**07/09/2021 NEWS AM -**

**Lecha Dodi**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5WMPx1o2uM>

for English words: <https://www.chabad.org/kabbalah/article_cdo/aid/380392/jewish/Lecha-Dodi-new-translation.htm>

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| **"Our founding fathers detested the idea of a democracy and labored long to prevent America becoming one.  Once again -- the word 'democracy' does not appear in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, or the constitution of any of the fifty states.  Not once. Furthermore, take a look at State of the Union speeches.  You won’t find the 'D' word uttered once until the Wilson years." -- Neal Boortz (1945- ) Radio talk show host, columnist** |

**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 EL – Had clot embolized to brain – successful ‘clot buster’ but long road to go.**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for DH – Mother removed self from hospice but doing poorly.**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  **Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems**  NOTE: Our prayer list was getting very long and there will little follow up.  If you have people you want to have on the list please resubmit since we are revising it now– rdb]  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 33:16And Esau returned on his way toward Seir that day. 17And Jacob traveled to Succoth. And he built himself a house, and made booths for his livestock. For this reason he called the name of the place Succoth. 18And Jacob came in peace to the city of Shechem, which *is* in the land of Canaan, as he came from Padan-aram. And he camped in front of the city. 19And he bought that part of the field where he had pitched his tent, from the hand of the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, for a hundred pieces of money. 20And he set up an altar there. And he called it, El, the God of Israel.**

**Bennett said to have met secretly with Jordan's king last week in Amman**

***Monarch signals willing to turn over new leaf in Israeli-Jordanian ties, leaving behind years of rocky relations with former PM Netanyahu, which became particularly tense over the last year***

*Itamar Eichner | Published: 07.08.21, 20:30*

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met secretly with Jordan's King Abdullah II last week at his palace in Amman in what was the monarch's first meeting with an Israeli premier in three years, Ynet learned on Thursday

Bennett arrived in the Jordanian capital by helicopter and the two leaders discussed Israel supplying greater drinking water provisions to the drought-hit kingdom.

With his first meeting with an Israeli prime minister since June 2018, King Abdullah signaled he was willing to turn over a new leaf in Israeli-Jordanian ties, leaving behind years of rocky relations with former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which became particularly tense over the last year.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid Wednesday held a meeting with his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi at the Allenby Bridge Border Crossing, the first since the former took office last month.

Both parties have discussed several economic issues and agreed to increase Jordan's potential export value to the West Bank from some $160 million to $700 million a year, of which $470 million is under PA trade standards and the rest in accordance with Israeli trade standards.

The increase will be summed up by the parties in accordance with the Paris Protocol, which constitutes the economic framework for trade between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Both diplomats also agreed on a deal that would see Israel sell Jordan an additional 50 million cubic meters of water this year, the final details of which will be hammered out by negotiation teams in the coming days.

Following the meeting, Lapid took to Twitter to praise Israel's neighbor to the east and has vowed to expand economic cooperation between the two countries.

"The Kingdom of Jordan is an important neighbor and partner to the State of Israel, the Foreign Ministry will continue to will continue to hold an ongoing dialogue in order to preserve and strengthen relations, we will expand economic cooperation for the benefit of both countries," he wrote. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/bytd3ontu>

**High Court rejects petitions seeking to strike down nation-state law**

***Bench rules that law enshrining Israel as Jews’ national home does not conflict with the state’s democratic nature, punts on question of intervening in Basic Laws***

*By* [*Amy Spiro*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/amy-spiro/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:01 pm*

The High Court on Thursday struck down a series of petitions against 2018’s controversial [nation-state law](https://www.timesofisrael.com/final-text-of-jewish-nation-state-bill-set-to-become-law/), which designated Israel as a Jewish state, drawing charges that it discriminates against minorities.

The expanded 11-justice panel ruled that the law does not conflict with Israel’s democratic character and can stand as a quasi-constitutional Basic Law.

The court stated that the law “is a chapter in our emerging constitution, which is intended to anchor the components of the state’s identity as a Jewish state without detracting from the components of the state’s democratic identity enshrined in other Basic Laws and constitutional principles.”

Ten of the justices wrote that “although it would have been better if the principle of equality had been explicitly enshrined in the Basic Law,” its omission “ultimately does not detract from its status and importance as a fundamental principle in our doctrine.”

With the ruling, the court rejected 15 different petitions filed by a variety of groups and individuals challenging the legislation, including political parties Meretz and the Joint List, lobby groups Adalah and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, and attorney Morsi Abu Moch, the mayor of Baqa al-Gharbiyye.

The nation-state law, which passed as a “Basic Law” — a type of protected legislation meant to one day form the basis of a constitution — enshrines Israel as “the national home of the Jewish people.”

But critics have argued that the law contravenes the basis of Israel’s legal system, as well as its Declaration of Independence, and solidifies inequality among its citizens.

The sole dissenter, Justice George Kara, wrote that portions of the law “deny the core of the democratic identity of the state and shock the thresholds of the constitutional structure,” rendering the law void.

Kara added that the law disrupts the balance of Israel as a Jewish and Democratic state, and only “intensifies the violation of the principle of equality” against Arab and Druze citizens.

But in the prevailing opinion, the bench wrote that the question of inequality can be solved by “sustainable interpretation” of the legislation in a way that does not conflict with existing laws, nor harm the rights of equality for all citizens.

The decision by the court to hear petitions seeking to strike down the law had caused an uproar when it was announced in December. A Basic Law has never been overturned by a court, and then-Knesset speaker Yariv Levin threatened to defy the court if it quashed the legislation.

At a hearing with the petitioners in December, the judges appeared to be skeptical of arguments focusing on whether the law was unjust, seeking instead to steer petitioners to the question of whether there is a legal basis to strike down a Basic Law.

However, the ruling noted that because the judges had found that the law was legally able to be included in a future constitution, they had no need to delve into the thorny question of whether the court has the right to intervene in the content of Basic Laws.

Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked, an architect and advocate of the 2018 law, and who served as justice minister when it passed in the Knesset, questioned the court’s authority to rule on the legislation.

“The High Court ruled what is obvious,” she said, adding that “the very discussion of the question of disqualifying a Basic Law was done with complete lack of authority.”



Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked speaks during a Yamina faction meeting at the Knesset on July 5, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)

Justice Minister Gideon Sa’ar cheered the decision, saying the law “anchors the Jewish essence and character of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people” and that it does “no harm to the individual rights of any Israeli citizen.”

Joint List head MK Ayman Odeh, however, slammed the court’s decision as “racist and antidemocratic.”

“The Jewish supremacy law received a stamp of approval today from the High Court,” he tweeted. “But this is our homeland and no ruling will change that.” He said he will “continue to fight for equal rights for all citizens of the country, for the sake of true justice and real democracy.”

Joint List MK Ofer Cassif railed at the High Court ruling for “legitimizing a racist law.” He tweeted that those who legislated the law will “be judged by the tribunal of history. We hope that on the way they’ll pass through the Hague,” the Dutch city where the International Criminal Court is based.

Adalah, a prominent Arab legal rights group that backed one of the 15 petitions against the law, accused the court of refusing to “protect Palestinians from laws that are among the most racist in the world since World War II and the fall of the apartheid regime in South Africa.”

The Abraham Initiatives, a nonprofit that works to advance Jewish-Arab partnership, called for the Knesset to repeal the law. “The ruling does not change the racist and discriminatory nature of the nation-state Law, which establishes Arab citizens of Israel as second-class citizens,” it said.

Labor MK Gilad Kariv, who heads the Knesset’s Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, indicated that the court ruling did not legitimize use of legislation to discriminate.

“The High Court was correct in not nullifying the nation-state law, and was equally correct in stating that it cannot be used to justify a violation of democratic values,” he tweeted. “It is the job of the Knesset to explicitly anchor the values of equality alongside the recognition that the State of Israel is also the home of its non-Jewish citizens. This is exactly what we’ll try to do.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/high-court-rejects-petitions-seeking-to-strike-down-nation-state-law/> [Finally we can get some semblance of an agreement with the High Court and the Knesset on at least one issue. – rdb]

**High Court overturns law halting benefits for parents of teen security prisoners**

***In a 5-4 ruling, justices argue that rarely used legislation infringes on principle of equal rights; Knesset given one year to fix legislation***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:09 pm*

The High Court ruled on Thursday that a 2015 law that stripped the parents of a minor Israeli imprisoned for security offenses of their welfare benefits is illegal.

In a 5-4 decision, Justices Esther Hayut, Hanan Melcer, Uzi Vogelman, Daphne Barak-Erez and Anat Baron ruled that “although deterrence from committing security offenses is important, including stone throwing, the law disproportionately violates equal rights.”

The measure was passed in 2015 as part of a series of moves intended to significantly beef up punishments for rock-throwers, in response to a deadly attack on a driver in Jerusalem. The law, which was mostly aimed at Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, also loosened live fire rules for law enforcement and imposed a four-year minimum sentence for adult rock throwers, as well as imprisonment and fines for those 14-17.

According to the ruling, the move to freeze benefits, which only affected offenders with Israeli parents, has not been put into practice for several years — and has only ever been utilized on 10 occasions.

“Using the criterion of a criminal conviction in relation to social benefits amounts to a violation of equal rights since it involves ‘labeling,'” wrote Baron in the ruling.

In the minority opinion, Justices Neal Hendel, Yitzhak Amit, Noam Sohlberg and David Mintz argued that the law does not infringe on equal rights. Sohlberg noted that there is no distinction in the legislation between Jews and Arabs.

Sawsan Zahar, an attorney with Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, which filed the petition, said the law is illegal since it “creates one law for Palestinian minor prisoners and another law for minor prisoners in [other] criminal proceedings.”

It “is contrary to the most basic principles of criminal law,” Zahar told Haaretz.

The judges gave legislators a year to fix or scrap the law, noting that new legislation on the issue had already been planned.

During that time period, the ability of the National Insurance Institute to strip any such parents of their welfare benefits will be suspended.

Mintz, one of the dissenting judges, claimed that parents actually saved more money than they would receive, since their kids were imprisoned wards of the state.

“Therefore the harm caused to them is negligible,” he wrote. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/high-court-overturns-law-halting-benefits-of-parents-of-young-security-prisoners/> [Win one lose one for the Knesset. – rdb]

**COVID deaths reported in Israel for first time in over 2 weeks**

**Unvaccinated 48-year-old man and vaccinated man in his 80s succumb as daily cases keep rising; news outlets say Health Ministry inflating number of serious cases**

By [TOI staff](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) Today, 3:28 pm

Israeli hospitals reported two deaths from COVID-19 complications on Thursday, the first coronavirus fatalities recorded in over two weeks.

Wolfson Medical Center in Holon said an unvaccinated 48-year-old man died. He did not have any significant preexisting conditions beyond high blood pressure, according to the hospital.

His family members said they had tried unsuccessfully to convince him to get the vaccine. The Ynet news site quoted an unnamed hospital source as saying that had the man been vaccinated, he would likely have survived.

The other fatality was an 86-year-old man hospitalized at Rambam Medical Center in Haifa, who had received both vaccine shots. The man’s wife, in her 70s, is also hospitalized with the coronavirus and is in moderate to serious condition. She too got both doses.

The deaths came as Israel has been experiencing a resurgence in infections due to the ultra-infectious Delta variant, though there have been few deaths and serious cases have risen slowly following the country’s mass vaccination campaign.

The fatalities were not yet included in the latest Health Ministry figures published Thursday morning, in which the national toll remained at 6,429. Before Thursday, the last COVID death was recorded on June 23 and prior to that there had been no fatalities for more than a week.

The ministry said 518 new cases had been diagnosed on Wednesday, with active infections — a figure that was under 250 just three weeks ago — rising to 3,568. There have been 844,684 cases confirmed in Israel since the pandemic began. [So how many had previously been JABBED???? – rdb]

The positive test rate was 0.7 percent, identical to the preceding few days.

The ministry said that nearly 5.7 million people out of Israel’s population of roughly 9.3 million have received at least one vaccine shot, of whom close to 5.2 million have been fully vaccinated.

The number of patients in serious condition ticked up slightly to 46, out of 78 people currently hospitalized, according to the Health Ministry.

However, multiple news outlets have cast doubt on that figure, arguing that the Health Ministry is inflating the number of people hospitalized in serious condition.

The Yedioth Ahronoth daily said that according to Wednesday figures from hospitals, they collectively have only 27 serious patients in coronavirus wards — 19 fewer than reported by the Health Ministry. [So the hospitals don’t agree with the health ministry on the number of serious cases? HUMMM? Is someone cooking the books? – rdb]

Channel 12 news also compiled hospital data on Thursday and concluded that there are 32 serious cases.

There could be several explanations. Yedioth said moderate cases, discharged patients or recovered patients could have been included in the serious case tally. Channel 12 said the ministry’s tally could include serious patients who are no longer infected with the virus but are still hospitalized in other wards due to complications.

On Wednesday, coronavirus czar Nachman Ash announced that vaccinated travelers returning from high-risk destinations will be forced to enter isolation, following an outbreak of the Delta variant in Israel.

“We will expand the quarantine requirement to the vaccinated who return from countries with serious travel warnings,” Ash told reporters.

Currently, Israelis who are vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 are exempt from quarantine upon returning to the country, unless returning from COVID-19 hotspots to which travel is barred: Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, India, Mexico and Russia. This order does not extend to over a dozen countries flagged in travel advisories for their high COVID-19 caseload, including the United Arab Emirates, Seychelles, Chile, Costa Rica and Georgia.

Despite Ash’s announcement of the change of policy, during a meeting of the so-called coronavirus cabinet earlier Wednesday ministers did not approve such a measure.

The ministers approved an order saying that all travelers from abroad will now have to self-isolate until receiving a negative COVID-19 test result from samples taken upon landing.

But the government largely steered clear of introducing new restrictions to rein in the rising morbidity rates blamed on the Delta variant.

Despite the rise in cases, Ash told reporters, the prospects of a new lockdown being introduced were low. MORE-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/coronavirus-deaths-reported-in-israel-for-first-time-in-over-2-weeks/>

**Government trims tally of seriously ill after denying COVID numbers inflated**

***Health Ministry insists reporter who found hospital figures lower than official number did not check facts, but then drops count from 46 in serious condition to 37***

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

The Health Ministry denied accusations in Israeli media reports that it had inflated the number of COVID-19 patients in serious condition, but also lowered its count of seriously ill by nearly a quarter on Thursday.

Data published by the ministry late Thursday showed 37 patients hospitalized with serious COVID-19 infections, down from 46 patients it had reported Thursday morning. It was the first time the number of seriously ill patients has dropped since June 27, when it fell from 22 to 20.

The numbers came hours after the ministry pushed back vociferously against reports by two media outlets that it had inflated the number of seriously ill.  On Thursday morning, the Yedioth Ahronoth daily said the number was actually 27 and cited its own data compiled from hospitals across the country. Channel 12 did the same and concluded that there were 32 serious cases.

In response, the ministry lashed out at Yedioth on Thursday afternoon, accusing its reporter of “not checking the details in depth, thus misleading the public.”

The ministry said its data includes patients who are no longer infected with COVID but are still hospitalized in serious condition. It added that it checks its figures three times a day and that it is regularly in touch with hospital representatives. MORE-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/government-trims-tally-of-seriously-ill-after-denying-covid-numbers-inflated/> [HUMMMM? It seems that there must have been a bit of fudging the numbers and they didn’t like it when they were caught. If the USA actually had any real journalism and professionals they would be challenging the CDC numbers as well and probably find that the books at the CDC are so messed up that they can probably never be straightened out. – rdb]

**Looking at delta variant, Pfizer to seek FDA authorization for 3rd vaccine dose**

***Bid to get OK comes even as studies indicate that two-dose regimen still protects and many places continue to struggle to get first shot to people***

*By* [*LAURAN NEERGAARD*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/lauran-neergaard/) *9 July 2021, 12:37 am*

AP — Pfizer is about to seek US authorization for a third dose of its COVID-19 vaccine, saying Thursday that another shot within 12 months could dramatically boost immunity and maybe help ward off the latest worrisome coronavirus mutant. [From what I have seen by a number of people the delta variant is more contagious but not more lethal than the others so why a third shot? – rdb]

Research from multiple countries shows the Pfizer shot and other widely used COVID-19 vaccines offer strong protection against the highly contagious delta variant, which is spreading rapidly around the world and now accounts for most new US infections.

Two doses of most vaccines are critical to develop high levels of virus-fighting antibodies against all versions of the coronavirus, not just the delta variant — and most of the world still is desperate to get those initial protective doses as the pandemic continues to rage.

But antibodies naturally wane over time, so studies also are underway to tell if and when boosters might be needed.

On Thursday, Pfizer’s Dr. Mikael Dolsten told The Associated Press that early data from the company’s booster study suggests people’s antibody levels jump five- to 10-fold after a third dose, compared to their second dose months earlier.

In August, Pfizer plans to ask the Food and Drug Administration for emergency authorization of a third dose, he said.

Why might that matter for fighting the delta variant? Dolsten pointed to data from Britain and [Israel](https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministry-data-said-to-show-pfizer-shot-blocks-majority-of-serious-delta-cases/) showing the Pfizer vaccine “neutralizes the delta variant very well.” The assumption, he said, is that when antibodies drop low enough, the delta virus eventually could cause a mild infection before the immune system kicks back in.

But FDA authorization would be just a first step — it wouldn’t automatically mean Americans get offered boosters, cautioned Dr. William Schaffner, a vaccine expert at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Public health authorities would have to decide if they’re really needed, especially since millions of people have no protection. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/looking-at-delta-variant-pfizer-to-seek-fda-authorization-for-3rd-vaccine-dose/> [Go back and listen to Event 201. They unyielding constant call was always persist ‘with the narrative’ – rdb]

**Israel agrees to dramatically increase water supply to parched Jordan**

***Move comes as Jerusalem looks to patch up ties, but in sign of lingering tensions, Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi warns Lapid of ‘war crimes’ over Sheikh Jarrah evictions***

*By* [*Amy Spiro*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/amy-spiro/) *and* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 7:03 pmUpdated at 7:18 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/AP19034640064551.jpg)

Illustrative: A Syrian man fills a bucket with water inside Zaatari, the largest camp for Syrian refugees in Mafraq, Jordan, on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019. (AP/Raad Adayleh)

Israel agreed to dramatically increase the amount of water it supplies to Jordan in an effort to battle a devastating shortage, as Foreign Minister Yair Lapid met with his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi at a crossing point over the Jordan River Thursday.

The meeting marked the first public encounter between top Israeli and Jordanian officials since a new Israeli government was established last month. Ties between Jerusalem and Amman had become increasingly thorny in recent years.

While Lapid has sought to repair the relationship, a Jordanian warning during the meeting about possible Israeli “war crimes” in Jerusalem signaled that some of those friction points may remain.

Under the deal signed Thursday, Israel will supply Jordan with an additional 50 million cubic meters (65 million cubic yards) of water to Jordan in 2021, Israel’s Foreign Ministry said. Israel already provides water to Jordan annually under an agreement signed in 1994.

The two also agreed to raise a cap on Jordanian exports to the West Bank from $160 million to $700 million.

The meeting took place on the Jordanian side of the Allenby Bridge, which connects Jordan to the West Bank.

Jordan has been experiencing severe water shortages for months, and submitted a request to Israel for additional supplies in March. Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu [approved](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-okays-jordanian-request-for-water-after-several-weeks-delay/) the request after several weeks of delay amid tension between the nations. Jordan reportedly requested an additional eight million cubic meters but received only three million.

Israel said Prime Minister Naftali Bennett had approved the agreement to transfer the additional 50 million cubic meters.

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Jordan said technical teams will iron out the details in the coming days, and that talks on implementing the export ceiling will be held among Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian officials.

Gidon Bromberg, the Israeli director of EcoPeace Middle East, a Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli environmentalist group, said the deal marks a “dramatic increase” in water exports from Israel. Under a 1994 deal, Israel is supposed to supply Jordan with some 50 million cubic meters (65 million cubic yards) of water annually, but Bromberg said Israel had not exported more than 10 million cubic meters per year until now.

He said Jordan still faces a water deficit of 500 million cubic meters (653 million cubic yards) a year and would have to import considerably more to ensure a continuous supply for all its needs. Jordan is one of the driest countries on earth and its water shortages are expected to worsen with climate change.

Following the meeting, Lapid expressed appreciation for Jordan’s cooperation.

“The Kingdom of Jordan is a neighbor and important partner of the State of Israel,” Lapid said Thursday. “The Foreign Ministry will continue to hold an ongoing dialogue to preserve and strengthen ties. We will expand economic cooperation for the wellbeing of both countries.”

But in a sign of remaining tensions between the countries, Jordan’s Foreign Ministry pointed out that Safadi had warned Israel against the planned eviction of Palestinians from their homes in East Jerusalem’s Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, an issue which has become a trigger for regional tensions.

Safadi “emphasized the necessity of respecting the historical and legal status quo in the Al-Aqsa Mosque/al-Haram al-Sherif and to respect the right of the families in Sheikh Jarrah to their homes, stressing that their expulsion would constitute a war crime under international law,” according to the Jordanian readout of the meeting.

He told Lapid that “there is no alternative to the two-state solution as a way to achieve comprehensive peace.”

On Wednesday, Jordan condemned Israel’s [decision](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-again-tears-down-contested-palestinian-hamlet-in-jordan-valley/) to dismantle the tents in the small hamlet of Khirbet Humsa in the Jordan Valley for at least the third time since November. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-agrees-to-dramatically-increase-water-supply-to-parched-jordan/>

**Opulent 2,000-year-old ‘city hall’ unearthed near Western Wall in Jerusalem**

***One of the most significant public buildings from the Second Temple period ever uncovered; new pathways in Western Wall Tunnels provide 2nd life to underground ancient Jerusalem***

*By* [*Amanda Borschel-Dan*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/amanda-borschel-dan/) *Today, 11:51 am*



Stepped pool installed in one of the chambers of the magnificent 2,000-year-old building in Jerusalem's Old City in the late Second Temple period that served as a ritual bath.(Yaniv Berman/Israel Antiquities Authority)

Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologists have unearthed what may have been a 2,000-year-old city council building — a few hundred meters from its modern counterpart — during continuing excavations under Jerusalem’s Old City.

The grand structure is a new feature on the revamped Western Wall Tunnels Tour, which allows tourists to visit the millennia-old city that exists in a time warp under today’s thriving capital.

“This is, without doubt, one of the most magnificent public buildings from the Second Temple period that has ever been uncovered outside the Temple Mount walls in Jerusalem,” said excavation director Dr. Shlomit Weksler-Bdolach in an IAA press release on Thursday.

Built circa 20 CE, the Roman-era structure stood off a main drag leading to the Temple Mount and was used as a triclinium, or dining room, for notable members of society on their way to worship, according to the IAA release. Originally constructed with an ornate water fountain and decorative Corinthian capitals, the striking edifice underwent a series of structural changes in its 50 years of use prior to the 70 CE destruction of the Second Temple, Weksler-Bdolach told The Times of Israel.

The massive structure will soon be open to the public as part of the Western Wall Tunnels Tour, which has been rejigged to create different paths and experiences, based on several new routes that cut through thousands of years of history, through today’s modern use of part of the tunnels as prayer and event halls.

According to Weksler-Bdolach, originally archaeologists had thought the “city hall” was constructed during the earlier Hasmonean period. Located to the west of Wilson’s Arch, just off the prayer pavilion for men at the Western Wall, one of the chambers was discovered and documented in the 19th century by Charles Warren. Other archaeologists also studied the room in the 20th century.

However, after taking up some of the ancient flooring and performing carbon-14 dating on organic materials from the building’s base, as well as discovering coins and pottery sherds, archaeologists place the opulent building’s timeframe at no earlier than 20 CE. She noted that because the site is only partially excavated — to preserve other important subterranean structures from other eras — it is more challenging to precisely date and study it. “Every building is important; we cannot take all the buildings apart,” she said.

What archaeologists do know is that during its 50 years of occupation, said Weksler-Bdolach, the large public structure was separated into three different spaces, the fountain was taken out of use, and what appears to be a ritual bath or mikveh was added, just prior to the destruction of Jerusalem.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/11.-דר-שלומית-וקסלר-מנהלת-החפירה-מטעם-רשות-העתיקות.jpg)

Dr. Shlomit Weksler-Bdolach, excavation director in the Western Wall Tunnels on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority. (Yaniv Berman/Israel Antiquities Authority)

Despite the clear Roman influence in the structure’s architecture, Jerusalem at this time was still a culturally Jewish city, said Weksler-Bdolach. The decorations discovered in the spaces — a sculpted cornice bearing pilasters (flat supporting pillars) — didn’t include graven images, banned by the Torah.

She said the hall was likely used by city, versus Temple, officials who wanted to impress their guests.

“Visitors to the site can now envisage the opulence of the place: the two side chambers served as ornate reception rooms and between them was a magnificent fountain with water gushing out from lead pipes incorporated in the midst of the Corinthian capitals protruding from the wall,” said Weksler-Bdolach in the press release.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/5.המזרקות-פוארות-שפעלו-במבנה-המפואר-מלפני-2000-שנה.-צילום-יניב-ברמן-רשות-העתיקות.jpg)

Remains of the splendid fountains that operated in the magnificent 2000-year-old building soon to be opened to the public as part of the Western Wall Tunnels Tour in Jerusalem’s Old City. (Yaniv Berman/Israel Antiquities Authority)

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/1.-שרידי-המבנה-המפואר-מלפני-2000-שנה.jpg) There are still several puzzles to work out surrounding the building. For one, what was the water source for the fountain? Weksler-Bdolach laughed and said that is the “million-dollar question,” but the researchers’ working hypothesis is that since clean, freshwater would likely have been used, it was hand filled through an intricate system of lead water piping. The fountain, she said, was likely only used to make a splash with especially important VIPs.

***Two ‘living’ cities in parallel***

To reach the Western Wall Tunnels Tour, visitors descend beneath noisy, living Jerusalem and go back in time, entering a well-preserved subterranean ancient city.

Remains of the magnificent 2000-year-old building recently excavated and due to be opened to the public as part of the Western Wall Tunnels Tour in Jerusalem’s Old City. (Yaniv Berman/Israel Antiquities Authority)

“In Jerusalem there are several cities under the city,” said Weksler-Bdolach, “especially under the Old City.”

According to Shachar Puni, architect for the Israel Antiquities Authority’s Conservation Department, one of the interesting and unique features of ancient Jerusalem is that many whole sections were left completely intact under the ground.

In most cases, new construction was performed on top of older structures, he, said, with domed ceilings serving as building bases, and still intact chambers underneath used as basements or cisterns, or even hideaway living spaces.

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| The new visitors’ route in the Western Wall Tunnels. (Yaniv Berman/Israel Antiquities Authority) | Remains of the magnificent 2000-year-old building recently excavated and due to be opened to the public as part of the Western Wall Tunnels Tour in Jerusalem’s Old City. (Yaniv Berman/Israel Antiquities Authority) |

Now, with the rerouted paths, said Puni, visitors can experience different elements, time periods, and purposes of the underground city. For example, tourists purely interested in the ancient archaeology will no longer brush up against today’s prayer halls — and vice versa.

“There is a feeling of a whole underground world that it is in parallel with the ‘living world’ above ground,” said Puni. Unlike visits to other “open air” archaeological sites in Israel such as Caesarea or Megiddo, in Jerusalem’s underground universe, “for the visitor, there is the feeling of a whole world that didn’t exactly get destroyed.”

Mordechai Soli Eliav, chairman of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, says, “It is exciting to reveal such a magnificent structure from the Second Temple period while we mourn the destruction of Jerusalem and pray for its restoration.” The new section of the Tunnels Tour should be open by the Hebrew month of Elul, just ahead of Rosh Hashana, in time for traditional *selichot*, or penitential prayers.

“What’s fantastic is that there’s a living city moving about aboveground, and in parallel, a whole world that was frozen, but still lives, in the archaeological realm, one under the other,” said Puni. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/magnificent-2000-year-old-city-hall-unearthed-near-western-wall/> [I had the privilege to be on the tunnel tour a few years ago and what they had at the time was amazing and much different from my first tour. I am sure this will be a must see for any visitor to Jerusalem. – rdb]

**US now to ‘prioritize’ pushing Israel to stop demolishing terrorists’ homes**

***Blinken personally raised concern with Israel before Thursday’s destruction of family home of Palestinian-American man alleged to have killed Israeli teen in May***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 1:40 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/AP21189284306586.jpg)

***An Israeli army unit demolishes the house of Palestinian American Muntasser Shalaby using controlled explosions in the West Bank village of Turmus Ayya, north of Ramallah, Thursday, July 8, 2021. Shalaby is accused of being involved in a deadly attack on Israelis in the West Bank in May. (AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)***

The State Department will prioritize pushing Israel to end its controversial policy of demolishing the homes of terrorists, a spokesperson said Thursday, with the US’s top diplomat already bringing the issue up with senior officials in Israel.

The comments from State Department spokesman Ned Price came hours after the administration of US President Joe Biden [leveled rare criticism](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-slams-demolition-of-family-home-of-alleged-palestinian-american-terrorist/) at Israel for razing of the home of a Palestinian-American suspected in a deadly West Bank shooting attack, marking a likely point of friction amid efforts between Washington and Jerusalem to rehabilitate ties.

“We attach a good deal of priority to this, knowing that the home of an entire family shouldn’t be demolished for the action of one individual,” Price said when asked about the matter at a daily press briefing, adding that the US would continue to raise its concerns “as long as this practice continues.”

Price’s comment appeared to reflect a shift from previous administrations, which had not made as large an issue out of Israeli home demolitions.

“There is a critical need to lower the temperature in the West Bank. Punitive demolitions exacerbate tensions at a time when everyone should be focused on principally ensuring calm,” Price said.

Price said US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and other senior State Department officials had raised the issue with their Israeli counterparts ahead of the Thursday morning demolition of the West Bank family home of Muntasir Shalabi, who allegedly shot dead Israeli student Yehuda Guetta, 19, in May.

A Hebrew-language report Thursday indicated that Foreign Minister Yair Lapid had not been aware of the looming demolition MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-apparent-shift-us-pushing-israel-to-stop-demolishing-terrorists-homes/> [The US government has absolutely no right to determine how Israel will deal with terrorists who commit a crime even if that person is a dual citizen of the country. The should be a big warning to Israel that this group of nitwits in DC are going to be impossible to deal with just like they are with their own citizens. They are liars and cheats like the people they protect. – rdb]

**UN pans Israel’s ‘narrow’ definition of humanitarian assistance for Gaza**

***Senior UN official urges Israel to ease restrictions at goods crossing, where exports since war are down 90%, warns planting season in enclave at risk if policy doesn’t change***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 2:48 am*

NEW YORK — A senior United Nations diplomat has called on Israel to ease restrictions that have been in place at its crossings into Gaza since the May war there, expressing concern of catastrophic repercussions for the Gazan economy if they continue to remain in place.

“Israel needs to open or ease the restrictions for the regular entry and exit of goods,” the senior UN official told The Times of Israel, on the condition of anonymity in an interview Wednesday.

Since the 11 days of fighting between Israel and Gaza terror groups ended on May 20, Defense Minister Benny Gantz has maintained a policy conditioning the rehabilitation of the Strip on the return of a pair of Israeli civilians and the bodies of two fallen IDF soldiers being held by Hamas.

Israel and Egypt have blockaded the coastal enclave since 2007, imposing tight restrictions on the movement of people and goods. Both countries say the blockade aims to mitigate the security threat posed by Hamas and stop the import of arms and materials to build fortifications and tunnels.

Since the war though, these restrictions have further intensified, and only a limited amount of materials have been allowed in through Israel’s Kerem Shalom goods crossing, such as food, medical supplies, fuel and animal fodder. [The more items you let through their border the more the possibility of re-arming and rebuilding their terrorism infrastructure. – rdb]

But other items such as frames to rebuild greenhouses destroyed by IDF bombings are still being barred, the UN official said, lamenting that Israel has a “very narrow definition of what constitutes humanitarian assistance.” [So what makes you think the frames will be used for greenhouses instead of supports for terrorist tunnels. – rdbv]

The official claimed that “the entire planting season was at risk unless more agricultural imports were allowed into Gaza in the coming weeks.”

Overall exports from the Gaza Strip are down 90%, the official said, noting that only a small amount of agricultural exports and textiles are being allowed out of Gaza but that those goods are barred from entering Israel — a main source of income for the enclave’s export economy.

However, the Rafah and Salah a-Din crossings to Egypt have remained open for goods and pedestrians in recent weeks, though the extent of which was not immediately clear.

UN officials involved in the Gaza reconstruction efforts told ToI that several UN agencies were still in the process of completing detailed damage assessments on the ground while also drafting policy proposals that will be presented to donor countries in the coming weeks.

The officials denied a report that the UN has agreed to take responsibility for the funneling of Qatari cash into Gaza.

An Israeli security delegation in Cairo notified Egyptian mediators that they would no longer allow the entrance of unmonitored cash that is given to tens of thousands of impoverished families in addition to Hamas civil servants, [according](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-hamas-on-path-to-more-violence-warns-official-familiar-with-cairo-talks/) to an official familiar with the negotiations.

Instead, Jerusalem is demanding a new mechanism facilitated by an international observer such as the UN, which would see funds diverted away from the terror group entirely, the official said, while admitting that Hamas is almost certain to object to such an effort, given that it rules the Gaza Strip.

The official speculated that Israel and Hamas are [“on a path” toward another round of violence](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-hamas-on-path-to-more-violence-warns-official-familiar-with-cairo-talks/) just weeks since the most recent flareup in the Gaza Strip. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/un-pans-israels-narrow-definition-of-humanitarian-assistance-for-gaza/> [Unfortunately Israel is now faced with a UN and EU AND the USA who will work against them. They are all three of similar ilk. The current US group is simply Obamanation II. – rdb]

**Israel beings targeting Hamas' cryptocurrency accounts**

***Defense Minister Gantz orders security forces to start seizing digital wallets used by the terror group as part of an online campaign to raise donations to its military wing***

*Associated Press | Published: 07.08.21, 22:51*

Israel said Thursday it will begin seizing cryptocurrency accounts used by the Palestinian Hamas group to raise money for its armed wing.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz ordered security forces to seize the accounts after a joint operation “uncovered a web of electronic wallets” used by Hamas to raise funds using bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, the ministry said.

It said Hamas has been waging an online campaign to raise donations for its military wing, efforts that accelerated after the 11-day Gaza war in May. Cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin are favored for illicit transactions because they are perceived as hard to trace.

“The intelligence, technological and legal tools that enable us to get our hands on terrorists’ money around the world constitute an operational breakthrough,” Gantz was quoted as saying.

Last year, the U.S. Justice Department said it had seized millions of dollars from cryptocurrency accounts that militant groups, including al-Qaida and the Islamic State group, relied on to finance their organizations and violent plots.

The department said it had confiscated about $2 million, in addition to more than 300 cryptocurrency accounts, four websites and four Facebook pages related to the schemes.

One prong of the U.S. investigation targeted the military wing of Hamas. Law enforcement officials seized more than 150 cryptocurrency accounts that they say laundered funds to and from accounts operated by the group.

Hamas, which seized Gaza from rival Palestinian forces in 2007 and has fought four wars with Israel, is considered a terrorist group by Israel and Western countries. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hksnrcvtu>

**Israel, Hamas on path to more violence, warns official familiar with Cairo talks**

***Israel’s conditioning of Gaza rehabilitation on return of captives and Hamas’s emboldening since May war have hampered progress in indirect negotiations***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 8:35 am*

Israel and Hamas are “on a path” toward another round of violence just weeks since the most recent flareup in the Gaza Strip, an official familiar with the indirect negotiations between the sides in Cairo told The Times of Israel on Wednesday.

The official noted Israel’s toughened stance since the 11-day May war vis-a-vis the Kerem Shalom goods crossing, where only limited humanitarian essentials, such as food, medicine and fuel, have been allowed in and almost all exports have been barred. Defense Minister Benny Gantz has also led a policy conditioning the rehabilitation of the Strip on the return of a pair of Israeli civilians and the bodies of two fallen IDF soldiers being held by Hamas.

The official familiar with the negotiations also pointed to Hamas’s “emboldened” position since the war, which its leader Yahya Sinwar has characterized as a victory over Israel, all while public support for the rival Fatah movement led by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas continues to plummet.

 The two competing realities — a hardened Israel and an invigorated Hamas — have not boded well for Egypt-mediated negotiations that began last month in Cairo, the official said.  
 The Israeli security delegation has also demanded a change to the manner in which hundreds of millions of dollars in humanitarian aid from Qatar is funneled to the Gaza Strip on a monthly basis. It says it will no longer allow the entrance of unmonitored cash that is given to tens of thousands of impoverished families in addition to Hamas civil servants. Instead, it is demanding a new mechanism facilitated by an international observer such as the UN, which would see funds diverted away from the terror group entirely, the official said, while admitting that Hamas is almost certain to object to such an effort, given that it rules the Gaza Strip.  
 A proposal was being crafted to form a temporary government of unaffiliated technocrats that would unite the West Bank and Gaza Strip until Palestinian elections are rescheduled, according to the official. Parliamentary elections — the first since 2006 — had been scheduled for May but Abbas canceled them weeks before they were slated to take place, claiming Israel was refusing to allow balloting in East Jerusalem. However, most analysts have surmised that the decision had more to do with concerns regarding likely Hamas gains over an ever-fractured Fatah.  
  
 Palestinian boys queue to register for a summer camp organized by the Hamas terror group’s military wing, Ezz-Al Din Al-Qassam Brigades in Gaza City on June 14, 2021. (Photo by MAHMUD HAMS / AFP)

[This is one of the saddest picture you can see. What people is so anxious to train or coerce their children into a situation where they could likely be killed? It is disgusting! Who really thinks that when they do this there is a chance for reconciliation and a normal Israeli Hamas relationship in the future. – rdb]  
 The official was skeptical as to whether the proposal still being crafted would win the support of either the Israelis or the Palestinians, arguing that the latest round of violence had not led either side to radically shift its position in a manner that would allow for a long-term ceasefire.  
 A second source familiar with the matter confirmed that no breakthroughs have been made in Cairo and that the sides were not optimistic. However, the source noted that Israel and Hamas “might not be as interested in another round of violence as much as they are letting on.”

While Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is looking to prove himself tough on Hamas, he is also interested in stabilizing his nascent, politically diverse coalition, which may not be able to weather another round of violence so soon after its formation, the source argued. In addition, Hamas may not maintain the public support it won after the most recent military campaign if the Strip is bombarded once again.  
 In the previous war, around 1,600 housing units in Gaza were totally destroyed in IDF counterstrikes to rocket fire and another 2,500 homes were partially damaged, according to a joint [report](https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/gaza_rapid_damage_and_needs_assessment_july_2021_1.pdf) from the United Nations, European Union and World Bank released this week. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-hamas-on-path-to-more-violence-warns-official-familiar-with-cairo-talks/>

**Congress OKs budget for reopening U.S. Consulate for Palestinians**

***Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's government reportedly asks Biden administration to delay reopening by several weeks, fearing the move could put a strain on the nascent coalition***

TPS | Published: 07.08.21, 17:23

The U.S. Congress’ Budget Committee Thursday approved the budget for the reopening of the American Consulate for the Palestinians in Jerusalem.

The bill passed with 32 members voting in favor and 25 opposing it.

The U.S. consulate building in Jerusalem (Photo: TPS)

The mission was closed in 2019 after former U.S. President Donald Trump decided to merge it with the American embassy, which had moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem a year earlier.

The decision was among several catalysts that caused a severing of ties between the Trump administration and the Palestinians.

Secretary of State Anthony Blinken was asked to report to Congress on the reopening date and the return of the consulate staff to operations, and to describe the implications of the opening of the consulate on U.S.-Palestinian relations.

It is not yet clear when the consulate on Jerusalem's Agron Street will reopen, but Palestinian Authority officials estimate that this is expected within a few months.

Last week, Israeli and Arab media reported that Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's government had asked President Joe Biden's administration to delay the opening of the consulate, over fears the move will might put a strain on the nascent coalition.

Bennett’s office did not respond to inquiries from TPS on the issue. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/r1ckmf4pd>

**Russia Simulates Bombing Exercise in Black Sea as NATO, US Forces Exercise**

*July 6, 2021 | By* [*Abraham Mahshie*](https://www.airforcemag.com/person/abraham-mahshie/)

Vladimir Putin is not happy about recent American and NATO exercises in the Black Sea, ordering the bombing of simulated enemy ships and conducting aerial denial tests in a region he believes to be within Russia’s sphere of influence. And Pentagon spokesman John F. Kirby says that’s just fine.

“I know of no infringement on our ability to exercise in Sea Breeze by Russian activity,” Kirby said of the two-week exercise hosted by Ukraine that concludes July 10.

The U.S. and Ukrainian navies, including Airmen from the 7th Special Operations Squadron, 5,000 military personnel, 30 ships, and 40 aircraft from the U.S., Ukraine, and NATO ally and partner nations, are helping to strengthen Ukraine’s capacity to protect its territorial waters after losing 70 percent of its naval fleet to Russia in 2014.

The 7th SOS conducted coordinated operations with Ukrainian and British counterparts to support maritime and ground forces. U.S. aircraft also conducted intercept and formation training together with Ukrainian and British fighters.

As to whether Russia announced their aggressive exercises in advance or created a deconfliction channel, Kirby referred Air Force Magazine to Moscow.

Meanwhile, on July 2, NATO partners Greece, Romania, and Turkey participated in air defense exercises in the Black Sea. The U.S. maintains a steady rotational presence in the countries of the Black Sea in order to deter Russian aggression. Crimea is just 200 miles from NATO shores.

Two NATO air policing fighter jets are on constant standby at Romania’s Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base, an air base subsidized by American European Deterrence Initiative funding and used by some 200 American troops on rotation in the country.

“Joint air policing missions contribute to the development of response and deterrence capacity,” the Romanian Ministry of Defense told *Air Force Magazine* in a statement about the role of its F-16’s.

The July 3 Russian exercise with Sukhoi fighters and bombers practiced missile and bombing strikes against mock enemy vessels, [according to Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russian-warplanes-practice-bombing-enemy-ships-black-sea-drills-2021-07-03/). Only days earlier, [al Jazeera reported](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/29/russia-tests-crimean-defence-systems-amid-sea-breeze-drills) that Russia tested its S-400 air defense systems, part of the anti-access and area denial system placed on the heavily militarized Crimean peninsula.

Russia’s aggressive response is in addition to a massive disinformation campaign that portrayed the American ships as entering Crimea’s territorial waters in a provocative way.

Kirby said the naval exercises have been operating in international waters.

“It’s a defensive exercise, and it’s one of the most robust Sea Breeze exercises we’ve conducted to date,” he said. “We are proud of the interoperability and the capability that it’s showing that we can have with international partners in that international seaway,” he said. <https://www.airforcemag.com/russia-simulates-bombing-exercise-in-black-sea-as-nato-u-s-forces-exercise/> [You kind of wonder just how long Pootie Poot will tolerated the bumbling “Bi-dumb” and friends taunting him until he does something about it. Rdb]

**US orders amphibious assault ship into Black Sea after Moscow warns tensions escalating dangerously in waters off coast of Russia**

*8 Jul, 2021 13:46*

American sailors at the helm of a naval landing vessel have charted course for the Black Sea to take part in wargames alongside other NATO forces, the US Sixth Fleet has announced on Thursday, amid fears of conflict in the region.

According to commanders, the US Naval Ship Yuma, a Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport craft, *“began its northbound transit into the Black Sea to operate with our NATO allies and partners.”* The twin-hulled catamaran is able to transit a whole company of US Marines and is equipped with both a flight deck and a ramp to allow armored vehicles to rapidly roll into battle.

The Yuma will take part in the colossal ‘Sea Breeze’ exercises along with personnel from 32 separate nations, including Ukraine, the UK, France, Poland, Georgia, Senegal, South Korea, Pakistan, Japan and Morocco, among others.

Moscow has said the drill poses a real risk for potential escalations in military tensions. Last month, its diplomats called on the US to refrain from participating, saying that *“the scale and aggressive nature of the ‘Sea Breeze’ exercises in no way helps with the real challenges of ensuring security in the Black Sea region.”*

According to the envoys, the NATO drills will *“increase the risk of unintentional incidents”* and simultaneously *“encourage militaristic sentiments in Kiev.”* A spokesman for the US Sixth Fleet had previously said that Washington is *“proud to partner with Ukraine in co-hosting the multinational maritime exercise.”*

BREAKING: [#USNSYuma](https://twitter.com/hashtag/USNSYuma?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) (T-EPF-8) began its northbound transit into the [#BlackSea](https://twitter.com/hashtag/BlackSea?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) to operate with our [@NATO](https://twitter.com/NATO?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) Allies & partners! [#PowerForPeace](https://twitter.com/hashtag/PowerForPeace?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)[pic.twitter.com/njq2vFCagw](https://t.co/njq2vFCagw)

— U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet (@USNavyEurope) [July 8, 2021](https://twitter.com/USNavyEurope/status/1412985570918375424?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The war games will run until July 10 and, according to US military chiefs, will see sailors rehearse *“multiple warfare areas including amphibious warfare, land maneuver warfare, diving operations, maritime interdiction operations, air defense, special operations integration, anti-submarine warfare, and search and rescue operations.”*

The drills have been run in previous years, but the current iteration comes amid significant tensions between NATO and Russia. Two weeks ago, a British warship, the HMS Defender, sparked a diplomatic incident when it crossed the border into waters around the disputed Crimean peninsula.

Russia, which considers the region to be an integral part of its sovereign territory, responded with aerial fly-bys and warning shots from a nearby warship. London refuses to recognize Russian sovereignty over Crimea and insists the waters belong to Kiev. <https://www.rt.com/russia/528700-assault-ship-tensions-escalating/>

**COVID interrogators coming? Post 'No Trespassing' sign, senator says**

***'This is a prerequisite to be able to charge someone'***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published July 7, 2021 at 6:22pm*

 The White House stunned many Americans this week when President Joe Biden talked about having a team of federal agents going "door-to-door" in a "targeted" fashion to tell Americans to take the experimental COVID vaccines.

After all, how often has the federal government in the "land of the free," where rights are protected by the Bill of Rights, actually discussed sending agents to homes to tell people to do something that is not legal to be required, and which they do not want to do?

But several officials in Arizona immediately had a response.

Sen. Kelly Townsend posted online, "I have spoken to local law enforcement and if you don't want the Federal government on your property asking about vaccines, they advise you to post a no trespassing sign in a visible location."

