it can’t complete investigation without examining bullet, held by PA***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 4:10 pm*

The Israeli military on Friday rejected a United Nations report claiming that its soldiers shot the bullet that killed al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh on May 11, saying the investigation was flawed without access to crucial ballistic data.

In a statement titled “Where is the bullet,” the Israel Defense Forces again urged the Palestinian Authority to hand over the bullet, as it and government ministers questioned the methodology and fairness of the probe.

The Palestinian-American journalist, who was wearing a vest marked “Press” and a helmet, was killed during clashes between IDF troops and Palestinian gunmen while covering an Israeli army operation in Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank.

Israel initially blamed Palestinian gunmen for the shooting, but later acknowledged that Abu Akleh could also have been killed by Israeli soldiers.

“The IDF again urges the Palestinians to hand over the bullet,” the army said Friday, hours after UN Human Rights Office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told reporters that they found “the shots that killed Abu Akleh came from Israeli security forces.” MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/wheres-the-bullet-israel-dismisses-un-probe-blaming-reporters-death-on-idf/>

**Israeli company to test if fecal bacteria pills boost cancer immunotherapy**

***Prospective medication seeks to tweak gut germs in patients who don’t respond well to treatment, utilizing research that suggests microbiome impacts effectiveness***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 7:54 pm*



Biomica's pills, which are starting clinical trial in Israel (courtesy of Biomica)

 Twelve Israeli cancer patients will start taking pills containing fecal bacteria as part of a clinical trial aimed at seeing if the novel therapy will boost the effectiveness of immunotherapy.

 Scientists from the Rehovot-based pharmaceutical company Biomica studied data on the bacterial balance in feces of a large number of cancer patients.

 They concluded that certain bacteria are lacking in the guts of many of those who show a poor response to immunotherapy, and developed pills that contain the bacteria in question.

 Biomica’s pills contain the same bacteria that were shown to be lacking in the feces studies — but grown in a lab environment.

 The pills showed positive results in both animal testing and a pre-clinical trial with humans, and in the coming days will start a formal Phase I clinical trial at Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa.

 “In a sense we were assembling an A-Team of bacteria, and we’re optimistic about its potential,” Dr. Elran Haber, CEO of Biomica, told The Times of Israel.

 The trial, which will test only the safety of the therapy, will focus on melanoma, kidney cancer and non-small cell lung cancers.

 “We believe that by adding bacteria to the microbiome which boosts the immune system, we will enable doctors to use immunotherapy more effectively,” Haber said. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-company-to-test-if-fecal-bacteria-pills-boost-cancer-immunotherapy/>

**Which European countries are best for Jews? A new study offers unexpected answers**

***A study of 12 major EU Jewish population centers shows that despite official government policies and antisemitism statistics, life on the ground paints a different picture***

*By* [*Cnaan Liphshiz*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/cnaan-liphshiz/) *Today, 7:46 pm*

 BUDAPEST, Hungary (JTA) — Antisemitic sentiment is especially prevalent in Italy and Hungary, according to multiple surveys. But a first-of-its-kind index combining different measures of Jewish experience found that they are also the best countries in Europe for Jews to live in.

 The index, unveiled Monday, is based on a study that combines polling data and policy information to create a single quality-of-life metric for Jews in the 12 European Union countries with sizable Jewish communities, according to Daniel Staetsky, a statistician with the London-based Institute for Jewish Policy Research who wrote the report for the European Jewish Association in Brussels.

 “The goal with this report is to take the excellent data we already have about how Jews feel, about how prevalent antisemitism is, and combine it with government policy measurables,” Staetsky said during a conference held by the European Jewish Association in Budapest.

He said the results may challenge preconceptions about which EU countries are most hospitable to Jews. For example, Germany scored high when it came to government policies relating to Jews. But Jews there report a weak sense of security, leading to an overall middling score.

 The index is primarily a tool “to demand concrete action from European leaders,” said Rabbi Menachem Margolin, head of the European Jewish Association. “We welcome statements against antisemitism by European leaders. But more than statements is needed.”

 The European Jewish Association will make individual recommendations to each country surveyed, Margolin added at the press event. It was part of a two-day event sponsored by multiple Jewish organizations, including the Consistoire in France, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Israeli government, about how European Jewish communities can aid the one in Ukraine.

 Titled “Europe and Jews, a country index of respect and tolerance towards Jews,” the study gives Belgium, Poland and France the lowest scores with 60, 66, and 68 points out of 100, respectively. The three top countries have 79, 76 and 75 points, followed by Britain and Austria (75), the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and Spain (74, 73, 72, 70.)

 To come up with the ranking, Staetsky gave each surveyed country grades on multiple subjects, including the Jewish sense of security, public attitudes to Jews and the number of Jews who said they’d experienced antisemitism. The grades were based on major opinion polls in recent years, including those conducted by the Action and Protection League, a group that monitors hate crimes against Jews in several European countries, and the European Union’s Fundamental Rights Agency. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/which-european-countries-are-best-for-jews-a-new-study-offers-unexpected-answers/>

**Israel boosting work permits quote won't significantly improve Gaza economy**

***Palestinian experts say media coverage of Israeli easing of restrictions on Gaza has been 'greatly exaggerated,' claiming current policies are not enough to make a major contribution to Strip’s ailing economy***

*The Media Line, Ynet | Published: 06.24.22, 14:02*

 Israeli authorities on Wednesday finally okayed to increase the number of work permits for Palestinians from the Gaza Strip after a security delay.

