**07/22/2022 NEWS – Don’t Miss Note from Lev U’Neshama at end**

**Searching for the earliest mention of the Israelite god, "Yahweh"**

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGEOZ5YI22M>

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| "And I honor the man who is willing to sink  half his present repute for the freedom to think, and, when he has thought, be his cause strong or weak, Will risk t' other half for the freedom to speak." -- James Russell Lowell (1819-1891) American author and diplomatist |

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

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

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

Exodus 22:29Thou shalt not delay to offer of the fulness of thy harvest, and of the outflow of thy presses. The first-born of thy sons shalt thou give unto Me. 30Likewise shalt thou do with thine oxen, and with thy sheep; seven days it shall be with its dam; on the eighth day thou shalt give it Me. 31And ye shall be holy men unto Me; therefore ye shall not eat any flesh that is torn of beasts in the field; ye shall cast it to the dogs.

**Russia officially calls for Jewish Agency operations to be ‘dissolved’ — state media**

***Moscow’s action against organization that oversees immigration to Israel seen as retaliation for Israel’s stance on Ukraine war; Agency says its activities continuing for now***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 4:37 pm*

Russian authorities officially called Thursday for the “dissolution” of the Jewish Agency’s offices in the country, filing an appeal to that effect with the district court in Moscow, according to a court spokesperson quoted by Russian media outlets.

This represents a significant step forward in Russia’s campaign against the Israeli quasi-governmental organization, which facilitates and encourages Jewish immigration to Israel, or aliyah.

“The court received a lawsuit filed by the main department of the Ministry of Justice in Moscow requesting the dissolution of the… Jewish Agency,” the court said in a statement that was carried by the Russian outlet RIA.

Ekaterina Buravtsova, a spokeswoman for the Basmany court in Moscow, was quoted by Russian agencies saying the request was made after legal violations, without providing further details, according to the Interfax news agency.

The preliminary hearing of this appeal is scheduled to be held on July 28.

The aggressive posturing by the Russian government is seen as highly unusual, coming in apparent retaliation for Israel’s stance on Moscow’s invasion of neighboring Ukraine, as well as for Israel’s ongoing campaign against Iran in Syria, which Russia at times opposes.

Apparently seeking to downplay concerns, the Jewish Agency said in a statement that this was only a “preliminary hearing” and a “continuation of the legal process” that was already underway.

“As we have previously stated, we are not making any comment during the course of the legal proceedings,” the organization said.

Late last month, Russian authorities informed the Jewish Agency in a letter that they planned to take legal action against the group. The Jewish Agency initially sought to address this matter quietly and alone, but has since called in the Israeli Foreign Ministry to intervene on its behalf.

The Jewish Agency has maintained throughout the Russian campaign against it that it is continuing to operate as normal in Russia for the time being.

Israeli ministers railed against the Russian Justice Ministry’s court filing, with one saying explicitly that it was tied to Israel’s support of Ukraine.

“Russian Jews will not be held hostage by the war in Ukraine. The attempt to punish the Jewish Agency for Israel’s stance on the war is deplorable and offensive,” said Diaspora Affairs Minister Nachman Shai in a statement.

“The Jews of Russia cannot be detached from their historical and emotional connection to the State of Israel,” he said.

Immigration and Absorption Minister Pnina Tamano-Shata said she was working with Prime Minister Yair Lapid and the Foreign Ministry to address the matter MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/russia-officially-calls-for-jewish-agency-operations-to-be-dissolved-state-media/>

**Israel to send team to Moscow as Russia threatens to shutter Jewish Agency offices**

***Lapid says interministerial delegation will head to Russia next week to ensure that organization’s ‘important work’ helping Jews immigrate is not impeded***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 8:20 pm*

Israel will send a delegation to Moscow next week to meet with Russian officials over the Kremlin’s [intention to shut down the Jewish Agency](https://www.timesofisrael.com/russia-officially-calls-for-jewish-agency-operations-to-be-dissolved-state-media/) in the country, the Prime Minister’s Office said Thursday.

Earlier in the day, the Russian justice ministry filed an appeal with a Moscow district court calling for the “dissolution” of the Jewish Agency’s operations in the country.

Prime Minister Yair Lapid held a “situational assessment” with officials from the Foreign Ministry and the National Security Council about the matter on Thursday, his office said.