This, she explained, "Is a prerequisite to be able to charge someone for being there against your will."

I have spoken to local law enforcement and if you don't want the Federal government on your property asking about vaccines, they advise you to post a no trespassing sign in a visible location. This is a prerequisite to be able to charge someone for being there against your will.

— Senator Kelly Townsend (@AZKellyT) [July 7, 2021](https://twitter.com/AZKellyT/status/1412836781637128193)

The vaccination program is significant to the Joe Biden administration as so many of his other agenda points so far have failed: No infrastructure bill, no federal takeover of elections, no significant international agreements, a crisis on the southern border and more.

The administration's claim to be able to tell voters during the soon-coming 2022 midterms what it accomplished would be its distributions of vaccines, which, in fact, were developed under President Trump.

The White House said it wants to target the "vaccine hesitant" with a door-to-door campaign telling people to get the shots.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the plan is to "get remaining Americans vaccinated by ensuring they have the information they need about both how safe and accessible the vaccine is."

Dr. Kelli Ward, the chief of the Arizona GOP, said, "Who thinks we will see a surge in 'No Trespassing" signs? And could/should they be individualized to specifically prohibit people from harassing you about vaccinations?"

Who thinks we will see a surge in “No Trespassing” signs? And could/should they be individualized to specifically prohibit people from harassing you about vaccinations? And why doesn’t [#HIPAA](https://twitter.com/hashtag/HIPAA?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) &/or the [#4A](https://twitter.com/hashtag/4A?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) already prevent this govt harassment? Isn’t our health info private?🤔 <https://t.co/mNDfpYbvaT>

— Dr. Kelli Ward 🇺🇸 (@kelliwardaz) [July 7, 2021](https://twitter.com/kelliwardaz/status/1412849185657851904)

[The Gateway Pundit](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/07/no-trespassing-lawmaker-says-vaccine-harassers-can-charged/) explained charges could be filed against "vaccine harassers" under some circumstances. Of course, state laws and local ordinances may impose certain requirements in various locations, too.

"What happened to our right to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures?" the report said. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/covid-interrogators-coming-post-no-trespassing-sign-senator-says/>

**Report: Government operative confirmed as part of Jan. 6 riot crowd**

***'Was revealed to be close to the 'restricted zone' near the Capitol'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published July 8, 2021 at 2:30pm*

A recent report from [Revolver,](https://www.revolver.news/2021/06/federal-foreknowledge-jan-6-unindicted-co-conspirators-raise-disturbing-questions/) which got the attention of Fox News' [Tucker Carlson,](https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/tucker-carlson-government-agents-helped-organize-capitol-riot) charged that some of those key individuals who planned the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 likely were federal agents, or informers.  
 Now the [National File](https://nationalfile.com/confirmed-feds-were-embedded-in-1-6-crowd-alongside-militia-members/) says that has been confirmed.  
 "Court documents pertaining to the indictment of a man named Fi Doung over alleged crimes relating to the events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6 reveal that DC Metropolitan Police had at least one undercover federal employee embedded within the pro-Trump crowd ahead of and during the civil unrest at the Capitol," its report confirmed.  
 The report explains court documentation affirms: "On the morning of January 6, 2021, FI DUONG and an associate of his (ASSOCIATE 1) introduced themselves to a Metropolitan Police Department Undercover Employee (MPD UCE) in the vicinity of Freedom Plaza, Washington, D.C. DUONG asked the MPD UCE if he/she was a 'patriot,' to which the MPD UCE responded in the affirmative and asked DUONG the same question. DUONG responded by claiming to be an 'operator.'"  
 The undercover federal operative "was revealed to be close to the 'restricted zone' near the Capitol building as it was being stormed," the report said.  
 Fi Duong later was seen in the restricted zone, and "MPD UCE exchanged greetings with one another," the report said.  
 "The federal employee then befriended Duong over the course of weeks, even including a Bible study at Duong's home and learning that Duong's family fled communism from China to Vietnam, and ultimately to America. The FBI agent who wrote the documents used to indict Duong claimed that Duong intended to 'take a stand' violently in Virginia rather than uproot to Texas, however, it is unclear whether Duong openly suggested violence or merely political action," the report said.  
 National File explained, "This is the first admission from the government that an undercover federal operative was covertly interacting with patriot groups ahead of the violence at the Capitol on January 6."  
 Bottom of Form

The Revolver report earlier explained that many of the court filings refer to "unindicted co-conspirators," who allegedly committed many of the same acts as those now facing serious charges, but are not charged with anything.  
 "Why is the administration hiding more than 10,000 hours of surveillance tape from the U.S. Capitol? What could possibly be the reason for that? Even as they call for more openness. We need to get to the bottom of it. They could release those tapes today, but they’re not. Why?" Carlson wondered about the situation.  
 "We ought to be asking those questions, urgently. Because as the attorney general reminded us, a lot depends on the answers. At least one news organization is. Revolver.news is a new site and turned out to be one of the last honest outlets on the internet. A new piece on the site suggests an answer to some of these questions. We know the government is hiding the identity of many law enforcement officers who were present at the capitol on January 6, not just the one who killed Ashli Babbitt. According to the government's own court filings, those law enforcement officers participated in the riot. Sometimes in violent ways.  
 "We know that because, without fail, the government has thrown the book at most of the people who were in the Capitol on January 6. There was a nationwide dragnet to find them. Many of them are still in solitary confinement tonight. But, strangely, some people who participated in the riot haven't been charged. Look at the documents. The government calls these people 'unindicted co-conspirators.' What does that mean? It means that in potentially every case, they're FBI operatives," he said.  
 "For example, one of those 'unindicted co-conspirators' is someone the government identifies only as 'Person Two.' According to those documents, 'Person Two' stayed in the same hotel room as an 'insurrectionist' named Thomas Caldwell, who's alleged to be a member of the group called the Oath Keepers. 'Person Two' also 'stormed the barricades' at the Capitol on January 6, alongside Thomas Caldwell.  
 "The government's indictments further indicate that Caldwell -- who by the way is a 65-year-old man -- was led to believe there would be a 'quick reaction force' also participating in January 6. That quick reaction force, Caldwell was told, would be led by someone called 'Person Three' -- who had a hotel room and an accomplice," Carlson documented.  
 "But wait. Here's the interesting thing. 'Person Two' and 'Person Three' were organizers of the riot. The government knows who they are, but the government has not charged them. Why is that? You know why. They were almost certainly working for the FBI. So FBI operatives were organizing the attack on the Capitol on January 6, according to government documents. And those two are not alone."  
 Revolver reported that there are – so far – "upwards of 20 unindicted co-conspirators in the ... indictments, all playing various roles in the conspiracy, who have not been charged for virtually the exact same activities — and in some cases much, much more severe activities — as those named alongside them in indictments."  
 The Capitol events on January 6 happened when a group of violent individuals broke windows and barricades at the Capitol to enter and vandalized parts of the building.  
 There also were dozens, probably hundreds, of nonviolent protesters who in some cases simply walked past security officers into the building, and ended up doing no damage at all.  
 But the fact that President Trump had held a rally that morning, encouraging his supporters to protest the congressional adoption of the disputed 2020 presidential election results "peacefully" was used by Democrats to stage and launch their second failed impeach-and-remove scheme against him.  
 Since then, legacy media outlets, social media corporations and leftist politicians have compared the day to 9/11 and worse. Actually, one police officer died of natural causes and two by suicide in that time period, and several participants died of what apparently were natural causes. The only victim of violence was a protester, unarmed, who was shot and killed by a police officer, whose name has been concealed ever since then. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/report-government-operative-confirmed-part-january-6-riot-crowd/> [When you get to the root of this event I would probably put money on the fact that Pelosi and Schumer and the leadership of the DNC probably jerrymandered and probably paid for the despicable deep state ‘intelligence agency’ to infiltrate and cause the problem for its ‘optics’. – rdb]

**Democrats Sending $870 Million to Aide Border Crisis…in the Middle East**

*Posted by Charlie Kirk Staff - 7.06.21*

Even the press has taken note of the mumbling and confusion in the behavior of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris; it’s so bad, they seem to have forgotten which country they were voted into office. Democrats in Congress are gearing up to spend nearly a billion dollars to help secure not only a singular border but *borders*, plural. None of which are *our* borders.

[News Binding](https://thepatriotjournal.com/democrats-870-million-border-me/) Reports:

A democrat budget plan spends hundreds of millions of American taxpayer money for a multitude of Middle Eastern countries while stripping all funds for construction of a border wall at the United States-Mexico bo*rder.*

*On Tuesday, the Democrat-controlled House Appropriations Committee released their Department of Defense funding bill that includes* $870 million in taxpayer money for “border security” measures in foreign countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, and Oman*.*

The greatest ally of ours in the Middle East, Israel, is omitted from the liberals’ generosity as well. Where Congress’ priorities lie is absolutely abhorrent. Not only will taxpayers be supporting overseas countries’ security initiatives, but that money will actually be taken from *our* own security.

News Binding reports “while the budget funds border security in the Middle East, an accompanying Department of Homeland Security (DHS) budget released by House Democrats on Tuesday strips all funding for construction of a border wall at the U.S.-Mexico border.”

“Specifically, the DHS budget rescinds the previously appropriated $2.06 billion for border wall construction and provides no funding for additional U.S. Border Patrol agents. It also allows up to $100 million that was previously designated to build a border wall to instead go to the Department of Interior.” MORE- <https://charliekirk.com/news/democrats-sending-870-million-to-aide-border-crisisin-the-middle-east/> [Stupidity is running rampant in DC. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**Concerned yet?   
*By Laura Hollis****Published July 8, 2021* As the nation limps out of the COVID-19 pandemic, many Americans assume that we are also leaving behind the serious -- and in some cases, shocking -- power grabs that government leaders insisted were necessary to "defeat the virus."   
 The headlines suggest otherwise. A number of trends have emerged, the confluence of which should concern all Americans who love this country and value their freedom.   
 First and foremost is the obsession with characterizing the Jan. 6 riot in the Capitol as an "insurrection." Like so much else the American public has been told in recent years, this is a "narrative" -- wrapped in secrecy and sold with a heaping helping of propaganda, hyperbole and flat-out lies -- which falls apart as the truth slowly leaks out. While unruly and disruptive, Jan. 6 was no attempt to overthrow the federal government.   
 Hundreds of protesters were let into the Capitol building by the U.S. Capitol Police; no one was carrying a firearm of any sort. USCP Officer Brian Sicknick was not killed by chemical spray or a blow to the head from a fire extinguisher, but died of a stroke.   
 In fact, the only person killed on January 6 was Ashli Babbitt, an unarmed protester shot by a USCP officer who will not stand trial and whose name has never been released to the public. Perhaps most disturbing, Revolver News has raised pointed and unanswered questions about the FBI's possi! ble role in January 6.   
 It is vital to understand that the "insurrection" obsession is itself grounded in another claim of far more serious import: that there was no fraud in the Nov. 2020 election, and that Joe Biden won the presidency "fair and square." While this is certainly possible (if unprecedented, given Trump's increased support in 2020 and every historical benchmark from previous presidential elections), the still-inexplicable simultaneous vote count stoppages in multiple battleground states, coupled with millions of unverified mailed-in ballots and massive middle-of-the-night vote dumps for Biden, raised legitimate suspicions that Americans deserve to have addressed.   
 And then, there is the Democrats' abject terror of forensic vote audits in battleground states like Arizona (or any states, for that matter). This terror manifests itself as: insisting that mailed-in votes have somehow already been audited (they haven't); suing to block the audit; demonizing every government official or concerned voter calling for an audit as a "Trump voter" - and, therefore, a QAnon nutcase at best or a "domestic violent extremist" at worst; and threatening states conducting audits or implementing election integrity legislation, as Attorney General Merrick Garland has done with the states of Arizona and Georgia.   
 This is not how a government acts when it is confident in its victory.   
 As anyone in government should know, an audit not only verifies facts that have been reported, but also the procedure by which those reported facts were obtained. It is odd, to say the least, that the same institution whose various agencies (IRS, SEC, EPA) audit individuals and entities regularly is now telling us that asking for an audit of election results is not only unnecessary and unpatriotic, but somehow a signal of bad faith and questionable -- if not criminal -- intent.   
 Jan. 6 is also behind President Biden's recent announcement that "white supremacists" represent the single biggest threat of violence within the United States. Even for an administration that plays as fast and loose with the truth as this one does, that's a whopper; one weekend in Chicago would disprove it. Attorney General Garland also pointed to Jan. 6 in his announcement of the administration's new plan to confront domestic terrorism, lumping Trump voters in with "white supremacists" and "militia groups."   
 The government's dangerous ability to spew unadulterated lies 24/7 was not created by the pandemic, but was certainly enhanced by it. The government has been exposed in one lie after another related to COVID-19, from its possible origin in a Chinese virology lab, to pharmaceutical interventions and treatments for it.   
 At every turn, the government's lies have been disseminated by a compliant and unquestioning TV and broadcast news media, and anyone attempting to get accurate information out to the public has been silenced and banned by social media companies acting as the government's de facto censors.   
 All of this, without more, should have Americans deeply concerned. But there is more.   
 Last year's Black Lives Matter riots spawned a "defund the police" movement, which has had grievous consequences in our major cities, where cops have retired in record numbers or been ordered to stand down. Murders are at record numbers in Chicago. Retail theft is not being prosecuted in California. Criminals are released without bail in New York.   
 And even as state, county and local police forces struggle with funding cuts and attacks, the Capitol Police are opening "field offices" in California, Florida and other states. What's coming? A "United States Police Force" hunting down disgruntled Trump voters with the aid of Facebook and Twitter?   
 If you want to leave the major cities for the relative peace of the suburbs, alas, the Biden-Harris administration has a power-grab policy for that, too. As further proof that Obama and his people are pulling Pappy Joe's puppet strings, here comes Obama's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule. As reported by Tucker Carlson last week, the AFFHA and Senator Cory Booker's proposed HOME Act would force cities and towns to eliminate single-family zoning and minimum lot sizes, and build high-density apartment complexes instead.   
 Carlson warned that the plan is to "destroy the suburbs." But this month's National Geographic cover story, "Beating the Heat," warns that "wealthy areas" of Los Angeles -- meaning single-family neighborhoods -- are "shady and cool," compared to poorer neighborhoods, which have fewer trees, less shade, more concrete and more high-density structures. Why would those who care about "climate change" want even more of us in those circumstances?   
 Concerned yet? <http://jewishworldreview.com/0721/hollis070821.php3>

**Xi Jinping Is Mobilizing China for War, Possibly With Nukes  
*by*** [***Gordon G. Chang***](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Gordon+G.+Chang) ***July 8, 2021 at 5:00 am***China in recent weeks has sent [tens of thousands of troops](https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-india-move-tens-of-thousands-of-troops-to-the-border-in-largest-buildup-in-decades-11625218201) to its disputed border with India in Ladakh, high in the Himalayas.  
 Beijing looks as if it is preparing for a full-scale invasion of Indian territory.  
 This deployment occurred while Chinese ruler Xi Jinping, [in the words of the Communist Party's *China Daily*](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202107/04/WS60e1922da310efa1bd65f9a3.html), made a "pro-peace, pro-development, and pro-cooperation speech" to celebrate the centennial of the Party's founding.  
 "The Chinese people have never bullied, oppressed, or subjugated the people of any other country, and we never will," Xi [said](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-07/01/content_5621847.htm) on July 1.  
 In May of last year, the People's Liberation Army [moved troops south of the Line of Actual Control](https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/crisis-after-crisis-how-ladakh-will-shape-india-s-competition-china) in Ladakh, in other words, into Indian-controlled territory. A month later, on the night of June 15, Chinese soldiers launched a surprise attack, killing 20 Indian troops.  
 India responded by reinforcing its forces and [launching a counterattack](https://www.indiatoday.in/news-analysis/story/china-avoid-conflict-secretly-planning-counterattack-india-ladakh-standoff-1722957-2020-09-18) in August. China then added to its troop count, increasing the number of soldiers from 15,000 a year ago to 50,000 at this moment. Beijing has also brought advanced weapons to the area and began building bases.  
 Ladakh is not the only Himalayan hotspot. There is a Chinese [encroachment in India's Sikkim](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-55793112) as well as incursions in neighboring [Bhutan](https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-05-16/china-s-land-grab-in-bhutan-is-the-new-face-of-war) and [Nepal](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-has-annexed-150-hectares-of-nepal-report/articleshow/79017299.cms?from=mdr).  
 Beijing's campaign against India has been multifaceted. "Since June of last year, there was a China-attributed attack on the Mumbai electric grid, Chinese-linked Maoist terrorists killed another 20 Indian security forces, and we witnessed a destructive attack on an iPhone parts-manufacturing plant that looks like part of a Beijing political warfare operation to discourage the shifting of supply chains to India," Cleo Paskal of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies told Gatestone.  
 As a result, many in India now see China in the worst possible light. As Paskal explains, "The breadth and depth of the Communist Party's aggressive unrestricted warfare against India leads one to think there are no barriers to Beijing's malign behavior."  
 The Indian people are right to be concerned. China has changed the definition of "warfare," and one of its instruments is disease. If SARS-CoV-2, the pathogen causing COVID-19, did not start out as a biological weapon, Chinese Communist Party leaders [turned it into one](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/17432/china-coronavirus), by lying about contagiousness and pressuring other countries to take disease-ridden arrivals from China.  
 "It's no wonder many Indians think their second wave of coronavirus was a deliberate release by China to weaken them further," Paskal notes.  
 Beijing looks as though it is even thinking of using nuclear weapons to fight the next war.  
 The *Washington Post* [reported](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/china-nuclear-missile-silos/2021/06/30/0fa8debc-d9c2-11eb-bb9e-70fda8c37057_story.html) China appears to be building, in an area covering more than 700 square miles in the Gansu desert, 119 missile silos for the ten-warhead DF-41 intercontinental ballistic missile. When added to 26 more silos the Chinese military is building elsewhere, China could soon be housing from these fixed locations about as much firepower as the existing U.S. nuclear arsenal. When China's missiles carried on mobile launchers and submarines are added, China's warheads could end up exceeding America's.  
 Because Beijing already has a sufficient number of nukes to deter others — China has had for a long time sufficient weapons for a so-called "minimal deterrent"— it looks as if Chinese military planners are [thinking](https://thediplomat.com/2013/11/state-media-boasts-of-chinas-ability-to-nuke-us-cities/) of using nuclear weapons in an offensive capacity. China's flag officers and political leaders have in public threatened to use their arsenal in this way.  
 In any event, Xi Jinping in his bellicose July 1 speech promised to "crack heads and spill blood" of those standing in the way of what are, in essence, his plans to take territory under the control of others.  
 More significantly, he threatened to take down the existing Westphalian international system of sovereign states, established in 1648. "The Communist Party of China and the Chinese people, with their bravery and tenacity, solemnly proclaim to the world that the Chinese people are not only good at taking down the old world, but also good at building a new one," Xi said.  
 A new world? Throughout this century, Xi has made indirect references to *tianxia*, or "all under Heaven." For two millennia, Chinese emperors believed they both had the Mandate of Heaven to rule *tianxia* and the obligation to do so.  
 Lately, Xi's references in public pronouncements have become unmistakable, and his subordinates have been clear that Xi believes that everyone outside China owes him obedience.  
 Xi, while spouting *tianxia*-like language and bellicose words, has been getting the Chinese people ready for war. On July 1, he talked about foreigners meeting a "wall of steel built with the flesh and blood of 1.4 billion Chinese people."  
 Moreover, he is making preparations to use his shiny new military. Amendments to China's National Defense Law, effective the first of this year, [transfer powers](https://www.newsweek.com/china-becoming-military-state-opinion-1561300) from civilian to military officials.  
 The amendments reduce the role of the central government's State Council and transfer powers to the Communist Party's Central Military Commission. Specifically, the State Council will no longer supervise the mobilization of the People's Liberation Army. At most, the central government will merely implement Party directives.  
 It is true that the law could be mere posturing — the Communist Party has always been in control — but the signaling is ominous nonetheless. The new law, after all, contemplates the mass mobilization of society for war.  
 The changes signal the growing clout of the People's Army inside the Party and highlight the militarization of the country's external relations. China is fast becoming a military state.  
 Xi Jinping on July 1 told the world what he is going to do. We are, in all probability, in the last moments of peace.  
 *Gordon G. Chang is the author of* The Coming Collapse of China*, a Gatestone Institute distinguished senior fellow, and a member of its Advisory Board.* <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/17547/china-mobilizing-war>   
   
**What Is China Doing?**

***by*** [***Pete Hoekstra***](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Pete+Hoekstra) ***July 8, 2021 at 4:00 am***On May 26, 2021, President Joe Biden announced that he had asked the U.S. intelligence community to redouble its efforts to determine the origins of the COVID-19 virus. The U.S. findings are expected in about 90 days. So now we know what the Biden administration is doing, but what will the Chinese government, or the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), do? In light of China's obfuscation so far, it is absurd to imagine that it will be cooperating with the U.S. investigation. Neither will it be sitting idly by waiting to learn of the U.S. intelligence community's conclusions. Instead, the CCP will be doing everything it can to shape the report and ensure that the findings will be released in a context saturated by Chinese propaganda.  
 What does China want the narrative to be? The ideal outcome would be that the virus originated outside of China. Failing that, an acceptable outcome would be, as highlighted in a recent *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) article, that the virus "that killed millions of people and shattered the global economy" would be "among the world's most consequential mysteries."  
 There is one outcome that would be unacceptable to the CCP: China will do almost anything to keep the U.S. from concluding that the virus was developed in the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The CCP is already taking steps to encourage the U.S. to reach "the right" judgment, and it appears to have people in the West, including in the U.S., who are willingly supporting those efforts.  
 On July 5, 2021, *The Lancet* published "Science, not speculation, is essential to determine how SARS-CoV-2 reached humans." This letter was written by the same "reputable" experts who in early 2020, shortly after the outbreak of the pandemic, hurried to state -- despite egregiously insufficient evidence -- that the virus developed naturally and could not have been manufactured in a lab. That false narrative set the tone for more than one year.  
 Now, one-and-a-half years later, *The Lancet* has again come out with an unjustified dismissal of the lab leak theory, couched in support for the G7's call for a new COVID origins study, led by the World Health Organization (WHO). Among repeated affirmations of "solidarity... with those in China who [have] confronted the outbreak," the letter piously cautions that "it might take years of field and laboratory study to assemble and link data essential to reach rational and objective conclusions..." This type of delay, strategically accompanied by a strong but carefully hedged reassertion of the original claim that "we believe the strongest clue from new, credible, and peer reviewed evidence in the scientific literature is that the virus evolved in nature, while suggestions of a laboratory leak source of the pandemic remain without scientifically validated evidence that directly supports it in peer-reviewed scientific journals," is exactly what the *WSJ* warned might happen. More significantly, it is exactly what China wants. Nothing could be better for China than having *The Lancet* as the messenger, lending scientific credibility to what the CCP wants the world to believe.  
 There is little doubt that *The Lancet* is being used, whether it realizes it or not, as a cog in the CCP propaganda machine. It may have its own interests or the interests of the letter's signatories to protect. Some of these individuals may have been involved in the study of viruses, gain of function, collaboration with the Chinese scientific community, and maybe even with the Wuhan lab. At any rate, it is difficult not to question their objectivity.  
 At the same time, the WHO is retesting samples in Italy. Naturally, the CCP claims that this demonstrates that the WHO is now exploring the possibility that COVID-19 may have developed outside of China. Some researchers have argued that studies of the origin of the virus should explore other areas outside of China, including the U.S., Spain and Brazil.  
 The July 5 publication of the letter in *The Lancet* is a strong signal that the CCP has launched an active disinformation campaign. The CCP will continue to spare no effort in ensuring that the COVID-19 virus appears to have originated somewhere other than China, or that there is so much uncertainty that it will always be one of world's biggest mysteries -- like "Where is Jimmy Hoffa buried?"  
 *Pete Hoekstra is a former Representative in Congress from Michigan. He served as the Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. More recently he was U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.*  
 <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/17551/what-is-china-doing>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Bill submitted to strip terrorists of citizenship**

***Bereaved families forum says even Ra'am should support law to take citizenship from terrorists who are paid by the PA.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Jul 08 , 2021 11:00 PM*

This coming Sunday, a bill will be submitted to the Ministerial Committee for Legislation to deny citizenship and residency to Israeli terrorists who received financial assistance from the Palestinian Authority while in prison.

The the law was proposed by Adv. Morris Hirsch, who served as the Chief Military Prosecutor in Judea and Samaria and serves, among other things, as legal advisor to the Choosing Life Forum.

The bill was promoted by the Choosing Life forum of bereaved families and was submitted by MKs Avi Dichter and Orit Strock, signed by 44 MKs from across the political spectrum, including from the Yesh Atid, Labor, Yamina, and New Hope parties.

Proponents of the law and bereaved families say the law "should also have the support of Ra'am, which has declared that it does not support terrorists but acts only at the civilian level. The law does not harm Arab society as a whole, focusing only on those convicted of terrorism and who receive money from the Palestinian Authority."

The bill would stipulate that in the event that the terrorist was convicted and also received payments from the PA for his terrorist activities - the default response is the revocation of their citizenship or residency.

The Choosing Life forum stated that "we expect and demand from all Knesset members who call themselves Zionists to support this important law. The law is signed by Knesset members from the coalition and the opposition, it has a clear majority in the Knesset, broad support from the people and great importance for national security."

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309532>

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**07/08/2021 NEWS AM - Don’t miss Shorashim Insight – Link:**

[**https://madmimi.com/p/3e95921?pact=1077550-163910051-6940209099-cf37889eb312c90ab6dc2c1f2e9c180e05efaf50**](https://madmimi.com/p/3e95921?pact=1077550-163910051-6940209099-cf37889eb312c90ab6dc2c1f2e9c180e05efaf50)

**Evidence of King David's Palace in the City of David**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6h1I3p4SBQ>

**[Beautiful overview of the ancient archeology of the City of King David.-rdb]**

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| **"But what do we mean by the American Revolution? Do we mean the American war? The Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people; a change in their religious sentiments, of their duties and obligations…This radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments, and affections of the people was the real American Revolution." -- John Adams (1735-1826) Founding Father, 2nd US President** |

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

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

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

**Genesis 33:13And he said to him, My lord knows that the children *are* tender, and the flocks and the herds with me *are* suckling. And *if* they overdrive them one day, all the flocks will die. 14Please let my lord go before the face of his servant, and I will move on by stages at my ease, according to the feet of the livestock which *are* before me, and according to the pace of the boys, until I come into my lord to Seir. 15And Esau said, Please let me place with you *some* of the people who *are* with me. And he said, Why, then? Let me find favor in the eyes of my lord.**

**Fire erupts on ship at Dubai port, causing large explosion**

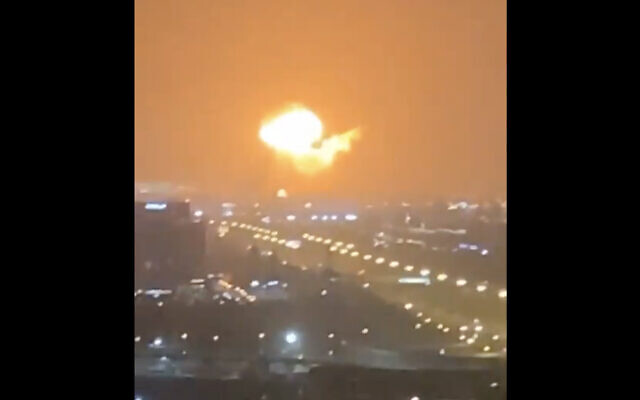
***Tremors felt across UAE commercial hub from blast, which sends fireball into the sky; no immediate reports of casualties or extent of damage***

By [Agencies](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) Today, 11:50 pm

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A container ship anchored at Dubai’s huge port caught fire late Wednesday, the emirate’s media office reported, causing an explosion that sent tremors across the commercial hub of the United Arab Emira**tes.

**The Twitter post from Dubai’s state-run media office said that a fire was reported to have erupted on a ship at the Jebel Ali port and that a team of firefighters was working to contro**l the blaze.

**Officials said there were no immediate reports of casualties**. The extent of the damage caused by the explosion to the port and surrounding cargo was not immediately clear.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/Screen-Shot-2021-07-07-at-23.40.38-e1625690649788.jpeg)

***A fireball is seen after an explosion at the Jebel Ali port in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, July 7, 2021. (Screen capture: Twitter)***

**People in Dubai recording with their phones from their high-rises posted frantic videos on social media showing a fiery ball illuminating the night s**ky.

**Witnesses reported shaking buildings across the city. Residents of neighborhoods as far away as 25 kilometers (15 miles) felt the blast around 11:45 p.m**. Associated Press journalists felt the blast rock the glass windows of their apartments.

The Jebel Ali port in Dubai is one of the largest in the world and the largest in the Middle East. It serves cargo from the Indian subcontinent, Africa and Asia. The port, operated by DP World, has four sprawling container terminals that can berth some of the world’s largest ships.

This was the explosion heard across Dubai tonight. Details to follow. Praying all are safe. Via @xmufaxsam\_ [pic.twitter.com/pGUPYx0rUj](https://t.co/pGUPYx0rUj)

— Lovin Dubai | لوڤن دبي (@lovindubai) [July 7, 2021](https://twitter.com/lovindubai/status/1412866643869454340?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

“I was outside on my balcony. My friend saw something yellow coming (like) the sun. I took the picture and after (there was) a sound,” said intern Clemence Lefaix, who is staying near the blast site and posted a photo of a bright orange light against the night sky in front of apartment buildings.

A resident of Dubai’s Madina district, close to the Jebel Ali port, told AFP they “saw the windows shaking.”

“I have been living here for 15 years and this is the first time I’ve seen and heard this,” they said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/fire-erupts-on-ship-at-dubai-port-causing-large-explosion/>

**Lapid invites Moroccan foreign minister to Israel**

***Foreign Ministry director-general Alon Ushpiz delivers letter to Nasser Bourita, stressing importance of technological, economic ties***

*By* [*Lazar Berman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/lazar-berman/) *Today, 8:39 pmUpdated at 10:20 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/Ushpiz-Bourita-e1625677162589.jpg)

***Foreign Ministry Director-General Alon Ushpiz delivers a letter from Foreign Minister Yair Lapid to his Moroccan counterpart Nasser Bourita in Rabat, July 7, 2021 (Reut Shafir Ben Naftali)***

**Foreign Minister Yair Lapid has invited his Moroccan counterpart, Nasser Bourita, to visit Isra**el.

**The written invitation was delivered Wednesday by Foreign Ministry Director-General Alon Ushpiz, who met with Bourati in Rabat during an ongoing visit to the North African kin**gdom.

**Lapid stressed in his letter to Bourita that restoring ties between Israel and Morocco was a historical m**ilestone.

Israel’s top diplomat also expressed his desire to make progress in bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, technology, culture and tourism.

 **Lapid noted the opening of direct flights between the countries, expected to begin in a matter of w**eeks. **Also Wednesday, Ushpiz visited the tombs of former Moroccan kings Mohammed V and his son King Hassan II, the current monarc**h’s father.

***Alon Ushpiz, director general of the Foreign Ministry, signs the guest book at the Mausoleum of Mohammed V in Rabat, Morocco, July 7, 2021. (Courtesy)***

[

**“We would like to thank the kings on Morocco… for their friendship and support of the Jews of Morocco throughout history**, a legacy that his majesty King Mohammed VI is carrying on,” Ushpiz wrote in the guest book in both Hebrew and Arabic. **He added: “The tradition of tolerance and moderation that has been left to us and the next generations** is an inspiration for the renewal of ties between Israel and Morocco.”

**After a 20-year lull in diplomatic relations, Israel and Morocco renewed their ties late last yea**r, amid a wave of normalization agreements with Arab countries.

**While Jerusalem and Rabat did not in the past have full relations — with diplomatic offices in each other’s capitals instead of embassies — they maintained close official ties until Morocc**o suspended them with the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000.

**On Sunday morning, a Moroccan air force plane** [**touched down**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/moroccan-plane-lands-in-israel-reportedly-before-taking-part-in-idf-drill/) **in Israel’s Hatzor Air Base, re**portedly to take part in a multinational Israeli Air Force exercise later this month.

The highly unusual landing of the Royal Moroccan Air Force C-130 cargo plane at the Hatzor Air Base near Ashdod was visible on public flight-tracking software, where it was quickly spotted by a number of amateur radar watchers, one of whom shared the information with The Times of Israel.

It appeared to be at least the second time the RMAF cargo plane landed in Israel, the first time being in 1996 when it touched down at Ben Gurion International Airport, according to aviation enthusiast David Weinrich, who tracked that flight at the time. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-invites-moroccan-foreign-minister-to-israel/>

**Herzog takes office as Israel’s 11th president, warns of dangers of polarization**

***New president sworn in on same Bible as father 38 years ago; Rivlin: ‘Long live the eleventh president of the State of Israel. Long live the State of Israel’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:26 pm*

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| ***[Isaac Herzog is sworn in as president at the Israeli parliament in Jerusalem, on July 7, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/FLASH90)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/F210707YS12.jpg)***  ***Isaac Herzog is sworn in as president at the Israeli parliament in Jerusalem, on July 7, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/FLASH90)*** | ***Newly sworn in President Isaac Herzog, center, embraces his predecessor, Reuven Rivlin, in Jerusalem, on July 7, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/FLASH90)*** |

**Former Labor party leader Isaac Herzog took office on Wednesday as Israel’s 11th presiden**t, succeeding Reuven Rivlin.

**Herzog took his oath of office at a festive ceremony in the Knesset to cries of “long live [the president]” from its lawmakers. He kicked off his seven-year term with a pledge to serve as a “president for al**l” and work to tone down the country’s divisive rhetoric.

**In his inauguration speech, the new president — who exerts little power, with the prime minister wielding executive authority — warned that Israel’s “common ethos and shared values are more fragile than e**ver.”

**“Baseless hatred, polarization and division** are exacting a very heavy price… the heaviest price is the erosion of our national resilience,” said Herzog.

**“My mission, the goal of my presidency, is to do everything to rebuild hop**e,” he added.

**During his speech, Herzog also stressed the country’s obligation toward its minorities,** urging the government to battle crime in Arab communities. He also vowed to staunchly defend Israel’s military record to the international community.

**“As a Jewish and democratic state, we must do everything to ensure the integration of the minorities who live among us. We must do everything to reduce every serious phenomen**on, such as the terrible and murderous violence in Arab communities, and reduce the gaps,” said Herzog.

**He was sworn in on a 107-year-old Bible that has a long history in his family — the same one that his father, Chaim Herzog, used when he was sworn in as president in 198**3. The Bible survived both world wars and was given to his grandmother by her father on the eve of her wedding.

**The ceremony also included a blowing of shofars, and the president received a standing ovation follow**ing his speech.

הנשיא ה 11 יצחק הרצוג יישבע היום אמונים על ספר תנ"ך בן מעל 107 שנה שעליו נשבע גם אביו ואשר שרד את מלחמות העולם הראשונה והשנייה. הספר ניתן במתנה לסבתו הרבנית שרה הרצוג על ידי אביה הרב הילמן שהיה רבה הראשי של גלזגו ערב חתונתה לרב אייזיק הרצוג [pic.twitter.com/IHe65eCRYm](https://t.co/IHe65eCRYm)

— Itamar Eichner (@itamareichner) [July 7, 2021](https://twitter.com/itamareichner/status/1412621621513310213?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**In his parting speech in parliament following his successor’s swearing-in, Rivlin urged Israelis to come together and overcome their political and religious differences,** while stressing the importance of preserving Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

“The **Jewish state is not something to be taken for granted**. A democratic state is not something to be taken for granted. And there will be no Israel if it is not democratic and Jewish, Jewish and democratic, in the same breath,” said the outgoing president.

**“We will prevail only if we know how to embrace complexity and reject the simplicity that is always so tempti**ng… if we know how to hold that tension, finding within it the balances and compromises. Only then will we be able to preserve this miracle, our home,” he added.



***Newly elected Israeli president Isaac Herzog is sworn in at the Israeli parliament in Jerusalem, on July 7, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/FLASH90)***

**Rivlin also urged engagement with Israel’s regional partners on security, economic and political matters and find solutions related to water, food and climate change**. He argued that Jewish-Arab coexistence in Israel could pave the way for greater engagement in the region.

**“I believe that if we are able to live here together, Jews and Arabs, we will find the way to live together between the Jordan River and the sea,** and across the whole region.”

**Rivlin urged the next generation of Israelis to “continue to innovate. If something isn’t working – change it. Don’t take things for granted** because of the simple fact that the State of Israel isn’t to be taken for granted. It is a miracle, and miracles must be jealously guarded.”

**“I was nine years old when the State of Israel was established. I saw the Israeli flag, blue and white, flying on the flagpole then. For me, the State of Israel will never be something I take for grant**ed. Long live the eleventh president of the State of Israel. Long live the State of Israel,” he concluded, receiving a standing ovation.

Following a toast to the president at the Knesset, Herzog headed over to the President’s Residence for a handover ceremony with Rivlin.

“I have no doubt that you are the right man, in the right place, at the right time,” Rivlin told Herzog at the President’s Residence.

**Waiting for Herzog on his desk in the president’s office will be a personal letter from R**ivlin.

“The truth is I am a little envious of you. In a short time you will discover the tremendous privilege that has fallen to you,” Rivlin wrote in the missive. “In the coming seven years you will meet the men and women who are citizens of Israel. I am already telling you, you will want to hug them, all of them. You will want to cry with them, and to laugh with them. To be excited with them,” Rivlin wrote.

***President Reuven Rivlin reading a book to children at a kindergarten, on January 3, 2016. (Mark Neyman/GPO)***

**Echoing themes he expressed in a** [**2015 speech warning against the deterioration of unity**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-divided-along-tribal-lines-rivlin-warns/) **in Israeli society, Rivlin wrote: “Among the tribes, in the shadow of the controversies and rifts, you will find brave people who do not talk about the ‘together’, they just live it.** Day to day and hour by hour. In their homes, those on the right and the left, Jews and Arabs, veteran [citizens] and new immigrants, religious and traditional, young and old. People of all faiths, sectors and ethnicities. All of them, Israelis. Beautiful, enlightening, and generous. And what a heart they have, beyond words.”

**Rivlin warned his successor of the emotional toll too, recalling how his sleep was sometimes disturbed by thoughts of those he met who were facing challenge**s in one form or another.

“You will be surprised. Fall in love. Be proud. Take things to heart,” Rivlin wrote. “Many times, on journeys, in meetings, I thought to myself the title ‘Citizen Number One’ was born simply because this is the number one people. Today I am sure,” Rivlin concluded.



***A bust of President Reuven Rivlin, left, by artist Sigalit Landau seen in the Avenue of the Presidents, at the President’s Residence, on July 5, 2021. (Haim Zach/ GPO)***

**Herzog, a former Jewish Agency chairman and Labor party leader, won more votes in the Knesset — — 87 out of 120 — in the election in early June than any presidential candidate** in the country’s history. Miriam Peretz, a social activist and Israel Prize-winning educator who lost two soldier sons in Israel’s wars, was backed by 26 lawmakers in the secret ballot.

**Ahead of the ceremony, Herzog prayed at the Western Wall on Tuesday and in the note he left in the cracks of the wall, he wrote that he will devote himself to “unity among our people** and true love for Israel.”

Herzog, who was opposition leader and former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s chief opponent in the 2015 general elections, said he hoped “to be able to work with any government and every prime minister.”

**Israel’s president is largely ceremonial but plays a key role in deciding who gets the mandate to form a government following elections**. The president also has the power to pardon people and grant clemency.

In the run-up to June’s vote, Herzog refused to say whether he would consider pardoning Netanyahu, who is on trial in three corruption cases.

**An attorney by profession at one of the country’s top firm**s (which was founded by his father), Herzog has a family history that is as close as one comes to Israeli royalty.

**He is the grandson of Israel’s first Ashkenazi chief rabbi, Isaac Herzog, for whom he is named, and the son of former IDF major general and then president Chaim Herzog**. His brother Michael is a retired IDF brigadier general. His aunt Suzy was the wife of former foreign minister Abba Eban.

During his term in office, Rivlin consistently scored high public approval ratings, with his determination to represent the broad spectrum of Israeli communities and his obvious compassion resonating with the public.

**Earlier on Wednesday, a bust of Rivlin was unveiled in the statue garden of the president’s official reside**nce. The sculpture [was erected Monday](https://www.timesofisrael.com/president-rivlins-bust-unveiled-during-final-week-in-office/) alongside those of Rivlin’s predecessors, two days before he completed his seven-year term. On a plaque beneath the bust is a quote from Rivlin: “Without the ability to listen, there is no ability to learn. Without the ability to learn, there is no ability to repair.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/herzog-takes-office-as-israels-11th-president-warns-of-dangers-of-polarization/> **This is a blessed event. At least for a brief time one can see a kind of unity in the governance of the Land of Israel. It is reminiscent of the scripture “How good it is when brothers dwell together in unity, a total change from the chaos of the past couple years.}**

**Liberman cancels daycare subsidies for kids of full-time yeshiva students**

***New finance minister announces only families in which both parents work part-time are eligible for NIS 1,000 monthly benefit; Haredi MKs slam ‘destructive and wicked’ move***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:50 pmUpdated at 9:59 pm*

**Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman on Wednesday announced plans to introduce new conditions for receiving daycare subsidies for kids up to age 3, effectively ending them for some 21,000 children whose fathers are full-time yeshiva students**.

**Liberman said the subsidies will be granted only if both the child’s parents work at least 24 hours a week. Currently, only mothers must meet this requirement for a family** to receive the monthly subsidy of NIS 1,000 ($305), with **fathers exempt if they are involved in studies**.

**The change is expected to end the subsidies for around 18,000 households in which the fathers study Torah full-time and will take effect at the start of the new school year in Sept**ember.

**Families in which the father does not work at least 24 hours a week but is involved in academic or vocational studies will still be eligible for the subsidies, which will end for yeshiva students o**nly.

**In total, the daycare subsides are estimated to cost the state a yearly NIS 1.2 billion, of which about a third goes to families in which the father studies at a religious seminary**.

**“Today I decided to put an end to the ongoing distortion in the State of Israel in which the working public has been discriminated against,”** said Liberman, who heads the right-wing secularist Yisrael Beytenu party.

**He added: “I will continue to lead moves that will eliminate disincentives to join the labor marke**t and to look out for the public that works, pays taxes, serves in the army and does reserve duty.”

**The move was denounced by Haredi opposition lawmakers, with Shas party leader Aryeh Deri calling the step “destructive and wicked” and designed “to hurt families with many children simply** because they are Haredi.”

“[Prime Minister Naftali] Bennett and [Justice Minister Gideon] Sa’ar, who promised ‘to look out for the ultra-Orthodox,’ formed a government of hatred,” Deri charged.

United Torah Judaism leader Moshe Gafni called Liberman “evil,” while his party’s No. 2, Yaakov Litzman, accused the treasury chief of acting out of “revulsion and hatred” toward Torah students.

“This is part of the policies of the Reform [Judaism] government that is waging a struggle against all that is holy and dear to us, in perfect coordination with the messages of wild incitement that Liberman has led in recent years,” Litzman said.

He later told the Ynet news site that Liberman “is simply insane. He’s mad with hatred.”

UTJ MK Yaakos Asher sent a letter to Economy Minister Orna Barbiva of the centrist Yesh Atid party urging her not to back Liberman’s plan, Channel 12 news reported.

“Do not repeat the mistakes of the past,” Asher was quoted as saying.

The letter was also sent to Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, who leads Yesh Atid, and apparently referred to policy changes he initiated when serving as finance minister between 2013-2014 — when Shas and UTJ were not in the government — and which were objected to by the ultra-Orthodox.

**Among those reforms was introducing the requirement for both parents to work, which was scrapped in 2015 after then-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu formed a new government** with the Haredi parties.

UTJ and Shas, which are closely allied with Netanyahu’s Likud party, have denounced the power-sharing government formed last month by Bennett and Lapid, claiming it would endanger the Jewish state and lashing out at the new premier as “[wicked](https://www.timesofisrael.com/haredi-mks-jewish-state-in-danger-if-wicked-bennett-succeeds-netanyahu/).”

**According to Channel 12, some members of the government, including Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked of Bennett’s Yamina party, are still hoping the ultra-Orthodox will eventually agreed to join the ruling coali**tion.

**While Bennett was aware Liberman was planning to cut the subsidies, the network said that he did not know the finance minister had made a final decision to do so** and would announce it. The report also said unspecified members of the government were promising the Haredi parties that there would not be further measures by Liberman that they oppose. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/liberman-cancels-daycare-subsidies-for-kids-of-full-time-yeshiva-students/> **[So much for the concept of living together in peace and unity. This is a bombshell thrown at the ultra-orthodox. A huge group of those in Israel who are fundamentally secular have cried out against the subsidies for years. They work and resent the enormous public burden that the Haredi have been living off their work and don’t contribute to the economic sector of Israel. – rdb]**

**Israeli arrested over alleged serious national security crimes**

***Man detained three weeks ago, denied access to attorney for 20 days; identity of the suspect and the exact nature of the crimes remain barred from publication***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:21 pm*

**An Israeli citizen suspected of serious national security crimes has been held in custody for nearly three weeks without the ability to speak to an attorney, an Ashkelon District Court allowed news outlets to report on Wednesday, scaling back a full gag order on the ca**se.

**The identity of the suspect as well as the exact nature of the alleged crimes remain barred from pub**lication.

**The man was arrested last month in a joint operation by the Israel Police and Shin Bet secur**ity service.

**He is suspected of “serious and severe security crimes that undermine the security of the state and is being interrogated by the police and Shin Bet,” the court** said.

During his 20 days in custody, the man has been barred from speaking with his attorneys, according to the court.

The court decided to scale back the gag order on the case in light of a request from the Ynet and Haaretz news outlets.

The suspect’s lawyers denied the allegations of national security crimes to Hebrew media and said the court ordered his release from custody on Wednesday.