 Now, an additional 2,000 workers will be able to enter Israel for employment. The decision was made following an assessment of the security situation, according to COGAT - the Defense Ministry body responsible for civil affairs in the Palestinian territories.

Palestinian workers waiting to enter Israel as the Erez border crossing (Photo: AFP)

 “All the latest civil measures regarding the Gaza Strip are dependent on the continued maintenance of stable security over time, and their expansion will be considered in light of the situation as evaluated,” COGAT said in a statement.

 The ministry has signed off on the tentative plan to raise the number of Gaza permits last week, but after militants fired a rocket toward Ashkelon shortly after 3am on Saturday, Defense Minister Benny Gantz ordered the increase frozen.

 The rocket, the first from Gaza since April, was intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense system. Israeli military aircraft [struck a number of Hamas targets in the Strip](https://www.ynetnews.com/article/syzqzccyq) in response.

 Following the May 2021 war between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza, it was agreed, under the auspices of multiple mediators, that 30,000 Gazan workers would be allowed to work in Israel, but "the process of issuing entry permits by Israeli authorities is progressing very slowly, contrary to what was agreed upon,” said Sami al-Amasi, head of the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions in Gaza, before Saturday’s events.

 Amasi said media coverage of Israeli easements toward Gaza, most notably the latest planned increase in the number of work permits, “greatly exaggerates” what is actually happening on the ground.

 “The highest number of permits obtained by workers to date is 12,000, but the actual number of those who left for Israel, including ‘merchants,’ is far less than that as many permits are being suspended on a daily basis,” he said. MORE - <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/bkuqaptfq>

**How Palestinian issue helped end Israel's 'government of change'**

***Bennett during his tenure as a premier focused on areas of consensus among his coalition partners, and sought to avoid divisive topics, primarily Israel's occupation of West Bank - which ultimately brought down unlikely political partnership***

*AFP , Ynet | Published: 06.24.22, 08:56*

 Israel's unlikely coalition government, the first ever backed by an Arab party, was forged a year ago to oust right-wing premier Benjamin Netanyahu, but ultimately collapsed over the Palestinian conflict.

 As a result, Israel looks headed for new elections - the fifth in three and a half years - and the threat of widening fissures between the groups that made up the eight-party "change" alliance.

 Netanyahu, some observers predict, will battle for a comeback in part by exploiting divisions between the right-wing Jewish and Arab-Israeli groups that had managed to cooperate for 12 months.

 During that time, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett held together the disparate coalition of hawks, centrists, doves and Arab Islamists, united chiefly in their desire to oust Netanyahu after 12 straight years in power.

 Bennett - who is now due to hand over the top post to Foreign Minister Yair Lapid - focused on areas of consensus and sought to avoid the most divisive topics, especially around Israel's occupation of the West Bank.

 But it was that flashpoint issue that eventually ended the unlikely coalition which, already weakened by defections, faced a revolt by left-wing and Arab lawmakers.

 The bone of contention was a previously obscure law that allows Jewish settlers in the West Bank to live under Israeli jurisdiction while many Palestinians live under the rules of military occupation.

 Arab coalition MKs, from the left-wing Meretz and the Islamist Ra'am party, refused to re-certify the law, which gives settlers equivalent legal standing to people who live inside Israel's internationally recognized borders.

 Bennett - a religious nationalist who once led a settler lobby - said allowing the measure to lapse by a June 30 deadline would spell security risks and "constitutional chaos".

 He instead chose to end the government, thereby delaying a final vote on the issue until after another election.

 Political analyst Dahlia Scheindlin said the coalition's collapse proved, once again, that "no government can afford to put aside the Israeli-Palestinian conflict". MORE - <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/sk4qqqzc5>

**Ukraine replenishes combat losses with convicts and women – RT source**

***Draft notices are said to being handed to people in the streets, eateries, and beaches amid conflict with Russia***



Fighters of the territorial defence unit a training exercise outside Kiev. © AFP / their Sergei Supinsky

24 Jun, 2022 17:02

 A large-scale hunt for conscripts is underway across Ukraine amid the military conflict with Russia, a source within Kiev’s military has told RT Russian. Ukraine is reportedly unscrupulous about those being recruited and the means of delivering draft notices to them.

 The military recruiters are now allowed to hand out draft notices to people not only at their place of residence, but also in the streets, restaurants, entertainment facilities and anywhere else.
 *“Ukraine needs fresh manpower,”* an employee of an active recruiting station in Kiev, who chose to remain anonymous, told RT. Draft notices are “being given in public places *– everyone knows that. It happens at malls, recreation areas, gas stations – it doesn’t matter where. The goal is to recruit as many people as possible for the military reserve,”* he said.
 A man from the south-eastern Zaporozhye Region recalled how he and his friend were stopped at a checkpoint and told to present their military IDs, which they didn’t have. The duo was only released by the troops by promising they would go to the recruitment stations right away and obtain the necessary papers.
 *“Now we are hiding in a small village. We mainly stay indoors. There’s no talk of going to the city,”* he revealed. The man he knew could face criminal charges over this behavior, but he said that it was still better than going to the front.
 All males, aged between 18 and 60, have been told to stay in the country and fight after Russia launched its military operation in Ukraine in late February.
 In the Black Sea port of Odessa, the locals, who are dodging service, have set up a special channel on Telegram to share real-time data on the areas where the draft notices are being handed out in the city.
 The health condition of the recruits apparently also doesn’t bother Kiev authorities too much. The medical examination includes *“only four doctors: A surgeon, a neurologist, a psychiatrist, and an ophthalmologist. No in-depth checks are being carried out. Doctors only ask questions, that's all,”* one draftee told RT.
 The recruits are being given the most basic training, if any, and mainly assigned to territorial defense formations intended to carry out guard duties in the home front. But there have been more and reports in recent weeks of such units being sent to Donbass to face the advancing Russian forces.
 According to the law, which has been put forward by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukrainian women who hold certain jobs should now also obtain military registration, and are faced with a fine if they fail to do so. Getting a new job has also been made impossible for them without the relevant papers from the recruitment station.
 Those women can only be assigned civilian roles in the Defense Ministry, but in some parts of Ukraine, volunteer female units are being formed with the aim of actually going to the front. The mayor of the western city of Ivano-Frankivsk announced in April that the local all-women battalion would *“fight alongside men.”*
 Inmates of Ukrainian prisons have also been used as a source of manpower by Kiev authorities. In late May, the country’s justice minister announced that 363 convicts were released so they could join the military. Prisoners went through thorough screenings to ensure they posed no danger, he insisted.
 Such a massive draft campaign is due to heavy losses suffered by the Ukrainian army, military expert Colonel Viktor Baranets told RT.