“During this situational assessment, it was decided to dispatch a delegation [with representatives from] the Prime Minister’s Office, Foreign Ministry, Justice Ministry and Immigration and Absorption Ministry next week in order to ensure the continued operations of the Jewish Agency in Russia,” the PMO said in a statement.

A follow-up meeting will be held about the matter on Sunday, Lapid’s office added. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-to-send-team-to-moscow-as-russia-threatens-to-shutter-jewish-agency-offices/>

**Major gas pipeline connecting Russia and Europe restarts following 10-day shutdown**

***German officials had feared that the Nord Stream 1 pipeline — the country’s main source of Russian gas — might not reopen at all, amid growing tensions over Russia’s war in Ukraine***

*By* [*Geir Moulson*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/geir-moulson/) *Today, 3:04 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22202159026387.jpg)

This photo shows the landfall facility of the Nord Stream 1 Baltic Sea pipeline and the transfer station of the OPAL gas pipeline, the Baltic Sea Pipeline Link, in Lubmin, Germany, July 21, 2022. (AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

BERLIN (AP) — Natural gas started flowing through a major pipeline from Russia to Europe on Thursday after a 10-day shutdown for maintenance — but the gas flow remained well short of full capacity and the outlook was uncertain, which leaves Europe still facing the prospect of a hard winter.

The Nord Stream 1 pipeline under the Baltic Sea to Germany had been closed since July 11 for annual maintenance work. Amid growing tensions over Russia’s war in Ukraine, German officials had feared that the pipeline — the country’s main source of Russian gas, which recently has accounted for around a third of Germany’s gas supplies — might not reopen at all.

Network data showed gas beginning to arrive through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline as scheduled after 6 a.m., and the operator said that it had “successfully completed all planned maintenance works.” But deliveries were still far below the pipeline’s full capacity, as they were for weeks before the maintenance break.

The head of Germany’s network regulator, Klaus Mueller, said Russia’s Gazprom had notified deliveries Thursday of about 30% of the pipeline’s capacity. He later tweeted that actual deliveries were above that amount and could reach the pre-maintenance level of some 40%.

A picture containing tree, factory, metal

Description automatically generated That wouldn’t be enough to resolve Europe’s energy crisis. “The political uncertainty and the 60% reduction from mid-June unfortunately remain,” Mueller wrote.

When Gazprom reduced the flow last month, it cited alleged technical problems involving equipment that partner Siemens Energy sent to Canada for overhaul and couldn’t be returned because of sanctions imposed over Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Morning light lights the landfall facility of the Nord Stream 1 Baltic Sea pipeline and the transfer station of the OPAL gas pipeline, the Baltic Sea Pipeline Link, in Lubmin, Germany, July 21, 2022. (AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

The Canadian government earlier this month gave permission for the turbine that powers a compressor station at the Russian end of the pipeline to be delivered to Germany.

The German government has rejected Gazprom’s technical explanation for the gas reduction, charging repeatedly that it was only a pretext for a political decision to sow uncertainty and further push up energy prices. It has said the turbine was a replacement that was only supposed to be installed in September, but that it’s doing everything to deprive Russia of the pretext to reduce supplies.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that Gazprom still hadn’t received the relevant documents for the turbine’s return, and on Wednesday questioned the quality of the repair work. Putin said that Gazprom was to shut another turbine for repairs in late July, and if the one that was sent to Canada wasn’t returned by then the flow of gas would decline even further.

The head of the European Union’s executive Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said on Wednesday that the turbine was “in transit” and there was “no pretext not to deliver” gas. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/major-gas-pipeline-connecting-russia-and-europe-restarts-following-10-day-shutdown/>

**Syria says Israeli airstrikes near Damascus kill 3 soldiers, wound 7**

***Damage reported in suburb of Sayyidah Zaynab, near Syrian capital***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *22 July 2022, 2:21 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/Jrfci1D5mr3dnCk3.jpg)

A still from a video purporting to show Syrian air defenses intercepting an Israeli missile, on July 22, 2022. (Screenshot: Twitter)

Israeli fighter jets launched a series of airstrikes on areas near the Syrian capital Damascus shortly after midnight on Friday, killing three soldiers and wounding seven others, Syria’s official state media reported.

Heavy explosions were heard over both the Syrian capital and northern Israel, according to local reports.

The state-run broadcaster SANA, citing a military source, said most of the missiles launched from over the Golan Heights were intercepted.