According to Channel 12, the state was appealing to retain him in custody. **MORE-**  <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-arrested-over-alleged-serious-national-security-crimes/>

**With COVID comeback, ministers tighten Ben Gurion isolation requirement**

***Though coronavirus cabinet doesn’t impose major new restrictions, it orders rapid testing at geriatric centers, summer camps; quarantine period may be shortened***

*By* [*Stuart Winer*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/stuart-winer/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 4:41 pm*

**The high-level coronavirus cabinet on Wednesday refrained from reimposing major restrictions to curb the resurgence of COVID-19 in the country, while ordering rapid testing at geriatric centers and summer camps to detect outbre**aks. It also **agreed to require all arrivals at Ben Gurion Airport to quarantine until receiving a negative COVID test result,** though it did not specify when this regulation would take effect.

The forum of ministers tasked with forming virus policy convened to discuss reintroducing some restrictions to drive morbidity down, after a meeting the night before ended without any decisions.

**Following Wednesday’s meeting, the panel said it decided to step up Israel’s vaccination drive** and public advocacy campaign to encourage social distancing and mask-wearing. It said rapid tests would be introduced for those entering geriatric facilities, as well as summer camps with over 100 campers.

**The ministers said that all travelers from abroad will now have to self-isolate until receiving a negative COVID-19 test result from samples taken upon landing**. Currently, only those who have not been vaccinated or recovered must await their results in isolation.

**The Health Ministry will also consider shortening the general quarantine period for those required to self-isolate, a statement following the meeting said. That period currently stands at 10 days with two tests** or 14 days without testing for those exposed to virus-carriers, though the vaccinated are not required to enter isolation unless they are confirmed to have the virus.

**“The cabinet has also authorized the prime minister and health minister to make ongoing decisions to implement the strategy t**hat was determined,” the statement from the Prime Minister’s Office said.

The daily caseload from a resurgence of the coronavirus continued to rise with 521 new coronavirus cases diagnosed on Tuesday, topping 500 for the second day in a row, with those two days being the only days that the figure was above 500 in recent months.

**Health Ministry figures released Wednesday showed that the number of serious cases had risen to 40, up by tw**o from the day before, which was already the highest number since May. There are 3,274 active virus cases in the country, the Health Ministry data showed, while the death toll remained steady at 6,429.

**The reports came as the country’s health management organizations were reportedly failing to meet a government goal of vaccinating 50 percent of children aged 12-15 by the end of the mo**nth.

**By the weekend, teens will no longer be able to make use of the existing supply of vaccines, since they expire at the end of the month** and there is a three-week gap needed between the first and second shots.

Israel’s vaccination campaign is currently only open to ages 12 and up. Officials okayed the vaccine for 12- to 15-year-olds in early June, but authorities only began encouraging vaccinations for the age group at the end of last month in response to rising case numbers. **MORE-**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/despite-covid-comeback-ministers-decide-not-to-impose-major-new-restrictions/>

**Israeli nanotech may use body’s energy to generate power for pacemakers and more**

***Nano-film can create electricity from any motion in the body, even the slight movement of blood moving through veins, according to research published in peer-reviewed journal***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 10:02 am*

**New Israeli nanotechnology will “harvest” energy in the human body and turn it into electricity to power medical devices like pacemakers, researchers sai**d.

**“In the future, we’ll make it possible for all sorts of medical devices in the body, including pacemakers, to run without batteries, and instead use mechanical energy transformed to electricity in the bod**y,” Dr. Sharon Gilead of Tel Aviv University, part of the team behind the innovation, told The Times of Israel.

**“We are going to actually be able to use electricity that has been generated inside the** body.

**“It’s exciting, and will have real benefits for many people who currently need procedures every few years to remove their pacemaker and change the battery**. This just won’t be necessary,” Gilead said.

**The nano material, packaged in a very thin film, can harness any movement in the body, even the mechanical energy from the outside of veins as blood moves through them, and generate an electrical charge that can run devices**.

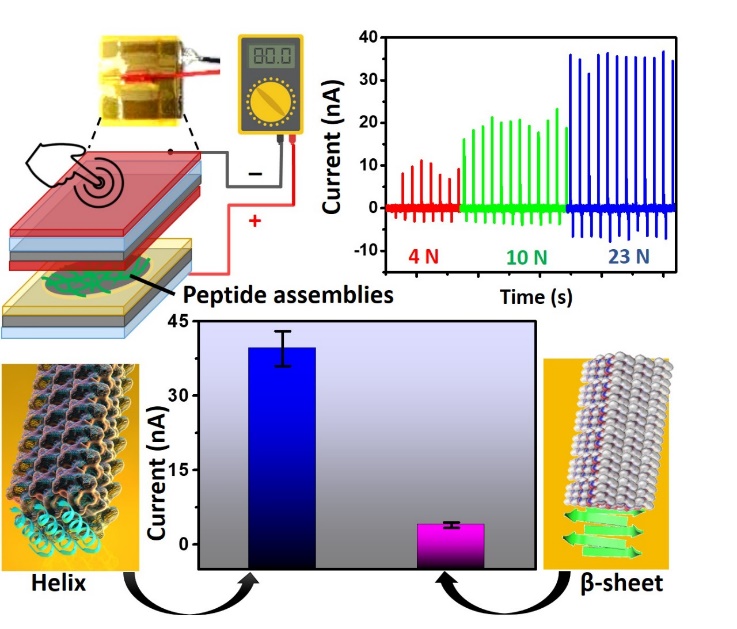
**The idea of piezoelectricity, accumulating electrical charge in solid materials, is not new,** but until now scientists have been unable to create materials that are both nontoxic, making them suitable for implantation in the body, and able to generate enough voltage to power devices.

The **academic team, from Tel Aviv University, the Weizmann Institute of Science, and scientific institutes in Ireland, China and Australia, mimicked the structure of collagen, the most prevalent protein in the human** body. The researchers used nontoxic materials that they say will allow cheap production of the nano-film. The product will be akin to “a kind of tiny motor for very small devices,” said Gilead.

Her team has published research in the peer-reviewed journal [Nature Communications](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-021-22895-6) outlining the innovation, which has been tested using movement that mimics the body. It now hopes to see the tech undergo human trials.

Advertisement

**Gilead said that the innovation will not only eliminate the need for battery changing in medical devices like pacemakers, but will also allow them to be made smaller**. “Batteries are small, but without any need for a battery, we’ll be able to make devices smaller and thinner,” she predicted.



***A diagram illustrating the new nano-film that can generate electricity inside the human body (courtesy of Tel Aviv University)***

**The lead researcher, Prof. Ehud Gazit of Tel Aviv University’s Shmunis School of Biomedicine and Cancer Research, expects the material to have many uses outside the human body. It can harness movement anywhere it occurs**, he said, suggesting that the film could be placed on roads to capture the movement of tires to power street lights above.

The appeal of the nano-film stems from the fact that the its production process doesn’t use polluting substances often used for electrical materials and it delivers eco-friendly power, according to Gazit.

“ Environmentally friendly piezoelectric materials, such as the one we have developed, have tremendous potential in a wide range of areas because they produce green energy using mechanical force that is being used anyway,” he said. “For example, a car driving down the street can turn on the streetlights. These materials may also replace lead-containing piezoelectric materials that are currently in widespread use, but that raise concerns about the leakage of toxic metal into the environment.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-nanotech-may-use-bodys-energy-to-generate-power-for-pacemakers-and-more/> **[Wild new technology. I am sure there must be some holes in it somewhere. – rdb]**

**Israel to purchase four Shaldag fast-class patrol boats**

***Defense Ministry deal with Israel Shipyards is the first to be signed in 15 years.***

*By* [*ANNA AHRONHEIM*](https://www.jpost.com/author/anna-ahronheim) *JULY 7, 2021 20:02*

***A Shaldag V-IN patrol boat, purchased for the Israeli Navy from Israel Shipyards.***

***(photo credit: DEFENSE MINISTRY)***

**The Defense Ministry has purchased four locally made Shaldag V patrol boats from Israel Shipyards, the ministry announced on Wednesday, a first deal with the Haifa-based shipbuilder in 15 year**s.

**The procurement of the ships for the** [**Israel Navy**](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/israels-navy-remains-on-high-alert-amid-coronavirus-625590) **is to cost about NIS 100 mil**lion.

**“The ships will provide the navy with a broad response to the threats developing in the maritime arena** in the coming years,” the ministry said.

**The new 95-ton Shaldag V-class fast patrol ships, with a length of 32.5 meters, will have a top speed of 40 k**nots. High-speed interception crafts, they are intended as an immediate response to maritime threats.

The ships are very maneuverable and operate advanced weapons systems. They will join the fleet to support a variety of missions, including maritime patrol and to intercept terrorist threats.

**Defense Minister Benny Gantz said in welcoming the deal that it was “important both for security and societ**y. The purchase of the ships made in Israel indicates the strengthening of the local defense industry.”

Israel’s naval fleet comprises routine patrol units, submarines (Shayetet 7), naval special forces (Shayetet 13) and missile boats (Shayetet 3).

**The new** [**Sa’ar 6-class corvettes**](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/second-saar-6-corvette-warship-on-its-way-to-israel-667422) **currently being integrated into the navy will give the fleet a total of 15 corvettes** alongside the older Sa’ar 5-class missile ships which have been in service for about 30 years.

**Though the Israel Navy is relatively small compared to the other IDF corps, it is charged with protecting the state’s largest strategic depth below and on the surface, covering some 44,000 square-km. of** sea, almost double the country’s land mass. It must also guard strategic infrastructure such as the natural gas rigs, protect commercial shipping lanes, which allow for the import of 98% of goods, and take part in missions at a far greater distance from home.

“Despite the budgetary challenges, after about 15 years, we are once again building warships in Israel,” said Avi Dadon, head of procurement at the ministry.

The signing of the agreement with Israel Shipyards is a statement of intent by the ministry, Dadon said, adding: “I welcome the partnership, which will strengthen both security and industry and employment in the north of the country.”

Sami Katsav, chairman of Israel Shipyards, said that the deal shows the contribution the company makes to national security.

“We are proud that we can serve the navy, the Defense Ministry and the State of Israel,” he said. “This significant order is a seal of approval of the company’s quality and professionalism as a supplier of advanced vessels to governments and security forces around the world, and it will help Israeli defense exports.”

**Shaldag-class patrol boats have been used by at least 10 navies worldwide since 1989**, including the Philippines, Argentina, Sri Lanka, Senegal and Nigeria.

Designed for a crew of 10-14, the Shaldag V can carry various payloads and can be armed with a 25-mm. Typhoon automatic gun, two Mini-Typhoon heavy machine guns and eight short-range anti-ship missiles.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/israel-to-purchase-four-shaldag-fast-class-patrol-boats-673101>

**Israel tears down Bedouin tents in contested Palestinian village**

***Mechanical excavators called up to Khirbet Humsah to demolish temporary structures after eleven families squat in West Bank land designated by military as firing zone***

*Reuters | Published: 07.07.21, 19:03*

**Israel demolished the tent dwellings of at least 63 Bedouin in a village on the West Bank on Wednesday, a Palestinian official said, in an area designated by the Israeli military as a firing zone**.

**Palestinians and rights groups accuse Israel of trying to forcibly clear out the Bedouin** — who witnesses said remained at the site after the demolitions — to make room for Jewish settlement expansion.



***Palestinian Bedouin watch Israeli troops demolish tents and other structures in the village of Khirbet Humsah on the West Bank (Photo: AP)***

**Muataz Bsharat, an official in the Palestinian Authority that administers limited self-rule on the West Bank, said it was the seventh time Israeli authorities had destroyed tent dwellings as well as animal shelter**s, latrines, solar panels and water containers in the village of Khirbet Humsah.

"Now 63 Palestinians became homeless. Eleven families had their homes demolished and confiscated," he said, accusing Israel of "state-sponsored terrorism" against the residents.

**COGAT, an Israeli military liaison agency with the Palestinians, said Israel acted in accordance with a Supreme Court ruling in demolishing tents that again had been illegally erected by Palestinians wh**o "invaded the firing range" in 2012.



***Palestinian women and children sit in front of a tent in the demolished village of Khirbet Humsah on the West Bank (Photo: AP)***

**Israel has often cited a lack of building permits, which Palestinians and rights groups say are nearly impossible to obtain, in destroying Palestinian structures in the West Bank, an area it captured from neighboring Jordan in** 1967 Six-Day War.

Israel has said that the Bedouin in Khirbet Humsah, in the Jordan Valley, had rejected offers to move them out of the firing zone to an alternative location.

At the site, mechanical excavators tore into the tents and then lifted the remnants into dump trucks to be carted away as residents looked on. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/byt5wqxpo> **These Bedouin live in most primitive conditions and have been offered repeatedly in the past the opportunity to actually live in legal organized groups with homes. They refuse. – rdb]**

**Ahmad Jibril, head of Syria-based Palestinian terror group PFLP-GC, dead at 83**

***Jibril’s group responsible for deadly terror attacks against Israelis, a famous prisoner exchange that saw 1,150 Palestinian security prisoners freed; PA’s Abbas sends condolences***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 8:18 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2020/11/AP_17052489625056.jpg)

***Head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command Ahmad Jibril attends a conference in Tehran, Iran, February 21, 2017. (Ebrahim Noroozi/AP)***

**Ahmad Jibril, the leader of a major Palestinian terrorist group, died in a Damascus hospital on Wednesday night, Lebanese media repo**rted.

**Jibril, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command, was 83. The PFLP-GC is classified by the United States, Israel and the European Union as a terror group;** attacks by Jibril’s group led to the deaths of dozens of Israelis over the years.

Among the group’s attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians were 1970’s [bombing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swissair_Flight_330) of Swissair Flight 330 that killed 47 people; a [1970 attack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avivim_school_bus_bombing) on an Israeli school bus that killed 12, most of them children; 1974’s Kiryat Shmona [massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiryat_Shmona_massacre) of 16 people; and 1987’s ‘Night of the Gliders,’ in which members of the group flew into an Israeli base and [killed six soldiers.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Night_of_the_Gliders)

The group has not successfully conducted terror attacks against Israelis for some time, and it is not currently considered a serious threat. It has been blamed for sporadic rocket attacks on Israel from Lebanon, though none that caused serious damage.

**Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas paid his condolences to Jibril’s replacement as PFLP-GC leader, Talal Naji, the official PA WAFA news agency repo**rted.

**“His Eminence, in a telephone call, also provided his condolences to Badr Jibril, the son of the deceased,** praying to God Almighty, to cover him with his vast mercy, that [Jibril] dwell in his vast gardens, and grant his family and relatives patience and solace,” Abbas’s office said in a statement carried by WAFA.

Senior Palestinian Authority official Hussein al-Sheikh mourned Jibril’s passing on Twitter.

“Our deepest condolences to our comrades in the General Command and to the Palestinian people on the death of the Palestinian leader Ahmed Jibril,” al-Sheikh wrote.

**Born in a small town near Jaffa in 1938, Jibril’s family ended up in Syria following the establishment of Isra**el a decade later. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were expelled in the 1948 Israeli War of Independence, which Palestinians call the Nakba, literally meaning “catastrophe.”

**Jibril lived in Syria for most of the rest of his life**, briefly serving as an officer in the Syrian Army in the 1950s. In 1959, he founded a small paramilitary organization known as the Palestinian Liberation Front.

**Jibril later co-founded the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine alongside George Habash in 1967. But he broke off almost immediately to found the PFLP-GC as a separate faction. The United States and the European Union classify both as terrorist organiz**ations.

The terror leader was best known by Israelis and Palestinians alike for his role in setting up the so-called “Jibril Deal,” one of the largest prisoner exchanges in the history of the conflict. **MORE-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ahmad-jibril-head-of-syria-based-palestinian-terror-group-pflp-gc-dead-at-83/>

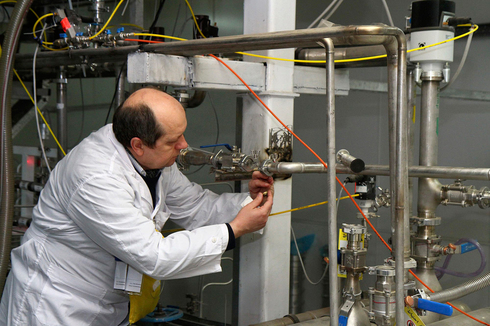
**Iran says concern over its enriched uranium metal process 'unnecessary'**

***Decision to produce uranium metal enriched to 20% purity is solely for peaceful purposes, Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson says, adding Tehran will reverse nuclear steps as soon as U.S. sanctions lifted***

*Reuters | Published: 07.07.21, 22:53*

**Iran's decision to produce uranium metal enriched to 20% purity is solely for peaceful purposes, an Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday, adding that Tehran will reverse its nuclear steps as soon as U.S. sanctions are lifte**d. **[Sure it is for peaceful purposes and the world is flat. – rdb]**

**"Contrary to the claims of the United States and the European powers... this measure is solely for peaceful purposes and it is for use at Tehran Research Reactor**," said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh, according to Iranian state media.



***An IAEA inspector at the uranium enrichment facility in Natanz, Iran (Photo: AP)***

**The UN nuclear watchdog said on Tuesday that Iran had started the process of producing enriched uranium metal. Tehran said it had informed the agency about its deci**sion.

 **Iran's move drew criticism from the United States and three European powers th**at have been in talks with Tehran since early April to revive a 2015 deal under which Iran accepted curbs to its nuclear program in return for the lifting of sanctions.

***Spokesman of the Iranian Foreign Ministry Saeed Khatibzadeh (Photo: AFP)***

**Washington exited the agreement three years ago, and Iran has responded by gradually breaching its restrictio**ns.

"This measure does not contradict Iran's non-proliferation and safeguarding obligations under the 2015 deal... and Tehran is prepared to reverse its steps when sanctions are lifted," Khatibzadeh said.

U.S. and European officials made clear on Tuesday that Iran's decision would complicate, and potentially torpedo, indirect U.S.-Iranian talks aimed at bringing back Tehran and Washington into full compliance with the pact.

Tehran has already produced a small amount of uranium metal this year that was not enriched. That is a breach of the deal, which bans all work on uranium metal since it can be used to make the core of a nuclear bomb. Iran has always denied seeking nuclear weapons. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/skeiidxpd>

**Israeli envoy to Polish senate amid Holocaust row: Restitution law harms rights**

***Charge d’affaires says proposed bill is bad for Jews and others; critics say it could block Jewish heirs from claiming property left during Holocaust***

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/Tal-ben-ari-yaalon-e1625665346734.jpg)*By* [*Lazar Berman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/lazar-berman/) *Today, 2:25 pm*

***Israel's charges d'affaires in Poland, Tal Ben-Ari Yaalon (courtesy Foreign Ministry)***

**Poland’s proposed law on property restitution claims violates the rights of current and former Polish citizens, said Israel’s charge d’affaires in Warsaw in an impassioned address in front of the Polish Senate on Wednesd**ay.

**Speaking in English through a Polish translator, Tal Ben-Ari Yaalon made the case that the legislation is harmful to many Polish citizens beyond Holocaust survivors**.

‘The changes introduced into the legislation…will block past property owners who were unable till now, for different reasons, to pursue their cases from doing so,” said Ben-Ari Yaalon, stressing that the bill would harm thousands of victims of both the Nazis and the Communist authorities.

**“This is a very serious violation of the individual rights of various Polish plaintiff**s. This is not just a problem of Jews,” she said.

At the same time, Ben-Ari Yaalon emphasized that the rights of Holocaust survivors represent a fundamental moral interest that must not be ignored in the legislation.

“We share a moral obligation to respect the rights of Holocaust survivors, former citizens of Poland, current citizens of Israel. It is our duty. Each and every one of us,” she said.

“The issue of their property is an issue of dignity, of justice, and of memory,” she stressed. “We are here to give a voice to Holocaust survivors and their descendants, whose property was first seized by the Nazis, and later nationalized by the Communists.”

**The bill, which passed the lower house of parliament on June 24, is intended to provide greater legal certainty for current owners of prewar properties against historical claims dating back to the Nazi German occup**ation.

**But critics say it could effectively block descendants of Jewish families from claiming properties left empty during the Holocaust and Israel has condemned the legislation as “immor**al.”

The bill has caused an increasingly acerbic diplomatic row between Jerusalem and Warsaw, with Israel’s foreign minister accusing Poland’s prime minister of using antisemitic language.

**Ben-Ari Yaalon, a granddaughter of a survivor and descendant of a Polish Jew murdered in the Holocaust**, said she recognizes Poland’s desire to strengthen property rights for its current citizens, but that it cannot be done by denying previous owners their rights.

“There is a need to balance the various rights,” she said, arguing that the legislation in its current form favors the rights of one group over another and should be reconsidered.

“There must be a just solution,” she said, “a solution that takes into account history, takes into account values, takes into account morality.”

**After the fall of communism in Poland, Ben-Ari Yaalon argued, the administrative legal system in place enabled former property owners of all ethnicities and religions to seek redress and reclaim pro**perty.

“This administrative code stood as a lighthouse,” she said.

**The proposed changes would force Jewish and non-Jewish Polish victims “to pay once more for others’ wrongdoing**.”

“Listen to the voice from the Jewish world,” Ben-Ari Yaalon asked the listening Polish legislators. “Listen to the voice of the Jewish state. Listen to the pain this legislation is causing. Listen to the voice of the survivors.”

“They are telling you to reconsider this legislation. It is not too late.”

**Poland’s senators continued to debate the bill after the Israeli envoy stepped down from the po**dium.

**Polish-Israeli Holocaust survivor and poet Halina Birenbaum, who was in Auschwitz, Majdanek, and other camps, addressed the Senate as we**ll.

**[](https://www.timesofisrael.com/holocaust-survivor-opens-italy-book-fair-after-neo-fascist-banned/turin/)** **“It is inconceivable to me that in Poland in 2021, free from any occupation, the right to disinherit us Jewish survivors of the Shoah from our and our murdered fathers** and grandfathers of private property,” said Birenbaum in Polish. “We lived in Poland for hundreds of years, they built, learned, created — served in the army, paid all civil taxes.”

***Holocaust survivor Halina Birenbaum (R) speaks at the opening of the Turin International Book Fair on May 5, 2019. (screen capture: YouTube)***

“**Today I am 92 years old,” she continued. “I am still speaking and creating in Polish. I experienced firsthand the** results of the law to ban all Jews from living after robbing all their property.”

“Now**, today we create the right to disinherit us survivors of our and our murdered fathers, grandfathers of property**.”

After the bill passed Poland’s lower house in late June, deputy foreign minister Pawel Jablonski said at the time that he hoped Israel would change its view on the bill, which has sparked an increasingly bitter diplomatic row.

Jablonski said in a televised briefing after meeting Ben-Ari Yaalon to brief her on the bill that Israeli criticism was “inappropriate” and “we hope that the approach of the Israeli side will change.” **MORE-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-envoy-to-polish-senate-amid-holocaust-row-restitution-law-harms-rights/> **[This is really unfortunate. The land of Poland was once one of the largest populations of Jews in the world. Due to the Holocaust virtually all of the holdings of land and property of the Jewish people were taken either by the Nazi group or the Poles that stayed behind. Little reparations have been made to most of these people. – rdb]**

**Database created to track former Trump officials**

***Business Insider: Like the president, they are 'nowhere close to being gone'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published July 7, 2021 at 5:03pm* ***By Mary Margaret Olohan*** *Daily Caller News Foundation*

**A Business Insider list of former President Donald Trump’s officials tracks where these figures are working since departing the administration, warning that like Trump, these former staffers are “nowhere close to being gone**.”  
 **Insider said it combed through the interviews, LinkedIn profiles, and public records of over 327 former Trump staffers and** [**compiled a searchable database**](https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-white-house-administration-maga-alumni-network-database-2021-7) **“to show where they all landed**.”  
 The **publication noted that almost 100 former staffers have obtained “establishment” jobs, that over 40 of these former Trump officials still work in the government or in politics, and that at least 85 have gone “off the grid** with no information available about their next move.”  
 “Donald **Trump has been deplatformed and defenestrated, but he’s nowhere close to being gone**,” Insider wrote. “The same goes for the people who made up his administration.”  
 Within **hours of the publication tweeting the story, Twitter** [**users**](https://twitter.com/joedadvet/status/1412852174414135298) **had already begun threatening or** [**encouraging**](https://twitter.com/OriginalSuperE/status/1412849208780939265) **targeted harassment of the former Trump officials**.  
 Global Editor-in-Chief Nicholas Carson and Henry Blodget, CEO and cofounder of Insider Inc., did not immediately respond to requests for comment from the Daily Caller News Foundation.  
 The **publication’s list of Trump officials bears similarities to the media figures and Democrats who called for lists to be made of Trump’s “sycophants” or supporters** following the presidential election, suggesting that these lists will be used in the future to hold the former president’s supporters accountable.  
 Liberal media figures [have also pushed for](https://dailycaller.com/2020/11/16/liberal-media-suggests-biden-should-take-aggressive-approach-to-censoring-conservative-media/) Biden to take aggressive approaches to censoring conservative media, particularly Fox News.  
 Donald Trump has been deplatformed and defenestrated, but he’s nowhere close to being gone. The same goes for the people who made up his administration.

Insider’s project tracked down 327 of the most prominent Trump administration alumni here. ???? <https://t.co/M3yt4QaEF2> [pic.twitter.com/5jwFGkQR2K](https://t.co/5jwFGkQR2K)  
— Insider (@thisisinsider) [July 7, 2021](https://twitter.com/thisisinsider/status/1412743299090288645)

**Journalist Glen Greenwald had predicted before the election that rather than settle the nation’s divisiveness, a Biden presidency would spur the media to target Trump supporters**. The Intercept co-founder said that several highly successful media companies found their place during Trump’s presidency based on dramatized fear narratives, and that these media companies must find a way to keep a fear narrative alive or face cancelled subscriptions.  
 “**They’re going to continue to say, [if] not maybe Trump, at least his movement, still pose this existential threat**,” [Greenwald said during an October podcast with Joe Rogan](https://dailycaller.com/2020/10/29/glenn-greenwald-joe-biden-wins-media-target-donald-trump-movement-supporters/).  
 “So many institutions are profiting — I don’t just mean financially, in terms of power and control — from elevating fear levels over right-wing fascism, over white supremacists, domestic terrorism, whatever you want to call it,” Greenwald said.  
 Democratic New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez [asked](https://dailycaller.com/2020/11/06/alexandria-ocasio-cortez-aoc-trump-supporters-held-accountable/) in November, the day before media outlets called the presidential race for Biden, whether anyone was “archiving these Trump sycophants for when they try to downplay or deny their complicity in the future.”  
 “I foresee decent probability of many deleted Tweets, writings, photos in the future,” she said.  
 **CNN’s Jake Tapper also suggested at the time that Trump and his followers should be careful of behaving** in a way that might impact their future employment.  
 “I truly sympathize with those dealing with losing — it’s not easy — but at a certain point one has to think not only about what’s best for the nation (peaceful transfer of power) but how any future employers might see your character defined during adversity,” Tapper [said](https://twitter.com/jaketapper/status/1325836769644982273).  
 Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin also [warned](https://twitter.com/JRubinBlogger/status/1324792225260253184) that Republicans “now promoting rejection of an election or calling to not to follow the will of voters or making baseless allegations of fraud should never serve in office, join a corporate board, find a faculty position or be accepted into ‘polite’ society.”  
 “We have a list,” the Washington Post writer said. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/database-created-track-former-trump-officials/https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/database-created-track-former-trump-officials/>  **[This should all be illegal. It is absolute political persecution. – rdb]**   
**Did hell just freeze over? IRS repents, now says Bible is not just Republican  
*GOP group granted tax-exempt status after officials first refused****By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published July 7, 2021 at 2:09pm* **Officials with the Internal Revenue Service have backtracked on their claims that a Texas organization wasn't qualified for a tax-exempt status because the Christian ideas it pursues are associated with the Republican Pa**rty.  
 The **dispute involved a group called Christians Engaged, and Stephen A. Martin, chief of the IRS Exempt Organizations division, at first denied its application for tax-exempt status – which routinely is given to charitable, religious, educational or scientific organizations, because he claimed it "engage[s] in prohibited political campaign** intervention" and that it "operate[s] for a substantial non-exempt private purpose and for the private interests of the [Republican] party."  
 **Several members of Congress instructed the Treasury Department's inspector general to look into the decision** when the controversy arose.  
 First **Liberty, which worked on behalf of Christians Engages, said the IRS has reversed itself**, and now has granted the requested status to the group, which has as its goal to educate and empower Christians "to pray for our nation and elected officials, vote, and be civically engaged."  
 "**This is truly great news for our client, as well** as religious organizations and churches across America," said Lea Patterson, counsel for First Liberty Institute. "We are grateful the IRS changed course to bring its decision into line with the Constitution and its own regulations."  
 **Christians Engaged President Bunni Pounds explained members are looking forward to "continuing our mission of educating more followers of Jesus to pray for our nation and to be civically engaged**. When we stand up, our republic works for all Americans."  
 The **manipulation of IRS designations for various conservative, Christian and tea party style groups dates back to the Barack Obama administration, when federal** agents badgered faith organizations that wanted to operate with unreasonable requests for details, including personal information about participants.  
 The **tactic was to simply delay, delay, delay, so they could not operate during the 2012 presidential election**, during which issues of faith were at hand.  
 Bottom of Form

In the most recent case, Reps. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, James Comer, R-Ky., and Mike Johnson, R-La., wrote to the agency's inspector general for tax administration demanding a review.  
 "On May 18, 2021, Stephen Martin, Lois Lerner’s successor as Director of the IRS's Exempt Organizations Division, denied a religious group called Christians Engaged 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code exempts from federal taxation groups that are 'organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, testing for public safety, literary, or education purposes' that do not participate or intervene in a political campaign. Martin explained that 'bible (sic) teachings are typically affiliated with the [Republican] party and candidates. This disqualifies you from exemption under [Internal Revenue Code] 501(c)(3),'" the members wrote. **MORE-**

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/just-freeze-irs-repents-now-says-bible-not-just-republican/> **[Simply more of the deep state trying to muzzle the opposition and break them. – rdb]**

**Biden siphoning off close to $1 billion in COVID cash to pay for immigrant kids**

***'The open borders policies of this White House continue to devastate entire regions'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published July 7, 2021 at 4:26pm*

**Amid the ongoing border crisis, the Biden administration plans to move $860 million of funds designated for COVID relief to cover the increase in pandemic-related costs associated with the housing of illegal unaccompanied migrant children arriving at the Southwest border**.

**In a letter** [**reported by Bloomberg News**](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-07-06/covid-funds-to-be-diverted-to-children-at-border-as-costs-surge?sref=MTy2GeXk)**, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra notified members of Congress on Tuesday that the funds were to be reallocated to ensure the safety of migrant children as well as st**aff attending to them at shelters.

**Another $1.7 billion has been added to the unaccompanied migrant children program** for pandemic-related precautions, such as testing and quarantining, a Biden official told Bloomberg.

Becerra said the requirement for quarantining and social-distancing measures has substantially reduced the number of state-licensed shelter beds.

He argued that the authority to divert the funds is granted in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021. He promised HHS will ensure the transfer "does not disrupt or impede planned NIH activities."

**Republican Rep. Darrell Issa of California blamed the Biden administration for the surge in migrants that has accompanied the elimination of policies enacted by President Trump after the 2019 border su**rge.

"The open borders policies of this White House continue to devastate entire regions of the country," Issa wrote on Twitter. "Now, the Administration is redirecting funds allocated to fight the pandemic and spending it on the flood of illegal migrants they caused and won't stop."

**More than 170,000 illegal crossings have been recorded monthly since Biden took o**ffice.

Bottom of Form

The open borders policies of this White House continue to devastate entire regions of the country. Now, the Administration is redirecting funds allocated to fight the pandemic and spending it on the flood of illegal migrants they caused and won't stop. <https://t.co/YBuWyVFqIz>

— Rep. Darrell Issa (@repdarrellissa) [July 7, 2021](https://twitter.com/repdarrellissa/status/1412797710827233286)

The Biden administration official said the unaccompanied children program relied on transferred and supplemental funding before President Biden took office. In 2019, for example, the Trump administration received nearly $3 billion in supplemental congressional funding for the unaccompanied children program in 2019.

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/biden-siphoning-off-close-1-billion-covid-cash-pay-border-kids/>

**Capitol Police agency ventures out of D.C., will have satellite offices across America**

*By* [*Jack Davis, The Western Journal*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wj/) *Published July 7, 2021 at 1:31pm*

**The Capitol Police will open regional offices in California and Florida as part of the agency's response to the Capitol incu**rsion.

**Yogananda Pittman, the department’s acting chief, announced the opening of the offices in a statement Tuesd**ay on the [Capitol Police website](https://www.uscp.gov/media-center/press-releases/after-attack-future-us-capitol-police).

**"The USCP has enhanced our staffing within our Dignitary Protection Division as well as coordinated for enhanced security for Members of Congress outside of the National Capitol Region," Pittm**an said.

"The Department is also in the process of opening Regional Field Offices in California and Florida with additional regions in the near future to investigate threats to Members of Congress."

After the Jan. 6 incursion, protection for [members of Congress](https://www.westernjournal.com/capitol-police-union-demands-acting-chief-step-incursion-report-released/) in their home states emerged as a top issue. The Capitol Police is the agency charged with protecting members of Congress. **MORE-** <https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/capitol-police-agency-ventures-dc-will-satellite-offices-florida-california/> **Ludicrous. The Capitol police is to police the capitol in DC Congressional members have their own security forces. There is absolutely no need nor logic in this other than to institute one more level of gestapo control in the USA. . – rdb]**

**San Fran gay choir literally sings "we're coming for your children" in new music video**

[Doc Holliday](https://notthebee.com/author/doc-h) Jul 7th, 2021 1:09 pm

The pinnacles of tolerance are at it again, this time with a “message” that they are literally coming for our children.

***I mean they really, actually made a song that says “we are coming for your children.”***

Try to get through this:

**"We'll convert your children – happens bit by bit, quietly and subtly and you will barely notice it... We'll convert your children: we'll make them tolerant and fair."**

**Ah, yes. "Tolerant" and "fair."**

**So tolerant, in fact, that anyone who disagrees with the ideology of the LGBT movement that they are dox**xed, canceled, derided, and mocked. So fair, in fact, that they say God is unjust for judging those who abuse His design for sex and marriage while they condemn those who abuse *their* definitions.

I guess it must be fun to fancy yourself a god!

**"We'll convert your children – Yes we will! – reaching one and all, there's really no escaping** it, cause even grandma likes RuPaul. We'll convert your children: someone's gotta teach them not to hate!"

Ah, can you sense the love that emanates from these words? There's no hatred or bitterness here at all!

**"We're coming for them, we're coming for your children! We're coming for them, we're coming for them, WE'RE COMING FOR YOUR CHILDREN!!!"**

Keep it up, guys! You're doing great.

**There is nothing more unifying than telling people you are literally coming for their kids. Nothing!** MORE-

<https://notthebee.com/article/the-san-fran-gay-choir-says-its-coming-to-convert-our-kids> **[This has been the agenda from the onset of the LGBTXYZ movement. Get them when they are you and use them for your little toys. This is absolutely reprehensible and The Holy One will have something to say about this and may it be soon. – rdb]**

**How bad is it getting in the revamped deep state: WATCH**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9bKEPWviEU>

**Tucker: NSA planned to leak my emails to media outlets**

**A Chinese ‘Spy Recruitment’ Scholar is Now Running Joe Biden’s NSA Personnel Department.**

[*July 6, 2021*](https://thenationalpulse.com/news/a-chinese-spy-recruitment-scholar-is-now-running-joe-bidens-nsa-personnel-department/)[*Natalie Winters*](https://thenationalpulse.com/author/natalie-winters/)

**Thomas Zimmerman – a Special Assistant to Joe Biden on National Security Agency personnel – formerly served as a visiting scholar at a Chinese Communist Party think-tank labeled as a “front group for Chinese intelligence collection and overseas spy recruitment” by the FBI, The National Pulse can reveal.**

**The stunning revelation – that Joe Biden’s intelligence apparatus relies on the recruitment from a recent collaborator with the Chinese Communist Party –** comes just weeks after the G7 summit where Western nations pledged tougher measures against an increasingly aggressive Beijing.

Zimmerman’s influence over the National Security Agency (NSA) also follows explosive allegations from Fox News host Tucker Carlson. Carlson recently claimed the agency has [covertly](https://www.foxnews.com/media/tucker-probe-nsa-biden-redefining-dissidents) accessed his emails and texts. The NSA did not outright deny the allegations.

***Shanghai Academy.***

**While** [**working**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tszimmerman/) **at New York University’s Center on International Cooperation, Zimmerman doubled as a** [**fellow**](https://cic.nyu.edu/people/thomas-zimmerman) **at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS). SASS has been** [**flagged**](https://www.pacificcouncil.org/about/network/profile/thomas-zimmerman) **by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for its close ties to the Chinese Communist Part**y’s top spy agency: the Ministry of State Security.

SASS – which the FBI [explicitly labels](https://freebeacon.com/national-security/brookings-institution-partnered-with-shanghai-policy-center-under-scrutiny-for-spying/) a “front group for Chinese intelligence collection and overseas spy recruitment” – was a key player in a 2019 criminal case involving a retired Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operative selling classified U.S. defense documents to the Chinese Communist Party.

The American operative, Kevin Mallory, was contacted by SASS officials via LinkedIn to begin the relationship that culminated in a 20-year prison sentence for Mallory.

As a result, the FBI has described the Chinese Communist Party as [dependent](https://www.wired.com/story/china-spy-recruitment-us/) upon SASS employees to serve “spotters and assessors” of potential Western spies. Ministry of State Security officers – described by the FBI as keen on “influencing the foreign policy of other countries” – have also “used SASS affiliation as cover identities.” **MORE-**<https://thenationalpulse.com/news/a-chinese-spy-recruitment-scholar-is-now-running-joe-bidens-nsa-personnel-department/>

**Commentary:**

**The Costs of Biden's Big Government**[*Star Parker*](https://townhall.com/columnists/starparker/) *Posted: Jul 07, 2021 12:01 AM* It is one of the unfortunate ironies coming out of the Biden administration that, with all the obsession about so-called equity, the policies they are putting forth will only hurt the very low-income Americans they pretend to want to help.  
 The Biden administration is growing government at a record pace.  
 If what they want is opportunity for every American, government policy should aim to encourage economic growth. Bigger, more intrusive government achieves the opposite. It stifles economic growth.  
 The Biden administration submitted its first 10-year budget to Congress last month.  
 The budget projects average annual economic growth for 2023 through 2031, after they're done with all the stimulus spending in 2021-22, of 1.9%.  
 What does 1.9% growth mean?  
 Economist John Cochrane, of Stanford University's Hoover Institution, notes that from 1950 to 2000, the U.S. economy grew at 3.5% per year. Average real income over that period grew from $16,000 per person to $50,000.  
 Suppose instead of 3.5%, growth over that period of time was 2%, asks Cochrane.  
 With average growth of 2% instead of 3.5%, a $16,000 income would have grown over the 50 years to $23,000 rather than $50,000.  
 In recent years, since 2000, average growth has been more sclerotic, in the range of 2%.  
 What's the problem? Too much growth of government, says Cochrane.  
 There are different indices that measure government intrusiveness. Cochrane points to the Doing Business report from the World Bank, which measures the difficulty in starting and running a business.  
 Other more general measures of economic freedom -- one from the Fraser Institute in Vancouver, Canada, another from the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. -- look at size of government, regulation and taxation.  
 They all point in the same direction. More government means lower incomes and slower growth.  
 Per Glenn Hubbard, who headed the Council of Economic Advisers under President George W. Bush, the average percent of the U.S. economy that government was taking in those 50 years after World War II, when growth was averaging 3.5%, was around 20%.  
 The average percent of the economy that government will take over the next 10 years, per Biden's budget, is 24.5%. At least Biden's economists are being honest to project anemic economic growth that will accompany this huge growth in government.  
 One of the major spending initiatives in Biden's plans is what they are calling the American Families Plan, with a price tag of $1.8 trillion.  
 At a time when we have historic drops in our fertility rates and marriage rates, somehow the Biden administration thinks, contrary to experience, massive new government spending and entitlement programs will be a boost to the American family.  
 Hoover Institution's John Cogan and Daniel Heil call this massive expansion of government entitlements "the largest expansion since Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society."  
 "For the first time in U.S. history," they note, "except possibly for the pandemic years 2020 and 2021, for which we don't yet have data -- more than half of working-age households would be on the entitlement rolls."  
 With all our division and disagreements today, there is no disagreement about the shame that the vile institution of slavery was once present and legal in America. We all agree it is a blot.  
 We all also agree that racism is deplorable.  
 But the reason slavery and racism are terrible things is that every human being must live with dignity and in freedom.  
 How can we arrive to the conclusion that the remedy and antidote to slavery and racism is putting all Americans on the government plantation?  
 Not only is it immoral, but it doesn't work. Government is supposed to be about protecting, not confiscating, our life, liberty and property.  
 If we want every child in America, of every background, to realize his or her potential, let's strive for their dignity by making sure they grow up in a free country. <https://townhall.com/columnists/starparker/2021/07/07/the-costs-of-bidens-big-government-n2592098>

**A Politicized Justice Department**[*Byron York*](https://townhall.com/columnists/byronyork/) *Posted: Jul 07, 2021 12:01 AM* The Democratic Party's No. 1 priority is to pass a voting "reform" bill that would federalize elections under rules favorable to Democratic candidates. It's more important than infrastructure, or massive new social spending, or anything else, which is why House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer gave their election bill the designation H.R. 1 in the House and S.1 in the Senate.  
 The House passed H.R. 1 in a nearly straight party-line vote on March 3. Every single Republican voted against it, and every Democrat, with one exception (Rep. Bennie Thompson), voted for it. The problem for Democrats is that there is no chance S.1 will pass in the Senate, where Democrats do not hold a majority of seats. To pass S.1, Democrats would first have to eliminate the filibuster, and then muster all of their 50 senators to vote for the bill against 50 Republicans, and then call in Vice President Kamala Harris to break the tie. The short version: Not gonna happen.  
 That is where Attorney General Merrick Garland comes in. On June 11, Garland gathered the employees of the Justice Department to deliver a speech promising that the department will intervene in election procedures around the country, to do at least some of the work that Democrats are failing to accomplish on Capitol Hill.  
 Garland announced that in the next 30 days, he will "double the [Civil Rights Division's] enforcement staff for protecting the right to vote." The need for action is great, he explained, because Congress has not yet acted on S.1 and another Democratic voting measure, the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. "We need Congress to pass S.1 and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act," Garland said. "We will work with Congress to provide all necessary support as it considers federal legislation to protect voting rights."  
 Then Garland continued: "We will not wait for that legislation to act."  
 Garland talked about the history of the Justice Department's actions concerning voting, from Reconstruction through Jim Crow through the civil rights movement and years of Voting Rights Act enforcement. His premise -- entirely without basis -- was that voting rights are under attack today in a manner reminiscent of the 1950s or 1960s. "There has been a dramatic rise in legislative efforts that will make it harder for millions of citizens to cast a vote that counts," Garland said.  
 Garland's speech was a collection of left-wing talking points, decrying new state laws and "abnormal post-election audit methodologies" in the wake of the 2020 election. "To meet the challenge of the current moment, we must rededicate the resources of the Department of Justice to a critical part of its original mission: enforcing federal law to protect the franchise of all voters," he said.  
 What does all that mean? In light of the stalled Democratic effort to pass S.1, Garland is beefing up the Civil Rights Division enforcement staff to file questionable lawsuits in an effort to infringe on the states' constitutional authority to run their own elections. On June 25, the department did just that, filing suit against Georgia to overturn the new voting procedure law. The lawsuit was an "obviously political stunt," wrote National Review's Dan McLaughlin, and "reads more like an op-ed in Mother Jones than a legal case." Indeed, the lawsuit, and Garland's speech, are somewhat more refined and generalized versions of President Biden's irresponsible declaration that the Georgia voting law was "Jim Crow on steroids."  
 The Georgia lawsuit is just part of a longer-term Justice Department strategy under President Biden. "I think Garland will use the added staff to attack state election reform bills under the Voting Rights Act, claiming they are discriminatory," said Hans von Spakovsky, head of the Election Law Reform Initiative at the conservative Heritage Foundation and a former Federal Election Commission member and Justice Department official. "I think those claims are meritless, but they hope to bulldoze the states with the overwhelming resources the Justice Department can bring into such litigation."  
 "Liberal advocacy groups have already filed numerous such lawsuits against these new laws," von Spakovsky continued, "and Garland no doubt wants to add the heft of the Justice Department to these lawsuits to try to get these state laws knocked out by a friendly, liberal federal judge."  
 In other words, the attorney general will do his part to further the Democratic agenda while Democrats on Capitol Hill struggle to pass an openly partisan voting bill. It's just part of the politicization of the department under President Biden, involving some of the same Democrats who accused the Trump administration of politicizing the department. And one final note: At his confirmation hearing in February, Garland promised to "protect the independence of the department from partisan influence in law enforcement."  
 *This content originally appeared on the Washington Examiner at washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/byron-yorks-daily-memo-bidens-politicized-justice-department* <https://townhall.com/columnists/byronyork/2021/07/07/a-politicized-justice-department-n2592120>