 *“There are not enough contract soldiers and officers. The personnel shortage in the Ukrainian army is increasing because during the special operation a large number of seasoned Nazis were put out of action. And those reservists, who are now sent into battle aren’t fit for the task. But, more importantly, there are staff shortages not only in the military, but also in territorial defense. That’s why even women are being called up too,”* Baranets explained.

 Earlier this month, Zelensky’s top aide Mikhail Podolyak revealed that the Ukrainian military was losing up to 100 to 200 troops daily in the battle for the Donbass. Defense Minister Alexey Reznikov refused to give an exact number of Kiev troops killed in the fighting, but said he hoped the figure was below 100,000. <https://www.rt.com/russia/557750-ukraine-draft-convicts-women/> [This is interesting. For months we have been told how bad Russia was doing in this war and what a strong and mighty defense Ukraine has. It seems like so often we have been fed a contrived narrative. – rdb]

**Biden considering offshore drilling ban as energy prices explode for consumers**

***Critic accuses him of being 'out of touch' with nation's needs***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published June 24, 2022 at 11:30am*

 The Biden administration is mulling the prospect of banning new American offshore oil and natural gas drilling projects as fuel prices continue to spike, The New York Times reported Thursday.

 The Interior Department’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, working closely with the White House to shape policy, will release its drafted five-year plan for new oil and gas drilling leases in federal waters to Congress by June 30, [according](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/23/climate/biden-offshore-drilling-climate.html) to The New York Times, citing people familiar with the matter. The administration is likely to stop new offshore drilling projects in the Atlantic and the Pacific, and is considering whether to end leasing in the Arctic and Gulf of Mexico.

 Gas prices have soared over the past several months, causing the president to be heavily [criticized](https://dailycaller.com/2022/06/13/desantis-biden-energy-gas-prices/) for his energy policy. In response to this crisis, Biden recently [called](https://dailycaller.com/2022/06/22/barack-obama-gimmick-joe-biden-gas-tax-holiday/) for Congress to suspend the federal gas tax for 3 months and [urged](https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/biden-threatens-oil-companies-emergency-powers-supply-inflation) oil companies to increase their production of fuel.

 The decision to potentially limit offshore drilling comes at a time in which climate activists continue to [pressure](https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/13/politics/biden-climate-agenda-activists/index.html) the Biden Administration into embracing more environmentally friendly energy solutions.

 On June 6, Biden took further action to [commit](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/06/06/fact-sheet-president-biden-takes-bold-executive-action-to-spur-domestic-clean-energy-manufacturing/) to a ‘clean energy future’ in order to tackle climate change and ‘lower energy costs’ through the use of the Defense Production Act. Biden previously used the act to accelerate the domestic production of solar panels to further his green energy policies.

 Jeffrey Eshelman, Chief Operating Officer of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, told The Daily Caller News Foundation that a ban would only further restrict the supply of fuel, driving up prices and hurting Americans nationwide as roughly “20 percent of the nation’s natural gas and oil production comes from America’s offshore boundaries.” Eshelman pushed back on Biden’s [call](https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/biden-threatens-oil-companies-emergency-powers-supply-inflation) for more oil drilling and refining as a ban on offshore drilling would reflect his “true policies and progressive Green agenda.”

 Eshelman further said that it is an understatement to say that the Biden administration is “out-of-touch with the nation’s pressing issues.” TheDCNF reached out to the Department of the Interior for comment, and a spokeswoman for the Interior replied that “the proposed plan hasn’t been published yet.”

 The White House and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management did not immediately respond to TheDCNF’s request for comment. Mr <https://www.wnd.com/2022/06/biden-considering-offshore-drilling-ban-energy-prices-explode-consumers/> [Washington is inhabited by ignorant evil trolls. – rdb]

**Twitter hires ‘alarming number’ of ex-spies – investigation**

***FBI is named as an important forge of personnel for Twitter, MintPress News is claiming***

*24 Jun, 2022 17:41*

 Twitter is hiring “an alarming number” of ex-FBI agents and other former “feds and spies,” news outlet MintPress News is [reporting](https://www.mintpressnews.com/twitter-hiring-alarming-number-spooks-secret-agents/281114/), after conducting an analysis of employment and recruitment websites.

 According to the research, in recent years the company employed “*dozens of individuals from the national security state to work in the fields of security, trust, safety and content.”*

 *“Chief amongst these is the Federal Bureau of Investigation.* The FBI is generally known as a domestic security and intelligence force. However, it has recently expanded its remit into cyberspace*,”* MintPress wrote.