The Syrian military claims to shoot down incoming missiles after nearly every alleged Israeli strike, an assertion Israeli military officials and civilian defense analysts largely dismiss as empty boasts.

The military source also said damage was caused to the sites that were hit, without elaborating on the extent or the nature of the targets.

A site in the southern Damascus suburb of Sayyidah Zaynab was damaged, according to local media reports and images circulated on social media.

SANA reported the casualties in the airstrikes without specifying the ranks and identities of the killed and wounded.

Another reported video of SAA AD activity, [#Damascus](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Damascus?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw), [#Syria](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Syria?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/GU96KrMZq9](https://t.co/GU96KrMZq9)

— Aleph א (@no\_itsmyturn) [July 21, 2022](https://twitter.com/no_itsmyturn/status/1550240494558527488?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

There was no comment from the Israel Defense Forces, which does not comment on individual strikes, except for those in retaliation to specific attacks against Israel.

بالصور …  
مكان العدوان الصهيوني بمحيط مدينة [#السيدة\_زينب](https://twitter.com/hashtag/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%A9_%D8%B2%D9%8A%D9%86%D8%A8?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) (ع) بريف [#دمشق](https://twitter.com/hashtag/%D8%AF%D9%85%D8%B4%D9%82?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw). [pic.twitter.com/Xk8dVEHkO5](https://t.co/Xk8dVEHkO5)

— نون والقلم ( نجلاء السعدي ) (@najlaasaadee) [July 21, 2022](https://twitter.com/najlaasaadee/status/1550254512899850243?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Israel has carried out hundreds of airstrikes in Syria in the last decade, mostly to stymie attempts by Iranian forces to transfer weapons to Lebanon’s Hezbollah terror group, or establish a foothold on Israel’s northern frontier.

Israeli strikes have continued in Syrian airspace, which is largely controlled by Russia, even as ties with Moscow have deteriorated in recent weeks. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/syria-says-israeli-airstrikes-near-damascus-kill-3-soldiers-wound-7/>

**Hundreds remain at new illegal outpost as forces dismantle other settler encampments**

***Settlers seen clearing land on a hilltop, building crude stone walls and laying out pathways at new outpost dubbed Givat Netanel near Kiryat Arba in southern West Bank***

*By* [*Jeremy Sharon*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jeremy-sharon/) *Today, 11:24 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/WhatsApp-Image-2022-07-21-at-6.22.17-AM-1.jpeg)

The new illegal settlement outpost of "Givat Netanel" just north of Kiryat Arba on Thursday morning, July 21, 2022. Several hundred settler activists were still present at the site following a massive campaign to create new outposts by the Nachala settlement organization on Wednesday. (Courtesy Nachala Settlement Movement)

Police and Israeli soldiers dismantled most of the illegal encampments established by Jewish settlers at six sites throughout the West Bank overnight, but hundreds of settler activists remained at a makeshift encampment on a hilltop outside of Kiryat Arba on Thursday morning.

The new camp was set up as part of [a broad initiative on Wednesday](https://www.timesofisrael.com/thousands-of-activists-create-mayhem-but-no-new-outposts-in-west-bank-campaign/) to establish new illegal settlement outposts across the West Bank.

According to the Nachala settlement activist group, which conducted the operation, close to a thousand people were present at a hilltop just northeast of the Kiryat Arba settlement in the southern West Bank, consisting of 700 youths and 55 families.

Nachala circulated pictures and videos Thursday morning from the new outpost, dubbed Givat Netanel, showing numerous activists at the site alongside several tents and dozens of sleeping bags.

Activists could also be seen clearing land on the hilltop, building crude stone walls and marking out pathways.

The site has several large tents for various communal activities, including a yeshiva for religious studies.



Settler activists constructing a kitchen at the new illegal outpost of Givat Netanel. (Screenshot, courtesy Nachala Settlement Movement)

A makeshift kitchen was also currently under construction.

A “family happening” was staged at the site, complete with a bouncy castle and music, as well as popcorn and cotton candy machines.