**Just How Long Are Free Americans Going To Take It?***By* [*Ron Ewart*](https://newswithviews.com/author/ronewart/)*|July 7th, 2021* ***“Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are inevitably ruined.”*** —*Patrick Henry, Founding Father and* *American attorney, planter and politician*  
 ***“The only way to deal with an un-free world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion.”***—*Albert Camus, French philosopher, author, and journalist*  
 We just celebrated Independence Day on July 4th, 2021.  Perhaps in the early days of the Republic we had much to celebrate.  But in the year of our Lord 2021, the freedom for which we now celebrate is a myth …. a mirage.  We are celebrating “what” Day?  Independence you say!  Independence from what?  Certainly it can’t be independence from government tyranny.  We see no signs of that.  
 ***“And the rocket’s red glare ….. the bombs bursting in air ….. gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave ….. O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?”*** *Really?*  
 As Francis Scott Key watched over the ramparts from his sloop, after visiting a British war ship in an attempt to exchange a prisoner during the war of 1812, he managed to hold on to his strong belief in liberty and as long as that flag still waved over Fort McHenry in the battle of Baltimore, liberty still lived in his mind and on the land he loved.   From that unreal vision, framed in chaos, Francis penned the words of our Star-Spangled Banner that we sing in tribute to our freedom, our independence and to the flag that waves proudly throughout the land.  
 But we in America today are not watching a foreign enemy attack one of our forts, or one of our cities with a military force, where crushing noise, death and destruction rain down on the inhabitants.  What we are watching is the very destruction of our institutions of freedom from within by leaders who are intent on tearing down and dismantling the very fabric of our freedom.  
 We suffer in a battle of two ideologies, freedom and liberty on the one hand, and socialism, government control and enslavement on the other.  Our country has a cancer and we must purge it now, or the cancer will grow to the point where no “medicine” will save the patient.  All future generations will be affected by what we do now to cure this cancer.  
 In an all-out war, the choices are crystal clear.  We need only to kill the enemy and be victorious.  But when the enemy is our own leaders, what then do we do?  We expunge our leaders and choose other one’s who will adhere to the foundation of our liberty and swear on solemn oath to preserve, protect and defend that foundation and then live up to that oath as if their lives depended on it.  Unfortunately, our mission is cloudy, as we do not know exactly what weapons to use to expunge those leaders.  Must we take action alone without sufficient resources and without those millions of Americans who have lost their way, or must we first accumulate the resources and then convince the one’s who are lost and help them back to the right path?  Or, should we instead just let the current covey of leaders have their way and allow their errors to be their own enemy and thus hasten their own demise?  These are the questions we must answer and time is of the essence.  History is recording what we do, or don’t do.  
 When Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, it was a declaration of war against the tyranny of Great Britain.  It was a declaration of independence from excessive taxation, from harsh regulations, from no representation and from military rule.  The colonials had enough and declared war, with all of the tragic consequences that come from such a declaration.  They were willing to die for their freedom and their independence.  
**THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE STATES IT IS THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO OVERTHROW A TYRANNICAL GOVERNMENT, BUT IS IT?**  
 Today, are we willing to die for our freedom and independence as the Declaration of Independence authorizes?  We might be willing to die for such a cause but the federal government made it illegal.  18 USC Section 2385 prohibits any person or persons from acting on that authority, or face serious fines and lengthy jail times.  Here is the federal statute in part:  
 ***“Whoever knowingly or willfully advocates, abets, advises, or teaches the duty, necessity, desirability, or propriety of overthrowing or destroying the government of the United States, or prints, publishes, edits, issues, circulates, sells, distributes, or publicly displays any written or printed matter advocating, advising, or teaching the duty, necessity, desirability, or propriety of overthrowing or destroying any government in the United States by force or violence, or attempts to do so; or whoever organizes or helps or attempts to organize any society, group, or assembly of persons who teach, advocate, or encourage the overthrow or destruction of any such government by force or violence; or becomes or is a member of, or affiliates with, any such society, group, or assembly of persons, knowing the purposes thereof, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.  If two or more persons conspire to commit any offense named in this section, each shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.”***   
 Unfortunately, the Declaration is meaningless, dead, an empty vessel and an out-of-date promise with no teeth.  Your federal government repealed it with a law.  
 **If July 4th is Independence Day, it is not the Independence that is defined in our American dictionary.  It is not the freedom and independence that was crafted so carefully in our Declaration of Independence by men of vision, in a time of conflict, confusion and turmoil, over 240 years ago.**   
 Freedom and independence means freedom of choice, freedom of movement, freedom of what to buy, freedom of what to wear, freedom of where to live, freedom of where to work, freedom on what and where to drive our cars, freedom to live on and use our land without undue government interference and our freedom to roam freely throughout America without having to go through check points and body searches.  Government suspends that freedom when they lock us up in our homes, force us to wear masks, make it a mandate to get a vaccination, or demand that we carry a vaccination passport on our person wherever we go.  
 We are constantly subjected to the authority and jurisdiction of government, local, state and federal.  We are continuously being influenced and manipulated by the dictates, propaganda, the lying, corruption and usurious taxation by government.  We can’t move sideways without butting heads with an out-of-control, arrogant bureaucrat operating under the color of law, to get some permit or license.  
 Way too many of us are **DEPENDENT** on government for our very existence.  We, as a culture, are no longer competent, self-sufficient, self-reliant and responsible.  Some of us are, but way too few.  We have been bought, sold, conquered and enslaved without a shot being fired for a few pieces of silver and the loss of our pride and self-respect.  
 The truth is, America’s government has gone way beyond what King George the III imposed upon the colonies.  The people of America have allowed themselves to be enslaved by centralized government and have given up their right to freedom, liberty and independence, because they were and are unwilling to defend their freedom and liberty with whatever it takes.  The desire for freedom has been replaced with the insatiable desire for comfort and entertainment.  **The people of Hong Kong have shown more courage than Americans.  But by military force Hong Kong has been silenced by another tyrannical government, China.**  
 As we stated previously, what we celebrate on the 4th of July is a myth and an illusion called freedom.  We are not free.  As a nation, we are no longer independent and self-reliant.  In fact, most of us are so controlled by government and so dependent on government, they have slapped invisible handcuffs on each of us and confiscated our right of free choice and our right to live on our land, unfettered by government interference.  Government no longer is restrained by the limits of the Constitution, nor does it uphold the God-given, unalienable rights of the individual, as it was mandated to do by that Constitution.  We have been enslaved by millions of laws.  
 But we are a great and a “good” people and to our detriment our greatness and our goodness have been buried deep in forgotten memories and obscured by our very prosperity.   This author believes deeply in freedom and liberty; a freedom and liberty for each individual; an individual freedom and liberty that is natural, as comes from nature or God, not from governments; a freedom and liberty that was envisioned by our Founding Fathers and codified into the law of man through our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution.  We believe that when governments, or groups of people attempt to stifle freedom and liberty, man’s progress through time is depressed and he retreats further backwards into depravity, immorality and serfdom.  
 We believe that freedom and liberty are our strengths not our weakness and if we inhibit freedom by any means, we as a people become weaker.  If we as a people become weaker, we lose our creative ability, we lose our ingenuity, we lose our industriousness, we lose our productivity, we lose our can-do spirit, we lose our pride in our accomplishments, we lose our strength and courage to right a wrong when we see it, we lose our generosity and finally, we lose our great goodness.  
 We believe that if the people look to government to solve their problems and acquiesce to its unauthorized power, they abdicate their duty and responsibility to control their own lives and hand it over to an aristocracy, or a king.  Having done so, they are no longer free men.  And further, their actions, or in-actions as the case may be, only encourage the government to usurp even greater power.  
 **What America does, will determine the fate of the World.   If we forsake freedom, if we sell our sovereignty for expediency or government handouts, if we descend into the murky waters of racism and Critical Race Theory, if we break the bonds of our Constitution, if we abdicate our right and duty to defend freedom for ourselves and future generations, we shall descend into the Hell, mediocrity, apathy and self loathing under which the rest of the world operates and will be pulled down to their level, never to rise again.**  
 Only one country on Earth has shown the best in man and what can be accomplished under the combination of unalienable freedom and our God-given goodness.  If we lose that freedom and the goodness that flourishes under it, we shall surely descend into the abyss of the evil within us, where greed and avarice are the rule, rather than the exception.  We are dangerously close.  
 Freedom, liberty, independence and self-reliance are our heritage.  It is those characteristics that made us one of the greatest, richest and most productive nations on Earth.  If we refuse to defend and maintain it, we condemn all future generations, including our own children and grandchildren, to a life of dependency and the chains that come with being dependent.  But even worse, we dishonor the memories and the sacrifices of all those who gave their lives, their limbs and their minds in the birth of freedom and in the defense of freedom.  
 So once again we ask, “***Just How Long Are Free Americans Going To Take It***?” before they act in their own self-interests and expunge the traitors that stalk the halls and seats of government.  “***America’s traitors appear not a traitor.  They speak in accents familiar to their victims, and they wear their face and their argument.  These traitors appeal to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men.  They rot the soul of a nation.  They work secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city.  They infect the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to fear*.  *They are the embodiment of evil and devour the flesh, bones and organs of their subjects*.  *They are by all accounts, incarnate death and they must be vanquished by any and all means if freedom is to be preserved*.”**  
 Perhaps now is the time to invoke “[***The Encirclement***](http://www.narlo.org/encirclement.html)” or serve upon government “[***The Mandate***](http://www.narlo.org/themandate.html).”  
<https://newswithviews.com/just-how-long-are-free-americans-going-to-take-it/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**British PM warns of Jewish ‘exodus’ from Northern Ireland**

***British PM says supply of kosher foods to Northern Ireland under post-Brexit rules could lead to "exodus" of Jews.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Jul 08 , 2021 4:28 AM*

**British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has warned of an “exodus” of Jewish people from Northern Ireland as a consequence of the protocol he agreed as part of his Brexit deal,** *The Independent* reported on Wednesday.

**According to the report, Johnson told MPs the government had been approached by representatives of the Jewish community in the province who raised fears over supplies of kosher food under post-Brexit trade rule**s which Johnson negotiated and signed in 2019 and which began coming into effect in January.

**Giving evidence to the House of Commons Liaison Committee, Johnson blamed disruption of food supplies on the European Union’s implementation of the new regulatio**ns, saying the onus was on the EU, rather than the UK, to make concessions in the joint committee set up to oversee the operations of his Northern Ireland protocol, which avoided a hard border with the Republic by effectively creating a customs border in the Irish Sea.

**Britain’s Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and the president of the Jewish Board of Deputies, Marie van der Zyl, joined David Kale and Michael Black of the Belfast Jewish community in a meeting with Northern Ireland secretary Brandon Lewis on Tuesday** to call for action to avoid the protocol “potentially ending Jewish life in Belfast”, according to *The Independent*.

They said that supplies of foods that comply with dietary guidelines set by traditional Jewish law from the British mainland will end in September under the terms of the protocol and warned, “If kosher food and religious artefacts cannot be supplied, the community is likely to collapse.”

Johnson reportedly told MPs the government had received “very serious representations” from the Jewish community that “because of the problem with the food sector, it was becoming difficult to for them to have timely access – or any access – to kosher food”.

He then warned the liaison committee, “They are talking now about an exodus from Northern Ireland by the Jewish community. Clearly, we want to do everything we can to avoid that and to sort it out.”

Following Tuesday’s meeting, the Board of Deputies said that Lewis had pledged the government’s support on the issue.

“The Belfast Jewish community is a great community with a rich history, but also an older and vulnerable one. We thank the minister for his time, and urge the UK and the EU to generate a creative solution which means that Jews can continue to practice their faith in Northern Ireland,” said van der Zyl. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309472>

**Israel responds to US condemnation of terrorist's punishment**

**'PM acts only out of consideration for the State of Israel's security,' statement says.**

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Jul 08 , 2021 1:52 PM*

**A spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office responded Thursday to** [**condemnations by the US**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309487) **regarding the demolition of terrorist Muntasser Shalabi's home**.

**Shalabi, 44, is a US citizen, and following the Wednesday night demolition, the US condemned Israel for what it called a "unilateral" step which "undercut efforts to advance a negotiated two-state soluti**on"

**In a statement, the Israeli Prime Minister's Office said: "The Prime Minister appreciates and respects the US government. At the same time, he acts only in accordance with considerations for the State of Israel's security, and to protect the lives of Israeli citiz**ens."

Shalabi is a resident of the village of Turmus Aya in the Ramallah area with no organizational affiliation. Investigations of the terror attack revealed that he had planned the attack weeks in advance, and that he chose the Tapuah Junction as an ideal place to harm both civilians and IDF soldiers.

According to the indictment, during the attack Shalabi drove in his vehicle, firing at short range out of the driver's side window and aiming at civilians standing at a bus stop. The indictment also noted that Shalabi only ceased firing after his weapon gave out and became unusable. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309493>

**Only Israel can crown Hamas victor**

***Hamas might have won the battle, but Israel can still decide to win the war. Opinion.***

*Gregg Roman , Jul 08 , 2021 1:35 PM*

**Probably more than any conflict in recent memory, Operation Guardian of the Walls was a war over the “victory” narrative. Both sides, whether Hamas or Israel, ended the war claiming that it had won this round and defeated its enemy.**

**Nonetheless, according to polls undertaken in both the Israeli and Palestinian public, Hamas was the clear vict**or.

**A comprehensive survey undertaken for The Israel Victory Project after the conflict ended demonstrated that Israelis by a large majority did not believe that the Jewish State had won. When asked if they believed Israel won the recent conflict with Hamas, only one third of the respondents, or 35%, said I**srael.

**A more recent survey, undertaken by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, found that 77% of Palestinians believe Hamas emerge**d as a winner.

In other words, few believe on either side that Israel won.

In fact, the Palestinian survey also saw that in “winning” the war, it had gained significant admiration and support on the Palestinian street.

Head pollster Khalil Shikaki, who has been surveying Palestinian public opinion for more than two decades, called it a “dramatic” shift, but said it also resembles previous swings toward Hamas during times of confrontation. Those all dissipated within three to six months as Hamas failed to deliver on promises of change.

This is the key to this episode.

Hamas might be seen as a victor, but it is only Israel which can crown it thus.

While these battles can be won on the battleground, unfortunately, Israel has not shown a great interest during recent conflagrations to do so.

**Nevertheless, what was not won on the battleground can still be lost afterw**ards.

Hamas needs to show its people that its belligerence is worth the suffering that the Palestinian people in Gaza undoubtedly felt during the eleven-day bombardment. Hundreds were killed, whole neighborhoods were destroyed, and Hamas’ terrorist infrastructure took a massive dent.

Hamas is counting on achieving real gains during Egypt-mediated negotiations to win over the people on a longer-term basis. They have some key bargaining chips in the guise of [Israeli](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/251730) [civilians](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/307595) and the [bodies](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/232728) of two IDF [soldiers.](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/262859) They also have the secure knowledge that Israel has little will to get sucked back into a conflict in the foreseeable future.

Nevertheless, the Israeli government should stand firm and aim to treat Hamas as a vanquished enemy during any discussions. **MORE-**<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309492> **[Who wins in a war? Really no one. – rdb]**

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**07/07/2021 NEWS AM -**

**Where did our values come from?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hkw-NAipBjM>

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| **"The right to enjoy property without unlawful deprivation, no less that the right to speak out or the right to travel is, in truth, a “personal” right." -- Justice Potter Stewart (1915-1985) Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States** |

**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 EL – Had clot embolized to brain – successful ‘clot buster’ but long road to go.**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for DH – Mother removed self from hospice but doing poorly.**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  **Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems**  NOTE: Our prayer list was getting very long and there will little follow up.  If you have people you want to have on the list please resubmit since we are revising it now– rdb]  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 33:10And Jacob said, No, please, if I now have found favor in your eyes, take my present from my hands. For I have seen your face, like seeing the face of God; and you are pleased with me. 11Please take my blessing which has been brought to you, because God has favored me, and because I have all things. And he urged him; and he accepted. 12And he said, Let us depart and go, and I will go with you.**

**Attack on Erbil airport in Iraq reported**

***This is the third attack reported in the last two days, the other attacks targeted US forces in Asad base and near the US embassy in Baghdad since July 4.***

*By* [*SETH J. FRANTZMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/seth-j-frantzman) *JULY 7, 2021 01:48*

Reports in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq said that there was an attack on Erbil International Airport on Tuesday evening. According [to Rudaw the](https://twitter.com/RudawEnglish/status/1412512173839077376) attack was a rocket attack. It comes a day after a drone attack was reported in Baghdad against US facilities near the US embassy. At least three drones targeted the Union III site near the embassy.

The Erbil attack was reported to include numerous rockets. In the past Erbil has been attacked by drones in late June and in April when a drone targeted a CIA hangar. The US has forces at Erbil airport. Pro-Iranian militias have increasingly targeted US forces in Iraq in attacks that take place weekly and now appear to have taken place daily since July 4. This included the two attacks on July 5, one of which was on Asad base, and then the attacks that unfolded the night of July 5 and now on the night of July 6 in Erbil.

[US President Joe Biden](https://www.jpost.com/us-elections/joe-biden-will-make-a-great-president-heres-why-opinion-647152) ordered airstrikes on pro-Iran militias in Syria in late June in response to the drone attack near Erbil that struck near a site for the US consulate. The militias vowed to respond and fired a salvo at US forces in Syria near Omar oil field. Rumors said another attack near Omar unfolded on July 4 but the US-led Coalition denied that attack. The Erbil attack would therefore be the third attack in 36 hours. This is a major escalation by pro-Iran groups that seek to eject the US from Iraq. There have been around 50 attacks since the beginning of the year, increasingly involving drone.

The Kurdistan region is under threat from 122mm rockets based in Nineveh and has also been targeted by 107mm rockets smuggled closer to Erbil by militias. Drones have also been used because pro-Iran militias have difficulty penetrating the wall of security that the autonomous Kurdish region musters. However Iran now has the US in its sights and has apparently ordered its militias, likely via the IRGC, to begin a full-court press against the US. This militias include Kataib Hezbollah and Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada.

The attack reportedly involved both rockets and missiles. Sources said at least 20 rockets and 3 drones were used. This would make it the largest attack so far on US forces and on Erbil. Iran has used cruise missiles and drone combinations in the past, attacking Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq in 2019 with missiles and drones. Footage in Erbil showed a fire and sirens as the attack unfolded. The airport was said to be closed due to the attack. Kataib Hezbollah had warned in recent days it had underground hidden rockets it could use. The major attack will force the Biden administration to consider a retaliation. It is believed that pro-Iran militias have large stores of rockets and drones as well as ballistic missiles in Iraq and Syria.

Update:  The US Department of Defense downplayed the attack. The 20 rockets and 3 drones report was likely an exaggeration. “We are aware of reporting of a UAS incident in the vicinity of Erbil, Iraq. At this time, initial reports indicate no structural damage, injuries or casualties," a Department of Defense spokesperson said.  <https://www.jpost.com/international/attack-on-erbil-airport-in-iraq-reported-673073> [So I guess if DOD downplays it they won’t have to do anything to counter the attack? Not a wise decision. – rdb]

**At US embassy, Bennett pushes for return of bipartisan backing for Israel**

***Premier uses Fourth of July address to vow to strengthen ties with Democrats, which are seen to have taken a hit in recent years***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *6 July 2021, 11:49 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/DAZ_6564P-1-e1625602662295.jpg)

***US House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Gregory Meeks, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and US Embassy in Israel Charge D'affaires Michael Ratney at the US Embassy's Independence Day celebration on July 5, 2021. (Ziv Sokolov/US Embassy in Jerusalem)***

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett vowed on Tuesday to prevent Israel from being used as a political football in the United States, as the new Israeli government works to restore ties with the Democratic Party, which have become frayed in recent years.

“I’ll challenge any attempt to make America a partisan political issue in Israel and any attempt to make Israel a partisan political issue in the United States,” Bennett said in his remarks at the US Embassy in Jerusalem’s annual Independence Day celebration.

“Our policy is bipartisan. We’re friends of everyone,” the prime minister continued. “Because the friendship between our two democracies will always transcend party politics.” [HUMMMM? That sounds like a very “Pollyanna” approach by Bennett. Are they friends of Iranian leadership that wants to kill them and destroy Israel? – rdb]

Bennett’s comments echoed those made last week by Foreign Minister Yair Lapid during his meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, when Lapid acknowledged that “mistakes were made” that damaged Israel’s bipartisan support in Washington.

Neither Bennett nor Lapid mentioned opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu by name, but critics of the former prime minister say his willingness to engage in public quarrels with Democratic administrations, as well as his overwhelming embrace of the divisive former US president Donald Trump, harmed ties with the Democratic Party.

Bennett in his Tuesday speech sought to focus on areas of agreement between the two countries. “Israelis across the political spectrum are fundamentally pro-American. We like America. We appreciate, we admire what you’re doing out there and that’s the way it ought to be, also in America vis-a-vis Israel,” he said.

“I stand committed to making the bond between us even stronger, by expanding our already strong strategic cooperation in the face of any threats to our people’s security, building even more robust economic and trade relationships,” he added.

The prime minister took the opportunity to highlight his own American heritage. Bennett’s parents are from San Francisco and he spent parts of his childhood on the West Coast. As an adult, he and his wife Gilat lived in New York, where he ran a tech company.

The premier noted with pride his parents participation in the civil right movement, which led to his father’s arrest during a protest at a San Francisco hotel that refused to hire black people. Bennett went on to boast about the diverse nature of his new coalition — a detail that has become something of a talking point by Israeli officials in their talks with countries abroad.

“We’ve got eight different parties — left and right, Jews and Arabs. It’s not easy, but it’s working because there is a spirit of goodwill. And when there’s trust and goodwill, it can work,” the prime minister said.



Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and US Embassy in Israel Charge D’affaires Michael Ratney at the US Embassy in Jerusalem on July 5, 2021. (Ziv Sokolov/US Embassy in Jerusalem)

Also addressing the event was Embassy Charges d’affairs Michael Ratney, who was dispatched to Jerusalem last month to head the mission until a full time ambassador is approved by Congress. US President Joe Biden’s nominee for the post, former State Department deputy secretary Thomas Nides, is expected to face a Senate hearing in the coming weeks.

“There have certainly been a lot of changes in Israel recently and also a lot of changes in Washington, but it’s reassuring to see that one of the constants is a rock solid US-Israel partnership, across nearly all sectors of our society. We know that you and your entire government will be great partners as we enter a period that inevitably brings both opportunities and risks,” Ratney said. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/at-us-embassy-bennett-pushes-for-return-of-bipartisan-backing-for-israel/> [It appears that Bennett has very rapidly adapted the very PC dialogue of the national politician group. Kiss it all up and say just what they want. But then of course he was doing that during the election and then it turned out that he didn’t do at all what he had promised. Talked to an Israeli friend the other day who said that Bennett’s failure to keep his word during this past election will result in him never being elected again. His Political base was mainly on the right and he made promises of who would NEVER be his partner and then he reneged. – rdb]

**Yisrael Beytenu MK won’t back ‘corrupt’ bill fostering Likud defections**

***Putting bill’s future in doubt, Eli Avidar says proposal seemingly aimed at splitting up Netanyahu’s party would perpetuate a ‘rotten political culture’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *6 July 2021, 4:16 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/F210622OF319-e1625574134582.jpg)

***Yisrael Beytenu MK Eli Avidar at the Knesset on June 21, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)***

Yisrael Beytenu MK Eli Avidar on Tuesday came out against a bill apparently aimed at breaking up former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud party, with his resistance possibly dooming the proposal’s chances of passing.

The bill would make it easier for lawmakers to split from a party than allowed by the current law, which imposes penalties if a breakaway group does not comprise at least a third of its Knesset faction’s membership.

Likud has 30 lawmakers in the current Knesset, meaning 11 MKs would need to break ranks together to avoid sanctions, which include the loss of future campaign financing. The proposal would change the law so a group as small as four MKs could quit a faction.

The bill received initial backing last week from the Ministerial Committee for Legislation and is now due to come up for the first of three plenum votes it must clear to become law.

Avidar said Tuesday that he told coalition leaders they should yank the bill before its first reading and he would vote against it if they didn’t. He denounced the bill as perpetuating a “rotten political culture” that he said the new government should eb seeking to change.

“This law can be also called the ‘defector law’ and it ratchets up a notch the bar for political corruption in Israel. Four MKs who want to vote with the coalition for ideological reasons can do so from the opposition benches,” Avidar wrote on Twitter.

He noted efforts by Netanyahu and the ex-premier’s political allies to flip MKs from the factions that support the government before it was sworn in last month, promising them plum posts or threatening to stoke popular sentiment against them.

“It’s inconceivable for us to act in the same way as the government we came to change,” Avidar said. “The public elected us to effect change and reform and not in order to  continue to do the exact same things.”



Opposition Leader Benjamin Netanyahu at the Knesset on July 6, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

If Avidar votes against the bill, at least one opposition MK will need to abstain or back the bill for it to advance, assuming the rest of the coalition votes for it. The parties that back the government together have 61 seats in the 120-seat Knesset.

On the day of the new government’s swearing-in last month, Avidar said [he would no longer vote along party lines](https://www.timesofisrael.com/unhappy-yisrael-beytenu-mk-set-to-go-solo-but-will-vote-to-install-coalition/), retaliating after Yisrael Beytenu chief Avigdor Liberman did not grant his choice of ministerial posts.

However, Avidar later clarified he was committed to the government and was praised by Liberman for taking part in anti-Netanyahu protests over the past year.

Avidar’s announcement he would oppose the bill came hours after [the coalition was dealt a major blow](https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-blow-to-coalition-knesset-knocks-down-extension-of-family-unification-law/) by the Knesset failing to approve an extension of the contentious Palestinian family reunification law, after a rebel MK from Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s Yamina party cast the deciding vote against it. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/yisrael-beytenu-mk-wont-back-corrupt-bill-fostering-likud-defections/> [HUMMM? This could turn out to be the ‘do nothing’ government if there is continued contention going on with most every bill because nothing will get passed. – rdb]

**State to charge Likud MK David Bitan with bribery, fraud**

***Netanyahu loyalist accused of taking over $200,000 in bribes while serving in public office, both as a deputy mayor and as a Knesset member; he denies the allegations***

*By* [*Raoul Wootliff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/raoul-wootliff/) *6 July 2021, 10:49 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/06/F210606YS31-1-e1623390544110.jpg)

***Likud MK David Bitan arrives for a Knesset faction meeting on June 6, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)***

The State Prosecutor announced Tuesday that it will file an indictment against Likud MK David Bitan on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust, as well as money laundering and tax offenses.

Bitan, a former Likud coalition whip and a confidant of former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is accused of taking some NIS 715,000 ($220,000) in bribes while serving in public office. He allegedly received bribes from friends and acquaintances and gave them preferential treatment in return, according to the indictment.

The charges date back to when Bitan was deputy mayor of Rishon Lezion, before he was elected to the Knesset in 2013, but also include his tenure as an MK.

“In return for the benefits, Bitan acted to advance the interests, within the framework of his public duties, of certain parties, while exploiting his status, connections and influence in local government and government ministries,” the indictment reads.

In accordance with the Knesset Members Immunity Law, a copy of the indictment was submitted to the Knesset speaker in order to allow Bitan to announce whether he wants to request parliamentary immunity from criminal prosecution. The indictment will only be filed with a court once the immunity procedures have been completed.

Police have reportedly been investigating the case against Bitan for the past six years, and recommended last year that he be indicted on multiple corruption charges.

While he has denied wrongdoing, Bitan stepped down from his role as coalition whip in 2017, shortly after news of the police investigation broke.

He is accused of receiving bribes from his business associate Moshe Yosef and from businessman Dror Glazer, both while serving as deputy mayor of Israel’s fourth-largest city and later as a member of Knesset. Both men have testified against him.

Former deputy Tel Aviv mayor Arnon Giladi and then-Rishon Lezion mayor Dov Zur are also suspects in the alleged bribe-taking scheme that took place between 2011 and 2017.

 [Police said last year](https://www.timesofisrael.com/police-recommend-bribery-charges-for-likuds-david-bitan/) that they had obtained detailed information on how the suspected bribes and money transfers were handled, in light of the testimony from Yosef, who owns a furniture store where Bitan was allegedly given the money.

Arnon Giladi, Tel Aviv’s deputy mayor and chairman of the city’s Likud branch. (Courtesy, Arnon Giladi)

Prosecutors said that Bitan advanced the interests of construction company Danya Cebus by approving real estate deals in Rishon Lezion, in exchange for a NIS 430,000 ($124,000) cash payment. The sum paid to Bitan was to secure Danya Cebus’s bid to win a municipal tender to build a gas station on the outskirts of the city, as well as approval for another construction project outside Jerusalem on Route 38.

T hey also said that they uncovered evidence that Bitan and Giladi accepted a bribe of NIS 385,000 ($111,000) to secure building permits for three real estate projects in Tel Aviv. Police said some of the bribe money was transferred to Bitan using fake invoices.

The investigation, dubbed Case 1803, has seen the arrests of a number of suspects, including Rishon Lezion city officials, local businessmen and organized crime figures.

Bitan on Tuesday repeated his denial of wrongdoing, with his lawyers releasing a statement saying that he was “confident that at the end of the legal proceedings, the court will reach the obvious conclusion that no defect or wrongdoing has occurred in his actions and will clear him of any accusation.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/state-to-charge-likud-mk-david-bitan-with-bribery-fraud/> [This is just more of the corruption that has been going on in government for years. It is in Israel just as it is in the USA and most every nation in the world. Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. The idea of an honest politician is almost a fantasy. – rdb]

**Right-wingers slash at each other after citizenship ban extension fails**

***Lawmakers accuse each other of endangering the country following government’s failure to pass Knesset motion renewing law barring Palestinian family reunification***

*By* [*Raoul Wootliff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/raoul-wootliff/) *6 July 2021, 10:24 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/F210706YS240.jpg)

***Opposition members rejoice after a Knesset vote rejected an extension of the Palestinian family reunification law, in Jerusalem, on July 6, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)***

Discord between right-wing politicians in both the coalition and opposition snowballed Tuesday over the government’s [failure to pass a Knesset motion](https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-blow-to-coalition-knesset-knocks-down-extension-of-family-unification-law/) renewing a law that bars Palestinians from obtaining Israeli citizenship through marriage, with lawmakers from both sides accusing each other of endangering Israeli security.

A pre-dawn vote Tuesday on an annual extension to the contentious measure was torpedoed by Yamina MK Amichai Chikli, who voted against the measure, drawing calls for his removal from the faction. With two members of the Islamist Ra’am coalition party abstaining, the 59-59 vote was not enough to pass the bill. The law expired at midnight Tuesday.

The law has historically been supported by right-wing parties as a necessary measure for Israeli security and to ensure the country maintains a Jewish majority. However, several opposition parties from the right, including Likud and Religious Zionism, voted against the law’s extension as a means of embarrassing and weakening the coalition, which includes a wide array of parties from across the political spectrum.

Writing on Twitter Tuesday afternoon, opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu said his decision to vote against the law “halted [Prime Minister Naftali] Bennett and [Interior Minister Ayelet] Shaked’s attempt to sell the country to [Ra’aam chair] Mansour Abbas and grant citizenship to thousands of Palestinians.”

Echoing Netanyahu, Likud MK Miri Regev called Bennett and Shaked the “[Bernie] Madoff of Israeli politics,” referring to the late US Jewish fraudster. MORE-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/right-wingers-slash-at-each-other-after-citizenship-ban-extension-fails/> [So how much is sour grapes vengeance from Bibi and how much is really looking after the country’s well being. I think it is all sour grapes trying to destroy the government so Bibi thinks he can get back in. – rdb]

**Experts hit out at Health Ministry on missing vaccine efficacy data**

***Top researchers fear ministry's findings, which show sharp decline in coronavirus shot's efficacy against Delta variant, possibly superficial since study's raw data not published***

*Adir Yanko | Published: 07.06.21, 17:57*

Health experts criticized the Health Ministry on Tuesday after it announced the COVID-19 vaccine was less effective against the Delta variant compared to previous virus strains without appending the data on which it based its claim or the methods it employed to process the data.

"We saw a decrease in the vaccine's efficacy, but there are several possible factors that could have caused this," said Prof. Doron Gazit, a researcher at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. "For example, the fact that so far, most confirmed cases were recorded in communities with high vaccination rates — this variable could very much affect the analysis."

According to a ministry statement Monday, the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine was 64% effective in preventing both infections and symptomatic illness since June 6, pointing to an almost 30% decline from past reports which coincides with the spread of the Delta variant in Israel.

Israelis who came into contact with a confirmed coronavirus patient were urged to get tested regardless of their vaccination status.

The ministry did note, however, that the vaccine was still 93% effective in preventing hospitalizations and serious COVID-19 illness.



Health Ministry Director General Prof. Nachman Ash and Public Health Director at the Health Ministry Prof. Sharon Alroy-Preis (Photo: Alex Kolomoisky)

The ministry did not respond to repeated Ynet inquiries for the raw data the study was based upon or the methods it used to analyze the figures.

Dr. Oren Kobiler, a virologist at Tel Aviv University's School of Medicine, questioned some of the assertions the ministry had made in its study, like assuming that the relatively small unvaccinated population in Israel was comparable to those who did get the jab.

"Since [the unvaccinated population] is so small, the assumption that they behave like the rest of the population is problematic to me," he said. "Therefore, the analysis should be more specific, since there are not many unvaccinated people over 50. Only about 10% are unvaccinated and I think we can't assume that whatever is relevant for this 10% also goes for the other 90%, so we can not compare one another as it pertains to preventing symptomatic or asymptomatic infection.

"On the other hand, the British have much more data on the Delta variant since they have been dealing with it for months now. They say that the vaccine is still 80–90% effective. I do not know what to make of this data. I am trying to figure out where this is coming from but I do not feel at ease knowing the UK relies on much more data and reaches an efficiency rate higher than 64%."

Kobiler argued that further research would prove the vaccine was still highly effective in preventing coronavirus infections. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/ByOgs211Tu> [Sorry folks but you really can’t believe much of anything from any country’s supervisory health groups when it comes to this issues. The PLANdemic exists in a totally different realm and for perverse purposes. – rdb]

**As Israel mulls 3rd virus shot, study shows antibody levels high after 6 months**

***Study also indicates that elderly, immunocompromised retained high antibody levels; government weighing new measures amid signs vaccine less effective against Delta variant***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 3:27 am*

Israeli health workers vaccinated with the Pfizer shot were still showing very high levels of antibodies six months after their shots, Israel’s Kan public broadcaster reported Tuesday.

The report, based on serological studies conducted by Israel’s four health maintenance organizations on health care workers, who were the first Israelis to get the shots in December, found that most had antibody levels above 700. The report said a level of 150 was needed to be considered protected.

The study also found that even elderly, immunocompromised patients on ventilators who were vaccinated were showing high antibody levels.

The report comes as Israel has begun debating the need for a third booster shot a spike in cases and signs that the vaccine was slightly less effective against the Delta variant. [So if people have antibodies there is absolutely NO REASON for a 3rd JAB. – rdb]

Top ministers met with senior health officials on Tuesday as Israel mulled the return of some restrictions aimed at curbing a recent resurgence of COVID-19 cases.

The meeting came as the number of active coronavirus cases climbed to 3,102, the highest tally since April 14, with 503 new infections Monday and another 262 infections from midnight to early evening Tuesday.

While the number of deaths and hospitalizations has remained relatively low, the figure has begun to climb. The 38 people in serious condition is the highest total since late May. [The number of people who test positive for the COV is irrelevant. The issue is who is sick and just how sick are they. – rdb]

Health Ministry figures showed that the average daily caseload over the last seven days is 322, compared to a seven-day average of just 205 a week ago.

The resurgence of the virus has become a major issue for Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s new government, coming less than two months after the numbers of cases had dwindled, allowing Israel to lift most restrictions and reopen public life.

Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz said Tuesday during a conference at Ben-Gurion University that Israel was trying to battle the virus while avoiding “panic” and keeping restrictions to a minimum to enable the continuation of near-normal life.

Israel’s Health Ministry released data on Monday showing that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID vaccine appears to largely prevent hospitalization and serious cases, but is significantly less effective against preventing the spread of the Delta variant of the coronavirus. [I have read studies indicating that Delta may be more infective but is no more deadly than any of the other strains. – rdb]

According to the ministry, the Pfizer vaccine’s effectiveness in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 has dropped by some 30 percent to 64%, given the spread of the Delta variant. The data shows that during May, when the strain was less prevalent, the vaccine was 94.3% effective. MORE-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-israel-mulls-3rd-virus-shot-study-shows-antibody-levels-high-after-6-months/>

**Israel flies 700,000 Pfizer vaccines to Seoul in swap deal**

***Agreement brokered with South Korea will see Israel receive vaccines in September-November in exchange for doses set to expire at end of this month***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:51 pm*

***[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/AP21187322151314.jpg)***

***A poster hoping to overcome the COVID-19 crisis is displayed at a train station in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, July 6, 2021. (AP/Ahn Young-joon)***

A plane carrying some 700,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine that are due to expire in weeks took off for Seoul on Tuesday afternoon, as part of a deal between Israel and South Korea that will see the Asian nation send fresh vaccines in exchange later in the year.

Korean officials said the doses would arrive early Wednesday morning and be immediately dispatched to distribution centers, as the country looks to rein in a renewed outbreak of the coronavirus.

Under the deal with Seoul, Israel will supply doses for immediate use that are set to expire by the end of the month. In return, Israel will receive the same number of doses from South Korean orders later in the year. Seoul said the deal called for the shots to be sent to Israel from September to November.

Officials in both countries called the deal, which was inked earlier in the day, a “win-win.”

Israel has been scrambling to use up or trade away over 1 million doses of the vaccine that expire at the end of July. According to South Korea’s Disease Control and Prevention Agency, negotiations had originally been for 800,000 doses, but the amount was lowered due to a spurt of interest in vaccinations in Israel, where authorities have begun pushing for teens aged 12 to 15 to be inoculated.

Jung Eun-kyeong, Korea’s top infectious disease expert, said the Seoul government will continue to pursue swap deals with other countries. “We are expecting to have a sufficient number of vaccines during the fourth quarter while we proceed with our vaccination campaign,” said Jung, director of the agency.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/AP20023134834418.jpg)

***South Korean Centers for Disease Control director Jung Eun-kyeong during a press conference at the government complex in Seoul, South Korea, January 23, 2020. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)***

The deal comes weeks after the Palestinian Authority backed out of a similar agreement, saying the vaccine doses were too close to their expiration date, despite Israel using the same batches to vaccinate its teens.

Jung stressed that the vaccines “were used in Israel and there is no problem with quality.”

“This exchange arrangement was made based on the thoughts shared by all countries, including South Korea and Israel, that even a single drop of a vaccine should not go down the drain,” South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Choi Young-sam said.

According to the Israeli Prime Minister’s Office, the agreement was negotiated by Israel’s Health Ministry together with the Foreign Ministry and the National Security Council. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-flies-700000-pfizer-vaccines-to-seoul-in-swap-deal/>

**Former Palestinian PM Fayyad visits Gaza, Ramallah to push unity government**

***Fayyad said to meet with PA President Abbas, Hamas officials to advance initiative that would see him take the top spot; the technocrat was unpopular during his time as PM***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 12:14 am*

Former Palestinian Authority prime minister Salam Fayyad has been shuttling between Gaza and the West Bank in recent days to promote a political initiative that could see him return to his previous position, a knowledgeable Palestinian source said on Monday.

Fayyad held meetings with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah and with Hamas officials in Gaza, according to the source.

An Abbas spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment.

The Palestinian Authority has seen declining popularity in surveys in recent months. In April, Abbas effectively cancelled the first planned Palestinian elections in 16 years. Recently, the West Bank has seen scattered protests calling for an end to Abbas’s 16-year rule, sparked by the death of a PA critic while in the custody of Ramallah’s security forces.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2012/05/F100808IR011.jpg) According to the source, Fayyad is pushing a political initiative that would see a temporary national Palestinian unity government formed with himself as premier, replacing current Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh. After a year or two, the unity government would hold national Palestinian elections.

“There’s not been any opposition, nor has anyone proposed an alternative, but there’s considerable hesitation,” the source said.

The initiative would see a Palestinian government that includes the Hamas terror group, an idea popular among many Palestinians.

Former Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad (left) with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in 2012 (Issam Rimawi/Flash90/ File)

Fatah, the Palestinian faction Abbas chairs, said in a statement that Fayyad had visited the Gaza Strip, but that they were uninvolved with the trip.

“Dr. Fayyad’s visit is purely for his own purposes, he is not charged with any official business, it was a personal trip,” tweeted Mounir Jaghoub, a Fatah spokesperson.

Fayyad garnered international support during his time as prime minister between 2007 and 2013. A technocrat with a doctorate in economics from the University of Texas at Austin, Fayyad sought to pragmatically advance Palestinian governance on the ground in the absence of a Palestinian state.

But Fayyad was unpopular at home for many of the same qualities that made him well liked abroad. In the 2006 legislative elections, a slate he led received slightly over 2 percent of the vote, and his popularity did not improve during his time in office.

A diplomatic source in Ramallah dismissed the significance of Fayyad’s initiative. They said the most important challenges facing the PA was to regain its eroding popularity legitimacy, hold democratic elections “sooner rather than later” and ending Palestinian political division.

“Whether Fayyad or someone else would be the most appropriate choice as prime minister is a secondary matter,” the source told The Times of Israel. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/former-palestinian-pm-fayyad-visits-gaza-ramallah-to-push-unity-government/> [there is no way there will be peace for Israel with the “PA” when the various groups can’t even get along among themselves. – rdb]

**Iranians protest over power outage crisis, chant 'Death to Khamenei'**

***Protests turned political in some areas, with people chanting "Death to the dictator" and "Death to Khamenei," according to videos posted on social media.***

*By REUTERS   JULY 6, 2021 21:22*

President Hassan Rouhani apologized to Iranians on Tuesday over [massive power outages](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/iran-power-outage-crisis-leads-politicians-to-slam-their-own-policy-672915) during a heatwave that have drawn widespread criticism and triggered street protests.

Officials have blamed the blackouts on surging demand for power, along with low rainfall cutting hydroelectric output and illegal cryptocurrency mining farms accessing subsidized electricity.

"I apologize to our dear people who have faced problems and suffering in the past few days and I urge them to cooperate (by curbing power use). People complain about power outages and they are right," Rouhani said in remarks carried by state TV.

"The Energy Ministry is not at fault... but the minister should come and explain to the people what the problem is and we have to find a solution."

Angry residents gathered in several cities to protest against the outages, which often did not follow blackout schedules announced by the state-run electricity companies, according to [Iranian](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/large-fire-reported-near-tehran-background-unclear-report-672964) news outlets and postings on social media.

Protests turned political in some areas, with people chanting "Death to the dictator" and "Death to (Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali) Khamenei" and other slogans during blackouts, according to videos posted on social media.

More chants of "Death to Khamenei" tonight in Shiraz over power outages in [#Iran](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Iran?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw). The int'l community obsessively focuses on reviving a stale nuclear deal. But regime mismanagement, abuses, & prioritization of terror proxies over its people continue with impunity. [pic.twitter.com/LbcCOU2MHM](https://t.co/LbcCOU2MHM)

— Jason Brodsky (@JasonMBrodsky) [July 5, 2021](https://twitter.com/JasonMBrodsky/status/1412182577578921985?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Reuters could not independently verify the videos' authenticity.

"Protesters said the frequent power outages had caused many problems, including water cuts in apartments, spoilage of meat and poultry and other items in refrigerators, and damage to household appliances," the semi-official ISNA news agency reported from the northeastern town of Kordkuy. [*https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iranians-protest-over-power-outage-crisis-chant-death-to-khamenei-673049*](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iranians-protest-over-power-outage-crisis-chant-death-to-khamenei-673049) [Those kind of demonstrations are pretty gutsy because the Big K could get the IRG after them and they would not be seen again. – rdb]

**US, Europeans warn nuclear talks in danger as Iran plans enrichment boost**

***Washington cautions Tehran to end its nuclear ‘brinkmanship’; Britain, France, Germany express ‘grave concern’ at latest move violating 2015 nuclear pact they are trying to save***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *6 July 2021, 11:47 pm*

The United States and Europe warned Iran to stop nuclear “brinksmanship” and European powers expressed “grave concern” over Iran’s latest moves to enrich uranium, saying it would complicate its return to talks aimed at restarting the 2015 nuclear accord.

The statements from Washington and Brussels came hours after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that Iran intended to enrich uranium to 20 percent, in the latest sign the talks based in Vienna could be stalling.

“It is worrying that Iran is choosing to continue to escalate its non-performance of its JCPOA commitments, especially with experiments that have value for nuclear weapons research,” State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters, referring to the joint comprehensive plan of action reached between Iran and six nations on restricting Tehran’s atomic program.

“We continue to urge Iran to stop this brinksmanship, to return to Vienna prepared for real talks, and to be in a position to be prepared to finish the work that we have started in April,” he said.

In a separate joint statement, the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany said Iran’s moves were “threatening a successful outcome to the Vienna talks despite the progress achieved in six rounds of negotiations to date.”

An IAEA statement said Tehran had told the agency that it would be sending the enriched uranium to its research and development laboratory at the fuel production plant in Isfahan.

The aim would be to make fuel for a research reactor, the agency added, but the European ministers cast doubt over that claim, calling it a “serious violation” of Iran’s commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal.

“Iran has no credible civilian need for uranium metal R&D and production, which are a key step in the development of a nuclear weapon,” they said.

The latest move takes Iran a step closer to developing materials that could be used to make a nuclear weapon, although Tehran insists it is only interested in the technology to fulfill its energy needs.

Iran has gradually moved away from the terms of the deal it signed with world powers in 2015. MORE- . <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-europeans-warn-nuclear-talks-in-danger-as-iran-plans-to-boost-enrichment/> [With these kinds of antics going on during the negotiations why should these dingbats think that Iran will be willing to follow anything in their so called plan. – rdb]

**Iran accuses Israel of June attack on alleged centrifuge plant**

***In reversal, Iranian government acknowledges damage to Karaj facility, says strike was meant to thwart Vienna talks on reviving nuclear deal***

*By* [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:48 pm*

Iran on Tuesday accused Israel of a sabotage attack in June that reportedly targeted a nuclear facility near Tehran, the official IRNA news agency reported.

According to the report, cabinet spokesman Ali Rabiei said the alleged attack sought to thwart ongoing talks in Vienna on resurrecting Tehran’s tattered nuclear deal with world powers. IRNA quoted Rabiei as saying such actions only make Iran stronger.

“The Zionist regime carried out this action to signal it can stop Iran and to say [to world powers] that there is no need to talk with Iran,” said Rabiei. “But whenever sabotage has happened, our strength has increased.”

Iran has offered few details on the attack it said targeted a sprawling nuclear center located in Karaj, a city about 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of the Iranian capital. On June 23, state TV said it was an attempted attack against a building belonging to Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization that left no casualties or damage.

Rabiei on Monday said there was damage to the ceiling and also that “damage to equipment was not remarkable.” MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-accuses-israel-of-june-attack-on-alleged-centrifuge-plant/>

**Lockheed Martin and IAI announce collaboration**

***The alliance will allow both companies to explore potential joint experiences in research and development, marketing, and for collaboration in Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) systems.***

*By* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff) *JULY 7, 2021 01:29*

Lockheed Martin Corporation and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) have announced a new collaboration. A press release on Tuesday explained that the alliance will allow both companies to explore potential joint experiences in research and development, marketing, and for collaboration in Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) systems.

Lockheed Martin is a global security and [aerospace](https://www.jpost.com/health-science/nasas-space-dummy-has-been-named-by-the-public-commander-moonikin-campos-672456) company headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, with close to 114,000 staff worldwide.

Tim Cahill, Lockheed Martin Senior Vice President, Global Business Development, expressed enthusiasm about teaming up with Israel.