 It provides several examples of such appointments. FBI veteran Karen Walsh who, according to her Twitter profile, served as a special agent for 21 years, has become a director of corporate resilience at the Silicon Valley-based company. Mark Jaroszewski, Twitter director of corporate security and risk, joined the Twitter team after 20+ years at the FBI. MORE - <https://www.rt.com/news/557770-twitter-hires-spies-number/>

**Commentary:**

**Is Senator John Cornyn on Drugs?**[*Kurt Schlichter*](https://townhall.com/columnists/kurtschlichter/) *Posted: Jun 24, 2022 12:01 AM* We need to know if Senator John Cornyn (R-WaPo) is high. Has he been doing bong hits, blasting rails, chasing the dragon, and/or dropping acid? Is he hopped up on goofballs?
 I hope so, because that is the least-worst explanation for the clusterfark he just presided over this week in DC. After all, you can get off drugs, but the alternate explanations are permanent.
 Here we stand on the verge of a huge red tsunami in November, and even once-thought impossible seats in places like Colorado and Washington state may be within reach because of the incredible incompetence of Grandpa Badfinger.  Everything is set for a massive repudiation of the left by an activated and angry GOP base – supplemented with independents who have had enough of this progressive bullSchiff – and John Cornyn and decides that what the Republican voters want is…
 {drum roll}
 Gun control!
 Ta-da!
 The Democrats are hemorrhaging and J-Corn decides to stop the bleeding? It’s like Bruce Willis reaching down and grabbing Hans Gruber’s hand so he doesn’t fall off of Nakatomi Plaza.
 Dude, let them go splat!
 Oh, and if that’s not enough, then there are reports that Cornyn, peacocking across the Senate floor as he enjoys his first and last moment in the national limelight, then tells a Dem colleague “Next, we’ll do immigration!”
 I think what he and his 13 pals are doing is the base.
 Yeah, fellow Republicans, let’s get out there and pass the agenda we’ve all been demanding – gun grabbing and amnesty!
 So, I think maybe he is sniffing glue. Or, rather, I wish he were. Why else would this Republican senator collaborate with Chuck Schumer to make all the lib fantasies come true and give them a big win while they are on the eve of destruction?
 Maybe he is just stupid? It’s not like there are no stupid senators. Mazie Hirono is famously dense. Edward Markey is practically a clinical moron. And former senator from MBNA Joe Biden is… well, Joe Biden.
 Now, I know you are thinking “How could a former Texas Supreme Court justice be a half-wit.” We all know that no judge has ever been a dummy.
 AAAAARRRGGHHHHHH.
 Sorry, I am back. I had to rush out for an emergency consult with my ophthalmologist because my eyes literally just rolled 360 degrees.
 Anyway, foolishness is a possible explanation. But there are others.
 Perhaps he is a traitor.
 Perhaps he’s not just a RINO but an active and willing undercover agent of the Democrat Party. Nah, I don’t think so. To believe that John Cornyn believes in Democrat policies presumes that he believes in anything at all other than the power and the glory of John Cornyn.
 And maybe that’s it. Cornyn famously wants to replace Mitch McConnell as Senate (well, we once assumed) Majority Leader when the Murder Turtle finally withdraws into his shell for good. This was his chance to get out of Cocaine Mitch’s shadow and do something all by himself. And what better than one of those bipartisan scams that the rubes back in the sticks love so much? Why, cue the favorable Washington Post write-up on how he had the courage to screw over the people who sent him to the Swamp!
 He’s a statesman, damn it. And he single handedly brought us a great wonderful terrific deal in which we got nothing, but the Dems did not get everything they wanted.
 Some deal. And some ego.
 That’s what this is – an ego trip by a guy who had long been playing second fiddle to the Master of the Senate. Mitch gave the Fredo Corleone of the Senate something to do beside pick people up from the airport and … this is the result. Sure, there is a bunch of mental health stuff and some other things that are not insane in it, but why not pass those without a green light for every lib judge in America to strip cons of their rights based on the whining of libs. Is he really telling us that the justice system is going to protect our rights? After we’ve all seen a dual track justice system take root over the last decade? We conservatives understand that we are on the wrong side of the tracks.
 So, with this great compromise, what did we get?
 We got rolled and we got nothing in return.
 Not national concealed carry reciprocity.
 Not suppressor deregulation.
 Not even a law stopping Grandpa Badfinger from preventing the Lake City ammo plant from selling 5.56mm rounds.
 Hell, we didn’t even get a National Shotgun Day.
 Nothing.
 Sure, Mitch is standing by him, but what else is he going to do. ‘Fess up that he screwed up? He gave the keys to the Buick to Junior and the kid promptly wrapped it around a telephone pole. McConnell, no matter what you think of him, is a genius, but even geniuses mess up. There’s no way he’s going to draw attention to his mistake in investing reasonability in the guy who came back thrilled to have spent all his coins on magic beans.
 But the media loves him, at least until he stops being useful.
 I give it a week.
 But if this guy is serious about trying to stretch his streak with “immigration reform,” Mitch McConnell better step in and regulate. If you think the uproar over the red flag nonsense was bad, watch the red wave collapse if the GOP squish caucus tries to conspire with the Democrats to push their new, improved, renamed amnesty scam on us. Then, if you think the GOP will retake the Senate in November, you really are on drugs. <https://townhall.com/columnists/kurtschlichter/2022/06/24/is-senator-john-cornyn-on-drugs-n2609184>

**If January 6th Had Been a Real “Insurrection”**

*By* [*Lex Greene*](https://newswithviews.com/author/lex/)*|June 24th, 2022* …Not a single anti-American socialist democrat would remain in DC power today. Half of the republicans who are actually democrats in RNC disguise, would be gone as well.
 If this many Americans had gone to Washington DC to “overthrow the government” in any armed “insurrection,” there are not enough cops or combat ready troops to have stopped it. This many Americans can do anything they want, anytime they want, and frankly, by any means they want.
 This alone proves that the events of January 6th, 2021, had nothing to do with any “insurrection” or attempt to “overthrow” the government. It also proves how just such a show of unified indignation, scares the living hell out of every evildoer in DC. They NEVER want to see anything like this ever again.
 [AND…they sure aim to disarm every decent, honest, productive, law-abiding American Citizen, before such a gathering happens again!](https://nationalgunrights.org/resources/news/biden-administration-moves-to-cut-off-5-56-223-supply-to-americans/)
 Still, socialist democrats are wasting more taxpayer money with yet another wild witch hunt, with a blatant clear intent to simply make it difficult for Trump to ever seek office again, or for the people of the USA to ever execute their *Right and Duty* to remove from power, a government which is destructive of freedom, liberty, sovereignty, and security.
 Since June 16, 2015, when Trump rode down the escalator to announce his political bid for the Oval Office, far left democrat lunatics have tried everything under the sun to destroy Trump, his family, his businesses, and his future. Repeated attempts all failed miserably, time and again. Every effort was instead, proven to be a pure political witch hunt based on false accusations, backed by fake evidence, solicited, and paid for by the Hillary Clinton Campaign and the Democrat Party.
 **Yet here we are again!** Because it’s entirely impossible to sell January 6th events as any “insurrection” with a serious face, or even a “riot” by BLM and ANTIFA standards, congressional democrats have stopped using the term “insurrection” in their latest fake investigation, hoping many Americans will at least accept the equally false term, “riot.”
 Meanwhile, countless political prisoners from that day remain in Biden’s gulag and more people are headed there, for allegedly “trespassing” on public property. Of course, it’s not possible to trespass on public property, because public property is owned by, well, the public. A property owner cannot trespass on their own property. They have a right to be there!
 Most recently, the [Biden regime arrested Dr. Simone Gold](https://abcnews.go.com/US/dr-simone-gold-leading-anti-vax-figure-sentenced/story?id=85445732/), leader of the Frontline Doctors group that has been spreading the TRUTH about COVID19 with thousands of other honest doctors, nurses and scientists.
 **UNDERSTAND:** There is no proof at all that a single life has been saved by any of the COVID19 “vaccines.” No one can “prove” why someone didn’t die. However, there is a mountain of growing evidence that thousands or maybe millions of lives have been lost or ruined as a direct result of the so-called “vaccines.” The new “[Sudden Adult Death Syndrome](https://thewashingtonstandard.com/sudden-adult-death-syndrome-sads-the-latest-word-game-to-cover-up-the-millions-of-deaths-following-covid-shots/)” is the new label for vaccine related deaths.
 Dr. Simone Gold and thousands of other reliable medical professionals from all over the globe have been proven right. Gold was simply speaking truth at the Trump Rally on January 6th. *Christopher Cooper, U.S. district judge for the District of Columbia, sentenced Gold on Thursday to* [*a 60-day prison term followed by 12 months of supervised release and ordered her to pay a $9,500 fine*](https://abcnews.go.com/US/dr-simone-gold-leading-anti-vax-figure-sentenced/story?id=85445732/)*.* Cooper was appointed to the bench by Barack Hussein Obama and is merely a rubber stamp for Obama’s political prisoners.
 Likewise, evidence has shown that “mass-shootings” only happen in “gun-free zones,” where the criminal shooter is the only person armed. It’s therefore counterintuitive to suggest that disarming all legal lawful citizens can solve the problem.
 As I finish this piece for release, the [US Supreme Court just issued a ruling](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/supreme-court-shoots-down-ny-rule-set-high-bar-concealed-handgun-licenses) against New York’s effort to continue disarming their lawful citizens.
 *“In this case, petitioners and respondents agree that ordinary, law-abiding citizens have a similar right to carry handguns publicly for their self-defense. We too agree, and now hold, consistent with Heller and McDonald, that the Second and Fourteenth Amendments protect an individual’s right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home,” Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in the Court’s opinion. “Because the State of New York issues public-carry licenses only when an applicant demonstrates a special need for self-defense, we conclude that the State’s licensing regime violates the Constitution.” (*[*SOURCE*](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/supreme-court-shoots-down-ny-rule-set-high-bar-concealed-handgun-licenses)*)*
 Now, in the case of the picture above from January 6, 2021… this picture is worth at least a billion words! Imagine if all of those people had been a part of any “armed insurrection” or even a BLM-ANTIFA riot… No one could have stopped them from doing anything they wanted to do that day, especially since House Speaker Pelosi had declined any special security measures offered by President Trump for that day.
 No, there was no insurrection and no riot in DC on January 6, 2021. But these facts have had no impact at all on yet another expensive DNC circus stunt intended to mislead millions of Americans into voting themselves and everyone else back into bondage, under the false propaganda aimed at destroying Trump and every Trump supporter.
 The picture tells all that needs to be told on the matter. This many armed angry Americans could have overthrown the DC criminal cabal that day if that’s what they had set out to accomplish. No one could have stopped it.
 So, what are WE going to do about the continued open fraudulent assault on innocent freedom and liberty loving Americans, playing out on pretty much every news network, all of whom know the truth? Without the frauds in Congress and their lying minions in the news media, none of this could be happening. Without severe consequences for their actions, this is the new norm in the USA, an entire federal government and news media weaponized against every American citizen who dare to disagree.
 Are YOU willing to accept these unconstitutional new norms for yourself, your loved ones, and all future generations? If you’re not, then it’s time to stand together against blatant unconstitutional tyranny from the halls of our own illegitimate government. According to our Charters of Freedom, such a government has no lawful right to exist… <https://newswithviews.com/if-january-6th-had-been-a-real-insurrection/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Biden ambassador pick for Brazil blasted for 'Jewish lobby' rant**