“Our long-standing relationship with the [State of Israel](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/direct-israel-morocco-flights-as-early-as-july-25-ushpiz-visits-rabat-673065) and its defense industries opens new opportunities for Lockheed Martin, aimed to expand our businesses around the world while delivering unmatched IAMD capabilities to our global customers," he said. This new Memorandum of Understanding is yet another step in our strategy for cooperation with IAI, as a partner in some of our key programs.”

Boaz Levy, President and CEO of IAI, a world-leading innovative aerospace and defense company, echoed anticipation for the collaboration.

"Combining the development capabilities and the vast knowhow of Lockheed Martin and IAI experience accumulated over the years in IAMD systems will create win-win opportunities for both sides," Levy said. "IAI looks forward in exploring this cooperation and optimizing the possibilities in it.” <https://www.jpost.com/j-spot/lockheed-martin-and-iai-announce-collaboration-673071>

**Officer who shot Ashli Babbitt identified**

***House sergeant at arms inadvertently disclosed name in congressional testimony***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published July 6, 2021 at 6:58pm*

[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ashli-babbitt.jpeg)

***Ashli Babbitt***

The acting sergeant at arms of the House of Representatives inadvertently confirmed the closely guarded identity of the Capitol police officer who shot and killed Ashli Babbitt during the Jan. 6 riot.

Timothy Blodgett was testifying to Congress via remote video when he made a reference to the officer, Lt. Mike Byrd, [the Gateway Pundit reported.](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/07/another-huge-update-us-capitol-acting-sergeant-arms-accidentally-confirms-lieutenant-mike-byrd-killed-ashli-babbitt-video/)

*See the video:*

In February, [Roll Call reported](https://www.rollcall.com/2019/02/27/capitol-police-weapon-left-unattended-in-capitol-bathroom-again/) Byrd left his service weapon in a bathroom in the Capitol Visitor Center complex where it was discovered later by another Capitol Police officer.

A source said Byrd addressed the incident at the officer roll call and said he will be "treated differently" because of his rank as a lieutenant. Roll Call said it was not clear what exactly the lieutenant meant by the comment.

Last month, Fox News' Tucker Carlson asked Babbitt's husband, Aaron Babbitt and Attorney Terrell Roberts, about the handgun incident, tying Byrd to the shooting without mentioning the officer's name.

"Mr. Roberts, let me ask you, there are reports online, that’s incredible I don’t know if they’re true, that the Capitol Hill police officer who shot Ashli Babbitt, I’m not going to mention the name, was the same officer that left his loaded handgun in a public men’s room on the Capitol," Carlson said. "Do you believe that is the officer, it seems like a very reckless person, who shot and killed Ashli Babbitt on January 6th?

"That’s my belief," the attorney replied. "That’s my belief."

[Blodgett testified to the House Appropriations Committee on Feb. 25](https://nypost.com/2021/02/25/capitol-security-officials-to-testify-before-congress-today/) as part of the investigation by Congress into the Jan. 6 riot.

***‘Who shot Ashli Babbitt?’***

Last Thursday, former President Donald Trump joined several House Republicans in calling for the identity of the officer to be revealed.

“Who shot Ashli Babbitt?" Trump said in a statement.

At a campaign-style rally in Sarasota, Florida, Trump said he met with Babbitt’s grieving family. He asked why so many Jan. 6 protesters are still in jail. chastising Republican leaders such as Sen. Mitch McConnell who are "afraid" to bring up the subect.

"A disgrace to our country. We need strong leaders," Trump said.

"And by the way, who shot Ashli Babbitt? Who shot Ashli Babbitt? Who? Who shot Ashli Babbitt? We all saw the hand, we saw the gun," Trump said at the rally. "I spoke to her mother the other day, an incredible woman, she's just devastated, like it happened yesterday, devastated."

Trump said that "if that were on the other side, the person that did the shooting would be strung up and hung." "Now they don’t want to give the name, they don’t want to give, but people know the name, people know where he came from, and it’s a terrible thing. Right, shot, boom, there was no reason for it. Who shot Ashli Babbitt? It’s got to be released.”

Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., charged Ashli Babbitt was "executed" by an officer "lying in wait."

In April, the Justice Department announced it would not bring criminal charges against the officer. The investigation concluded the officer reasonably believed the shooting was necessary "in self-defense or in defense of the Members of Congress and others evacuating the House Chamber." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/officer-shot-ashli-babbitt-identified/> [Sounds to me that there is once again a dualistic standard of justice in this country that should be stopped. – rdb]

**Who's the boss? Stunning numbers say Biden not running own administration**

***Both Democrats and Republicans think others are 'in charge'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published July 6, 2021 at 12:24pm*

The stumbling, bumbling gaffes that litter President Biden's public speaking these days appear to be taking their toll. Only 36%, a new poll shows, believe he is "fully in charge" and running his own administration.

Fifty-six and a half percent say others are directing his policy and agenda, and that includes nearly 32% of the Democrats responding to the poll by Convention of the States Action, in partnership with The Trafalgar Group.

A stunning 83.6% of Republicans and even 58.4% of independents say Joe Biden isn't the one making the decisions that are coming from the White House.

"President Lincoln’s famous refrain that you can’t fool all of the people all of the time has never been more relevant and critical to the survival of our American Republic. The American people deserve transparency from the Biden Administration as to the true state of the president’s mental and physical health, and leaders in both parties in Congress need to follow through on this immediately," explained Mark Meckler, president of Convention of States Action. "The continued failure to ask hard questions and demand real answers is a disgrace to the foundation of our democracy."

The [report](https://thetrafalgargroup.org/COSA-National-Biden-Full-Report.pdf) said the survey was done June 23-25 with 1,086 respondents who are likely general election voters.

The margin of error was 2.97% with a confidence level of 95%.

Only 11% of Republicans believe Joe Biden is "fully executing the duties of his office," and only 36.1% of independents agreed with that.

The survey sample even had been weighted toward Democrats, 39.3% to 35.6% over GOP members.

Those uncertain were in the single digits.

Biden has had a reputation for years of mixing up words, forgetting names and circumstances, and making outlandish statements. He once told a supporter confined to a wheelchair to stand up and let the crowd see him.

As president, those symptoms now include extended periods of stumbling over words that don't end up making a coherent sentence, raising questions among his critics over his mental competence as he approaches 80 years of age. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/boss-stunning-numbers-say-biden-not-running-administration/>

**GOP congresswoman now packing heat after her home was targeted: 'I'm not going to be intimidated'**

By [Jack Davis, The Western Journal](https://www.wnd.com/author/wj/) Published July 6, 2021 at 5:03pm

Republican Rep. Nancy Mace of South Carolina is standing her ground. Mace's house was vandalized over Memorial Day weekend. Since then, she goes about her business armed as police search for the culprit.

"When they show up to your house, and physically just, you know, try to destroy it with graffiti, it's personal and it's invasive and it's violating, and it doesn't feel good," said Mace, according to [Fox News](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/nancy-mace-carrying-gun-threats-vandalism).

"When this happened, it really changed everything for me. I'm not going to live in fear, and I'm not going to be intimidated," said Mace. "I think it's one of the most empowering things that you can do is to be able to defend yourself."

She ensures that [she is ready](https://www.westernjournal.com/washington-post-slaps-biden-4-pinocchios-lie-second-amendment/).

"I now go to the gun range almost weekly to practice shooting," she said.

Mace [warned anyone](https://www.westernjournal.com/town-declares-first-second-amendment-sanctuary/) coming at her or her family in a June tweet.

"Buying another firearm. This one to carry," she tweeted then.

Buying another firearm.  
This one to carry. [pic.twitter.com/6VUoEB58hr](https://t.co/6VUoEB58hr)

— Nancy Mace (@NancyMace) [June 5, 2021](https://twitter.com/NancyMace/status/1401310586588250113)

"It doesn't feel good that I feel like I have to look behind my shoulder every day. It doesn't feel safe," said Mace. "I carry a gun wherever I go today. Wherever I'm allowed to, I do carry."

Mace was out of town when the phone rang early on Memorial Day. It was the police.

"They wanted to know if I was home, and if I knew my house had been vandalized," said Mace.

We should all be able to feel safe in our own homes, regardless of our political beliefs.

I sincerely appreciate law enforcement doing all they can to find the criminal trespassers.

This is the 2nd time I’ve been targeted for vandalism in the last few months.

— Nancy Mace (@NancyMace) [June 1, 2021](https://twitter.com/NancyMace/status/1399695346192760835)

Anarchist symbols and profanity were spray-painted across her house.

The graffiti included, "f—k you Nancy," and "all politicians are bastards." It was scrubbed away by crews the day it happened.

Mace noted that in mid-June, police connected a symbol scrawled in a [February act of vandalism](https://www.westernjournal.com/gop-congresswoman-reveals-victimized-disturbing-attack/) with one left at her home. MORE- <https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/gop-rep-nancy-mace-says-started-carrying-home-targeted-not-going-intimidated/>

**Dr. Robert Epstein ramps up exposure of Google election bias**

***Harvard-trained Democrat psychologist: 'I think I have the evidence we need'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published July 6, 2021 at 8:24pm*

After finding that Google's search-engine manipulation in the 2020 election could have shifted a minimum of 6 million votes to Democrat Joe Biden, Harvard-trained research psychologist and Democratic voter [Robert Epstein](https://drrobertepstein.com/) turned his sites on the Georgia Senate elections.

For the first time -- after having monitoring three national elections -- he said in an interview with WND that his growing team of field agents found no political bias in Google's search results.

But Epstein believes that's a direct result of his monitoring efforts, and he plans to exponentially expand them.

[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/robert-epstein.jpg)

***Robert Epstein***

"We went public in late October with monitoring, and it appears that we forced Google to back off on Georgia," he told WND.

Epstein now is working on the establishment of a "permanent, large-scale monitoring system in all 50 states." And he wants to have another system established by the end of this year to find out what the Big Tech companies "are showing our kids."

"Next year, before the midterms, we would like to be building in as many states as possible the infrastructure for a large-scale permanent system," he said, noting he is in conversation with potential funders.

It's an expensive endeavor, but "the good news is we know how to do it," said Epstein, a psychology professor at the American Institute for Behavioral Research and Technology in Vista, California.

"That's taken five years," he said. "And we know it can have an impact on the content these companies are showing people."

Meanwhile, Congress is not acting, said Epstein, with Democrats "in the pocket" of Big Tech and Republicans always hesitant to regulate business.

"So its a perfect storm here for perpetuating these irregularities," he said.

Epstein opposes antitrust action, which often looks promising but turns out to be "just an example of regulatory capture," meaning agencies acting in the interest of the business and not the public.

"It's a classic mechanism by which large companies work with government agencies to craft laws, punishments and settlements that serve those companies," he said.

"They will benefit the tech companies and not protect us."

"These antitrust actions are about monopolies, protecting other businesses from being dominated by monopolies," he said. "You could argue that consumers can benefit. But I don't think any company can give us better search results."

A better approach, he believes, is to make Big Tech bias a consumer-protection issue. But in Congress, "everyone moves where the money is."

He said he asked a lawmaker why he had moved away from a consumer- protection approach to Big Tech.

"The answer was that he could get more support from colleagues by shifting to antitrust issues," Epstein said. "What that comes down to is money."

Epstein said he is creating a body of evidence that he hopes will bolster any action against the Big Tech giants.

“I think I turned a corner with these last elections. I think I have the evidence we need.”

***Personal toll***

Epstein, a registered Democrat who voted for Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden in the last two presidential elections, has paid a personal price for his work, which he sees as an effort to preserve free and fair elections and ultimately the republic itself.

Noting Google is "pervasive" in academia, he said a paper he recently submitted to a journal was rejected in a "very, very odd" process. Epstein, who pointed out he has been published in academic journals for 40 years and has been a reviewer himself, said one reviewer accepted his paper with only minor revisions. The other reviewer kept his or her identity secret, which he said he's never seen in his entire career. That review recommended rejection, and the journal rejected the paper.

"I don't think that's allowed. I think it's unethical. I'm protesting it loudly, but, of course, it raises some obvious questions," he said.

"Was the secret review written by someone who receives financial support from Google?" he asked.

"Why would the journal editors take it seriously?" he said. "Do they have financial support from Google?"

He noted that in some cases he's discovered that people writing negative reviews about his work are receiving support from Google.

WND asked Epstein about his January 2020 [statements regarding the death of his wife, Misti Dawn Vaughn,](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7908435/Google-critic-66-suggests-wifes-fatal-car-crash-not-accident.html) in which he suggest it was not an accident.

He explained that after having given a private briefing in 2019 to state attorneys general, one of the AGs approached him and said, "I think, Dr. Epstein, that you are going to die in an accident in the next few months."

It was a prediction, not a threat, Epstein clarified.

"Some of the data I had shared was very disturbing stuff, and if acted upon could be very problematic for Google and other companies."

Epstein made it clear he is making no accusations, but he noted that not long after that warning, Misti died in an auto accident.

“That sequence was extremely disturbing,” he said, acknowledging that he and the people around him are “vulnerable.”

***Invisible manipulation***

Last month, Epstein [gave a presentation of his work over the past five years](https://aibrt.org/downloads/EPSTEIN_et_al_2021-Large-Scale_Monitoring_of_Big_Tech_Political_Manipulations-FINAL_w_AUDIO.mp4) to the annual meeting of the American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences. It was titled "Large-scale monitoring of Big Tech political manipulations in the 2020 Presidential election and 2021 Senate runoffs, and why monitoring is essential for democracy."

He explained why he thinks the establishment of a permanent, large-scale monitoring system in all 50 states is essential.

"That is the only way to protect democracy, human autonomy and our descendents from invisible manipulation by Big Tech companies, now and in the decades to come," he said in his presentation.

In November 2020, Epstein's researchers collected 500,000 election-related searches, which is about 30 times more data than his team collected in 2016. They found four years ago, [as WND reported in an interviews with Epstein](https://www.wnd.com/2020/07/4840397/), that biased results generated by Google's search algorithm likely impacted undecided voters in a way that gave at least 2.6 million votes to Hillary Clinton and as many as 10.4 million.

In the Senate runoff elections in Georgia in January, the number of election-related searches on Google, Bing, Yahoo, YouTube and Facebook was doubled, with 1,112,416 collected by 1,003 field agents.

In the November election, he noted that more liberals than conservatives were getting vote reminders on their Google home page.

"I'm not a conservative, but this is very disturbing, from the perspective of the principles of a free and fair election," he told WND.

In the Georgia elections, however, none of his field agents were shown vote reminders.

***‘Supporter of democracy’***

In an [interview with WND last August](https://www.wnd.com/2020/07/4840397/), Epstein outlined the statistical evidence he has accumulated to document Google bias from more than seven years of research, internal documents, emails, videos and the testimony of whistleblowers. MUCH MORE- <https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/dr-robert-epstein-ramps-exposure-google-election-bias/>

**Commentary:**

**How Civil Rights Made America a Critical Race Theocracy**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*July 05, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/07/how-civil-rights-made-america-critical.html)

When Obama wanted to defend his ties to Jeremiah Wright, he began his speech by denouncing America's "original sin of slavery". The phrase is widely and unthinkingly used. And its consequences are the 1619 Project and critical race theory. If slavery is America’s original sin, then the purpose of America and her people becomes striving to atone for that primal sin.  
 Suburban Democrat housewives reading Robin DiAngelo and corporate struggle sessions forcing members to affiliate by race are just striving to atone for America’s “original sin”.  
 And if they resemble a cult, it’s because civil rights moved from the legal to the spiritual.

[](https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-EEIdibpZzdM/YOOSEm-hTPI/AAAAAAAATVc/YkSKSe8GuQo4lC0qwsaspDj30HEbz_z3wCNcBGAsYHQ/s597/image_2021-07-05_161319.png)

Dismantling the legal infrastructure of segregation took on religious and psychological overtones. The legitimacy of ending school segregation was tainted by psychosocial nonsense like the ‘Doll Study’ which found that children preferred white dolls to black dolls. Even then the original sin of civil rights was that its more academic proponents could not properly define rights, and sought affirmative remedies that transformed how we thought rather than what we did.  
 What we do can be in the legitimate purview of government, what we think is not. And yet over the years civil rights became obsessed with the origins of discrimination in the human mind.  
 Countless tests were devised, many absurd, (“What color is a gorilla’s skin underneath the fur?” one particularly awkward racist test for racism asked) that were meant to measure our thoughts.  
 The less racist our society became in function, the more civil rights fixated on a gestalt of psychosocial racism which explained racial disparities by blaming hidden thoughts leading to assumptions that perpetrated systemic racism even as its white perpetrators remained unaware.  
 The truly dangerous part of this conclusion was that the focus of discrimination had moved from actions to thoughts. Critical race theory is being imposed on everyone from schoolchildren to soldiers because civil rights violations had been redefined from the physical to the mental. Civil rights was no longer fighting separate drinking fountains, but unconscious and implicit biases.  
 The National Guard wasn’t being sent to open up schools, but to open up the human mind.  
 When the government tells you what to do, it risks becoming a tyranny, but when it starts telling you what to think, it becomes a theocracy. Critical race theory, like most of America’s experiments in secular theocracy, came out of academia whose experts have failed miserably when it comes to tangible policy results, but excel at telling people what to think.  
 The original sin of academia is constructing grand theories. The social sciences found the root causes for its grand theories in the interface between society and psychology. Their solutions begin with having the government change how people live and then when that doesn’t work, changing how they think.  
 The sociologists who wrecked the black industrial communities of the north with welfare refused to accept responsibility for the disaster they helped cause and instead began blaming racial disparities on the hidden workings of society and the human mind.  
 While academic civil rights was psychoanalyzing America, the civil rights movement had soured from Martin Luther King Jr’s Christian emphasis on national redemption across racial lines to the Islamic tribalism of Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam in whose mythology black people were chosen and white people were a tainted race created through eugenic breeding. America was an evil empire doomed to be destroyed by the arrival of UFOs protecting the master race.  
 The next generation of activist clergy was outwardly Christian, but had come either directly, like Jeremiah Wright, Obama’s mentor, or indirectly like James Hal Cone, [Warnock’s mentor](https://www.frontpagemag.com/point/2020/11/georgia-dem-senate-candidates-mentor-there-will-be-daniel-greenfield/), through the racist ideology of the Nation of Islam. When Jeremiah Wright shrieked, "God Damn America! That’s in the Bible," he meant it literally with America as Babylon and Rome. To the Black Hebrew Israelites, whose movement has been linked to a number of recent terrorist attacks, America is Edom. The common theme is that America is a mythic evil to be destroyed.  
 The set of ideas that people associate with critical race theory fuses the two corrupt successors of the civil rights movement, academic racial psychoanalysis and racial nationalism, through the writings of second generation black nationalists who had come through academia, like Ibram X. Kendi, and journalism, like Ta-Nehisi Coates and the 1619 Project’s Nikole Hannah-Jones.  
 The modern proponents of critical race theory fuse academic beliefs in subconscious systemic racism and black nationalist convictions that America and white people are inherently evil.  
 That’s where critical race theory becomes critical race theocracy.  
 This brand of ‘wokeness’ is legitimately theological because its origins lie as much in black religious identitarian movements as in the academic jargon in which it cloaks its racism. The synthesis of the two very different literary genres results in strange poetry, personal confessionals wrapped in bad sociology and worse history, mythic appeals and nonsense jargon, that runs through everything from the 1619 Project to ‘Between the World and Me’.  
 Critical race theory’s defenders insist that it’s an academic movement, that its proponents are experts, and that it just wants to discuss its ideas, but it operates like a theocracy, silencing and suppressing opponents, critics, and even insufficiently radical supporters. Its entire rationale is built on denying that anyone can legitimately disagree with it or that debate is even possible. A movement that dismisses reason and objectivity as forms of oppressive whiteness has no interest in dialogue, only in terrorizing its way to power as racial nationalists seek to do.  
 The Nazis decreed theories and creative works off limits because they believed that ideas could not be separated from the race of their creators. Critical race activists agree that theories and works carry the race of their creators in their intellectual DNA. The Nazis banned some works over ‘Jewishness’ while critical race theory activists seek to ban them over their ‘whiteness’.  
 The most brutal theocracies are those which are the most pessimistic about human nature. The Nazis believed that people were animals who could never transcend their biology, Islamists believe that people must be ruthlessly conquered and ruled to bring peace, and leftists believe that power relations doom humanity to cycles of exploitation without an enlightened tyranny.  
 Critical race theory is infused with the academic pessimism of the Left, the identitarian racial pessimism of black nationalists, and the spiritual pessimism of black nationalist theology. It exists in a perpetual state of struggle and its exceptionalism is rooted in its victimhood. It needs white people as an ultimate enemy whose existence gives it its negative meaning.  
 Whiteness abstracts white people as a perpetual enemy for a racial and a spiritual struggle.  
 America’s fall into the grip of this racist theocracy obsessed with a struggle against whiteness, driven by racial paranoia and moral despair, is a direct legacy of the intellectual and moral failings of the aftermath of the civil rights era. These failings were as much white as they were black. While the black family disintegrated in the grip of the welfare state, white elites lost their religion and built an alternative culture whose meaning came from politics and pop culture.  
 Wokeness is just the horrid synthesis of white secularism and black nationalism, of a society where music is worship, politics is religion, self-medicating is meditation, and activism is faith. The endless narcissistic refractions only produced a victimhood culture whose great crusade is enforcing conformity through the only means possible in a fragmented society that has lost its moral and intellectual underpinnings: online bullying and political terrorism.  
 Kingian civil rights is inaccessible to a secular society with no concept of forgiveness or humility. It’s also inaccessible to people whose warped version of religion teaches them to hate others.  
 To paraphrase John Adams, "Civil rights was made only for a moral and religious people, it is wholly inadequate for any other." Critical race theory is the inadequacy of a political society trying to come to grips with moral and religious questions, but with no other tools than power and the abstractions of a scientism that is suited to studying distant galaxies, but not people.  
 The Founding Fathers, now the enemies of critical race theory whose statues are being torn down, were humble enough to limit the ambit of government to the realm of government. And they made it clear that it was not their role to tell people what to think or to believe.  
 America held together through conflicts that should have torn the country apart because we fought over the nature of government, not over the nature of man. The Confederate statues that have occasioned so much ire were the legacy of a country that was able to knit together its wounds as former enemies forgave and honored each other in the aftermath of its worst war.  
 Even when we were a moral and religious people, we did not go to war over what was in our souls. The leftist theocracy terrorizing millions of Americans is particularly unfit to judge souls, but the intellectual failures of academia and the moral failures of elite culture and leftist clergy has localized the failures of the black community in the psychosocial gestalt of systemic racism.  
 The only way to save black people then becomes controlling how everyone thinks.  
 Liberal theology had made the civil rights movement into the epochal moral event of America as their ancestors had made the civil war the defining event that transformed the soul of the nation. This was exactly the brand of moral narcissism that Lincoln found so frustrating about the abolitionists long before their distant descendants put on black and began toppling his statues.  
 Civil rights became a force that gave white liberals meaning. And that was another way of saying that civil rights became a religion. The devolution of civil rights legislation from inhibiting state discrimination based on race to enforcing state discrimination based on race was the trajectory of a theocracy based on the same sort of realpolitik that corrupts religions.  
 The Founding Fathers removed government restraint while the new theology of civil rights imposes government restraint, first over actions, then over ideas, and finally over thoughts.  
 Equality has made way for equity and the human mind is the new lunch counter. The only way to achieve civil rights is, as in the Soviet Union, Communist China, Cuba, and every leftist tyranny, by removing civil rights from all and distributing them to the most deserving. The hypocritical corruption of the system demands not just tyranny, but theocracy, not just control over bodies, but over the minds whose owners might question this self-serving arrangement.  
 What was once a supremely achievable goal, the end of government restraint, has made way for the usual unachievable utopian goal of an ideal society of the supremely enlightened.  
 The paradoxes of critical race theory come from its paradoxical intellectual origins through the social science academics who believe that everyone can be reeducated and the black nationalists who believe that white people are inescapably evil. They compromise by believing that white people are inescapably evil and must be constantly reeducated anyway.  
 It’s a compromise that allows white leftists to pursue meaning through civil rights and black nationalists to pursue racial identitarianism while leaving out non-misanthropes of all races.  
 Ending this nightmare will require confronting the corruption of civil rights. Positive rights lead to tyranny and negative rights to freedom. When we define rights as things the government does for us, rather than things the government stops doing to us, we all end up as slaves. Civil rights cannot and should not be used to achieve equity by chasing racial disparities. That sociological and theological rabbit hole inevitably takes us into the realms of psychology and sin.  
 Those are places where the government does not belong and should not be allowed to venture.  
 Critical race theory is less a theory than a theocracy, but both a theory and a theocracy can be torn down by attacking its fundamental assumptions. The failure to challenge theories leads to theocracies. If we want to defeat this theocracy, we need to start with its fundamental assumptions about white evil and black victimhood, and about an original sin that passes not only from fathers to sons, but from plantation owners to recent immigrants.  
 America and Europe did not invent slavery, but they were the first to comprehensively destroy it. The presumption of guilt that traces every Third World blight or domestic inadequacy to some combination of colonialism, imperialism, and other nonsensical ‘ism’ is false and wrong. We do not need to constantly redeem ourselves for doing what no other civilization managed to do.  
 We already have.  
 There is no room for a racial theocracy in America, not in our colleges, our institutions, or our military. Its existence is a declaration of war on not only our past, but our present and our future.  
 Destroying a village won’t save it and destroying civil rights in the name of civil rights is a farce.  
 When civil rights isn’t regulating how you treat others, but how you think about them, and how you think about the theories that explain why they’re the victims, that’s an uncivil theocracy.

[*Daniel Greenfield*](http://sultanknish.blogspot.com/)*is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's*[*Front Page Magazine*](https://www.frontpagemag.com/)*.*

<http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/07/how-civil-rights-made-america-critical.html>

**Why Are National Heritage Areas a Threat?**

*By* [*Tom DeWeese*](https://newswithviews.com/author/tom/)*|July 6th, 2021* **The Threat of National Heritage Areas And How to Stop Them: Part One**  
 Proposals for new National Heritage Areas (NHA) are raising their ugly, land-grabbing heads again in Congress and they must be stopped. Here’s why.  
 National Heritage Areas are one of the most despicable stealth land grabs in the nation. Americans love our history. We love preserving significant places that played an important role in the making of our unique nation. So, when we hear of a new plan in our area presented offering a chance to preserve some of our local heritage we are interested and even supportive.  
 But, in this day of massive government control over so much of our land, our economy, and our basic ability to live free lives, we must be cautious and look at the details of plans, no matter how innocent or well meaning they may seem.  
 National Heritage Areas are such a concern because they are sold to residents as simply a means to honor historic or cultural events that took place in a specific locale. We are told that they will preserve our culture and honor the past, that they will preserve battlefields where our forefathers fought and died for freedom, and that they will preserve birth places, homes, buildings, and hallowed grounds for posterity. Most importantly, we are assured that NHAs will help build tourism and boost local economies.  
 As described by property rights expert Leo Schwartz in 2007, in reality, NHAs are a massive sham, full of government pork, imposed by dishonest, anti-heritage, anti-private property elitism. Politicians, federal agencies, and private non-governmental organizations (NGOs) use the NHAs as a tool to gain votes, political power, and wealth. Moreover, these forces use the NHAs to impose politically-motivated restrictions on private land.  
 Wrote Schwartz, “In the 1980s, the National Park Service’s record of abusive land acquisition practices had become a political nightmare. It needed a new approach to continue expanding its power. During the mid-1970s, several national land use control studies proposed innovative methods for federal control of private property. Applying these methods, NHAs were designed as a ‘new kind of national park.’ Seen as pork-laden gravy trains, many elected officials eagerly jumped aboard and the empire building continued.”  
 It’s worth noting that in 1928, then-Interior Secretary Hubert Work said National Park Service policy “is to eliminate all private holdings in our national parks”. So, it is an honest question to ask, if NHAs are a new kind of national park, does that not mean that all of the private land located inside the massive federal boundaries established for the Heritage Area now federal park property?  
 Private organizations and planning groups are the actual recipients of most of these funds supposedly earmarked for the Heritage Area. These entities operate as the promoters of the NHA in partnership with the Park Service. Eventually they form a commission or a “managing entity” to enforce the “vision” to implement the Heritage Area.  
 Typically, such commissions consist of strictly ideological special interests groups. In the mix of these groups, one will find all of the usual suspects: environmental groups, planning groups, historic preservation groups — all with their own private agendas, and all working behind the scenes, creating policy. The managing entity then sets up non-elected boards and regional councils to oversee policy inside the Heritage Area that stretches over numerous communities and counties.  
 In many cases, these groups actually form a compact with the Interior Department to determine the guidelines that will make up a land use management plan and the boundaries of the Heritage Area itself. The management plan is their goal for how they envision the territory inside the boundary to be run. The plan will include guidelines for development goals, energy use, bike trails, undefined conservation controls, tourism, and anything else they want to control.  
 Now, after the boundaries are drawn and the management plan has been approved by the Park Service, the management entity and its special interest groups are given the federal funds, typically a million dollars a year, or more, and told to spend that money to get the management plan enacted at the local level.  
 Here’s how those special interest groups operate with those funds. They go to local county boards and city councils and announce that Congress has passed legislation designating the Heritage Area and that the community is now within those boundaries. They pull out maps and announce the properties they have identified to be significant for preservation.  
 However, as the managing entity, they don*’*t have the power to make laws, but the local elected officials do and so the partnership is born, fed by the federal money. Now the managing entity will help create tools, legislation, guidelines, and whatever regulatory procedures are needed to make the management plan come into fruition.  
 Incredibly, proponents argue that National Heritage Areas do not influence local zoning or land-use planning. Yet, by definition this is precisely what they do. Found right in the language of most Heritage Area legislation, the management entity is specifically directed to restore, preserve, *and manage anything and everything that is naturally, culturally, historically, and recreationally significant* to the Heritage Area.  
 The biggest threat to citizens living in a National Heritage Area is that it includes all the land in the designated boundary areas, not just recognized historic sites. This sweeping mandate ensures that virtually every square inch of land within the boundaries is subject to the scrutiny of Park Service bureaucrats and their managing partners. That means private property, homes, businesses, and whole communities now come under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.  
 Of course, as with so many other invasive planning schemes, we are always assured that these are local initiatives, and that these are something citizens want in order to bring an honorary federal designation to help drive tourism into their regions. That simply isn*’*t the case. The private, non-governmental organizations and planning groups are the ones who want the plan because they get to enforce their private agendas and then get to live off the grant money as they implement them. As proponents talk about historic preservation inside the Heritage Area, one will also find the catchwords “resource conservation” and “resource stewardship,” for example. Those are the clues to watch for.  
 It’s all about control. Control of the land, control of resources, control of decision making. How does that fit with their stated purpose of preserving American culture – which, of course, was built on the ideals of free enterprise and private property? In fact, it does the opposite by making government more powerful and dictatorial, and the property owners loose both the use and value of their property.  
 As I said above, proponents of NHAs also claim that they are “locally driven” projects. Nothing could be further from the truth. Landowners within the boundaries of proposed Heritage Areas are left in the dark throughout the entire process. For example, the final official map for the 2018 proposed Caddo Lakes National Heritage Area, revealing its official boundary, was not to be released to the public until after the actual Congressional legislation was passed!  
 In addition, Heritage Area proponents refuse to supply a simple written notification to property owners that their land will be inside the boundaries. Seemingly the Park Service and their management “partners” are not too eager to share all the good news with the local citizenry.  
 I have personally been in meetings with congressional staffers to discuss Heritage Areas. I asked them if they intended to notify affected landowners living inside the boundaries of a specific Heritage Area. They looked at me like I had two heads. They shuffled their feet and looked down at the table and then said, “There’s no way to do that.” “It would be too costly.” “How could we reach everyone?” I then suggested that they research a little know federal agency called the U.S. Postal Service. Mailmen appear to deliver to each and every one of the homes in the designated area every day.  
 The fact is, they don’t want to tell you in advance. You might object. And that would disrupt the “process.” No matter how noble a project may sound, alarm bells should go off when proponents want to enforce their vision in secret.  
 National Heritage Areas depend on federal tax dollars because they lack local interest— and not a single National Heritage Area has ever succeeded in attracting strong tourism throughout their entire infinite lives. The federal money is the villain. If you just wanted to honor an area for its historic or cultural achievements, a simple resolution from Congress and a plaque at the county line could do that. The local Chamber of Commerce could then pick it up from there and build the expected tourism.  
 But of course, it’s not about that. It’s about control and money – lots of money in the pockets of private groups promoting their own agendas. Including taking control of people’s private land. <https://newswithviews.com/why-are-national-heritage-areas-a-threat/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Iran begins producing enriched uranium metal**

***Iran informs the IAEA that it has begun the process of producing enriched uranium metal.***

*Elad Benari , Jul 07 , 2021 5:11 AM*

Iran has begun the process of producing enriched uranium metal, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Tuesday, Reuters reported.

"Today, Iran informed the Agency that UO2 (uranium oxide) enriched up to 20% U–235 would be shipped to the R&D laboratory at the Fuel Fabrication Plant in Esfahan, where it would be converted to UF4 (uranium tetrafluoride) and then to uranium metal enriched to 20% U–235, before using it to manufacture the fuel," an IAEA statement said.

A confidential IAEA report seen by *Reuters* said the agency had confirmed that Iran had taken the second of the four steps described, making clear it has begun the process.

Iran [has gradually scaled back](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/264672) its compliance with the 2015 deal it signed with world powers in response to former US President Donald Trump’s [withdrawal from the agreement](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/245626) in May of 2018.

In April, [the Islamic Republic announced](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304874) it would begin enriching uranium to 60% purity, a move that would take the uranium much closer to the 90% suitable for a nuclear bomb.

Last month, [Iran announced](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308169) it has already produced 6.5 kg (14 lb) of uranium enriched to up to 60%.

These moves come even as Iran has been holding indirect talks with the US in Vienna on resuming compliance with the 2015 deal.

Britain, France and Germany said on Tuesday they had "grave concern" about Iran's decision.

"Iran has no credible civilian need for uranium metal R&D and production, which are a key step in the development of a nuclear weapon," they said in a joint statement issued by Britain's foreign ministry and quoted by *Reuters*.

"With its latest steps, Iran is threatening a successful outcome to the Vienna talks despite the progress achieved in six rounds of negotiations," they said, and urged Iran to return to the talks.

US State Department spokesman Ned Price said that Washington was not setting a deadline for the talks but noted "that as time proceeds Iran's nuclear advances will have a bearing on our view of returning to the JCPOA."

Price added that the US found it "worrying" that Iran was continuing to violate the agreement "especially with experiments that have value for nuclear weapons research." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309384>

**Senior Likud official: The Likud is going to sit in the opposition for a long time**

***Senior Likud official: Slowly the public understands that Bennett is Prime Minister and the state has not collapsed.***

*Hezki Baruch , Jul 07 , 2021 12:56 AM*

A senior official in the Likud on Tuesday evening, in a conversation with Arutz Sheva, spoke about the impending departure of former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from the official Prime Minister’s Residence on Balfour Street in Jerusalem.

"We understand that Netanyahu's departure from Balfour will have a major impact on the public," the senior official said. “After 12 years, Netanyahu has officially left Balfour and it will seep into the public that he is no longer Prime Minister. Many people have not yet digested this and it will be a difficult symbolic step."

"It is clear to us that it will be difficult for Netanyahu to return there and leaving Balfour will only add to his difficulty in returning to power. The public is slowly realizing that Bennett is Prime Minister of Israel and the country has not collapsed. It breaks down everything that Netanyahu has educated the public in recent years. We understand that the Likud is going to sit in the opposition for a long time to come," the official acknowledged. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309378>

**Abbas phones Rivlin, expresses hope for peace**

***PA chairman calls Israeli President on the eve of his departure from office.***

*Elad Benari , Jul 07 , 2021 5:36 AM*

Palestinian Authority (PA) chairman Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday evening called President Reuven Rivlin ahead of his departure from office, the PA’s official Wafa news agency reported.

Abbas expressed during the phone call a hope to achieve peace between the two sides as soon as possible. Rivilin thanked Abbas for his call, according to the report.

Rivlin's term will end on Wednesday, when President-elect Isaac Herzog is sworn in.

Last week, during his visit to the United States, [Rivlin took part in a United Nations luncheon](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308978) in which he said that Israel and the Palestinian Arabs must put the past behind them in order to coexist in peace.

Rivlin addressed Abbas directly in his comments, saying, “We must forget the past, once and forever. We were not doomed to live together between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. We were destined to live together. That is our only hope for ending this conflict. The State of Israel is here to stay, in eternity. Let us build trust between the peoples, let us return to talking about the future and let us aim for a brighter and better future for our peoples.” <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309385>

**Herzog visits Western Wall, calls for unity among Israelis**

***President-elect who will officially take office on Wednesday: I hope to do everything to make a significant contribution to our unity.***

*Hezki Baruch , Jul 06 , 2021 11:43 PM*

President-elect Isaac Herzog on Tuesday evening arrived with his wife, Michal Herzog, at the Western Wall plaza, less than 24 hours before his official inauguration.

"Here in this holy place, where in less than two weeks, we will mark Tisha B'Av, the destruction of the Holy Temple, a place that teaches us the lesson of Israel's independence, sovereignty, image, grief and pain, and disaster. Here, from this place, there is nothing more appropriate than to call for unity among our people, true love for Israel," Herzog said.

He added, "I intend to devote all my energy to this. I am aware of the tensions and pain and great sorrow that reflects the mood of our people. I hope in every way and by every means, that I can exercise my authority and status as the 11th President of Israel, to make every contribution to our unity, a significant contribution to calming the spirits and strengthening the vision of the love of Israel. It is certainly possible."

Herzog concluded with the verse, "God will give strength to His people, God will bless His people with peace." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309375>

**President of Haiti assassinated**

***The president of Haiti, Jovenel Moise, was shot and killed at home overnight, premier says.***

Arutz Sheva Staff , Jul 07 , 2021 1:28 PM

President of Haiti, Jovenel Moise, has been assassinated, the country’s prime minister announced Wednesday.

Interim prime minister Claude Joseph announced that Moise was apparently shot and killed at his home overnight.

The president’s residence added that the First Lady was wounded during the raid.

The shooting attack occurred at around 1:00 a.m. local time Wednesday. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309423>

**Health Ministry to allow Supreme Court to rule on surrogacy**

***Government admits no chance of amending Surrogacy Law, requests Supreme Court rule on the issue in its place.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Jul 07 , 2021 2:04 PM*

The Israeli government on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that as of right now, there is no practical political possibility of advancing a Surrogacy Law for same-sex couples and single men.

In a letter to the court, the State requested that the Supreme Court rule on the matter in accordance with the attached statement on the Health Minister's stance.

In the statement, Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz (Meretz) does not oppose allowing the court to rule on the issue and to "express the State's obligation to the rights of equality and parenthood for single men and same-sex couples," *Haaretz* reported.

[In February 2020](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/276567), the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that same-sex partners should be allowed to use Israel's surrogacy system to create children, ordering the law amended by March 1, 2021. The State later requested an extension of the period of time during which it would amend the law on the issue.

However, due to the political difficulties inherent in such an amendment, the government has requested that the court take the matter into its own hands. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309417>

**521 new COVID cases, infection rate stabilizes**

***Number of seriously ill COVID patients continues to tick upwards - but no new coronavirus-related fatalities.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Jul 07 , 2021 12:24 PM*

A total of 521 new cases of the coronavirus were reported across Israel Tuesday, according to data released by the Health Ministry Wednesday morning. That is up from 501 new cases reported a day earlier.

There are now 3,274 known active cases of the virus in Israel, with 78 hospitalizations. A day earlier, there were 2,901 known active cases of the virus, with 73 hospitalized patients.

The percentage of tests returning positive held steady at 0.7%, the same level recorded for the two days before, and the highest level since April 17th.

The number of seriously ill patients rose from 38 Tuesday to 40 on Wednesday.

No new COVID-related fatalities have been reported since June 23rd, with a total of four deaths reported over the past month. The total number of fatalities since the pandemic began is 6,429.

Nearly 18,000 people received the first dose of the COVID vaccine Tuesday, along with nearly 3,000 people who received the second dose – almost identical to the numbers of vaccinations a day earlier - bringing the total number of vaccinated to 5,680,953 for the first dose and 5,183,879 with both doses.

With children 12 and up eligible for the Pfizer vaccine, 37.2% of Israelis 10-19 have received the first dose thus far, with 24.5% having received both doses. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309416>

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**07/06/2021 NEWS AM -**

**Rep. Lauren Boebert was ON FIRE!**

**Lauren Boebert: “Democrats Keep Running Their Mouths. We’ll Keep Adding to our Arsenals.”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-6yJ1QylVU&t=76s>

**[This may not be a music video, but it is music to our ears. – rdb]**

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| **"There are those who will say that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind,**  **is nothing but a dream.  They are right. It is the American Dream." -- Archibald MacLeish (1892-1982) Poet, playwright, Librarian of Congress, & Assistant Secretary of State under Franklin Roosevelt** |

**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 EL – Had clot embolized to brain – successful ‘clot buster’ but long road to go.**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for DH – Mother removed self from hospice but doing poorly.**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  **Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems**  NOTE: Our prayer list was getting very long and there will little follow up.  If you have people you want to have on the list please resubmit since we are revising it now– rdb]  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 33:6And the slave-girls came near, they and their children; and they bowed. 7And Leah and her children also came near and bowed. And afterward Rachel and Joseph came near and bowed. 8And he said, Whose *is* all this camp which I met? And he said, To find favor in the eyes of my lord. 9And Esau said, I have much, my brother. Let what you have be to yourself.**

**Bennett speaks with Russia’s Putin for first time since becoming PM**

***Two leaders discuss Moscow’s regional role, efforts to return Israeli civilians and remains of soldiers held in Gaza; agree to meet soon***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 4:37 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/AP21182504424929-e1625483188672.jpg)

***Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, Russia, July 1, 2021. (Alexei Nikolsky, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)***

For the first time since he took office last month, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett spoke with Russia’s President Vladimir Putin, the Prime Minister’s Office said Monday.

The two leaders discussed a number of security issues, with Bennett thanking Putin for the role his country plays in maintaining regional stability as well as efforts by Russia to assist in the return of Israeli civilians and the remains of Israeli soldiers held in the Gaza Strip, the PMO said in a statement.

They agreed to hold a meeting together in the near future, according to the statement.

Bennett also thanked Putin for the good wishes he sent after the new government was confirmed on June 13.

Previous prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was in power for over 12 consecutive years, met face-to-face with Putin, who gained power in 2012, many times over the course of their respective lengthy terms in office.

During Monday’s phone call, Bennett expressed his appreciation for the historical connection between the Russian people and the Jewish people, the statement said, adding that the two men talked about the role of Russian immigrants to Israel as a “bridge between the countries.”

Since the then-Soviet Union lifted restrictions in 1989, over a million Russians have immigrated to Israel.

Israel and Russia have maintained close coordination over their militaries’ activities in Syria, and Putin has often served as a mediator on Israel’s behalf.

In February an Israeli woman who crossed into Syria caused a major international incident. She was returned to Israel via Russia after over a week of diplomatic wrangling, but at a steep cost that included the release of Syrian captives in Israel, and reportedly involved Israel buying coronavirus vaccines for Syria.

The woman, whose identity is barred from publication, was [indicted for her actions](https://www.timesofisrael.com/woman-who-sparked-national-drama-by-crossing-into-syria-is-charged-in-court/) on charges including illegally exiting the country.

In January 2020 — shortly before elections in March of that year — Netanyahu traveled to Moscow to escort home Naama Isaachar, who was sentenced to more than seven years in a Russian prison on drug charges, and was freed after Putin’s intervention.

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

Russian forces have been helping Syrian President Bashar Assad put an end to his country’s devastating civil war, while Israel has carried out hundreds of airstrikes over recent years in Syria that it says are aimed at stopping Iranian military entrenchment in the country. The two militaries reportedly operate a line of communication to prevent their forces from clashing in Syria.

In 2018, relations between Israel and Russia became [strained](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-putin-talk-amid-tensions-over-downing-of-russian-spy-plane/) when Syrian forces shot down a Russian plane during an Israeli airstrike on the Latakia province of Syria, but their ties quickly recovered. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-speaks-with-russias-putin-for-first-time-since-becoming-pm/>

**Ahead of vote on reunification law, PM urges ‘responsibility’ from opposition**

***Interior minister says she hopes to clinch majority by day’s end; Lapid argues it won’t be disaster if law doesn’t pass, says it is a tool to maintain Israel’s Jewish majority***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 6:41 pmUpdated at 9:25 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/F210507OF136.jpg)

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett addresses a Yamina party meeting at the Knesset, on July 5, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warned opposition parties not to cross the “red line” of harming Israel’s national security ahead of a Monday night Knesset plenum vote on the Palestinian family reunification law, for which the government will likely need to enlist the assistance of non-coalition parties.

“There are some things you don’t play with. The nation needs control over who comes in,” Bennett said in a statement to the press at the opening of a faction meeting of his Yamina party. “National security is a red line.”

The family reunification law, which blocks the automatic granting of Israeli citizenship or residency to Palestinians on the basis of marriage to an Israeli, was first enacted in 2003, and has been extended annually.

The law was initially passed after some 130,000 Palestinians entered Israel via family reunification between 1993 and 2003, including during the Second Intifada onslaught of Palestinian terrorism. The stated prime concern at the time was that some Palestinians gaining Israeli status would engage in terrorism, but there was also a demographic goal: The security establishment’s assessment is that some 200,000 Palestinians would gain Israeli citizenship or residency each decade were it not for this legislation, Channel 12 reported.

The deadline for reextending the legislation is midnight on Tuesday.

While previous right-wing governments have had no problem extending the law year after year, the new coalition’s inclusion of left-leaning parties that object to the legislation’s impact on civil liberties has placed its renewal in jeopardy.