***Elizabeth Frawley Bagley gave 1998 interview in which she used antisemitic tropes to describe influence of "the Jewish factor" in politics.***

[*Israel National News*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/author/Israel_National_News) *24.06.22 22:13*

 President Joe Biden’s nominee to be the U.S. ambassador to Brazil gave a lengthy interview two decades ago in which she used antisemitic tropes, referring to the financial power of the “Jewish lobby” and “major money” and claiming that the Jewish community has undue influence over the Democratic Party due to “the Jewish factor, it’s money.”

 “‘The Jewish factor, it's money,’ ‘influence of the Jewish lobby ... major money involved,’ ‘the Democrats go with the Jewish constituency on Israel and say stupid things.’ Meet Joe Biden's nominee to serve as US ambassador to Brazil – Elizabeth Frawley Bagley,” tweeted the StopAntisemitism watchdog organization.

 “Bagley [was] scheduled to have her nomination advanced to the full Senate by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee [on Thursday],” StopAntisemitism added. “We are horrified such a blatant antisemite would ever qualify to hold such a prestigious role and hope her nomination is halted.”
 The nomination of Bagley, described as a veteran diplomat and Democratic Party insider, has provoked outrage from Jewish advocacy organizations and from Democratic and Republican lawmakers on the committee for her past statements, the *Washington Free Beacon* reported.
 The 1998 interview was conducted by the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training for an oral history project. During the interview, according to the *Free Beacon*, Bagley spoke about "the influence of the Jewish lobby because there is major money involved” and also alleged that "the Democrats always tend to go with the Jewish constituency on Israel and say stupid things, like moving the capital to Jerusalem always comes up."
 "Jewish Democrats were going to give their money to Clinton anyway and Jews are mostly Democrats on social issues,” she said.
 She later claimed to the interviewer that pro-Israel support is because of "the Jewish factor, it’s money.”
 Senate sources involved in the confirmation of Bagley told the news outlet that her statements should disqualify her from being an ambassador, and that members of both parties on the committee are privately troubled by her remarks.
 Bagley was asked about the statements during a May 18 confirmation hearing with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/355510>

**El Al's sudden departure from Toronto stuns Canadian Jewish community**

***El Al’s surprising move to no longer offer flights out of Toronto starting this fall ends a nearly five decade presence in Canada.***

*Dan Verbin, Canada 24.06.22 21:05*

 El Al’s sudden move to no longer offer flights out of Toronto beginning in October has caught the Canadian Jewish community by complete surprise.

 El Al will stop direct flights from Toronto to Israel after the end of the High Holy Days on October 27, 2022. The move will mean the end of El Al’s nearly five decade presence in Canada. Flights from Montreal were previously stopped in the early 2000s.

 According to the *Canadian Jewish News*, pre-pandemic, Canada was an important hug for travelling to Israel, with 100,000 Canadians making the trip. The goal was to increase that number by 10 percent in 2023, but El Al leaving the country will have a significant impact on travel numbers, Gal Hana, the Israeli consul of tourism for Canada, told the news outlet.

 Hana explained that Canada is a huge market for Israel tourism, with Canadians visiting more frequently, often staying longer, and on average spending more than other tourists.

 The company’s announcement that it was leaving Canada stunned many members of the Jewish community, including Toronto financial advisor Asaf Halperin, who started a petition to keep El Al in Canada.

 The change.org petition has so far received 3,588 signatures.

 The petition called El Al’s decision “the most disappointing news.” MORE - <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/355509>

**Christian Birthright to bring hundreds of students to Israel this summer**

***Hundreds of Evangelical Christian college students set to visit Israel this summer, as part of 'Passages' program.***

*24.06.22 10:41*

Israel is seeing a resurgence of tour groups now that Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, including hundreds of young evangelical students visiting Israel with Passages.

 The popular tour brings Christian college and graduate students from across the United States to Israel to connect with their ancient biblical roots and the get to know the modern state. Since 2016, thousands of students have participated in the highly subsidized trip, which has been called the “Christian Birthright.”
 Between the months of May and August, Passages will bring 17 buses with a total of 620 participants from 23 diverse universities, student groups and fraternities.
 Among them are University of Alabama, Samford University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Harvard Business School, Rice University and Duke University, as well as a groups from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, and Moody Theological Seminary.
 This will be the first trip to Israel for many students and leaders, particularly in the African American Leadership group, who represent the diverse denominations of the Black Church and are traveling with Passages in partnership with the Philos Project.
 “We are thrilled to be able to resume our trips to the Holy Land,” said Scott Phillips, CEO of Passages. “Our young people – the next generation of Christian leaders – come to be inspired, to connect with the biblical roots of their faith, and to get to know the people, places, and the land of Israel.
 In addition, I hope the relationships that are formed in each group will lead to great programming and meaningful opportunities for our young Christian leaders when they return home. The trip is truly a life-changing experience.“ <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/355483>

**Iran descends into outright piracy and confrontation with the West**

***The indications are mounting that Iran is adopting an even more hardline stance, and that it is moving towards war. Op-ed***

*Dr. Ioannis E. Kotoulas 24.06.22 17:40*

Iran's supreme religious leader, Ayatollah Khamenei News photo: www.sajed.ir

Iran's defiance of the norms of international law and its subversion of the West continues with no relenting in its intensity and scope. Now, Iran once again sparks tension in the Persian Gulf by embarking on state-sponsored piracy, while its enrichment of uranium has reached the dangerous weapons-level grade.