The left-wing Meretz and the Islamist Ra’am coalition parties have declared that they will not back the law, and as a result, it failed to pass a key Monday vote in the Knesset Arrangements Committee that would have allowed it to be transferred to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. If that vote had passed, the latter panel would have been tasked with reextending the law instead of the Knesset plenum, which the coalition thought would have made its passage more likely. [This gives you a bit of an idea of just how little concern the leftists have for maintaining the God Given state of Israel and preserving their inheritance. When people are essentially areligious and don’t understand the Bible the could care less about what The Holy One’s laws and instructions for them might be. – rdb]

Right-wing opposition parties led by Likud and Religious Zionism have pledged to vote against the law in an effort to embarrass the new government, saying that if it doesn’t have the votes to pass legislation it claims is critical for Israel’s security, it has no legitimacy to continue functioning. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ahead-of-vote-on-reunification-law-pm-urges-responsibility-from-opposition/> [The last statement demonstrates jus thow petty some of the right-wing groups are because they would destroy their country because of their selfish lust for power. – rdb]

**Israel confirms vaccine less effective against Delta variant, eyes third dose**

***PM Bennett instructs Health Ministry to promote medical studies into long-term efficacy of Pfizer vaccine to provide decision-makers with ‘vital information’ on booster shots***

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

Israel’s Health Ministry released data on Monday showing that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID vaccine appears to largely prevent hospitalization and serious cases, but is significantly less effective against preventing the spread of the Delta variant of the coronavirus. [What is the object of caring for a patient with a disease? It is to cure the disease. This first sentence indicates that those who had the Jab may not need hospitalization. So if they feel sick treat the symptoms and give them something that may kill the infective organism like HCQ or Ivermectin. I simply can’t fathom what this group of Israeli leaders are thinking.- rdb]

According to the ministry, the Pfizer vaccine’s effectiveness in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 has dropped by some 30 percent to 64%, given the spread of the Delta variant. The data shows that during May, when the strain was less prevalent, the vaccine was 94.3% effective. [There are some studies that indicated it the Jab was much less than 94% even at the onset. Statistics don’t lie but statisticians do. – rdb]

The Delta variant, which is believed to be twice as contagious as the original strain of COVID-19, is thought to be responsible for 90% of new cases in Israel over the past two weeks. [From what I have read the delta may be more contagious but isn’t supposed to be more serious than the other strains. – rdb]

The data, however, also shows that the vaccine is still highly effective against preventing serious symptoms and hospitalization. During May, that figure stood at 98.2%, and during June, it was 93%.

On Monday evening, the Health Ministry said that 369 people had been diagnosed with coronavirus since midnight, bringing the total number of active cases in the country to 2,766.

There were 70 people hospitalized and 35 in serious condition. A week ago there were just 22 people in serious condition.

Amid the rise in COVID cases across the country, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett along with Health Minister Nitzan Horowtiz instructed the Health Ministry on Monday to promote two medical studies on the need for a third vaccine shot against the coronavirus, which they said will provide decision-makers with “vital information.”

The Prime Minister’s Office said that the studies, which will be overseen by the head of public health services in the Health Ministry, Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis, will “evaluate the efficacy of the vaccine and the rate at which it wears off over time.”

One study will examine the effectiveness of the vaccine over time in various age groups and in various states of health. The other will examine cellular immunity (an immune response not involving antibodies) over time.

On Sunday, it was reported that the Health Ministry will recommend immunocompromised Israelis take a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, even though the pharmaceutical company has not yet sanctioned the booster shot. [You mean they are again going to use an ‘off label’ indication for a Jab? How about using the off-label HCQ? – rdb]

Health officials are concerned by data that shows immunocompromised people develop an insufficient antibody response from the two-shot vaccine to shield them from the virus.

Immunocompromised individuals include organ transplant recipients and cancer patients.

On Monday, however, the Health Ministry clarified that “there is no recommendation or decision at this stage to vaccinate the general public in Israel with a third dose.”

Warning of the dangers posed by the Delta variant, opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu last week urged Bennett and Horowitz to start giving Israelis a third coronavirus vaccine dose in August, despite Pfizer tests on the third dose having not yet been completed. [Perhaps this is why politicians shouldn’t be prescribing (or mandating) treatments. – rdb]

Netanyahu said in a video released on his social media channels that “from conversations I’ve had with some of the best experts in the world, I believe the third vaccine [dose] should be given to the over-50 population starting in August, in order to finish the task by the end of September.” MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-confirms-vaccine-less-effective-against-delta-variant-eyes-third-dose/>

**Health expert: No need for third vaccine shot for low-risk Israelis**

***Bar-Ilan University's Prof. Cyrille Cohen says booster shot 'no different' than two mandated jabs, stresses need instead to reintroduce measures on public gatherings; Bennett orders research on vaccine effectiveness over time***

*Alexandra Lukash, Nir Cohen, News agencies | Published: 07.05.21 , 19:54*

A health expert said Monday that despite recent data showing the coronavirus vaccine is less effective in preventing the spread of the Delta variant, healthy people who had already received their two mandated shots should not be given a third booster jab.

According to Health Ministry data published Sunday, the vaccine's effectiveness against the strain dropped considerably from 94% to 64%.

Health officials have said that genetic sequencing showed the Delta strain was responsible for 90% of new COVID-19 cases over the past two weeks.

A similar drop was observed in effectiveness at preventing serious illness among those who received two doses of the vaccine, with 55% of the new infections found among the fully vaccinated population.

In the period between May 2 and June 5, there was a 98.2% protection from serious illness but after June 6 and until July 3, protection dropped to just 93%.

However, the vaccines were found to be still effective against serious illness that could lead to hospitalization.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett Monday instructed the Health Ministry to launch two medical studies on the vaccines in order to provide decision-makers with crucial information on the future course of action regarding the pandemic.

The head of public health services in the Health Ministry, Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis, will oversee the research.



***Prof. Cyrille Cohen (Photo: Nadav Abas, Yaron Brener)***

"In light of the published results, we can still be happy with the fact the vaccine works," said Prof. Cyrille Cohen, head of the immunotherapy laboratory and vice dean of the life sciences faculty at Bar-Ilan University. "A 93% effectiveness in preventing serious illness and hospitalizations is the result we were waiting for."

Regarding the vaccine still being less effective in preventing mild illness, Prof. Cohen said that "many times we were told we are going to have to learn to live with the virus, and I think we are getting close to this scenario."

"We did all that could do, most of the population is vaccinated, and now we are going to need to live with it. I have no doubt that most of us will be exposed to the virus, but we will not be susceptible to serious illness. It will be just like any other seasonal ailments."

Asked whether there is an immunological significance to a third booster shot, Prof. Cohen said that there is none.

"The logic is that we administer [the booster shot] to the immunosuppressed and cancer patients. When it comes to health people - I do not think it is necessary yet," he said.

Prof. Cohen said that the right course of action now is to reintroduce certain restrictions.

"We have to reimpose light measures, such as on public gatherings," he said. "This Saturday I prayed at a synagogue with 100 people: to think that someone might be ill, alongside those who are unvaccinated - this is the issue. We need to keep the public safe." MORE- <https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/rk2GLFxTd>

**Awarding defense prize, Gantz says military tech limited civilian deaths in Gaza**

***President, defense minister give top security prize to four classified projects, dealing with intelligence, the air force, cybersecurity, and a new technological capability***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 2:01 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/3a314f42-2e32-49bd-ad32-ae699139b5d4.jpg)

***Defense Minister Benny Gantz awards Israel's Golomb Security Prize to an unnamed Military Intelligence Officer, alongside President Reuven Rivlin, right, and Defense Ministry Director-General Amir Eshel, at the President's Residence in Jerusalem on July 5, 2021. (Ariel Hermoni/Defense Ministry)***

President Reuven Rivlin and Defense Minister Benny Gantz awarded Israel’s top defense prize to four classified projects on Monday — one more than usual — that were deemed to have substantially contributed to the country’s security.

In his speech, Gantz said these four programs gave Israel military capabilities that allowed it to operate more precisely during May’s 11-day conflict in the Gaza Strip, known in Israel as Operation Guardian of the Walls.

“We saw these advantages during Operation Guardian of the Walls, with accurate strikes, unprecedented intelligence and a campaign that saw minimal harm to bystanders in relation to the extent of the aerial operations, and precision in strikes against terrorists that was effective and powerful,” the defense minister said.

A precise breakdown of the number of combatants compared to civilians killed in the campaign has yet to be released by Israel or Palestinian authorities in the Gaza Strip. According to the United Nations, 256 Palestinians in total were killed during the fighting in May, though the UN did not identify how many of them were civilians or how they died. At least a portion of those killed were hit by rockets fired by terrorist groups that fell short of the border. A private Israeli think tank with close ties to Military Intelligence has estimated that roughly half of those killed were members of terror groups. The Israel Defense Forces has indicated that the casualty count is likely higher than the UN tally, maintaining that it killed over 200 terrorist operatives during the fighting.

Gantz warned that the Middle East was poised to enter an arms race driven by Iran’s nuclear program, which is of significant concern not only to Israel but also to the Islamic Republic’s other opponents in the region, notably Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Persian Gulf.

“The entire Middle East is on the verge of an emerging arms race should Iran continue to advance toward a nuclear threshold. Our eyes are open to all these threats: our defense systems, most of which were developed in Israel, are deployed, and intelligence is working more hours to locate targets and identify intentions,” he said.

The defense minister noted the ongoing violence along Israel’s Gaza border, despite the May conflict, and appeared to reference a recent attack on a cargo ship once owned by an Israeli businessman, which Israel believes was an attempt at retaliation by Tehran for an attack on an Iranian nuclear facility last month.

“We are aware of what’s going on in our region, and our policy is unequivocal: We will not accept violations of Israeli sovereignty, not by incendiary balloons or rockets [from Gaza] and not anything else by Iran and its proxies. We will respond forcefully, based on our needs and at the time that’s right for us,” he said.

The specific natures of the four projects that received the Israel Security Prize were kept classified, though the organizations involved in them were identified by the Defense Ministry.

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| Defense Minister Benny Gantz speaks at a ceremony at the President’s Residence in Jerusalem on July 5, 2021. (Ariel Hermoni/Defense Ministry) | President Reuven Rivlin speaks at a ceremony at the President’s Residence in Jerusalem on July 5, 2021. (Ariel Hermoni/Defense Ministry) |

One project was led by Military Intelligence’s signals intelligence Unit 8200 — equivalent to the US National Security Agency — which the ministry said developed a new, “breakthrough” technology that gave the military “an additional significant capability.”

Another came from the Israeli Air Force, the Defense Ministry’s Research and Development Division and two defense contractors — Rafael and the Israel Aerospace Industries — which worked on the project for over a decade.

A third award was given to a variety of computer-focused units, including the IDF’s Teleprocessing Directorate’s Spectrum and Cyber Defense Division, the Shin Bet security service, the Defense Ministry’s Security Directorate, the National Cyber Directorate, the Mossad spy agency and the IDF’s Military Intelligence Directorate.

According to the Defense Ministry, this team developed a capability to defend against “the threat of cyber attacks, which are becoming a significant, daily threat in recent years.”

The fourth prize was awarded to another team made up of representatives from a variety of national security organizations, including Military Intelligence’s Unit 81, which develops new technologies for the IDF, the Mossad, the Israeli Air Force, Rafael and the Israel Aerospace Industries.

“This project achieved a professional, specialized, significant capability for the IDF,” the Defense Ministry said.

Rivlin, who is ending his tenure as president this week, praised the four prizewinners, saying the individuals who made up the teams were what mattered most.

“The person behind the system is the foundation and is the most important thing, without which the most high-tech developments wouldn’t be able to defend us. The person behind the machine and their spirit — the spirit of dedication and belief in the justness of their path — these are what make the difference and they are what make you, my esteemed ones, the best among us,” Rivlin said to the winners.

In addition to Gantz and Rivlin, the ceremony was attended by IDF head Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi and Defense Ministry Director-General Amir Eshel.

The Security Prize has been given yearly by the president since 1958. Though the prize is sometimes given for lifetime achievement, generally the recipients are responsible for the creation of a new piece of technology or for a specific operation.

Ordinarily, three recipients are chosen for the award, which is named after Eliyahu Golomb, one of the key figures in the development of the Haganah militia, the forebear of the IDF.

Over the years, the prize has been awarded both to individuals, like Uzi Gal who received the first Israel Defense Prize in 1958 for creating the Uzi submachine gun, and to entire teams, like the group responsible for the development of the TROPHY anti-missile system that protects Israeli tanks and armored personnel carriers, which won in 2014. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/awarding-defense-prize-gantz-says-military-tech-limited-civilian-deaths-in-gaza/>

**Israeli paratroopers to recreate partisans’ WWII jump in honor of Hannah Senesh**

***Some 150 IDF soldiers set to take part in weeklong program in Central Europe, marking the 100th birthday of the Hungarian-born soldier-poet***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 7:18 pm*

Some 150 Israeli soldiers will travel to Central Europe later this month as part of a weeklong educational trip in honor of the 100th birthday of the Hungarian-born soldier and poet Hannah Senesh, who was captured and killed by the Nazis after she parachuted into Hungary during World War II.  
 The commander of the Paratroopers Brigade, Col. Yuval Gaz, told reporters that the purpose of the program, which will include a recreation of the parachute jump made by Senesh and dozens other Jewish fighters, is to “deepen the connection between the participants and the Israel Defense Forces and the State of Israel.”  
 The delegation, dubbed “Crash of the Heavens,” after a line from one of Senesh’s poems, will be led by the head of the IDF’s Depth Corps, Maj. Gen. Itay Virov; Brig. Gen. Ofer Winter, commander of the IDF’s 98th Division, which contains the Paratroopers Brigade; and a number of other senior Paratroopers officers, including Gaz.  
 The soldiers are scheduled to arrive on July 18 in Slovenia, where they will perform the jump, and then travel from there to Croatia and Hungary, before returning to Israel on July 22.  
 Roughly 100 of the 150 soldiers taking part in the delegation will participate in the jump, which is being staged a short distance from the original site, according to Gaz. A number of soldiers from the Hungarian, Slovenian, Croatian and British militaries will also take part in the jump.  
 The delegation is styled after the military’s Witnesses in Uniform program, which teaches IDF soldiers about the Holocaust through trips to Nazi concentration camps in Poland.  
 According to Gaz, the idea for the delegation was raised 16 months ago, after last year’s Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is meant to teach soldiers about the role of Jewish partisans during World War II, he said.  
   
 ***Hannah Szenes dressed as a Hungarian soldier on Purim (Wikimedia Commons)***

A number of Israeli historians and researchers will accompany the delegation to educate the participants about Senesh, Jewish partisans and the period in general. One of these will be Simha Goldin, a lieutenant colonel in reserves and the father of Lt. Hadar Goldin, who was killed in the 2014 Gaza war and whose remains are being held by the Hamas terror group. Goldin is a professor of Jewish history at Tel Aviv University.

The Hungarian-born Senesh immigrated to Palestine in 1939 and quickly joined the Haganah, the forebear of the IDF. During World War II, she joined a Jewish contingent of the British military and parachuted into then-Yugoslavia, continuing on foot to Hungary to meet up with partisans there. She was captured at the border, interrogated and sentenced to death. Her remains were later moved to Israel and reinterred in the Mount Herzl National Cemetery. Her diary and poetry are still read in Israel today, most famously the poem from which the program derives its name, “Eli, Eli,” or “My God, my God.”  
 The Israeli participants include current and former Paratroopers Brigade soldiers and officers, including a number of children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, according to Gaz.  
 The funding for the delegation comes from the budget for the Witnesses in Uniform program, and the 20 hours of flight-time needed for the jump in Europe will come from the 200 flight-hours allotted to the Paratroopers Brigade and the IDF’s Paratroopers School.  
 In order to make the most of the trip, the jump will be conducted at a slightly lower altitude than the Israeli paratroopers are used to, forcing them to adapt. The new location for the jump will also require the soldiers to operate outside their comfort zone, Gaz said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-paratroopers-to-recreate-partisans-wwii-jump-in-honor-of-hannah-senesh/>

**Lapid said pushing to sell ‘Israel’s Air Force One’; defense officials object**

***Foreign minister has long argued Wing of Zion project, which cost over $300 million to develop, was wasteful; Bennett will be deciding opinion on matter***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 11:58 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2019/11/IMG-20191103-WA0050-e1572792508196.jpg)

***The 'Wing of Zion,' the Israeli version of Air Force One, is seen above Ben Gurion Airport, on its first test flight, November 3, 2019. (Yoav Weiss/Israel Aerospace Industries)***

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid is reportedly pushing to nix Israel’s equivalent to Air Force One, which has been been in development for roughly four years.

Lapid, who has long spoken out against the nearly $300 million aircraft for the prime minister and president, is now recommending that the plane be sold just months before it is set to become operational, the Ynet news site reported Monday.

However, the defense establishment strongly opposes Lapid’s position, maintaining that an upgraded aircraft such as the one produced is needed to securely transport Israeli heads of state, Ynet reported

President-elect Isaac Herzog will also have a say in the decision, but has yet to express his opinion.

Ultimately, though, the decision will fall to Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.

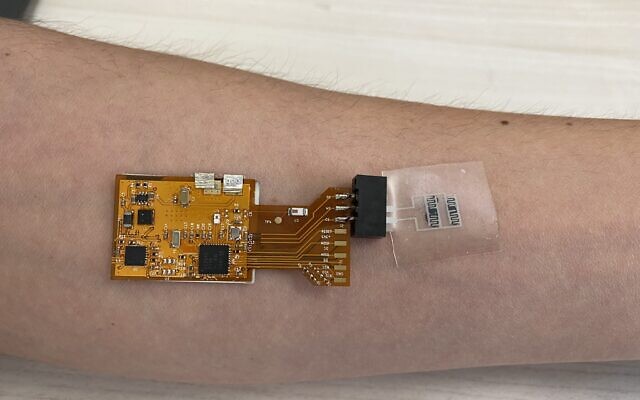
The plane still needs several more months to receive the necessary permits, according to the report.

The project has already been delayed several times, most recently last year when then-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office ordered a freezing of test flights, in order to prevent the appearance of unnecessary spending in the middle of the pandemic. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-said-pushing-to-sell-israels-air-force-one-defense-officials-object/>

**Touted as a lifesaver for millions, Israeli nano-patch smells skin to detect TB**

***Some 3 million people worldwide miss tuberculosis diagnosis every year, often because tests unavailable; Haifa-made skin sticker will help, scientists say***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 6:59 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/3.3.jpg)

***A prototype of the new Israeli tuberculosis-detecting skin patch (courtesy of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology)***

A new Israeli tuberculosis-detecting skin patch will reduce the huge number of people who die from the disease due to a lack of diagnosis, and could help the world eradicate it altogether, scientists say.

Tuberculosis is responsible for 1.4 million deaths a year, almost exclusively in poor countries. It is easily transmitted by sneezing, spitting and coughing, and each infected person passes it to more than 10 people on average.

Treatment is available, but cases are often missed due to poor provision of tests, which require lab processing.

The World Health Organization has considered tuberculosis a “global health emergency” since 1993, and highlights the power of testing, reporting that an estimated 60 million lives were saved through diagnosis and treatment between 2000 and 2019. But testing infrastructure is poor, and around 3 million cases are missed annually.

A research team from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology has revealed, in a peer-reviewed [journal article](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/advs.202100235), that it has produced and tested a patch that gives a diagnosis an hour after it is attached to the skin.

“The patch contains sensors made from nanoparticles, and what we’re doing is sensing changes in the smell pattern of the person, which can tell us with high accuracy whether or not they have tuberculosis,” Dr. Rotem Vishinkin told The Times of Israel.

 “Simplifying diagnosis is important for detecting cases and enabling people to be treated, and this is our focus,” added Vishinkin, whose team hopes it will help healthcare providers in the developing world to eradicate the disease.

She carried out the research under the supervision of Prof. Hossam Haick, a pioneer of disease detection using smell, whose past work is the basis for a new [respiratory monitoring device that is being developed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/startup-gets-2-5-million-euro-eu-grant-for-nanotech-based-respiratory-device/) with a major European Union grant.

Dr. Rotem Vishinkin of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology (courtesy of the Technion)

The main advantage of the new tuberculosis patch is that it can expand testing way beyond areas where there is a good infrastructure of clinics and labs, said Vishinkin.

“The patch is simple to use, and just needs to be placed on the skin,” she said.

In the current model, a computer is needed to provide results, but the final product will automatically transmit results to a cellphone or to a clinic, Vishinkin added.

With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, her team has tested the patch on 1,000 people — in South Africa, India and Latvia — and it showed 90 percent sensitivity. More testing is underway, and the Technion team hopes to get the product on the market within a few years.

Vishinkin said that the nano-sticker format could in the future be used to diagnose other diseases, helping to reduce missed cases for a range of conditions. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/touted-as-a-lifesaver-for-millions-israeli-nano-patch-smells-skin-to-detect-tb/>

**Norway’s largest pension fund divests from firms linked to West Bank settlements**

***KLP, which manages some $95 billion worth of assets, says investments in companies tied to settlement enterprise ‘risk complicity in international law violations’***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 4:43 pm*

OSLOW, Norway — Norway’s largest pension fund announced Monday it had divested assets in 16 companies for their links to Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including telecom equipment giant Motorola.

“Motorola and other companies risk complicity in international law violations in occupied Palestine,” KLP, which manages some 95 billion dollars (80 billion euros) worth of assets, said in a statement. [Maybe they should just divest from everything Israeli so they can return to a Pre-techno society and just molder. It is amazing how all the EU and socialist countries think they have the right to determine what should be done with the Land of Israel and the so called “PA” when the UN says all this is to be worked out by negotiations between the parties WHICH the “PA” has refused to negotiate for years and actually NEVER has negotiated “IN GOOD FAITH” - RDB

The divestment follows the February 2020 UN publication of a list of 112 companies with activities linked to Israeli settlements, considered illegal under international law.

Israel’s government has denounced the publication of the list — which included companies like Airbnb, Expedia, Motorola and Tripadvisor — as a “contemptible effort.”  
 “Divesting from Motorola Solutions was a very straightforward decision over its surveillance role in the occupied territories,” KLP said, arguing the company provides software used in border surveillance.  
 KLP also divested from telecom operators offering services within the West Bank as they contributed to making “the settlements attractive residential areas.”  
 These included Bezeq, Cellcom Israel and Partner Communications, and Altice Europe — which was delisted from the Amsterdam stock exchange in January.  
 Also included are five banks that facilitated or financed the construction of housing and infrastructure in the West Bank, as well as engineering and construction groups, including the French multinational Alstom.  
 In total, the Norwegian fund’s divestments of shares and company bonds amounted to $32 million.  
 “Companies have a responsibility to respect and protect human rights in all countries that they are operating in, regardless if the state itself is upholding these rights,” KLP analyst Kiran Aziz said.  
 “Conflict can mean a particularly high risk of human rights violations. Companies operating in conflict zones must therefore exercise particular caution to avoid involvement in human rights abuses and to protect vulnerable individuals,” she added.  
 In late June, KLP announced its divestment of the Indian port and logistics group Adani Ports because of its links to the Burmese military junta.  
 Another Norwegian fund, the sovereign wealth fund, which is the largest in the world, has also excluded several companies in the past because of their connections to West Bank settlements.  
 More than 600,000 Israelis live in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, whose Jewish neighborhoods the international community also considers settlements. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/norways-largest-pension-fund-divests-from-firms-linked-to-west-bank-settlements/>

**Over a dozen Palestinians arrested ahead of rally as PA crackdown widens**

***Palestinian Authority PM Shtayyeh later orders release of all those detained at Ramallah protest, the latest sparked by death of government critic***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 5:09 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/000_9DY8AU.jpg)

***Palestinian police prevent demonstrators from gathering in the West Bank city of Ramallah ahead of a planned protest against the Palestinian Authority on July 5, 2021 (Photo by ABBAS MOMANI / AFP)***

More than a dozen activists attempting to hold a rally in Ramallah against the Palestinian Authority leadership were detained on Monday evening, in the latest step in an ongoing PA crackdown against mounting dissent

In videos from the scene, protesters beginning to gather at Ramallah’s al-Manara Square could be seen being frisked by police, asked for identification cards, and being led off into white vans. The police arrested the demonstrators immediately after the protest was set to begin, with the square still relatively empty.

The rally would have been the latest in a series of protests condemning the PA leadership for the death of Nizar Banat, a prominent activist. Banat, a harsh PA critic, died in the custody of PA security forces in late June.

When the detainees’ families gathered in front of a Ramallah police station to demand their release, police arrested them as well, according to Palestinian media reports.

Near midnight, Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh ordered the police to release all the detainees, his spokesperson Ibrahim Melhem told the PA’s official WAFA news agency.

At least 14 Palestinians were arrested, according to a list of names put out by Lawyers for Justice, a legal aid group.

In a statement, Palestinian Authority police spokesperson Luay Irzeiqat said that the demonstrators had been arrested after assembling without a permit. Irzeiqat described such gatherings as illegal under a 1998 Palestinian law.

“Anyone wishing to hold a gathering or a rally must submit a request in which he informs the commander of the district police or the district governor of his intention,” Irzeiqat said. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/several-palestinians-arrested-ahead-of-rally-as-pa-crackdown-widens/> [The more you see these rallies the more it indicates that Abbas is on his last leg. People are fed up with the dictator. – rdb]

**Saudi-Iran talks could move to Oman, an intriguing shift for Israel**

***Riyadh and Tehran have held two rounds of Iraqi-hosted talks, narrowly focused on Yemen; the next session may be held in Muscat, which would signal a far broader regional agenda***

*By* [*Lazar Berman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/lazar-berman/) *Today, 12:28 pm*

As negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program trudge forward in Vienna, a parallel set of talks between Tehran and a major rival are expected to pick up again this summer.

Media reports in April revealed that Iranian and Saudi officials met in Baghdad that month, their first high-level meeting since Riyadh cut diplomatic ties with Tehran in 2016. A second round was held in May, also in Baghdad.

No comprehensive regional breakthrough is expected any time soon, and the two sides have yet to agree on any specific measures.

“These talks should be greeted with only cautious optimism and limited expectations,” [according to Albert Wolf](https://www.mei.edu/publications/other-iran-talks),  assistant professor of political science at the American University of Central Asia.

But the first two rounds have gone well enough to warrant a third round, likely in the next few weeks. If the talks remain narrowly focused on the conflict in Yemen, they won’t have much effect on Israel’s diplomatic or security situation.

But if they move out of Iraq and expand to cover broader regional issues, it could be an encouraging sign for Jerusalem as it deepens its ties with new Arab partners. One potential venue for such expanded talks, The Times of Israel has learned, is Oman — a perennial would-be regional mediator and potential forthcoming signatory to the Abraham Accords.

***Cold war***

The Saudis and the Iranians are natural rivals. Riyadh sees itself as the leader of the Sunni and even Muslim world, while Iran styles itself as the flagbearer of the Shiite camp, supporting movements — many of them armed — across the Middle East. The fact that Saudi Arabia’s own significant Shiite minority lives in the oil-rich Eastern Province only adds to Saudi concern over Iran’s regional proxy networks. MORE-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/saudi-iran-talks-could-move-to-oman-an-intriguing-shift-for-israel/> [ Where these talks will lead is very questionable. Even if there is some accord historically they simply can’t get along from a religious point of view. – rdb]

**Large fire reported near Tehran, background unclear - report**

***The fire broke out in Karaj, south of Tehran, the city where an alleged attack targeted a nuclear facility reportedly used to produce centrifuges.***

*By* [*TZVI JOFFRE*](https://www.jpost.com/author/tzvi-joffre) *JULY 5, 2021 21:02*

A large fire was reported at a warehouse or factory next to a highway near Tehran on Monday afternoon, with the purpose of the warehouse and the background of the incident as of yet unclear.

The IRGC-affiliated Tasnim News Agency reported that the fire was near [Karaj](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/israeli-cargo-ship-hit-by-unknown-weapon-in-indian-ocean-report-672777), the city where an [alleged attack](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/drone-attack-targets-irans-atomic-energy-organization-671834) targeted a nuclear facility reportedly used to produce centrifuges.

The Tehran fire and rescue services told Iranian news agency ISNA that the fire took place at a warehouse or factory along the Karaj Special Road. The warehouse was used to store "all kinds of goods," according to a spokesperson for the fire and rescue services.

It is unclear if there were any injuries in the incident.

A series of explosions and fires have hit industrial sites across Iran, including a number of petrochemical plants, in recent weeks and over the past year. Iranian officials have referred to most of the cases as incidents or accidents, although some reports have claimed that at least some of them involved foul play.

Aging infrastructure in Iran has also been blamed for at least some of the incidents. Frequent blackouts have been plaguing Iran recently amid a heatwave.

Last month, a sabotage operation against a building likely used to produce centrifuges for Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) in Karaj caused major damage, The Jerusalem Post learned. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/large-fire-reported-near-tehran-background-unclear-report-672964>

**France, Germany, China push to revive Iran nuclear talks**

***With a date for restart of negotiations in Vienna unclear, countries' leaders agree on the need to get a deal 'as soon as possible' and avoid the risk of nuclear proliferation***

*Associated Press | Published: 07.05.21 , 21:24*

French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed there is "a window of opportunity" now for talks aimed at reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, the French presidency said. [Stupid is as stupid does and these nitwits are very stupid. – rdb]

The three leaders, who spoke via videoconference on Monday, agreed on the need to move negotiations forward in order to get a deal "as soon as possible" and avoid the risk of nuclear proliferation, a French top official said. He was speaking anonymously in accordance with the presidency's customary practices. [They aren’t avoiding anything and even at the onset was only potentially delaying the nuclearization of Iran by a short period of time. – rdb}

"We must do it now" in order to avoid further threats to regional stability, the official said, adding the message aims at giving a boost to negotiators after months of inconclusive talks.

During six rounds of talks in Vienna, the six countries that remain parties to the agreement -- Russia, China, Germany, France, Britain and Iran -- have been trying to resolve issues on how the United States can rejoin and how Iran can return to compliance.

Then-President Donald Trump pulled out of the agreement in 2018, but President Joe Biden repudiated his predecessor and said the U.S. wants to return to the pact.

The last round of talks ended in Vienna on June 20. It's not yet clear when the talks will resume.

The 2015 accord is aimed at preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons, which Tehran denies it is seeking.

France and Germany said the three leaders also talked about relations between the European Union and China. They discussed international trade, climate protection and biodiversity, and cooperation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/SkaFIje600>

**Outrage as Swiss president congratulates Iran’s ‘Butcher’ President Raisi**

***"Raisi's dark record is no secret to anyone, yet they don't care. History will not forget, it is like the Nazi experience is repeating itself."***

*By* [*BENJAMIN WEINTHAL*](https://www.jpost.com/author/benjamin-weinthal) *JULY 5, 2021 21:50*



***Swiss President Guy Parmelin holds a press conference with the European Commission president during a meeting at the European Commission building in Brussels, Belgium April 23, 2021.(photo credit: FRANCOIS WALSCHAERTS/POOL VIA REUTERS)***

Iranian human rights experts and commentators on Monday expressed shock at the Swiss President Guy Parmelin for delivering a congratulatory message to the Islamic Republic of Iran’s newly elected [President Ebrahim Raisi](https://www.jpost.com/opinion/the-important-story-on-irans-new-president-671752), a revolutionary cleric accused of mass murder.

Mariam Memarsadeghi, an Iranian-American and senior fellow at Macdonald-Laurier Institute, told The Jerusalem Post that “congratulating Raisi the butcher on ‘winning’ a sham election boycotted by the Iranian people is not only an insult to the millions who’ve been impacted by his cruel torture and executions. It is an insult to any democratic country’s most basic values. Switzerland’s tradition of political neutrality should not mean it succumbs to legitimizing evil rulers of an evil regime.”

Mina Bai, an Iranian-Norwegian and political commentator with the Norwegian newspaper Nettavisen, told the Post that “European leaders have not impressed Iranians fighting for their freedom and dignity with constantly siding with the regime for obvious reasons of economic benefits. Raisi's dark record is no secret to anyone, yet they don't care. History will not forget, it is like the Nazi experience is repeating itself.”

The Iranian Students’ News Agency, a regime-controlled outlet, reported on Saturday that the “Swiss president in the message wished success for Iranian President-elect Ebrahim Raisi in his new position, expressed confidence that good bilateral relations between Iran and Switzerland during the presidency of Raisi will be strengthened more than ever.”

The news outlet added that Parmelin “also stressed that Switzerland is committed to strengthening dialogue and cooperation with Iran aiming at increasing stability and prosperity in the region, and considers it in the interest of all.”

The *Post* sent press queries to Parmelin and the Swiss Foreign Ministry.

Karmel Melamed, an Iranian-American journalist and activist for religious minorities in Iran, told the *Post* that "It's truly shameful and sad when the Swiss president along with other major leaders in Europe are groveling at the feet of the ayatollah regime to send greetings for their appointment of a Raisi, a man who has committed major crimes against humanity. It seems as if European leaders are more interested in their financial interests with the Ayatollahs instead of basic human rights for the people of Iran who obviously oppose this regime."

Switzerland represents the diplomatic interests of the US government because the US broke off relations with the Islamic Republic after the theocratic state took US diplomatic personnel hostage in 1979. It is unclear if the US is aware that the Swiss president congratulated Raisi.

The *Post* reported last week that Austria’s President [Alexander Van der Bellen](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/austrian-pres-congratulates-iran-mass-murderer-pres-sparks-disgust-672135) appeared to be the first Western leader to congratulate Raisi.  <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/outrage-as-swiss-president-congratulates-irans-butcher-president-raisi-672970> [When you see things like this you have to carefully think and then realize that all this bilge coming from these types is simply garbage because they don’t really believe in human rights at all. This is simply political theater. – rdb]

**Nasrallah: There are no people in Israel, only settlers and occupiers**

***Nasrallah said that the conflicts with Israel and the US cannot be separated due to Israel's existence being contingent on American support.***

*By* [*TZVI JOFFRE*](https://www.jpost.com/author/tzvi-joffre) *JULY 5, 2021 18:03*

"There are no people in the Israeli entity, they are all occupiers and settlers," said Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah during a speech on Monday afternoon.

The speech was delivered at the opening of a conference titled "Palestine is Victorious," convened in Lebanon in order to renew media discourse and manage the conflict with Israel.  
 Nasrallah did not specify whether Arab Israelis were also considered occupiers and settlers.[ obviously they are occupiers. – rdb]  
 With [tensions rising](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/us-to-respond-forcefully-to-attacks-on-troops-in-syria-iraq-672707) between the US and pro-Iranian militias in Syria and Iraq, Nasrallah stressed on Monday that Hezbollah is "facing the American hegemony" in Iraq and Syria.  
 The Hezbollah leader added that the conflicts with Israel and the US cannot be separated as Israel's existence is contingent on American support, saying "Every massacre committed by the enemy is an American massacre, and every aggression of this enemy is American aggression."  
 Concerning the [worsening economic crisis](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/lebanon-has-entered-a-cycle-of-endless-crisis-672910?_ga=2.165387517.377701536.1624161230-322123844.1568527356) in Lebanon, Nasrallah blamed the US, saying American policy is the "main reason" for the crisis, as "the Americans want to besiege, punish and prevent any aid that comes to Lebanon."   
 While Nasrallah admitted that incorrect government policies were also "among the causes" of the economic crisis, he stressed that the US is the "main cause."  
 Nasrallah added that the goal of the American blockade is to "provoke" the people of Lebanon against Hezbollah and to keep Hezbollah busy in order to prevent it from supporting Palestinians.  
 On Sunday night, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz [offered](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/gantz-israel-ready-to-provide-assistance-to-lebanon-amid-economic-crisis-672885?_ga=2.264018126.377701536.1624161230-322123844.1568527356) humanitarian aid to Lebanon, saying "as an Israeli, as a Jew and as a human being, my heart aches seeing the images of people going hungry on the streets of Lebanon."  
 Lebanon is suffering from a worsening economic crisis, with violence and protests breaking out in cities around the country as basic services collapse. Electricity outages and gas shortages are commonplace.  
 More than half of Lebanon’s population is living in poverty, and its financial crisis is likely to rank in the top 10, and possibly even the top three, most severe crises in the world since the mid-1800s, according to the World Bank.  
 Nasrallah has said in recent speeches that the country's gasoline crisis could be addressed "within a few days" if it would just accept Iranian oil shipments, which are under sanctions by international law.  
 Hezbollah will eventually negotiate directly with Tehran and import Iranian oil through the Port of Beirut if the Lebanese government does not begin “bearing its responsibility,” Nasrallah said at the time.  
 During the speech, which focused largely on pro-Iranian media capabilities, Nasrallah also claimed that Israelis trust Palestinian and pro-Iranian media more than they trust their own leaders and media.  
 Nasrallah stressed that the media of the "Axis of Resistance" must be developed just like its military capabilities, adding that the "resounding victory" that the media contributed to the "victory" Palestinian terrorist groups claimed during Operation Guardian of the Walls.  
 The Hezbollah leader additionally claimed that "everyone" recognized the "victory" of the Palestinians during the operation, despite "some media in the Gulf" denying it. "While the enemy fails to achieve victory, Arab media come to make an imaginary victory for him from the remains of children," said Nasrallah.  
 Nasrallah also referenced the recent blocking of a number of pro-Iranian media sites by the US, saying that this was "proof" of the strength of the resistance media "because of its influence."  
 The militant leader stressed the importance of using social media, stating that while "the enemy can take down satellite channels, it is not possible to stop social networking sites, so we must take advantage of them."  
 "We know the enemy's strengths, recognize them, and work on ways to confront and weaken them," said Nasrallah. The Hezbollah leader claimed that one of the most important strengths of the axis' media is "honesty in conveying news and facts, adding that the militant groups' media did not rely on "illusions and lies" in their "psychological war."  
 Referring to Palestinian issues, Nasrallah stated that Palestinian militant groups promised "liberation" and to get prisoners released, and fulfilled their promise. It is unclear which liberation Nasrallah was referring to. Additionally, a prisoner swap agreement has not yet been reached.  
 "When in the axis of resistance we talk about the liberation of Palestine, we are not talking about dreams or fantasies. The battle of the Sword of Jerusalem (the name the Palestinians gave to Operation Guardian of the Walls) has made Jerusalem closer than ever," said Nasrallah. "We do not exaggerate our goals, and this is one of the most important elements of the resistance force."  
 Nasrallah reiterated the axis' promise to "defend Jerusalem," saying that the axis has been "true to its promise."  
 Although Palestinian terrorist groups have cited quote-on-quote violations of Jerusalem, including entering the Temple Mount, as red lines which would garner a response, Jewish visitors and Israeli security forces have been able to enter the Temple Mount without much of a response from Gaza in recent weeks. Additionally, almost nightly clashes have been reported in the Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighborhoods of east Jerusalem, where a number of Palestinian families face eviction.  
 In recent speeches, Nasrallah has warned that any “violation” of Jerusalem would result in a regional war in which pro-Iranian groups from multiple countries could take part.  
 Nasrallah also addressed recent reports in Lebanese media about the defendants in the investigation of last year's Beirut port explosion, questioning whether the investigation was "real judicial action" or "political targeting." A large explosion targeted the Beirut offices of a lawyer involved in the case last week.  
 Dozens were killed and thousands were injured in the massive blast which shook Beirut last August. While the investigation into the explosion has made little headway amid a system plagued by corruption, Lebanese Judge Tarek Bitar recently moved to lift the immunity of a number of high ranking officials in order to question them as suspects in the case.  
 “Justice is still distant and the truth is still concealed,” said Nasrallah concerning the investigation. Hezbollah has been accused of being responsible for the blast, as it has strong control over Lebanon’s ports.

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/nasrallah-there-are-no-people-in-israel-only-settlers-and-occupiers-672949>

**How a mom defeated strategy to make her 10-year-old girl a boy!**

***'Her former therapist was attempting to manufacture a transgender child'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published July 5, 2021 at 1:06pm*

A mother successfully defeated a campaign by therapists who excluded her and her husband from her 10-year-old daughter's treatment to turn the child into a transgender, according to a new report.

It is Walt Heyer, who famously was transgender, lived as a woman for years, then returned to his birth gender, who wrote of the case at [the Federalist.](https://thefederalist.com/2021/06/30/how-a-10-year-old-girls-mom-saved-her-from-going-transgender/)



Walt Heyer

The issue for the child, who like her mother was not identified, was that she recently had changed from one school to another, was forced into online schooling by COVID, and was "just on overload," Heyer reported.

But he said when "Mindy," whose story was shared with permission, exhibited stress, and her folks took her to a counselor at her pediatrician's office, the campaign began.

"I share [the mother's] terrifying experience of almost losing her young daughter in a few short months," he said. "Her story illustrates how easily a 10-year-old girl can be groomed into a cross-sex identity, but for the intervention of her mindful parents."

Heyer said the situation followed a five-step process he's described before. The first move is to exclude parents.

In Mindy's case, he explained, doctors cited her stress to isolate her in a hospital for six days – where "advocates are free to indoctrinate the child into transgenderism."

The mother reported medical personnel, "They told us she was suicidal and she needed to be taken to be evaluated in house [hospitalized]."

They tried to keep her longer, she pointed out, "refusing us updates or anything, so we told them we were coming to get her with or without their blessing."

But the "counselor appointments" continued, without the parents.

The second step Heyer described is leaping to a gender dysphoria diagnosis. MORE- <https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/mom-defeated-strategy-make-10-year-old-girl-boy/> [these critters all need their licenses revoked and then to be taken out and horsewhipped two or three times. – rdb]

**Hackers demand $70 million to restore data from hundreds of companies hit by cyberattack – reports**

*5 Jul, 2021 12:57 / Updated 5 hours ago*

The cybercriminals believed to be behind a devastating attack that left hundreds of companies worldwide offline have reportedly demanded $70 million to restore the data they’re holding ransom.

The demand was posted on a ‘dark web’ blog on Sunday, Reuters [reported](https://www.reuters.com/technology/hackers-demand-70-million-liberate-data-held-by-companies-hit-mass-cyberattack-2021-07-05/). The blog is *“typically used”* by the REvil cybercrime gang, who cybersecurity researchers believe are [responsible](https://www.welivesecurity.com/2021/07/03/kaseya-supply-chain-attack-what-we-know-so-far/) for the latest attack, as well as an attack in May on JBS, the world’s largest meat-processing corporation.

Last week’s attack targeted Kaseya, a remote IT management platform. Hundreds of Kaseya’s clients in the US, Canada, the UK and worldwide had their data frozen, with knock-on effects for customers in some cases. Swedish grocery chain Coop was forced to [close](https://www.rt.com/news/528309-coop-sweden-supermarket-hackers/) all 800 of its stores on Saturday, as the attack had taken its cash registers offline.

The White House announced on Sunday that the FBI and Department of Homeland Security *“will reach out to identified victims to provide assistance.”* President Joe Biden, who has previously accused Russia of being behind similar attacks, told reporters that he is *“not sure it’s the Russians,”* and is waiting on the US’ intelligence agencies to investigate.

The US has previously blamed Russia for numerous cyberattacks on American infrastructure and commerce. The Biden administration [sanctioned](https://www.rt.com/russia/521127-us-sanctions-new-round/) Russia in April, partly over its alleged involvement in last year’s SolarWinds hack. Even though Biden didn’t accuse Moscow of direct involvement in a cyberattack targeting the US’ fuel supply in May, he did [insist](https://www.rt.com/usa/523420-biden-colonial-pipeline-russia-responsiblity/) that it bore *“some responsibility,”* as the hackers had allegedly been operating from a Russian-speaking country.

Blame has also been leveled at Beijing. Microsoft [claimed](https://www.microsoft.com/security/blog/2021/03/02/hafnium-targeting-exchange-servers/) in March that it had caught Chinese *“state-sponsored”* hackers breaking into its email servers, and cybersecurity researchers have accused the Chinese state of involvement in multiple [attacks](https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/china-another-hack-us-cybersecurity-issues-mount-rcna744) since, including one on New York’s [public transportation](https://www.rt.com/usa/525523-new-york-transit-system-hack/) network.

Moscow and Beijing have consistently denied US accusations of cybercrime involvement.

In a statement on Friday, the Russian Embassy in Washington expressed hope that the US would *“abandon the practice of unfounded accusations and focus on professional work with Russian experts to strengthen international information security.”* <https://www.rt.com/news/528405-hackers-demand-ransomware-payment>

**Commentary:**

**Co-Dependence Day**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*July 04, 2021*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/07/co-dependence-day.html)

Joe Biden is celebrating July 4th by proposing a massive expansion of the IRS. How better to celebrate the colonists who chased British tax collectors out than by replacing them with Biden's tax collectors.

But every progressive person knows that Independence Day is for extremists. The dream of the new post-national nation is Co-Dependence Day in which we all live happily together in a planned economy.

[](https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-kKWR5WAGXWs/YOIY-igAjeI/AAAAAAAATVU/KGcbRJKn5TklNHd_sNUZCC4Z1ZhyZJYsgCNcBGAsYHQ/s640/the-march-to-valley-forge-efe4d9-640.jpg)

The old British entity that Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, and a bunch of other dead white men fought to be free of, has been recreated. The new London is in Washington D.C. whose bureaucrats throw fits if they're asked to leave the imperial city. The new social welfare empire is built on redistribution.

A few centuries ago, some young white men had refused to have their property and their political autonomy redistributed to an elite thousands of miles away.

The very idea of having a revolution over such a thing seems entirely absurd to today's wokies.

Or as another Englishman once again, "Imagine there's no countries". It's easy if you live in the EU.

All that the Crown really wanted was for the colonists to pay their “fair share”, a share that was determined thousands of miles away. All that the colonists wanted was the rights of Englishmen that they believed they were entitled to. After a great deal of bloodshed, the colonists won the right to be Americans instead—an odd series of consonants and vowels having to do with an Italian explorer but meaning personal freedom and limited government. Now we have free things, unlimited government, and our freedom shrinks in proportion to the growth of our free things and of the government that hands them out.

To the denizens of public housing watching the fireworks burn briefly in the sky,  who get a free ride on everything from food to housing by taking away everyone else's freedom and future, the fireworks are just one more free thing in the sea of free things that they swim in.

To the Democrat voters of the welfare state, this is Fireworks Day. Every country has its fireworks days and this is the day that this one chooses to light up the night sky. The day means nothing to them because though they are surrounded by free things, they aren’t free. The difference between freedom and free things has been progressively erased so that many think that the American Revolution was fought because the British were racists or weren’t providing free transgender surgery to the colonies.

If only they knew about the NHS, they would vote to undo the American Revolution in a flash.

There is a big difference between a free country and a country of free things. You can have one or the other, but you can’t have both. A free country isn’t obsessed with free riders, only a country of free things obsesses with making everyone pay their fair share for the benefit of the people who want the free things. Rugged individualism has given way to stifling crowds, co-dependent on each other, lined shoulder to shoulder, clutching at each other’s wallets, crying, “Take from him and give to me."

We are a nation overflowing with the right to things paid for with other people’s money.