On May 27, the notorious Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, in cooperation with the Iranian Navy, launched a [helicopter raid](https://twitter.com/i/status/1533016327895523328) to [seize two Greek oil tankers](https://nypost.com/2022/05/27/iran-seizes-2-greek-tankers-in-persian-gulf-as-tensions-rise/) in the Persian Gulf. The "Prudent Warrior" and "Delta Poseidon" were sailing in international waters, 22 nautical miles off the coast of Iran. The Greek Foreign Ministry [condemned](https://www.mfa.gr/en/current-affairs/statements-speeches/statement-by-the-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-regarding-the-strong-condemnation-of-the-seizure-of-greek-flagged-ships-by-the-iranian-armed-forces-27-05-2022.html) Iran's actions as "tantamount to acts of piracy."

This incident happened just days after Athens announced that it would abide by U.S. sanctions on Russia by handing over a [reported](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/us-seizes-iranian-oil-cargo-near-greek-island-sources-2022-05-26/) 700,000 barrels of Iranian crude oil from the Russian-flagged tanker "Lana." The ship is [owned](https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1140913/US-seizes-Iranian-crude-from-Russian-tanker-arrested-in-Greece) by Russia's Promsvyazbank, a bank critical to Russia's defense sector. The U.S. Treasury [designated](https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0602) the bank on Feb. 22 – just two days before the Russian invasion of Ukraine – "for operating or having operated in the defense and related materiel and financial services sectors of the Russian Federation economy."

The "Lana" created a two-for-one sanctions case as a Russian-flagged ship was carrying Iranian oil. The U.S. confiscated the Iranian oil from the ship. The Russian tanker [remains anchored](https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1186729/athens-tehran-in-talks-over-lana-greek-tankers/) off Karystos, in the central part of the Aegean Sea.

The two Greek ships and their crews are still in Iranian custody. For Iranian propaganda, this act of piracy is legitimate retribution for the Lana incident.

N*our News*, a website close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council and the de facto information branch of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, [announced](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-take-punitive-action-against-greece-over-seizure-iranian-oil-nour-news-2022-05-27/) that Iran would take "punitive action" after the two tankers were seized. *Nour News* [justified the action](https://nournews.ir/En/News/97461/Why-the-seizure-of-two-Greek-oil-tankers-and-its-messages) as "a legal and proportionate response to the Greek government's action against Iran's interests." It also accused Greece and the United States of "economic terrorism" against Iran.

On June 4, during a ceremony marking the death anniversary of his predecessor and late founder of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei acknowledged that Iran took the two Greek oil tankers. "They stole our oil on Greek shores," Khamenei said in his [80-minute speech](https://english.khamenei.ir/news/9027/A-major-benefit-brought-by-Imam-Khomeini-was-his-familiarizing). "Then, our self-sacrificing and valiant soldiers made up for it and confiscated the enemy's ship carrying oil. Then, the enemy accused Iran of theft via his comprehensive propaganda and media empire."

Khomeini defended the hijacking of the Greek tankers as an act of reprisal. "Who is a thief?" he asked. "You stole our oil and we took it back from you! Taking back stolen property is not theft! It is you who are thieves! The Americans order the Greek government and they obey by stealing our oil."

The Quds Force is an IRGC military intelligence division. The United States [has designated](https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/hp644) the Quds Force as a terrorist group "for providing material support to the Taliban and other terrorist organizations."

This act of piracy is but another incident in a pattern of illegal acts by Iranian authorities undermining international movement in the seas. In 2019, Iranian forces assumed a series of limpet mine attacks in the Persian Gulf that left many tankers damaged. In July 2021, an Israeli-linked oil tanker was [attacked by a military Iranian drone](https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-business-iran-persian-gulf-tensions-419efc522acbd213a79696c9876af6dc) in an incident that left two European crew members dead. Just a week later, Iranian paramilitary forces also briefly [seized a Panama-flagged asphalt tanker](https://apnews.com/article/europe-middle-east-70fc4b24d0071820562033a07bb9060f) off the United Arab Emirates and continued their provocative actions [seizing a Vietnamese tanker](https://apnews.com/article/business-dubai-gulf-of-oman-iran-united-arab-emirates-cd153109127604c6a250f5dd1e75a3a1) last November.

**Iran continues nuclear weapons program**

The piracy campaign and other violent provocations should be considered as the United States and others continue negotiations aimed at restoring the 2015 nuclear deal.

The deal, officially known as the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action](http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2015/150402_03_en.htm) (JCPOA), limited Iran's uranium enrichment and other work that could allow it to manufacture nuclear weapons. The United States withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018 and reimposed several unilateral sanctions on Iran.

Iran announced in 2019 that it had started to increase uranium enrichment beyond the 3.67 percent limit agreed upon in the [JCPOA](https://2009-2017.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2015/04/240170.htm). It declared that it has the capability to [enrich uranium to 20 percent](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/iran-will-enrich-uranium-to-5-percent-at-fordow-nuclear-site-official-606964). Indeed, the Iranian Parliament [approved a law](https://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2021-01/atomabkommen-iran-urananreicherung-verstoesse-usa-atomwaffen-iaea) in late 2020 mandating the enrichment of uranium to 20 percent. Ever since, Iran has been steadily enriching more and more uranium, reaching the weapons-grade level.

According to a June 16 *New York Times*[report](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/16/us/politics/iran-nuclear-program-tehran.html), Iran is constructing an extended new network of underground tunnels at its [Natanz nuclear site](https://www.nti.org/education-center/facilities/natanz-enrichment-complex/), its primary enrichment facility. This underground network appears to be intended to provide safe facilities for an enrichment facility, providing relative immunity to cyberattacks and bombing. "Although Iran has no obligation to provide outsourced information, it has notified the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] since the start of construction work to relocate the Karaj TESA plant around the Natanz site," Behrouz Kamalvandi, the spokesman of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, [told](https://nournews.ir/En/News/98258/The-IAEA-is-fully-aware-of-Iran%27s-actions-in-the-Natanz-complex) *Nour New*s. He went on to attack Israel once again: "Considering the full transparency of our country's actions, there is no doubt that the atmosphere created by the media affiliated with the Zionist current will not lead to ambiguity and political abuses."

In another *Nour News* [article](https://nournews.ir/En/News/98195/Is-the-West-worried-about-the-progress-of-Iran%27s-nuclear-program%21), Iranian sources admit that the nuclear program is in full development: "Today, even Iran's enemies acknowledge the fact that, despite the imposition of oppressive sanctions, Iran's peaceful nuclear program is advancing at a remarkable pace, and sanctions have failed to have the slightest mitigating effect on the peaceful programs that Westerners mistakenly express concern about it."

The IAEA which – despite repeated warnings by [Israel](https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/full-text-netanyahu-s-reveals-iran-s-atomic-archive-in-speech-1.6045556) and the United States – was disregarding Iran's unilateral actions, now seems aware of the realities on the ground. The IAEA cannot confirm the correctness and completeness of Iran's declarations under its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, Director General Rafael Grossi [told](https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/statements/iaea-director-generals-introductory-statement-to-the-board-of-governors-6-june-2022) the IAEA's Board of Governors on June 6. According to Grossi, Iran has "not provided explanations that are technically credible in relation to the Agency's findings at three undeclared locations in Iran." Iran has also not informed the IAEA "of the current location, or locations, of the nuclear material and/or of the equipment contaminated with nuclear material, that was moved from Turquzabad in 2018."

Such a statement reveals the failure of the IAEA's bureaucratic approach over the years.

Earlier this month, Tehran announced the [removal of 27 tamper-proof surveillance cameras](https://www.ft.com/content/105e26a2-9dd4-438a-ae4e-641aca5c8305) at nuclear sites previously installed by experts and functioning as IAEA's monitoring system. This action severely impairs the IAEA'S ability to observe and evaluate the Iranian nuclear program. As a response, the Biden administration announced new sanctions against Iran's petrochemical industry June 16 with the aim of compelling Iran to comply with the JCPOA.

Still, despite all these brazen violations of any security guarantees on its nuclear program and [congressional opposition](https://www.politico.com/news/2022/05/05/congress-warning-biden-iran-deal-00030448), the Biden administration continues to declare its commitment to the general framework of the JCPOA negotiations. Now, a bipartisan majority in Congress wants a renegotiation of the original deal.

On Sunday, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Bill Russo [told](https://www.israelhayom.com/2022/06/19/there-is-still-potential-for-a-nuclear-deal-us-official-says/) the Saudi newspaper *Asharq Al-Awsat* that it was still possible to return to some form of an agreement. "We believe that the nuclear deal is possible, but it depends on Iran," Russo said.

The indications that Iran is adopting an even more hardline stance are mounting. On June 18, the former editor of hardline daily *Kayhan*, Mehdi Nasiri, [wrote](http://www.didbaniran.ir/fa/tiny/news-134142) that Iran is moving toward a war: "Evidence including the suspension of nuclear negotiations in Vienna and the escalation of tensions between Tehran and the IAEA might indicate that the Islamic Republic is interested in war and such a war is likely to start."

As Joe Biden prepares to make his first Middle East visit as president, it would be wise to bear in mind the repeated violations of agreements and the Iranian regime's aggression. Iran continues to support terrorist groups including [Hizbollah](https://www.investigativeproject.org/8574/arrest-sheds-new-light-on-joint-hizballah-quds) in Lebanon and [Hamas](https://www.investigativeproject.org/9060/hamas-growing-role-in-iran-scheme-to-encircle) in the Gaza Strip. Iran's [cyberwar capabilities](https://www.investigativeproject.org/9176/iranian-cyberwar-grows-aggressive-with-russia) have been considerably upgraded with Russian help, enabling it to perform repeated attacks against U.S. and other Western targets.

Despite all the sanctions imposed by the United States, Iran is moving ever closer to obtaining nuclear weapons. Reports [indicate](https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/3528366-lawmakers-say-new-iran-nuclear-deal-unlikely/) that Iran simply doesn't want a deal. The question for the United States, therefore, is what happens next? The status quo means Iran produces nuclear weapons. Failure to find new ways to dissuade the regime costs the U.S. its credibility vis-à-vis its rivals, imperils its allies in the Middle East, and encourages further disruptive actions by Iran.

[Ioannis E. Kotoulas](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ioannis-Kotoulas) *(Ph.D. in History, Ph.D. in Geopolitics) is Adjunct Lecturer in Geopolitics at the University of Athens, Greece*. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/355505>

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