The fireworks that shoot up in a wonderland of blue and red, silver and gold, are a faint echo of the real thing, the gunpowder that blasted back and forth between the lines of government troops, their Hessian mercenaries and the rebel colonists who chose to ride free, rather than bend their necks to the plans of an expanding empire. The faint smell of gunpowder and the dark shapes of the barges only mime the war that was fought here. A play of light and shadow whose meaning reaches fewer and fewer people each year.  
 The expected speeches will celebrate some notion of independence, but did so many men risk their lives just to end up with a system that made the one they escaped seem positively libertarian by comparison? If they had known that they were going to end up with some version of the NHS, along with death panels, in a co-dependent system where everyone is looted for the greater good of the looters—they might have stayed home on their farms, sadly watching the fighting from a distance.

JFK’s famous line, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country” was always a hollow lie. Half the country is expected to ask what their country can do for them, while the other half is expected to ask what they can do for their country. This simmering civil war is often pegged as a class war, but it isn’t about class. There are billionaires and paupers on both sides, and the divide cuts across the Middle Class, dividing those who derive their income from private business from those who receive it from government and government-subsidized employment.

The Fourth of July is Independence Day, but every other day is Co-Dependence Day, the days we celebrate our integration, our volunteerism and our compliance with a vast system which makes everyone dependent on the government and which makes the government dependent on everyone who still works for someone other than the government.

 Empires function by draining every drop from their possessions to cover their costs. The British Crown tried to drain America to pay down its debt, resulting in growing protests from the population and eventually a revolution. Now the Empire of Co-Dependency is draining its independent subjects for the benefit of its dependent subjects and the dependency infrastructure that employs its numberless bureaucrats who govern it all.

A new crisis is always here to justify higher taxes and bigger government.

The American Revolution was not a struggle for another nation, one of many, but for a free nation. It was not split off to accommodate the national strivings of an ethnic group or their historical destiny. Its guiding idea, like its national holiday, was independence, but independence means very little unless it reaches the individual.  
 A nation where everyone is part of one great co-dependent community, a centrally planned marketplace that can only be balanced if everyone is forced to buy what they are told to buy, is not a free nation. It will not even be independent for long. The logic of co-dependence is to expand that dependency beyond the borders and make the region and then every part the world dependent on one another to balance out the numbers.  
 Co-dependence required an end to states rights. It will eventually require an end to the rights of nations.

Like all pyramid schemes, the burden of dependency is passed on to greater and greater systems until its weight is more than that of the entire world. That burden of co-dependency is like a rock rolling downhill; it gathers more and more mass to itself, increasing its momentum, until it crashes.

The system attempts to stay ahead of the inevitable crash by making sure that every productive person pays his “fair share”. It hunts for individuals and nations who still aren’t rolling downhill, tips them over and pushes them off the mountain. All in the name of the greater good.

 The new Crown is not a person, it is an idea. The throne at whose foot a formerly free people kneel is the golden seat of the welfare state. While the fireworks light up the sky, a counterrevolution undid the revolution. There is a new king and his face is on every magazine cover in the land. His bounty is a jagged bear trap that turns everyone into a ward of the state at their own expense.

As the last wave of fireworks die out, the shooting stars sinking to earth and vanishing into the darkness, the light of Independence Day fades and the crowds slowly trudge away from the brief spectacle, past the lines of police barricades, through narrow streets, past government buildings, back to their co-dependent lives in a co-dependent nation where the will of the people and the rights of the individual matter less than the latest proposal to solve the problems of their independence by making the country a more dependent place.  
 A few hundred years ago in these streets, men and women celebrated the end of tyranny, and in its darkest hour, lines of grim men marched along the waterfront up to the highest point on the island to mount a final defense. Sometimes the older buildings still wear their shadows on their brick walls and by the golden light of the fireworks you can almost see them, shadows moving in the darkness, their footsteps taking them north, a faint song on their lips, muskets in their hands, their lives lost and gained in defense of their freedom. <http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/07/co-dependence-day.html>

**How About a Little Critical THINKING?**

*By* [*Rob Pue*](https://newswithviews.com/author/rob/)*|July 5th, 2021* So all seems “quiet” now in the country since the “Commander in Thief” has taken up residence in the White House. Things may *seem* quiet, but do not be deceived. There’s a deep, ugly sludge oozing out across our land and the demoniacs have quietly been having a field day. The reason things *seem* “quiet” and peaceful now, by the way, is that they’ve halted their rioting, burning, looting, destroying and terrorism to give the “illusion” of peace. But again, there is no peace, only an illusion, as they quietly continue to push their liberal, Leftist, Communist agenda, all under the radar of most Americans.  
 The latest nefarious scheme the Left is pushing is Critical Race Theory. And as always, corporate America is eating from their hands. They can’t move fast enough, pridefully advertise the obscene amounts of money they’re throwing at this movement loudly enough or flood the airwaves and the atmosphere with more anti-Christ propaganda and indoctrination thickly enough. I find it sickening.  
 Critical Race Theory, for those who are unaware, is the idea that racism is systemic in all America’s institutions and that this “systemic racism” is so engrained in all of society that it serves to maintain the dominance of white people while keeping all others “down.” In simple terms, white people are inherently evil, hateful and racist, whereas it is impossible for any other ‘race’ to be so.  
 What’s so concerning about all this is that, just like the militant LGBTQP+ agenda, transgenderism, “democratic socialism” and communism, Critical Race Theory is now also being embraced and taught in our public school systems, from kindergarten on up. It’s even more aggressively pursued in college classrooms. Of course, after twelve years in public school, college students are already so indoctrinated with so many lies from the pits of hell, they’re not only ready, but eager to embrace the idea that all white people are inherently evil.  
 Last year, Black Lives Matter exploded onto the scene with nation-wide terrorism, and many of the participants in that self-proclaimed Marxist movement were white. We saw videos of college age white girls kneeling down and kissing the feet of angry black men, apologizing for their “whiteness.” We saw those same angry black men vowing that white people would soon be placed in captivity and forced to be the slaves of the superior Black ‘race.’  
 You may have heard about Coca Cola’s “diversity training program” held this past February, where employees were told, *“In the US and other Western nations, white people are socialized to feel that they are inherently superior because they are white.”* (That’s a direct quote) Their training course went on to assert that *“Research shows that by age 3 to 4, children understand that it is better to be white.”* But there was more.  Documents from this training stated, *“To be less white is to: be less oppressive, be less arrogant, be less certain, be less defensive, be less ignorant, be more humble, and break with white solidarity.”* The famous slogan from Coke’s employee training was *“Try to be less white.”*  
 I doubt that this so-called “diversity training” has been limited to the Coca Cola corporation. That’s the one we heard about. But no doubt this stuff is being pushed by hundreds of American corporations now, in our modern day so-called “woke” society. I don’t know about you, but I find this all extremely offensive. We’re being told — our KIDS are being told — that white people are inherently oppressive, arrogant, ignorant and adhere to the idea of “white supremacy.” The critically-thinking adult has the capacity to see all this and reject it as the demonic pack of lies it is. Our young people do not have that discernment. If the teacher says it’s true, it must be true. If the TV news says it’s true, it must be true. If the Hollywood and music celebrities, they worship say it’s true — and the newest bandwagon to jump on — they’re all in.  
 I’m so tired of this. Racism was absolutely not a problem in America when I was growing up in the 1970s. America was a melting pot of hard-working people of all colors and ancestries. Yes, there was a “White Supremacy” movement, but it was made up of “Nazi Skinheads” and the like, and *nobody* embraced such ideologies. If you think back, racial tensions, riots and terrorism had been pretty much completely eliminated from our society until Obama took office. Then, using his “community organizing” skills, he quickly started the “divide and conquer” strategy he was placed in office to carry out.  
 Now yes, I am addressing this issue as an older, white, conservative Christian male. (We’ve also been asked to simply accept the idea that *masculinity* is inherently “toxic,” by the way, in case you’ve forgotten). But I’m just an average guy and I think I represent the views of other older, white conservate Christian males pretty accurately. I can tell you that I’m NOT racist, NOT bigoted and do NOT hate anyone because of the color of their skin. The color of one’s skin has no more influence on me than the color of one’s car.  
 I have dear friends who are Black, Hispanic, Asian, Eastern European, and Russian. I don’t divide or label people according to their heritage. I value them for who they are, what they do, for the different relationships I have with each of them. I don’t view people in general by their race. People are people. There is only one race — the Human race. We’re all descendants of Noah.  
 As for America, all of us here, unless we’re Native Americans, are immigrants. We come from many lands, many cultures. But we’re here because our forefathers sought freedom, opportunity and equality and this country still offers these things today. But instead of the “melting pot” we used to be, today we’re more like a tossed salad. Modern day immigrants no longer seek to assimilate, to be a part of “One Nation Under God.” Instead, they refuse to learn English, refuse to learn our history and heritage and embrace America as the land of the free. They want the benefits of being an American without ever actually becoming one.  
 Now before you get all worked up, yes, I am aware of the slave trade in America. African slaves did not come here seeking freedom. They were sold here as slaves. But are you aware that those African slaves were sold into slavery by other black people? Are you aware that it was the Republican party and the Christians that ended slavery? Are you aware that it was the democrat party that fought to keep black people enslaved, that founded and formed the KKK? Did you know that? Look it up.  
 Blaming a young white girl for slavery in the 1800s is like blaming a young Japanese girl for Pearl Harbor. How stupid would that be? Yet that’s what we’re being told to embrace with Critical Race Theory. Basically, they want to stir up an inherent hatred of all white people, especially white males, especially white *Christian*males.  There were plenty of white American Christians fighting for civil rights in the 1950s and ‘60s, and by the 1980s, we had long since moved on as a nation, repented of the evils of those early days and if not for the meddling of race-baiters, we might still have peace in this country.  
 But basically, the message we’re supposed to accept now is that black people are always victims, always treated unfairly, always taken advantage of, always oppressed, always persecuted by their white neighbors and by an unfair system — designed by white people to keep black people down.  
 But is that true? I would submit to you that Martin Luther King’s dream has been achieved and it was achieved a long time ago. Until Obama came along, and more recently the militant Communist, Lucifierian Leftists, people were judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin. But the Communist agenda to destroy a nation from within includes the necessity of internal division and strife. And that’s just what Critical Race Theory was designed for.  
 I will go even further and state that there are, today, more social programs available specifically to black people than ever before in history. Some run by government, some by private organizations. If a black person — or a person of any minority — desires to have a better life, an education, even preferential treatment for college admission, preference for a good paying job, even preference for a low-rate home mortgage, it’s readily available. At the same time, so is welfare, free housing, food stamps and a myriad of other “entitlements.” So please, don’t try to use race as an excuse for remaining “oppressed” or trapped in an impoverished inner-city neighborhood. By the way, those impoverished inner city neighborhoods are also purposely made and kept that way by the same Leftists currently working their hardest to destroy our entire country. If you want to see what America will look like under their Communist “Utopia,” just look at an inner-city slum. That is what THEY created for black people (and they purposely did it to keep black people impoverished), and that’s what they’re now creating for the rest of our nation, with government handouts, ongoing cash payments and so-called “stimulus checks.” We’re slowly being boiled to death in a pot of warm water that’s getting hotter every day, but so many find it comfortable, and so many seem to enjoy having no personal responsibility. There’s a shortage of workers everywhere you look in America. Businesses can no longer function because no one wants to work. Because Big Brother Government is handing out “free” money — but beware, folks. The mouse in the trap never understood why the cheese was free.  
 Ultimately, it’s up to every individual as to what he or she will do with the life God has given them. If anyone, black, white or purple, wants a better life, an education, a good job, a nice home in a nice neighborhood, it’s still possible to obtain all that in America today, with hard work. And for those living below the poverty line or in a blighted neighborhood, as a black person or as any other minority, it’s actually even easier to obtain because there are a great many special programs designed especially to help these individuals.  
 As I drive through blighted inner-city neighborhoods I always wonder, *“why does no one living here ever travel outside the neighborhood?”* You can go from the utter poverty of the housing projects to universities, or to beautiful suburban communities with landscaped yards and manicured lawns in a matter of minutes. Within a half hour you can be in the countryside looking at rolling hills and meadows and farmland. There is LIFE outside the ghetto. There are programs waiting to help people get there, and get there for FREE! Why do they choose to remain victims of Leftist slavery? It’s not white people who are enslaving them. It’s the Leftist demons with the carrot and stick, keeping them where they are. Good little obedient democratic socialist slaves.  
 I must go back to the concept of the content of one’s character. Please don’t talk to me about “white privilege.” There is no such thing. When I started my own business as a very young man, I went to the bank seeking a small business loan. The banker told me point blank*: “I’m sorry, but you’re the wrong color and the wrong gender.”* If I were Black, Asian or a female, there were plenty of programs I would have qualified for. But as a single, white male…nothing.  
 Sadly, today black people — and other minorities — continue to be used as pawns in a perverted game invented and run by the Left, and I’m sick of it. Instead of holding up inspirational leaders like Dr. Ben Carson, Candace Owens, Allen West or Sheriff David Clarke, we get BLM. We get racism and rage. Yes, it does, indeed, exist. But the racism in America is not white people hating blacks — that’s as fake as the news on CNN. It’s the Leftist Marxists taking advantage of blacks (and young, ignorant white college students) and brainwashing them with hateful rhetoric, disinformation and outright lies, to intentionally stir up division and bring about the revolution that will ultimately bring America to it’s destruction. Stop buying into these lies. Instead of Critical Race THEORY, how about just a little bit of critial THINKING?! <https://newswithviews.com/how-about-a-little-critical-thinking/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**PM Bennett after defeat: 'The Opposition hurt Israel's security - but we'll fix it'**

***Government to make another bid at passing Citizenship Law before existing law expires Tuesday night. 'Bibi and Tibi chose petty politics.'***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Jul 06 , 2021 1:48 PM*

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett blasted the Opposition and Opposition Leader Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday, following the government’s failure to pass an extension to the Citizenship Law in the Knesset early Tuesday morning.

Speaking out Tuesday afternoon, Bennett accused the Opposition of “directly hurting Israel’s security, out of a sense of bitterness and despair.”

Bennett singled out Netanyahu and rogue Yamina Mk Amichai Chikli, who voted against the bill, for derision, comparing them to Joint Arab List MK and former Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi.

“Everyone who voted against the Citizenship Law, from Bibi to Tibi to Chikli, chose petty politics over the good of the citizens of Israel, and they will need to give an accounting of their actions to the public for a good long time.”

Coalition MK Yair Golan (Meretz) said that the government would try to pass the bill again, based on a compromise deal.

“We will go back and try to pass the Citizenship Law again. This is a good and proper law.”

“The new government has put together a number of agreements regarding immigration.” MORE-<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309350>

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**07/05/2021 NEWS AM -**

**קולולם | בניה ברבי - מישהו איתי כאן | יוני | האנגר 11, ת״א**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_jUEaR86Lw>

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| **"If America is destroyed, it may be by Americans who salute the flag, sing the national anthem, march in patriotic parades, cheer Fourth of July speakers – normally good Americans, but Americans who fail to comprehend what is required to keep our country strong and free, Americans who have been lulled away into a false security." -- Ezra Taft Benson (1899-1994) President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Source: his book, An Enemy Hath Done This, 2002** |

**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 EL – Had clot embolized to brain – successful ‘clot buster’ but long road to go.**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for DH – Mother removed self from hospice but doing poorly.**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  **Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems**  NOTE: Our prayer list was getting very long and there will little follow up.  If you have people you want to have on the list please resubmit since we are revising it now– rdb]  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

**Genesis 33:1And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked. And, behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. And he divided the children to Leah, and to Rachel, and to the two slave-girls. 2And he put the slave-girls and their children first; and Leah and her children behind: and Rachel and Joseph last. 3And he passed over in front of them and bowed himself to the ground seven times until he came even to his brother. 4And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him. And they wept. 5And he lifted up his eyes and saw the women and the children. And he said, Who *are* these *with* you? And he said, The children *with* whom God has favored your servant.**

**Experts reportedly see major damage in attack on Iran centrifuge plant**

***Public broadcaster says head of international think tank tracking Iran’s nuclear program and others believe equipment at Karaj facility was completely destroyed or disabled***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *5 July 2021, 2:18 am*

Experts believe an attack on a facility producing centrifuge parts for Iran’s nuclear program caused extensive damage, destroying or disabling all equipment at part of the site, according to an Israeli report Sunday.

Tehran has maintained that the apparent drone assault on the Karaj factory was thwarted and no damage caused, but satellite photos published by private Israeli intelligence group The Intel Lab Saturday seemingly cast doubt on those claims, showing a large hole in the roof of one building previously identified as a bellows manufacturing plant.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/Karaj.jpg)The photos also purportedly showed evidence of a large fire.

***The alleged Karaj centrifuge parts plant near Karaj, Iran, seen in a photo posted online by google user Edward Majnoonian in May 2019. (screen capture: Google Maps)***

According to the Kan public broadcaster, experts who saw the photos concluded that “all equipment in the area had been destroyed completely or rendered inoperable.” It said the experts had made the assessments based on the satellite photos, which were taken July 1.

The station only named one expert it was relying on, David Albright, who heads the Institute for Science and International Security, a non-governmental organization which has attempted to track and expose illicit aspects of Iran’s nuclear program.

According to the report, Albright and other experts say that the Iranians have already begun attempting to repair the damage from the June 23 strike at the Iran Centrifuge Technology Company, or TESA, near the city of Karaj, northwest of Tehran.

A tweet from The Intel Lab on Saturday claimed that the roof had largely been dismantled by Iran as part of rehabilitation activities following the attack. The dismantled roof allowed analysts to peek inside the building, where dark coloration indicated the presence of a large fire inside the building, the smallest of three main structures at the site.

June 21st the roof was as earlier images, June 26th appearance of a small dark spot which gave the hint, June 1st shows that the roof was further dismantled as part of the cleaning. [pic.twitter.com/aknog1sFhI](https://t.co/aknog1sFhI)

— The Intel Lab (@TheIntelLab) [July 3, 2021](https://twitter.com/TheIntelLab/status/1411215390206836737?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

According to a New York Times report last month, the TESA factory was tasked with replacing damaged centrifuges at the Natanz nuclear site, a previous target of apparent sabotage, and also produces more advanced centrifuges that can more quickly enrich uranium.

In 2011, members of the National Council of Resistance in Iran opposition group published photos of the Karaj site claiming that it was being used for the clandestine production of centrifuge parts.

“The various parts that are manufactured in this site include casing, magnets, molecular pumps, composite tubes, Bellows, and centrifuge bases. These are essentially the parts used for the production of IR-1 type centrifuges. But there are also parts related to more advanced centrifuges that are also produced at this site.”

According to Nournews, June 24th, 2021 "Security forces have managed to foil an act of sabotage against one of the buildings of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) in Karaj, Alborz province". Satellite Image from July 1st tells a different story. [#Iran](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Iran?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [#Nuclear](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Nuclear?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [#JCPOA](https://twitter.com/hashtag/JCPOA?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/QTAqTml4HT](https://t.co/QTAqTml4HT)

— The Intel Lab (@TheIntelLab) [July 3, 2021](https://twitter.com/TheIntelLab/status/1411199249182859265?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Iran has not identified who it believes was responsible for the drone strike. The country has accused Israel of similar attacks on its nuclear program in the past.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett appeared to hint at Israel’s role during a speech at a graduation ceremony for Israeli Air Force pilots, a day after the strike. “Our enemies know — not from statements, but from actions — that we are much more determined and much more clever, and that we do not hesitate to act when it is needed,” Bennett said in his speech at the IAF’s Hatzerim Air Base, outside Beersheba.

The centrifuge production site was reportedly on a list of targets that Israel presented to the Trump administration last year, at the same time as it suggested striking Iran’s uranium enrichment site at Natanz and assassinating Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, a scientist who began the country’s military nuclear program decades earlier, an intelligence source told the New York Times.

Fakhrizadeh was killed in November 2020 in an attack Iran blamed on Israel, while a mysterious explosion damaged a large number of centrifuges at the Natanz plant in April 2021. Israel’s former Mossad spy agency chief recently indicated in an interview given after he left office that Israel was behind that incident.

While Iran maintains that the Karaj facility is used for civilian purposes, it has been subjected to United Nations, European Union and American sanctions since at least 2007 for being involved in Iran’s nuclear and ballistic missile programs. The US lifted those sanctions under the 2015 nuclear deal, but then reimposed them in 2018 when Trump unilaterally withdrew from the accord. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/experts-reportedly-see-major-damage-in-attack-on-iran-centrifuge-plant/>

**Defense minister: Israel will act whenever, wherever needed against Iran**

***In TV interview, Gantz also warns war could again break out in Gaza Strip, as terror groups continue to launch arson balloons into Israel; offers to help Lebanon***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 11:31 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/SLA-memorial-no-credit-e1625421097661.jpg)

Defense Minister Benny Gantz (center) and IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi (left) inaugurate a memorial to fallen South Lebanon Army soldiers, on July 4, 2021, in Metulla. (Ariel Hermoni/Defense Ministry)

Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Sunday said Israel would act wherever and whenever necessary to prevent Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, days after Iran reportedly struck a cargo ship once owned by an Israeli company, in an apparent act of retaliation for an attack on an Iranian nuclear facility last month.

“We are in a conflict with Iran. We have to defend ourselves. We are determined to prevent Iran from going nuclear and we are determined to prevent Iran’s active, negative behavior in our region. They know we know how to act,” Gantz said, speaking in an interview with Channel 13.

Earlier on Sunday, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett reportedly convened a high-level meeting of defense and diplomatic officials regarding Iran, its nuclear program and the ongoing talks between Tehran and Washington toward a mutual return to the 2015 nuclear deal, a move that Israel staunchly opposes. In 2018, then-US president Donald Trump abrogated the agreement, imposing a crushing sanctions regime on Iran, and a year later, Tehran followed suit, enriching far more uranium and to far greater degrees of purity than was permitted under the deal.

According to the Walla news site, those in attendance — including Bennett, Gantz, and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, along with the heads of the National Security Council, military, Israel Defense Forces and Mossad, as well as other senior officials — mostly attempted to bring one another up to speed on where the negotiations between the US and Iran stood.

Though both sides have said that progress has been made in the talks, a number of issues have so far prevented a return to the deal by the two countries.

Later in the evening, the defense minister again affirmed Israel’s willingness to act against Iran, during a speech at a ceremony marking the opening of a monument honoring fallen members of the South Lebanon Army, which fought alongside the IDF during its occupation of southern Lebanon from 1982 to 2000.

“Israel will continue to act with everything at its disposal in order to prevent Iran from obtaining a unclear weapon and to prevent its efforts to rearm, to entrench itself or to harm Israel — from the air, from land, from the cyber domain or from the sea. We will do so at the time and place that is right for us, and we will preserve our military superiority for the stability of the region and the security of the region,” Gantz said.

On Saturday, [a cargo ship](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-owned-vessel-bound-for-uae-said-struck-in-indian-ocean/) bound for the United Arab Emirates was apparently attacked as it made its way through the Indian Ocean, causing a fire on board. The ship was previously owned by an Israeli businessman, but had since been sold to a British firm. Israeli officials believe that Iran was behind the attack.

The attack appeared to be revenge for a recent drone strike on [an Iranian centrifuge manufacturing facility](https://www.timesofisrael.com/satellite-photos-said-to-show-damage-from-attack-on-iran-centrifuge-site/) outside Tehran last month.

In his speech at the SLA monument, Gantz made a rare offer of assistance to Lebanon, which is in the midst of an unprecedented economic crisis, with basic necessities like fuel becoming unobtainable to many Lebanese.

“Israel has offered to help Lebanon in the past, and we are prepared today as well to work to help it grow and get out of this crisis,” Gantz said.

Turning to the Gaza Strip, the defense minister warned that fighting could break out in the Palestinian enclave at any time, despite what he described as a successful campaign in May against the Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror groups there.

“Gaza is a very sensitive place. We know that a tactical event can quickly deteriorate,” he said in the Channel 13 interview.

“We are, of course, ready to act. We are identifying dozens of targets, we’ve already identified hundreds. I really don’t recommend that Hamas test the capabilities of the IDF,” he said.

Recent weeks have seen a return of balloon-based arson attacks from the Gaza Strip, which have burned large swaths of private and public land in southern Israel, but have so far caused no Israeli injuries.

Gantz said that despite these incendiary attacks, he still believes Israel’s Operation Guardian of the Walls campaign was a success, having dealt a significant blow to Hamas’s and Islamic Jihad’s capabilities.

“Guardian of the Walls achieved its goal,” Gantz said, adding that Israel has been striking “high quality targets,” in response to the balloon attacks.

The defense minister also discussed a recent deal that he approved between the government and a group of settlers who established an illegal outpost in the northern West Bank, known as Evyatar, in early May, during that month’s Gaza conflict. Under the agreement, in exchange for the settlers peacefully leaving the outpost on Friday, the government agreed to not raze the structures and to determine if the illegal settlement was built on privately owned Palestinian property or state land. If it was the latter, the outpost could be retroactively approved.

Gantz said the settlers who established Evyatar without approval “cynically took advantage of the situation” that the country was in during the Gaza conflict, a period that also saw large riots within Israeli cities.

“This was an illegal place, and they knew that they would either leave or be evicted. I’m glad they decided to leave,” the defense minister said. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/defense-minister-israel-will-act-whenever-wherever-needed-against-iran/>

**July 4th ransomware attack may be the largest ever - expert**

***This attack is different from the SolarWinds attack, which exposed sensitive data from government offices and thousands of private companies in what is possibly the largest security breach ever.***

*By* [*ZEV STUB*](https://www.jpost.com/author/zev-stub) *JULY 4, 2021 16:05*

A ransomware attack by the Russian-based REvil gang on the eve of the July 4th US holiday weekend may end up being even larger than the recent [SolarWinds](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/solarwinds-hack-largest-and-most-sophisticated-ever-microsoft-president-658995) hack, an Israeli cybersecurity expert has told The Jerusalem P*ost*.

The supply-chain attack on IT management software provider Kaseya has been under-reported in the media due to the holiday, but may set a new precedent for future [cyberattacks](https://www.jpost.com/jpost-tech/israeli-researchers-discover-global-cyber-attack-in-1300-locations-672656), said Demi Ben-Ari, Co-Founder & CTO of Tel Aviv-based security management company Panorays.

  
Demi Ben-Ari, co-founder & CTO of Panorays. (Photo Credit: Anton Feelin)

Kaseya provides IT management tools for some 40,000 customers worldwide. The company has said that REvil managed to target only about 40 of its clients, but that some of those are Managed Service Providers (MSPs) that may each work with hundreds of businesses.

“That means the viral distribution of this thing is going to be massive,” Ben-Ari said. “What has been reported so far is that more than a thousand companies have been affected, including some chains, like Swedish grocery retailer Coop, which was forced to close more than 800 stores. Their systems are literally all down.”

This attack is significantly different from the recent SolarWinds attack, which exposed sensitive data from government offices and thousands of private companies in what was possibly the largest security breach ever, Ben-Ari said. In this attack, companies are being told to pay a large ransom – in some cases, as much as $50,000 per employee at each company. “If you just multiply the numbers, the magnitude is massive,” he said.

The US government prefers that companies don’t give money to their attackers so not to encourage them, but many corporate ransomware victims conclude that the cost of resisting is much greater than paying.

Last month, JBS, one of the largest meat producers in the US, paid an $11 million ransom after a similar attack knocked out operations at some of its largest facilities. (The FBI has blamed that attack on REvil as well.) And in May, Colonial Pipeline, one of the US’s largest gas providers, was forced to shut down gas delivery to the East Coast until it paid the hackers $4.4 million to get back online.

“REvil is only interested in getting money and like other Russian ransomware groups, is believed to be sponsored by the Russian government, although that hasn’t been proven,” Ben-Ari said.

“It is not a coincidence that this attack was conducted on the eve of the Fourth of July holiday, when many of the victims are out of the office and may not even find out about it until Tuesday. This was a super-targeted operation intended to make a lot of money.”

Kaseya immediately advised customers to shut their servers temporarily to avoid being attacked, and to be wary of any communications from the attackers. The scope of the damage from the attack will not be clear for several more days, Ben-Ari noted.

He said that companies can prepare themselves for such attacks by evaluating risks to their system and securing vulnerabilities using cybersecurity services like that of Panorays, and implementing a plan to get back online in case of attacks. “I believe this type of attack will be a paradigm that companies of all sizes must prepare for.  Smaller companies that don’t invest in cybersecurity will be the easiest to breach, and then there is a risk that the attack could go viral,” he said.

“The only solution is preparing ahead, because the question isn’t whether something like this will happen, but when.”

<https://www.jpost.com/jpost-tech/july-4th-ransomware-attack-may-be-the-largest-ever-expert-672822> [the more “advanced” the world becomes the more dangerous it is with more opportunities for fraud and corruption. It is also a terrible problem for people to actually be socially isolated by depending primarily on technology for contact rather than interpersonal relationships. It is actually a strange form of isolationism. – rdb]

**Government set to impose fresh restrictions as COVID cases rise**

***Ministers to reportedly mull caps on gatherings, reintroducing ‘Green Pass’ in limited format, requiring parents of infected kids to enter quarantine***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:04 pm*

The Israeli government is expected to reimpose some new restrictions to curb the COVID-19 outbreak in the country this week, including limiting some gatherings and restricting access for the unvaccinated to some venues, according to reports on Sunday.  
 The high-level coronavirus cabinet will meet Tuesday to discuss the resurgence of the virus in the country due to the fast-spreading Delta variant. During the meeting, ministers will be presented with proposals to drive down morbidity, which has climbed considerably in recent weeks, hitting around 300 cases per day. Experts have [warned](https://www.timesofisrael.com/experts-without-new-restrictions-daily-covid-cases-to-rise-to-1000-in-2-weeks/) that the daily caseload could soar to 1,000 cases a day in two weeks if no steps to rein in the infections are taken.  
 With case numbers rising, Israel has thus far reimposed an indoor mask mandate, cracked down on travelers arriving from countries with high infection rates, and enforced quarantine for new arrivals more strictly, but has sought to avoid a return to the restrictions it had largely emerged from over the last two months.  
 According to Channel 12, the government was considering a limited “Green Pass” plan, which would prevent those who are not immunized from accessing some venues, though the measures would primarily be directed at reducing crowds at sites that attract the elderly and children.  
 The government is also expected to begin enforcing mask-wearing indoors, after restoring the mandate that had been lifted last month, the network said. [Totally ineffectual and stupid. – rdb]  
 The Health Ministry is also considering mandating vaccinated parents of children who test positive for COVID to remain in quarantine until they receive a negative test, Channel 13 reported on Sunday, though the health minister expressed reservations about the economic toll of such a step.  
 More than 60,000 people are currently in quarantine in Israel, according to Health Ministry figures. [HUMM? So how many of them have had the JAB? How many show signs of sickness? – rdb]  
 Outgoing Health Ministry Director General Chezy Levy said on Sunday that Israel may need to once again limit large gatherings, particularly among children and the unvaccinated.  
 In an interview with Channel 12, Levy said the rise in those hospitalized with COVID is continuing, but still remains at low levels.  
 “We’re not close to what we’ve seen in the past,” he said. “It’s nothing like the caseload we had earlier.”  
  
 Health Ministry Director-General Prof. Chezy Levy speaks during a press conference about the coronavirus, in Jerusalem on June 21, 2020. (Flash90/File)

 There are currently 2,438 active COVID-19 cases in the country, with 34 people in serious condition, according to Health Ministry data on Sunday night.  
 Following Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s comments earlier Sunday that Israel is weighing returning to the “Green Pass” system, Levy backed limiting large gatherings, particularly of unvaccinated children.  
 The Health Ministry director general, who will soon be departing his post to be replaced by Nahman Ash, also said that a third booster shot for the general population will not happen before the end of the year, while an additional dose for those with compromised immune systems may happen sooner.  
 Channel 12, however, reported Sunday night that the Health Ministry would soon offer a third shot to all Israelis who wanted it — although Pfizer-BioNTech has yet to endorse such a booster. Earlier, Hebrew media reports said the Health Ministry would recommend a third dose for the immunocompromised.  
 The shifting vaccine policies come as the country races to inoculate preteens and teenagers ahead of the July expiration date on its vaccine supply. [If you have watched the videos I have sent you will know that the person who devised the mRNA Jab process recommends against it for teens. – rdb]  
 Israel is seeking to swap its stockpile of Pfizer vaccines, which are slated to expire at the end of the month, in exchange for a future delivery that was destined for another country.  
 Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz said Sunday that Israel is in advanced talks with another country to broker a COVID vaccine swap deal.  
 “We have contacts with another country that I hope will come to fruition in the next few days,” Horowitz told Channel 13. The health minister declined to name the country, since the talks are still ongoing.  
 Earlier, [Bennett spoke to Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla](https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-speaks-to-pfizer-ceo-about-additional-supply-of-vaccines-to-israel/) on the supply of additional vaccines to Israel,  
 “The two discussed strategies for dealing with the virus, with an emphasis on existing and future variants, as well as the possibilities for supplying additional Pfizer vaccines to Israel,” Bennett’s office said. [Have they ever thought of using some standard old medications that have worked in many other countries????? – rdb]  
 “In addition, the prime minister and CEO of Pfizer discussed possible deals to exchange vaccines between Israel and various countries,” the statement from the Prime Minister’s Office said.  
 A swap deal would see Israel provide the doses now to a recipient nation and in return receive one of that nation’s future shipments from Pfizer. If Israel fails to find buyers, vaccine doses worth hundreds of millions of dollars could be thrown away within weeks.  
 According to a Channel 12 report Wednesday night, to prevent vaccines from being tossed, [Israel engaged in advanced talks with the UK](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-negotiating-covid-vaccine-swap-deal-with-uk/) to provide millions of Pfizer vaccines within days in return for London supplying it with one of its future shipments from Pfizer at a later date. That agreement [appeared to have fallen through,](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-uk-vaccine-swap-said-to-fall-through-but-other-nations-may-be-in-play/) but Jerusalem is now in contact with two other countries regarding a possible swap, according to reports on Friday.  
 Israel purchased millions of vaccines from Pfizer and was among the first countries to receive them late last year, for an undisclosed amount. Despite having millions of unused doses, it inked a deal in April under former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu for 18 million more doses, in case they are needed for booster shots. Those doses have yet to arrive.  
 Israel has a reported 1.4 million doses set to expire at the end of July and Bennett is hoping to use as many of them as possible by getting 300,000 kids age 12-15 vaccinated by July 9, leaving enough time for a second dose.  
 Over 5.62 million people — out of Israel’s population of more than 9.3 million — have gotten at least one vaccine shot. Of those, close to 5.2 million received a second dose.  
   
 People, some with face masks, ride the light train in Jerusalem on July 4, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)

The Delta variant of the virus, first identified in India, is more contagious than other variants and may be better able to bypass vaccines, but is believed to not generally cause serious infection among the vaccinated.  
 The variant is thought to be around 40 percent more contagious than the original strain, according to the United Kingdom’s public health agency. The effectiveness of two vaccine doses for protection from hospitalization is at 96%, according to the agency. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/government-set-to-impose-fresh-restrictions-as-covid-cases-rise/>

**Bennett speaks to Pfizer CEO about additional supply of vaccines to Israel**

***PM and Albert Bourla also discuss possible swap with other nations of immunizations on brink of expiration date; Health Ministry to recommend 3rd booster shot for immunocompromised***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:55 pm*

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Sunday spoke to Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla on the supply of additional vaccines to Israel, as the country raced to immunize preteens and teenagers amid a resurgence of the virus and as the Health Ministry was reportedly poised to recommend a third booster shot for the immunocompromised.

“The two discussed strategies for dealing with the virus, with an emphasis on existing and future variants, as well as the possibilities for supplying additional Pfizer vaccines to Israel,” Bennett’s office said. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-speaks-to-pfizer-ceo-about-additional-supply-of-vaccines-to-israel/>

**Palestinian family reunification law up for Knesset vote, a day before deadline**

***After numerous delays, coalition to raise legislation Monday; Shaked says she doesn’t expect opposition to block it; Likud MK: We have yet to decide how to vote***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:46 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/F210704YS11.jpg)

Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked arrives to a cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on July 4, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

The coalition is expected to bring the extension of the Palestinian family reunification law to a Knesset vote on Monday, though it faces an uphill battle to muster a majority to pass the measure.

Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked (Yamina) confirmed Sunday that the law would be presented to the plenum the following day, after numerous delays, noting that she did not anticipate that right-wing opposition members would vote down the extension.

The law, which blocks the automatic granting of citizenship to Palestinians who marry Israeli citizens, expires on July 6. The government wants to extend the law by another year.

Members of Likud and other opposition parties, who support the reunification bill in principle, have vowed to oppose it in order to embarrass the new government led by Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.

Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday doubled down on his demand to advance a quasi-constitutional Basic Law on immigration to replace the Palestinian family reunification law.

Netanyahu on Sunday said he offered to vote in favor of extending the 2003 reunification law for two months, until the Basic Law could be legislated, but the coalition has refused.

That legislation — which was introduced and abandoned in the past — aims to limit and restrict immigration to Israel, and provide the state with greater capabilities in deporting those residing in the country illegally.

“Bennett and Lapid aren’t capable of preserving the Jewish character of the State of Israel. Tomorrow, they will raise the reunification law for a Knesset vote, while Ra’am, Meretz, and a Labor MK oppose it,” said Netanyahu in a video posted on social media on Sunday.

“They expect us to advance this law that is full of holes, not to resolve the issue facing the State of Israel, and ensure its survival as a Jewish and democratic state, but rather to ensure the survival of their coalition,” said Netanyahu.

According to Army Radio, Likud was conducting internal polling on whether a vote against the reunification law would upset its base.

Likud MK David Bitan said Sunday his party had not yet decided how it would vote on extending the Palestinian family reunification law.

Bitan told Kan public radio that “we still haven’t decided how to vote. We could vote in favor of the law if the coalition proves that it is prepared to work with us on the Basic Law on immigration, and if the coalition has not promised [to others] anything beyond what is stated in the law.”

The coalition will need some opposition support to approve the extension, as coalition members have refused to back it.

The left-wing Meretz party announced Thursday that it would oppose the government in extending the Palestinian family reunification law. But according to the Walla news site, the coalition was considering a compromise proposed by Meretz’s Issawi Frej, under which the law would be extended by six months rather than a year and a panel would be formed to consider individual cases on humanitarian grounds.

A vote on extending the [reunification law was postponed last Tuesday,](https://www.timesofisrael.com/vote-on-extending-family-reunification-law-pushed-off-again/) when the coalition realized it had yet to secure a majority. With the coalition holding the narrowest possible one-seat majority in the Knesset, every vote can theoretically be torpedoed by just one lawmaker. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-family-reunification-law-up-for-knesset-vote-a-day-before-deadline/>

**Gantz: Israel ready to provide assistance to Lebanon amid economic crisis**

***"As an Israeli, as a Jew and as a human being, my heart aches seeing the images of people going hungry on the streets of Lebanon."***

*By* [*TZVI JOFFRE*](https://www.jpost.com/author/tzvi-joffre) *JULY 5, 2021 01:27*

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***An Israeli soldier opens a gate at a military base leading to the border crossing with Lebanon at Rosh Hanikra, northern Israel (photo credit: AMIR COHEN/REUTERS)***

Defense Minister Benny Gantz offered to assist Lebanon on Sunday as Israel's neighbor continues to suffer from a worsening economic crisis.

"As an Israeli, as a Jew and as a human being, my heart aches seeing the images of people going hungry on the streets of Lebanon," wrote Gantz on Twitter. "Israel has offered assistance to Lebanon in the past and even today we are ready to act, and to encourage other countries to extend a helping hand to Lebanon so that it will once again flourish and emerge from its state of crisis."

Israel has offered assistance to Lebanon in the past and even today we are ready to act, and to encourage other countries to extend a helping hand to Lebanon so that it will once again flourish and emerge from its state of crisis.

— בני גנץ - Benny Gantz (@gantzbe) [July 4, 2021](https://twitter.com/gantzbe/status/1411791707247632384?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Lebanon is suffering from a worsening economic crisis, with violence and protests breaking out in cities around the country as basic services collapse. Electricity outages and gas shortages are now commonplace in the country.

Over half of Lebanon's population now lives in poverty. According to the World Bank, Lebanon's financial crisis is likely to rank in the top 10, possibly even the top three, most severe crises in the world since the mid-1800's. A World Bank report in early June warned that "the increasingly dire socio-economic conditions risk systemic national failings with regional and potentially global effects."

Hezbollah leader [Hassan Nasrallah](https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/nasrallah-any-attack-on-jerusalem-means-regional-war-670461) has stated in recent weeks that the gasoline crisis in Lebanon could be addressed within a few days if the country would just accept Iranian oil shipments, which are under sanctions by international law.

The Hezbollah leader stated that Hezbollah will eventually negotiate directly with the Iranian government on its own and import Iranian oil through the Port of Beirut, if the Lebanese government does not begin “bearing its responsibility.” Such a move could bring Iranian fuel tankers not far from Israel’s shores.

This isn't the first time Israel has offered to help Lebanon in times of crisis.

After a [huge explosion devastated Beirut](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/large-explosion-rocks-beirut-report-637475) in August of last year, killing dozens and injuring thousands, then prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved humanitarian and medical assistance to Lebanon and instructed the National Security Council to contact then UN envoy Nickolay Mladenov to find out how Israel could help.

Gantz and other Israeli officials reiterated Israel's offer for aid at the time as well.

Both Lebanese President Michel Aoun and Aoun's daughter, Claudine Aoun Roukoz, have [expressed openness](https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/lebanese-presidents-daughter-doesnt-mind-conditional-peace-with-israel-647090) in the past to some form of peace with Israel.

In an interview with Al-Jadeed TV in October of last year, Roukoz stated that if border disputes with Israel and issues with Palestinian refugees were resolved, she would "not mind that the Lebanese state makes peace with Israel, after the demarcation and the guarantee of resources."

In August of last year, in response to a question concerning whether Lebanon would consider making peace with Israel, Aoun stated, "That depends. We have problems with Israel, and we have to resolve them first." Aoun did not specify what problems would need to be resolved.

In the past year, Lebanon and Israel have been conducted US-mediated negotiations concerning the maritime border between the countries’ Exclusive Economic Zones. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/gantz-israel-ready-to-provide-assistance-to-lebanon-amid-economic-crisis-672885>

**Moroccan plane lands in Israel, reportedly before taking part in IDF drill**

***Israeli military refrains from commenting on the visit, which can be seen in public flight-tracking software, saying only that it ‘cooperates with a variety of foreign nations’***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 4:04 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/CNA-OI_25152862143.jpg)

***A Royal Moroccan Air Force C-130 plane comes in for a landing in an undated photograph. (Dmitry Terekhov/CC BY-SA 2.0/Wikimedia)***

A Moroccan air force plane touched down in Israel’s Hatzor Air Base on Sunday morning, reportedly to take part in a multinational Israeli Air Force exercise later this month.

The highly irregular landing of the Royal Moroccan Air Force C-130 cargo plane at the Hatzor Air Base near Ashdod was visible on public flight-tracking software, where it was quickly spotted by a number of amateur radar watchers, one of whom shared the information with The Times of Israel.

It appeared to be at least the second time the RMAF cargo plane landed in Israel, the first time being in 1996 when it touched down at Ben Gurion International Airport, according to aviation enthusiast David Weinrich, who tracked that flight at the time.

The C-130 cargo plane landed in Israel on Sunday for a military exercise scheduled for later this month, in which several foreign countries are due to take part, according to the Walla news site.

The Israel Defense Forces refused to confirm the report or the visit.

“The IDF cooperates with a variety of foreign nations and militaries, while carrying out exercises, high-level meetings, and joint research and development [projects]. We will not comment on cooperations with a specific country,” the military said in a statement.

After a 20-year lull in diplomatic relations, Israel and Morocco renewed their ties late last year, amid a wave of normalization agreements with other Arab countries.

While Jerusalem and Rabat did not in the past have full relations — with diplomatic offices in each other’s capital instead of embassies — they maintained close official ties until Morocco suspended them with the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/moroccan-plane-lands-in-israel-reportedly-before-taking-part-in-idf-drill/> [This is really very incredible because a little over a year ago there was almost no interaction of Morocco with Israel. – rdb]

**IDF to probe fitness program, lack of defibrillator after officer’s death**

***Army announces third investigation into fatal collapse of Col. Sharon Asman, 42, following run, after previously launching Military Police probe and medical inquiry***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *5 July 2021, 12:39 am*

The Israel Defense Forces on Sunday announced it was launching a third investigation into the sudden death of Col. Sharon Asman, who collapsed while exercising on a military base last week.

The probe, which will examine the military’s fitness program and access to medical equipment, will join two other probes already launched into Asman’s death: a Military Police investigation launched automatically anytime a service member dies and a medical post-mortem to determine the exact cause of death and evaluate the treatment Asman received.

“The team will make recommendations for steps that can be taken to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future,” the IDF said Sunday, announcing the third probe.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/F210704AVS15.jpg)

***IDF chief Aviv Kohavi lays a wreath at the funeral of Col. Sharon Asman in Kiryat Shaul Military Cemetery, on July 4, 2021. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)***

Asman, 42, collapsed suddenly after a short run with a number of other military officers on Thursday. He received first aid on the scene but was pronounced dead a short while later. According to Army Radio, it took nearly 20 minutes for a defibrillator to be brought to the scene, though it was not immediately clear if access to the device, which can control the rhythm of the heart, would have necessarily saved Asman’s life.

His exact cause of death was not immediately known, but it appeared to be a form of heart failure, likely caused by an undiagnosed heart condition.

Channel 13 news reported that the military was reevaluating the medical tests senior officers receive in an effort to better find such defects.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/F180517GE04-1-e1625408044473.jpg)

Col. Sharon Asman, with his daughter Emma. May 17, 2018. (Gershon Elinson/FLASH90)

The probe into the military’s fitness regiment will be led by top medical officers and combat fitness instructors, the IDF said.

“The team of experts will check issues relating to the IDF’s combat fitness routines, including: preparedness for fitness routines, medical equipment and evacuation during combat fitness exercises, training fitness instructors to provide medical care and any other issue that comes up during their work,” the IDF said.  
 In part, the investigation was due to look into the lack of a defibrillator at the gym where Asman collapsed — despite civilian fitness centers being required by law to have the machines on hand.  
 On Saturday night, the military announced it was tasking a senior medical officer with leading a panel probing Asman’s death, to begin work Sunday.  
 The IDF said the committee would examine a “broad range of medical issues” relating to Asman’s death.  
 Asman’s death came as a particular shock to the military, as he had only started in the post of brigade commander a few days before and was seen as a rising star in the IDF.  
 [](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/F210704AVS05.jpg)  
 Col. Sharon Asman is laid to rest on July 4, 2021 in Kiryat Shaul Military Cemetery after his sudden death following a run last week. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)

He was buried in Tel Aviv’s Kiryat Shaul military cemetery on Sunday.  
 Asman’s widow, who is also named Sharon, thanked him for “wonderful years of love, support and friendship.”  
 “Thank your for our two amazing daughters. Thank you for the conversations, the wisdom, the insight, the composure. Now everyone knows what we knew all along — how special you were, a rare combination of a man of spirit and a fighter,” she said.  
 IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi eulogized Asman as “an officer and a gentleman,” who was “professional and thorough, cool-headed and brave.”  
 Asman had served in the military for some 25 years and fought in Lebanon and Gaza.  
 Head of the IDF’s Northern Command Amir Baram said Asman was “a warrior and a wonderful military man.”

“He was a sabra — tough on the outside and sensitive on the inside. He always cared for his subordinate soldiers and officers, his colleagues and his commanders,” Baram said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-to-probe-fitness-program-lack-of-defibrillator-after-officers-death/>

**Meron disaster commission begins investigation, orders documents handed over**

***Attorney general given 30 days to present government reports on planning of Lag B’Omer event at Mount Meron, where 45 people were killed in a deadly crush***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:28 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/F210630DC09.jpg)

***Workers dismantle a temporary structure at a compound in Meron, northern Israel, on June 30, 2021. (David Cohen/Flash90)***

The government’s taskforce probing the April 30 disaster at Mount Meron — which left 45 people dead and over 150 injured — began its work on Sunday, issuing an order to the attorney general to hand over documents related to the planning of the event.

Former chief justice Miriam Naor, who heads the state commission of inquiry, ordered Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit to provide within 30 days all documentation from government meetings ahead of the Lag B’Omer festival at the pilgrimage site. The attorney general will also supply internal government reports, in the aftermath of Israel’s deadliest civilian disaster, that attempted to address whether it could have been averted.

Naor will also meet with Mandelblit to discuss the scope of the probe, to ensure it does not conflict with the criminal investigation into the disaster.

Among the documents that Mandelblit was asked to hand over are those from internal ministry deliberations, messages and records of conversations, and all documents that were created in the wake of the disaster including dissections of what happened and any conclusions drawn.

Naor also noted that the National Center for the Development of Holy Places, Merom HaGalil Regional Council, and the committee that administers Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai’s Tomb, where the disaster happened, will be required to hand over all documents dealing with preparations for the festival and those from reviews made afterwards.

The commission will have a budget of NIS 6 million ($1.83 million), and will investigate — in coordination with the attorney general and other ongoing parallel investigations — how the disaster unfolded, and probe the decision-making processes that authorized the event.

The three-member commission also consists of former Bnei Brak mayor Rabbi Mordechai Karelitz and former IDF planning chief Maj. Gen. (res.) Shlomo Yanai. The taskforce’s members were appointed by current Chief Justice Esther Hayut.

At its first official meeting on June 20, [the cabinet approved](https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-1st-cabinet-meeting-new-government-okays-state-inquiry-into-meron-disaster/) a proposal submitted by Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman to establish a governmental commission of inquiry into the disaster.

The new body was tasked by the government with conducting a detailed probe of the disaster and recommending specific changes to the holy site, which hosts a yearly celebration in honor of the second-century sage Shimon Bar Yochai that draws hundreds of thousands and is believed to be the largest single annual Jewish event in the world.

But the commission is also tasked with issuing recommendations for proper policies and regulations for mass events, especially religious ones, beyond Meron. MORE- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/meron-disaster-commission-begins-investigation-orders-documents-handed-over/>

**Court again delays resumption of Netanyahu trial, putting it off till July 19**

***Postponement puts restart of proceedings just 2 days before summer recess; delay comes at request of prosecutors who need more time to provide defense with missing materials***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:19 pm*

The Jerusalem District Court on Monday said there would a further delay to the trial of former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, announcing it will restart on July 19 instead of next Monday as planned.

It was the second time proceedings have been held up following a court order that defense attorneys be provided with new evidence gleaned from messages and emails on the phone of former Walla CEO Ilan Yeshua, a key witness in the case.

Prosecutors asked for the delay because they needed more time to provide all the necessary material after defense attorneys argued that they were not given the texts from all relevant conversations on Yeshua’s phone during an earlier search.

The new target date is just two days before the start of the court’s summer recess, which continues until September. The Jewish High Holidays in September and October will add a further delay to proceedings.

There are another seven hearings currently scheduled for Yeshua’s testimony, meaning it is now expected to continue beyond High Holiday period. MORE-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/court-again-delays-resumption-of-netanyahu-trial-putting-it-off-till-july-19/>

**UK to leave small number of elite troops in Afghanistan as ex-MI6 chief warns of likely civil war - media**

*5 Jul, 2021 00:31*

The British government is poised to keep a small special forces contingent on the ground in Afghanistan, The Telegraph reported, as the Taliban has made significant ground gains amid the US withdrawal. With Afghan troops retreating, allowing the Taliban to capture swathes of territory, including a key district in Kandahar province, days after the US and its NATO allies pulled out of the coalition’s main base in Afghanistan, the UK now reportedly mulls keeping an “advisory group” of elite special forces soldiers in the country.

Citing a former Special Air Service (SAS) soldier, who until recently was stationed in Afghanistan, the Telegraph [reported](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/07/04/britain-will-keep-boots-ground-afghanistan-special-forces-set/?utm_content=telegraph&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=Echobox&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1625433861-1) that the group would “provide training to Afghan units and deploy *with them on the ground as advisors.”* The deployment will be open-ended, they said, meaning the forces would stay *“as long as they [the government] continue to see value”* to have them stationed there.

The decision whether to withdraw all the remaining UK’s 750 soldiers from the war-ravaged country for good or leave some troops behind amid the Taliban’s ongoing onslaught, is yet to be made, a senior military source told the paper. UK PM Boris Johnson, who has a final say over the matter, is expected to announce at the National Security Council meeting on Monday.

Earlier [reports](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/02/uk-to-bring-home-last-remaining-troops-in-afghanistan-this-weekend) in the UK media suggested that British troops might exit Afghanistan already by July 4, the deadline seemingly timed with the US soldiers’ pullout from Bagram Air Base, the main coalition’s military hub in the country, located near Kabul.

Officials in the UK, however, were reluctant to commit to a certain timeframe, saying that London “*reserves the right”* to dispatch troops back to Afghanistan, either as part of a coalition or unilaterally, if parts of Afghanistan are overrun by terrorists.

Similar concerns were raised by the former head of MI6, Britain’s Secret Intelligence Service, Alex Yanger. [Speaking](https://news.sky.com/story/terror-threat-to-britain-will-grow-if-west-neglects-afghanistan-ex-spymaster-warns-12348573) to Sky News on Sunday, Yanger, who ran MI6 until last September, argued that the withdrawal of the US and allied  forces might give rise to the resurgence of terrorist groups, such as Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL). Comparing the current Afgan situation with that in wake of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989, Yanger insisted that the West should stay active in Afghanistan instead of making *“an enormous mistake*” of leaving it by itself and letting terrorist groups recover.

*"They're on the back foot. But it would be wrong, patently, to claim that they have gone away. And they have the capacity to regenerate,”*  Yanger said.

The US funneled arms and money to Afghan Mujahideen guerrilla militants who were fighting the Soviet forces in the early 1980s, and who later became part of the Taliban. In April, the CIA even [bragged](https://www.rt.com/usa/520281-cia-tweet-arming-taliban/) about arming the militants who fought the Soviet army with shoulder-fired missiles, drawing scorn in return.

Blasting former US President Donald Trump for setting a May withdrawal deadline, pushed back by the Biden administration to September, Yanger argued that the US should have been conditional on the Taliban taking active part in the political process.

While the former spy chief noted that he believes that a civil war remains the most likely scenario in Afghanistan, he said that he was still *“proud"* of what the US-led intervention achieved there, despite leaving a power vacuum behind.

*"I am proud of what we have done there when I look at the situation that existed in 2001, when I look at the extent of the terrorist infrastructure and when I consider the damage that could and would have been done if we had allowed that to continue.”*

He acknowledged, however, that the western efforts to impose their version of “democracy” on the Afghan society failed bitterly, saying: *“I've learnt: the idea that we can create a democracy in our image in a country like that is out of reach."* <https://www.rt.com/uk/528369-taliban-uk-special-troops-afghanistan/>

**'The science' doesn't support masks for children, report says**

***'Inhaled air' found to have 3 times carbon-dioxide limit***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published July 4, 2021 at 4:18pm*

Those mask mandates imposed for the COVID pandemic could be hurting kids, and the vaccines could be killing them, according to a new [Just the News](https://justthenews.com/politics-policy/coronavirus/prominent-medical-journals-highlight-harm-children-masks-death-risk) report that cites several medical journals and studies.

"Measured carbon dioxide content in 'inhaled air,' observed in a study of masked German schoolchildren, was at least three-fold higher than German law allows, according to a research letter published this week in the Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics," the report said. And, "Last week, the journal Vaccines, affiliated with the American Society for Virology, published research that estimates every three COVID-19 deaths prevented by vaccination are offset by two deaths 'inflicted by vaccination,' using Israeli and European data."

Masks and vaccines -- and lockdowns -- have been among America's main responses to the virus that likely originated with a Chinese lab in Wuhan that works with the Chinese Communist Party's military.

Those defensive strategies were adopted over treatments with ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine that some studies have suggested are effective against the virus.

The Just the News report cited the work of Harald Walach, the lead author of both studies, who is a professor Poznan University of the Medical Sciences' Pediatric Clinic in Poland and University of Witten/Herdecke's psychology department in Germany.

Most of the children who reported cases of irritability, headache and reluctance to go to school that came from a German register of problems "can be understood as consequences of elevated carbon dioxide levels in inhaled air," said a JAMA Pediatrics paper.

The report said the study cited the "dead-space volume of the masks, which collects exhaled carbon dioxide quickly after a short time."

It found that policymakers should reconsider mask demands for children because of the possible impairments from "hypercapnia," or a buildup of CO2 in the blood.

Bottom of Form

"The study passed muster at the University of Witten/Herdecke's ethics board, given that it required each child to wear various masks for a total of 15 minutes, in contrast to the 'several hours; they spend masked in school, the trial protocol said," the report confirmed.

The study assessed 45 health children ages 6-17 with various masks in a well-ventilated room.

"Two thousand parts per million of CO2, or 0.2%, is the limit for closed rooms under German law, the study said. The child with the lowest CO2 level was three times higher than this limit, while one 7-year-old was measured with 25,000 parts per million."

The subsequent questions include why studies used to promote masking don't have a control group, and why studies have failed to address "all-day mask wearing."

The report said the review in Vaccine estimated the "number needed to vaccinate" (NNTV) to prevent one COVID-19 death, using a million-person Israeli field study and "the most prominent trial data from regulatory phase 3 trials."

It looked at fatal side effects and more.

"Simply put: As we prevent three deaths by vaccinating, we incur two deaths," according to the paper, though looking at phase 3 trial data alone, the "optimum case" is four deaths caused and 33 lives saved by vaccines, Just the News reported.

"However, one should consider the simple legal fact that a death associated with a vaccination is different in kind and legal status from a death suffered as a consequence of an incidental infection," the paper said.

Jane Orient, chief of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, said the Vaccine paper "is an excellent and much needed analysis."

But she thinks the risk-benefit ratio is likely to be "much worse" than the paper's authors estimate.

The publication days after releasing the results expressed doubts about what it documented, and said it was investigating. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/science-doesnt-support-masks-children-report-says/>

**Republican fireworks in Texas on July 4! Allen West announces run for governor**

***Rockets onto collision course with incumbent endorsed by Trump***

*By* [*Joe Kovacs*](https://www.wnd.com/author/jkovacs/) *Published July 4, 2021 at 3:08pm*



***Allen West (Video screenshot)***

On Independence Day 2021, Lt. Col. Allen West ignited a GOP explosion as he announced his run for governor of Texas against fellow a Republican, incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott.

West, who recently stepped down as chair of the Texas Republican Party, made his announcement at Sojourn Church in Carrollton, Texas, as the former Florida congressman played a 7-minute video to launch his campaign.

**Watch West's campaign announcement:**

"Now it is our time, it is our time to stand up and honor those words of Texas, Our Texas, and to secure the future for our children and our grandchildren, to make sure the growth, the opportunity, and the prosperity, the economic success that you see here in Texas, continues on," said West.

"That means that we stay energy independent, and we fuel America, so that we're not dependent on other nations – other nations that are our enemies."

"To make sure that we secure our borders, to make sure that Texas is for Texans."

"We cannot live in a state that is the number one state for human and sex trafficking in the United States of America. That's not how we protect our children and our legacy."

"There comes a time when a warrior understands that, maybe he has to go back, to pull out that sword, and do that exact same thing that a 26-year-old did at the Alamo. Yes, William Barret Travis," continued West. "When he drew a line in the sand, and he challenged the defenders at the Alamo to stand on the right stand of that line. I am now drawing my sword, and I would draw that line in the sand, and I will ask you to stand with me, to preserve the future, the legacy of Texas, to honor the words of our state song, to stand for something, or as my mother would say, not fall for anything."

"This is our moment in time, I have not been in elected political office for about a decade. But I can no longer sit on the sidelines and see what is happening to these United States of America, what is happening in the place that I call home, where my daughters will raise their families, where my young grandson will grow up as a proud Texan."

"It's time for grandpa to step up, and once again find his place on the ramparts of freedom and liberty, just like those Georgians and Tennesseans did many years ago, for those 13 days at the Alamo."

"You have asked me to come back into service for God, the country, and for Texas, and for a time such as this. And that’s why I am running to be your Governor of the Lone Star State, so that we can protect and defend our home, the Republic that we call Texas."

Meanwhile, Republican Gov. Abbott last month got endorsed for re-election by none other than former President Donald Trump. He also said Texas would construct its own border wall to complete the effort Trump commenced, and invited Trump to his state for a border tour.

West has also been a staunch supporter of Trump, but he recently brushed off concerns about Trump's endorsement of Abbott.

"You know, I don't serve President Trump," West said in June, the Texas Tribune [reported](https://www.texastribune.org/2021/07/04/allen-west-greg-abbott-texas-governor-election/). "I serve God, county and Texas. So that does not affect me whatsoever."

Upon learning of West's run for governor, Gab.com founder Andrew Torba quipped: "Bye bye, Greg."  
**Watch the church service where West announced his run for governor. (His remarks start at the 38:00 mark)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2YfC_GRmIo>

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/republican-fireworks-texas-july-4-allen-west-announces-run-governor/>

**5 months since Capitol Police killed Ashli Babbitt, now Donald Trump demands to know one thing**

***Former president on same wavelength with rest of America***

*By* [*Kipp Jones, The Western Journal*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wj/) *Published July 4, 2021 at 10:47am*

[Share on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wnd.com%2F2021%2F07%2F5-months-since-ashli-babbitt-killed-capitol-police-trump-demands-know%2F%3Futm_source%3DFacebook%26utm_medium%3DPostTopSharingButtons%26utm_campaign%3Dwebsitesharingbuttons&display=popup&ref=plugin&src=share_button) [Tweet](https://twitter.com/share?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wnd.com%2F2021%2F07%2F5-months-since-ashli-babbitt-killed-capitol-police-trump-demands-know%2F%3Futm_source%3DTwitter%26utm_medium%3DPostTopSharingButtons%26utm_campaign%3Dwebsitesharingbuttons&utm_medium%3DCTWebsite%26utm_source%3DTwitter%26utm_campaign%3Dsocial&text=5%20months%20since%20Capitol%20Police%20killed%20Ashli%20Babbitt%2C%20now%20Donald%20Trump%20demands%20to%20know%20one%20thing) [Share to Gab](https://gab.com/compose?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wnd.com%2F2021%2F07%2F5-months-since-ashli-babbitt-killed-capitol-police-trump-demands-know%2F%3Futm_source%3DGab%26utm_medium%3DPostTopSharingButtons%26utm_campaign%3Dwebsitesharingbuttons&text=5%20months%20since%20Capitol%20Police%20killed%20Ashli%20Babbitt%2C%20now%20Donald%20Trump%20demands%20to%20know%20one%20thing) [Email](mailto:?subject=5%20months%20since%20Capitol%20Police%20killed%20Ashli%20Babbitt%2C%20now%20Donald%20Trump%20demands%20to%20know%20one%20thing&body=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wnd.com%2F2021%2F07%2F5-months-since-ashli-babbitt-killed-capitol-police-trump-demands-know%2F) [Print](javascript:window.print())

Former President Donald Trump, through his Save America PAC, asked a poignant question Thursday afternoon.

In a one-sentence message issued just after lunchtime, the [former president](https://www.westernjournal.com/team-trump-officially-launches-new-social-media-platform/) asked, “Who shot Ashli Babbitt?”

From the 45th President

Who shot Ashli Babbitt? [pic.twitter.com/ETS0yI2lLX](https://t.co/ETS0yI2lLX)

— Steve Cortes (@CortesSteve) [July 1, 2021](https://twitter.com/CortesSteve/status/1410683777807007747)

The question immediately sent [Twitter](https://www.westernjournal.com/president-trumps-twitter-account-permanently-suspended-risk-incitement-violence/) -- a platform that banned Trump two days after Babbitt was shot and killed during the Jan. 6 incursion into the Capitol -- into a frenzy.

Babbitt’s name was actually the number one trend on the site as of Thursday evening -- if that gives you any indication as to how much power words from Trump still wield on the site that used the building incursion as a justification to ban him.

President Trump asks who shot Ashli Babbitt. Every American should know who shot Ashli Babbitt. An unarmed young woman was shot at point-blank range and killed for trespassing. Any cop in this country they did that anywhere else would already be in prison. [pic.twitter.com/2UKmhrIzEc](https://t.co/2UKmhrIzEc)

— Bernard B. Kerik (@BernardKerik) [July 1, 2021](https://twitter.com/BernardKerik/status/1410685874480816131)

Will we ever learn who shot Ashli Babbitt?

— 🇺🇸 Matthew Holliday 🇺🇸 (@Matthew\_4\_Trump) [July 1, 2021](https://twitter.com/Matthew_4_Trump/status/1410688432603643907)

DJT weighing on on Who shot Ashli Babbitt... wow. [pic.twitter.com/n4DJbIJl04](https://t.co/n4DJbIJl04)

— Tim Young (@TimRunsHisMouth) [July 1, 2021](https://twitter.com/TimRunsHisMouth/status/1410690892357373955)

Trump Demands Identity Of Officer Who Shot Capitol Rioter Ashli Babbitt Despite DOJ ‘Self-Defense’ Finding <https://t.co/YBF3BAhqf4> [pic.twitter.com/z2GiMHOHgV](https://t.co/z2GiMHOHgV)

— Forbes (@Forbes) [July 1, 2021](https://twitter.com/Forbes/status/1410683516677992451)

The sad fact is we do not know, after nearly six months, the identity of the officer who shot and killed [Babbitt](https://www.westernjournal.com/lawmakers-award-medals-capitol-police-killed-ashli-babbitt-jan-6-21-opposed-award-gop/), who was a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Babbitt was unarmed when she was shot and left to die in the Capitol building during an apparent security breach that Democrats and the establishment media continue to use as a pretext to go after American citizens. Many are reported to be languishing in jail for, in some cases, [walking into a building](https://www.westernjournal.com/putin-rips-detention-jan-6-protesters-accuses-us-government-assassinating-ashli-babbitt/) after police appeared to allow them in.

We can rest assured that if Babbitt were a member of [Black Lives Matter](https://www.westernjournal.com/council-president-issues-radical-statement-blm-leaves-bloody-river-minneapolis/), we would know who took her life.

We know that had any one of these recent White House “insurrectionists” been shot and killed, the name of the officer who fired the shot would be plastered on every establishment media website and cable TV news chyron.

Young climate activists carrying signs reading "Biden, you coward - fight for us" and "No climate, no deal" gathered outside the White House on Monday to protest what they called U.S. President Joe Biden's broken promises and pandering to Republicans. <https://t.co/iqTYnW6hpg>

— WNDU (@WNDU) [June 30, 2021](https://twitter.com/WNDU/status/1410171500813037572)

Hey, ⁦[@FBI](https://twitter.com/FBI)⁩. You’re on this, right? <https://t.co/Rx1muZCw8F>

— Buzz Patterson (@BuzzPatterson) [June 29, 2021](https://twitter.com/BuzzPatterson/status/1409928188122255366)

None were of course shot, despite the fact that they [crowded entrances](https://www.westernjournal.com/insurrection-leftist-agitators-blockade-every-entrance-white-house-issue-demands-biden/) to the White House earlier this week, according to [Newsweek](https://www.newsweek.com/white-house-shutdown-protesters-chain-entrances-pipelines-1605565).

But Babbitt wasn’t a left-wing activist. The Air Force veteran did not set any fires and there are no reports she attacked any cops on Jan. 6. We do know the names of the [police officers](https://www.westernjournal.com/fbi-cant-disclose-brian-sicknicks-cause-death-director-wray/) who died on or around Jan. 6 -- even though none of them were killed by MAGA organizers or Babbitt.

But being given the identity of the officer who shot an unarmed American woman who was protesting at the Capitol on Jan. 6 is information the federal government has decided we do not need to know.

That information is apparently shrouded with such secrecy that even the former president doesn’t have any answers.

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/5-months-since-ashli-babbitt-killed-capitol-police-trump-demands-know/> Pelosi and the demon-rats in DC need to be prosecuted for obstruction of justice by withholding the evidence on this lady’s murder. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**2021 4th of July – Declaring Our Independence Again**

*By* [*Lex Greene*](https://newswithviews.com/author/lex/)*|July 4th, 2021*

For far too many years now, millions of Americans have celebrated July 4th with almost a total disconnect from the purpose of the national holiday and the reason for the season. For decades, this all-important AMERICAN national holiday has been celebrated as little more than a legitimate reason to take a day off work, enjoy a big cookout, have some beers and cocktails, and watch some fireworks.

But this time, July 4, 2021 – the time has arrived to refocus all citizens on the purpose of the celebration, honoring all who created our free sovereign Constitutional Representative Republic following their Declaration of Independence from British rule, 245-years ago.

This time, July 4, 2021 – ALL Americans must stand up and Declare our Independence again!

• Our Independence as a FREE SOVEREIGN NATION  
• Our Independence from foreign intrusions, foreign influence, and foreign invasion  
• Our Independence from Global Marxist laws, rules, and regulations  
• Our Independence from any ONE WORLD ORDER  
• Our Independence from abusive Federal overreaches of authority  
• Our Independence as 50 FREE SOVEREIGN STATES  
• Our Independence as 332-million Americans FREE from any government tyranny  
• Our Independence from any forced vaccines or other crimes against humanity  
• Our Independence from all K-12 and college campus anti-American indoctrination  
• Our Independence from the World Health Organization, the CDC, and Fauci’s NIH  
• Our Independence from government sponsored RACE hate and Fear-mongering  
• Our Independence from all government controlled news and social media  
• Our Independence from Marxist HATE GROUPS like Black Lies Militia and ANTIFA  
• Our Independence from self-serving politicians that no longer serve the people  
• Our Independence from all anti-American ignorance taught in our classrooms  
• Our Independence from 501c government controlled churches selling socialism  
• Our Independence from any (true) white, black, brown or any other supremacists  
• Our Independence from all liars, real conspiracy theorists, or real conspirators  
• Our Independence from all cowards, who would rather live under boot than fight  
• Our Independence from all idiots who don’t know America is the greatest nation on earth  
• Our Independence from any form of government dependency  
• And Our Independence from village idiots like Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, who cheated their way to power…

These days, I probably could have filled up several pages with everything we need to Declare our Independence from, but this is a good start!

Let’s not allow this July 4th to go by without re-declaring our individual, State and National Independence from ALL evils facing our nation and the world today. Let us rise up off our knees and stand once again, leading the world to freedom and liberty, and away from global political tyranny.

We must be ONE NATION UNDER GOD AGAIN… Or we will become just one of many failed states that forfeited our freedom, liberty, decency, honor, and future, in exchange for the promise of mere scraps from the corrupt tables of political power.

PROSECUTE ALL TRAITORS INVOLVED IN THE 2020 ELECTION FRAUD AND LET FREEDOM RING AGAIN IN AMERICA! <https://newswithviews.com/2021-4th-of-july-declaring-our-independence-again/>

**Re-Declaration of Independence**

By [Guest Writer](https://newswithviews.com/author/guest/)|July 4th, 2021

By Paul Engel

As we celebrate the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, I think it’s important that we take some time and perform a self-examination of the independence to which those men pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. If we compare the federal government today to the king we declared independence from then, I think we’ll find them much more alike than we would find comfortable. So today, let us redeclare our independence, not from the government in Washington, D.C., but from the men and women who have corrupted the legacy we celebrate today, from the unjust powers they are exercising, and the tyranny they are attempting to impose on the American people.

As I studied the Declaration of Independence anew, I was hit by the realization of how many of the grievances that the colonist had with King George could just as easily be made by the citizens of the United States against their governments, both state and federal. While writing and teaching on the subject, I was again and again brought to the understanding that the situation of the states today bears a striking resemblance to that of the colonies in 1776. In many ways, I believe the tyranny lorded over the states is worse than what drove our Founding Fathers to declare themselves independent. So I decided to go through the Declaration one more time, updating it with the abuses and usurpations currently being exercised by the government of the United States. I call this document, *The Re-Declaration of Independence*. To help you, I’ve highlighted the language that I have changed.

Re-Declaration

*The Declaration of the* ***citizens of the fifty*** *united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to* ***regain control of their government****, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to this action.*

**The Re-Declaration of Independence**

No significant change to the abuses of rights and liberty will come from politicians. They have no real incentive to fix what can be used so greatly to their own benefit. No, if change is to come, it will not come from Washington, D.C., neither is it likely to originate from our state capitals. If a restoration of independence and liberty are to come to America, it will come from the American people.

And no, “united States” is not a typo. This document is not the viewpoint of the union called the United States of America. Rather, it is coming from the citizens of the several states who have voluntarily united into a compact between the states. While the distinction between the union called the United States and the states that have united together is often lost in today’s discourse, the freedom and independence of these states are just as vital to our liberty today as it was in 1776.

The purpose of this document is not to overthrow the government of the United States, but to return it to its proper place, exercising the limited powers delegated to it by the Constitution that created it.

Justification

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.–That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, –That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath* ***shown****, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.–Such has been the patient sufferance of these* ***States****; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to* ***regain control of the*** *Systems of Government. The history of the present* ***government in Washington, D.C.*** *is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.*

**The Re-Declaration of Independence**

There is little to change here. We should recognize that the government in Washington, D.C., has taken the place of King George when it comes to the abuse of power. Also of great importance is the call to regain control of that government rather than replace it. This is not a call for insurrection, but for a restoration to the proper role of government in a free republic.

Since no call of this magnitude should be made on a whim, it is important that We the People give facts to show the rightness of what we are calling for.

Grievances

***The Federal Courts*** *have refused* ***their*** *Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.*

***The federal government*** *has forbidden* ***the States*** *to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till* ***their*** *Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended,* ***they have*** *utterly neglected to attend to them.*

***The federal government*** *has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large* ***territories held in trust for the*** *people,* ***requiring the*** *people* ***of new states*** *relinquish the right of* ***control of public territories as a condition of admission to the union****, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.*

***The labyrinth of bureaucratic departments and agencies have created confusing, contradictory, and ruinous regulations*** *for the sole purpose of fatiguing* ***the American people*** *into compliance with* ***their*** *measures.*

***Federal courts have*** *dissolved* ***state legislative acts*** *repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness th****e federal government’s*** *invasions on the rights of the people.*

***The President has refused to enforce laws protecting the borders of this nation,*** *the States remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.*

***Congress has refused to adopt immigration laws necessary and sufficient for the needs of the people, leaving in place outdated laws that inhibit the economy and promoting illegal immigration.***

***The President has*** *obstructed the Administration of Justice, by* ***politicizing the appointment of judges, requiring their fidelity to certain opinions rather than the supreme law of the land.***

***The Senate*** *has made Judges dependent on* ***their*** *Will alone,* ***for appointment to*** *their offices,* ***and threaten them with impeachment for political reasons****.*

***Congress*** *has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.*

***The President*** *has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies* ***by militarizing our police forces****.*

***The President*** *has affected to render the Military* ***and police*** *independent of* ***their oath to the supreme law of the land****.*

***The President*** *has combined with* ***the Senate*** *to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving* ***their*** *Assent to the Acts of pretended Legislation* ***from the United Nations and entering into international agreements without the advice and consent of the Senate****:*

*For Quartering large bodies of armed* ***law enforcement*** *among us,* ***including arming non-law enforcement departments and agencies****:*

*For protecting* ***law enforcement and government officials****, by a mock Trial* ***and qualified immunity****, from punishment for* ***crimes*** *which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:*

*For cutting off our Trade* ***within a state****:*

*For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent* ***and in violation of the Constitution****:*

*For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:*

*For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended* ***offenses***

*For abolishing the free System of* ***United States*** *Laws, establishing therein arbitrary government* ***agencies****, and enlarging* ***the Boundaries of their power*** *so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the absolute rule into these* ***States****:*

*For* ***effectively*** *taking away our* ***State Constitutions****, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:*

*For suspending* ***the actions*** *of our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.*

***The federal government*** *has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of* ***its*** *Protection and* ***by failing to enforce immigration, naturalization, and Constitutional laws****.*

***The federal government*** *has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people* ***through regulation of domestic policy not delegated to the United States by the Constitution****.*

***The Congress is at this time transporting large armies to act as mercenaries to complete the works of death, already begun by previous executive administrations, in an effort to impose their political will, and the will of our allies, on those we disagree with.***

***The federal government*** *has constrained our fellow Citizens to bear Arms against their* ***fellow citizens****, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.*

***The federal government*** *has excited domestic insurrections amongst us* ***by allowing it to go unopposed in cities across the land****, and has* ***endeavored*** *to bring on the inhabitants of our* ***borders****, the merciless* ***criminal cartels****, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.*

**The Re-Declaration of Independence**

What Can We The People Do?

*In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury* ***by legislative, executive, and judicial actors alike****. A* ***government*** *whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.*

**The Re-Declaration of Independence**

From time to time, states have pushed back against federal overreach. More often than not, it has been through the federal judiciary. However, that branch of government has shown itself to be just as susceptible to overreach as the rest of the federal government. Human nature being what it is, we should not be surprised that those who seek power in government work to maintain and expand it.

*Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our brethren* ***who work for the government in Washington, D.C.*** *We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our settlement here,* ***and the conditions by which we entered the union****. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which* ***declares*** *our* ***sovereignty****, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.*

**The Re-Declaration of Independence**

Few Americans seem to realize that the states created the federal government, not the other way around. Furthermore, as the parties to the Constitution that created the federal government, the states establish the limits on its power. Even the governments of the several states do not realize that legally, they are masters of the federal government, not its servants.

*We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these* ***States****, solemnly publish and declare, That these* ***united States*** *are, and of Right ought to be Free, Independent* ***and Sovereign*** *States; that they are* ***the creator of the United States and its government****; and that* ***as parties to the compact of the Constitution of the United States****, they have full Power to* ***oversee their creation, establish the boundaries of its power by the consent of their citizens, and enact all of the powers of a state not delegated to the United States, nor prohibited by the Constitution to the states****. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.*

**The Re-Declaration of Independence**

As the parties to the Constitution, the states are not only free, but sovereign. The states have the full and legitimate power to oversee the government of the United States. Furthermore, they have the responsibility to do so. It is just as much the responsibility of the states to protect the rights of their citizens as that of the federal government.

**Conclusion**

Our Founding Fathers had to fight a war and overturn their government to regain their rights. Thankfully, we do not need to take such drastic actions. However, if we do not regain control of our governments, at all levels, while we still can, we will doom our children either to servitude or to war. On this Independence Day, will you choose to re-declare that our states are free and sovereign, or will you leave your children to fight for the rights you were unwilling to fight for?

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**Agenda Driven School Boards Ignore Parents, Part 2**

*By* [*Roger Anghis*](https://newswithviews.com/author/roger/)*|July 4th, 2021*

Our school boards are taking on the mindset that parents are nothing but a nuisance for them as they demand the right to mold our children into what THEY want them to be completely ignoring the wishes of the parents.  In my day a school board would dare ignore the wishes of the parents. A Harvard ‘professor’ claims that homeschools are not regulated enough causing students to get an inferior education:  ***Elizabeth Bartholet, a Harvard Law School professor, recently published a letter calling for stricter regulations on homeschooling, sparking a debate about issues ranging from government intervention in schooling to Harvard elitism.***

***Her original article claims that the lack of regulation on homeschooling poses a danger to children, because it risks depriving them of an adequate education, exposure to a diverse array of ideas, and protection from potential child abuse. In the 80-page document, she writes that only ten states require minimum education levels for homeschooling instructors, and no states require background checks for past child abuse***.[1]

The only problem with her statement is it is an outright lie. ***Since 2001, mean Composite scores on the ACT® test for homeschooled students have fluctuated between 22.3 in 2007 and 22.8 in 2014. Mean ACT Composite scores for homeschooled students were consistently higher than those for public school students, with the difference ranging between 1.4 score points in 2007 to 2.2 score points in 2014. Compared to students enrolled in private schools, homeschooled students have scored lower since 2003. In 2014, homeschooled students scored 1.1 score points below private school students, on average***.[2]

You may not think that a simple point or two is a big difference but when you combine that with the fact that your children aren’t getting a liberal indoctrination that two-point difference is huge!

There is an article on the net that gives reasons why homeschooling is bad for society.  The reasons are totally un-American and pro-globalism. Here is a short explanation of why homeschooling is bad: ***Schools are communities that not only emphasize collective learning but also encourage sports and creativity in the form of extra curricular activities; such activities serve as a utility to instill societal values into the next generation. These values include public health – required immunizations not only have concrete benefits but also teach children that their actions have consequences on the greater whole. We believe that parents that teach their own children have less of incentive to immunize children and statistically do not. Public schooling gives a voice to the government that speaks of the societal values that have been agreed on by the general public. We believe that both society and the government have a right to influence the child’s development, not only because the government plays a part in protecting the child, but because of the important role the future adult will play as a citizen of society. We believe that public schooling is the mouthpiece for the interests of both the government and society as a whole***.[3]

Notice that the emphasis is on society as a whole, not the individual.  It also stresses the importance of the government having a say in how your child is being raised so that they become a piece of the whole of society, not an individual.  The reason America became great was because we were a nation of individuals not a group of similar robots.

Some of the other bad attributes of homeschooling are shockingly anti-globalism which is, in reality, a very good thing: [***Homeschooling Increases Quality of Education***](https://debatewise.org/2256-home-schooling-should-be-banned/#no2)***,*** [***Home schooling increases civic involvement***](https://debatewise.org/2256-home-schooling-should-be-banned/#no3)***,*** [***Individual Rights Take Precedence Over Government’s Monopoly on Education***](https://debatewise.org/2256-home-schooling-should-be-banned/#no5)***,*** [***Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children’s education is carried out well.***](https://debatewise.org/2256-home-schooling-should-be-banned/#no7)***,*** [***Homes beat schools on two significant fronts – facilities and an atmosphere that encourages learning.***](https://debatewise.org/2256-home-schooling-should-be-banned/#no11)***,*** [***Family bonding***](https://debatewise.org/2256-home-schooling-should-be-banned/#no12)***,*** [***Classroom education often fails the bright and the slow***](https://debatewise.org/2256-home-schooling-should-be-banned/#no13)***,*** [***Try as it might, the state constantly fails those with greatest faith needs in its schools.***](https://debatewise.org/2256-home-schooling-should-be-banned/#no14) [4]  I fail to see the downside to any of these points. It is obvious that these points prove that the public schools are not out for the best of the student only the best of the government.

Public schools are now trying to shove the Critical Race Theory down the throats of public school students.  Britannica defines Critical Race Theory in this way***:*** [***intellectual***](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/intellectual)***movement and loosely organized framework of legal analysis based on the***[***premise***](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/premise)***that***[***race***](https://www.britannica.com/topic/race-human)***is not a natural, biologically grounded feature of physically distinct subgroups of human beings but a socially constructed (culturally invented) category that is used to oppress and exploit people of colour. Critical race theorists hold that the law and legal institutions in the United States are inherently***[***racist***](https://www.britannica.com/topic/racism)***insofar as they function to create and maintain social, economic, and political inequalities between whites and nonwhites, especially***[***African Americans***](https://www.britannica.com/topic/African-American).[5]

A short explanation is if you’re white you’re a racist and you should hate yourself and because America was founded by white men out nation is also racist and we should hate it too.  Yeah.  That is a really stupid theory.   Keep in mind that a theory is nothing more than an unproven assumption according to Webster’s dictionary.  There is no basis to this theory just like there is no basis to Darwin’s theory of evolution which progressives are using as a scientific fact yet our public schools are teaching it as an irrefutable fact.

Parents are taking a stand against this Critical Race Theory garbage not because they’re racist but because they are sick of their kids being indoctrinated into an ideology that has proven to be a total failure all throughout history.  They want their kids educated with something that will benefit them as adults.  They don’t want their heads filled with useless trash.

You may wonder who the idiot is that is pushing this Critical Race Theory garbage.  It comes from the Zinn Education Project.  As with virtually all progressive titles, this organization is anything but an ‘educational’ organization.  They are a full-blown indoctrination organization. ***Parents are worried that their kids are***[***being indoctrinated with critical race theory***](https://nypost.com/2021/06/13/american-moms-are-standing-up-to-critical-race-theory-devine/)***— a highly ideological account of US history and society that frames the nation as irredeemably racist and white Americans as uniformly bigoted. But they can’t get straight answers. Local school officials lie to them, claiming children are merely being taught to be “critical thinkers.”***

***On Saturday, the truth came out. Teachers unions and activists held rallies in 22 cities to support critical race theory — and the organizers have unabashedly made it clear the goal is to recruit students to far-left causes.***

***The***[***Zinn Education Project***](https://www.zinnedproject.org/)***, which organized Saturday’s events, cranks out race-centric material for schools across the country. Lesson plans are free for schools to download. Parents wondering where the anti-American ideas their kids are getting come from can visit the Web site. Prepare to be shocked.***

***The project was founded by the late Howard Zinn, a Marxist historian who famously said that teaching social studies wasn’t about dates and events and forming well-informed citizens: The goal, he insisted, was to impel students to want to change the world, overthrowing the status quo***.[6]

Parents need to be informed as to what the public schools are doing.  It would be better if they homeschooled or private schooled their kids.  Their future depends on it. <https://newswithviews.com/agenda-driven-school-boards-ignore-parents-part-2/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Gantz: We will not accept balloon terrorism**

***Defense Minister on Iran: We are committed to defending ourselves and determined to disrupt its activities. They know we are operating on the ground.***

*Ben Ariel , Jul 05 , 2021 12:00 AM*

Defense Minister Benny Gantz said on Sunday that Israel is not afraid of a confrontation with the regime in Tehran.

"We are determined to prevent Iran from becoming nuclear, and we are determined to disrupt as much as possible its negative activity in our region. We reserve the right to operate in a place that is convenient for us, in a way that is convenient for us and I think they know that we know how to operate," Gantz told *Channel 13 News*.

Asked about his response to the balloon terrorism from Gaza, he replied, "After Operation Guardian of the Walls, we said we would not accept the previous state of affairs, so we also do not accept the issue of balloon terrorism. From time to time we attack and will continue to attack targets that we consider to be quality targets."

Gantz also spoke about the issue of the contacts for the return of Israel’s captives. "I hope they understand that they will have reach some kind of meeting point. It is important that they understand that the barrier to the development and rehabilitation of the Gaza Strip is the issue of returning the boys home."

The Defense Minister commented on the political situation sand said, "I worked for this government to be established, and I am glad that it was established. In the end, a government can be changed in a democratic way."

On the role of Prime Minister, which he gave up on, he said, "I have been offered the position numerous times. I could have been Prime Minister right now with the support of the Likud and the haredim but I chose to allow the change in the State of Israel." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309242>

**Report: Rockets fired at facility hosting US troops in Syria**

***US military denies any that US forces in Syria were attacked by rockets.***

*Elad Benari , Jul 05 , 2021 1:04 AM*

A facility housing US troops in eastern Syria came under attack late Sunday when rockets were fired from nearby areas, an opposition war monitor, state media and a spokesman for US-backed fighters said, though the US military denied there was any attack, according to The Associated Pres*s*.

“There is no truth to the reports that US forces in Syria were attacked by rockets today,” tweeted coalition spokesman Col. Wayne Marotto.

Earlier on Sunday, Siyamend Ali, a spokesman for the US-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, said two rockets were fired at Al-Omar field in Syria’s eastern province of Deir el-Zour without inflicting any casualties.

He added that it was not immediately clear where the rockets were fired from.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the rockets were fired from areas controlled by Iran-backed fighters in the area of Mayadeen, also in Deir el-Zour.

Sunday’s incident comes six days after US troops in eastern Syria [came under a similar attack](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308914). That attacked followed [US air strikes near the Iraq-Syria border](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/308832) against what the Pentagon said were facilities used by Iran-backed militia groups to support drone strikes inside Iraq.

Rocket attacks have regularly targeted Iraqi bases as well as [the fortified Green Zone](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/291467) in Baghdad, where the US embassy is located, since the US elimination of top Iranian General Qassem Soleimani last January.

Last week’s air strikes were not the first time that the Biden administration has retaliated for attacks on US targets in Iraq.

In February, [the US bombed a border depot](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297549) in Syria which the Pentagon said was used by Iran-backed Iraqi armed militia that have been tied to the rocket attacks. The strikes followed [a rocket attack](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/296885) targeting an airbase in Iraq's Kurdistan region, which killed a foreign civilian contractor and wounded five others, among them a US soldier.

US President Joe Biden described the February attack as a "warning" to Iran. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309243>

**Hamas threatens: We will kidnap soldiers**

***Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal: Israel is evading the payment required for prisoner exchange deal, Hamas knows how to bring about the prisoners' release.***

*Dalit Halevi , Jul 05 , 2021 4:28 AM*

Khaled Mashaal, head of Hamas' political bureau abroad, said on Sunday that no significant progress has been made on the exchange deal between Israel and Hamas.

In an interview with Al-Arabiya, Mashaal said that Israel is avoiding paying what is required of it regarding the exchange deal, while Hamas is determined to bring about the release of Palestinian prisoners and knows how to do so in similar way to the way it led to the Shalit deal.

In these remarks, Mashaal hinted at the possibility of kidnapping Israeli soldiers for bargaining purposes.

Mashaal added that "Israel is a threat to the Islamic nation, and those who believe that it can be part of the solution to problems in the region are wrong."

Hamas, he stated, is still identified with the ideological platform of the Muslim Brotherhood, but is an independent movement that works against the "occupation" and its leadership makes the decisions regarding the policy and its implementation in practice.

Mashaal acknowledged that Iran is assisting Hamas by supplying it with weapons and technology, but noted that Hamas does not necessarily agree with Tehran on all issues and this does not affect the independent decision-making of the Hamas leadership. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309247>

**Israel signals end to EU-funded unauthorised building in Area C**

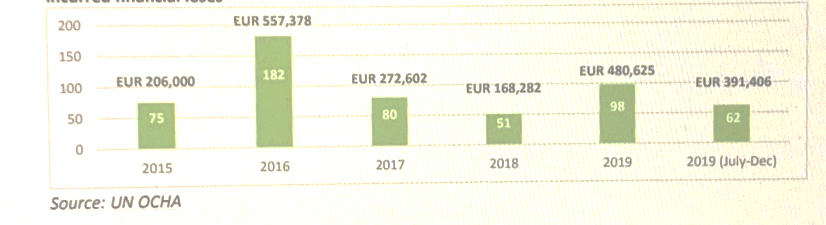
***Will the government bring to an end the transport of EU funded prefab buildings to Area C where they are used for illegal building? Op-ed.***

**Tags:** [David Singer](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/tags/David_Singer) [Area C](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/tags/Area_C) [Evyatar](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/tags/Evyatar)

*David Singer , Jul 05 , 2021 1:11 PM*

Israel’s [decision to evict](https://www.timesofisrael.com/evyatar-settlers-okay-new-deal-to-leave-outpost-after-yeshiva-delay-hiccup/) all 53 Jewish families from the unauthorised settlement of Evyatar in the 'West Bank' (Judea\Samaria) this week should send a clear signal to the European Union (EU) that its days of financing and facilitating the building of unauthorised Arab structures in Area C of the 'West Bank'are over.

Area C comprises about 60% of the 'West Bank' and has been under Israel’s full security and administrative control since the [1995 Oslo Accords](https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/IL%20PS_950928_InterimAgreementWestBankGazaStrip%28OsloII%29.pdf) were signed.

 The following [Table](https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/EUHOMEDEMRPT_300520.pdf) shows the annual number of targeted structures funded by the EU and EU member states up to July-December 2019 including information about incurred financial losses:

According to the [Daily Mail](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2874883/EU-funding-illegal-building-West-Bank-says-report.html):

Locally, the villages are known as the ‘EU Settlements’, and can be found in 17 locations around the 'West Bank'.

They fly the EU flag and display hundreds of EU stickers and signs. Some also bear the logos of Oxfam and other NGOs, which have assisted in the projects.”

Relief Web [reported](https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/west-bank-demolitions-and-displacement-overview-february-2021) in February:

* So far in 2021, the targeting of EU funded aid structures tripled compared with the monthly average in 2020
* 47 EU-funded structures were targeted in February.

Professor Hillel Frisch in 2019 [summarised](https://besacenter.org/eu-battling-israel-area-c/) what the EU has been up to:

“Ever since a decision in January 2012, the EU has been expressly committed to the expansion of illegal Palestinian settlement in Area C in conjunction with the PA . This is in blatant disregard of the Oslo accords, in which Area C is under full Israeli jurisdiction, and which the EU purports to uphold. The object is to create continuous Palestinian settlement throughout the 'West Bank' and thereby isolate and strangle Israeli communities.” MORE-<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/309270>

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