MKs Orit Strock and Simcha Rothman from the far-right Religious Zionism party arrived at the new outpost on Thursday morning to lend their support to the initiative. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/forces-dismantle-several-settler-encampments-hundreds-remain-at-new-illegal-outpost/>

**Lapid: ‘Extremist’ Netanyahu and Ben Gvir ‘dragging us in dangerous directions’**

***Ahead of elections, caretaker PM says right-wing rivals are divisive and anti-democratic, calls on moderates to reject their vision of Israel***

*By* [*Carrie Keller-Lynn*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/carrie-keller-lynn/) *Today, 3:49 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/lapid1-e1658400878461.jpeg)

Prime Minister Yair Lapid speaks at a conference organized by Idea: Center for Liberal Democracy, July 21, 2022. (Sahar Levy)

Interim Prime Minister Yair Lapid on Thursday labeled opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu and ultra-right lawmaker Itamar Ben-Gvir as “extremists,” framing the autumn election as a battle for Israeli cohesiveness and democracy.

“There are the extremists who are dragging us in dangerous directions, each for their own reasons. Netanyahu because of the [ongoing corruption] trial, Ben Gvir because he was and remains the man who hung a picture of the murderer Baruch Goldstein in the living room,” Lapid said in Thursday remarks delivered at a symposium held by Idea: Center for Liberal Democracy.

Lapid called out his right-wing political rivals the day after [delivering a statement](https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-campaign-salvo-lapid-says-strong-yesh-atid-necessary-to-block-extremists/) in which he said his Yesh Atid party offers the best hope of forming a government without unnamed “extremists.”

The November 1 election is quickly becoming another referendum on whether or not to return former prime minister Netanyahu to power, following the pattern laid out by four previous elections since 2019. Netanyahu has cast Lapid and the so-called “change bloc” he led with now-Alternate Prime Minister Naftali Bennett as weak and reliant upon support from Arab politicians. Lapid, for his part, labeled Netanyahu’s bloc as divisive and anti-democratic.

Lapid on Thursday framed “the great Israeli struggle” as a match between “those who believe that we are one big family versus those who are trying to dismantle us from within.”

“We have a role and we have a mission: to maintain a democratic Israel, a state of law, a state that has respect for its citizens, that is not controlled by the most extreme voices and forces within it,” he continued.

In particular, Lapid pointed to recent statements from the Netanyahu-led Likud party and its political allies that call for crushing leftists, replacing the current attorney general, and changing rules to bar the indictment of a sitting prime minister.

Netanyahu is currently on trial for three corruption cases that began while he was in power. Denying all charges, he claims they were fabricated by a biased police force and state prosecution service, overseen by a weak attorney general, in league with political opponents and the leftist media. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-extremist-netanyahu-and-ben-gvir-dragging-us-in-dangerous-directions/>

**Testifying at Meron probe, Netanyahu denies responsibility for deadly disaster**

***Opposition leader, who was PM during 2021 catastrophe that killed 45, tells commision of inquiry he was not involved in planning event beyond concerns due to COVID-19 pandemic***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 12:30 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/F220721YS12.jpg)

Opposition leader former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrives to testify before the Meron Disaster Inquiry Committee, in Jerusalem, on July 21, 2022. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday testified before the state commission of inquiry probing last year’s Mount Meron disaster that saw 45 people killed in a deadly crush at a religious pilgrimage, telling the panel that he was not aware of critical safety concerns at the annual event.

The April 2021 incident at the religious festival in northern Israel was the deadliest civilian disaster in the country’s history. Around 100,000 worshipers, mostly ultra-Orthodox Jews, attended the festivities despite longstanding warnings about the safety of the site.

Multiple media reports have said that Netanyahu, who was prime minister at the time, was under pressure from ultra-Orthodox political allies to approve the event without limits on attendance, despite long-standing police concerns over crowding safety.

At the time, COVID-19 pandemic rules limited outdoor gatherings to just 100 people, which meant the Lag B’Omer event at Mount Meron required special government-approved regulations to allow the larger attendance.

“I didn’t know that there was a critical safety problem,” Netanyahu testified. “I take responsibility for what was in front of me, and that was the epidemiological disaster and that I prevented. I can’t take responsibility for what I didn’t know.” MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/testifying-at-meron-probe-netanyahu-denies-responsibility-for-deadly-disaster/>

**High Court okays revoking terrorists’ citizenship, but says some must get residency**

***Perpetrators who have no other citizenship must be granted all state benefits except for the right to vote, judges rule, in caveat that angers interior minister***

*By* [*Jeremy Sharon*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jeremy-sharon/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:58 pm*

The High Court of Justice ruled Thursday that authorities can revoke the citizenship of people who carry out terror attacks and commit other crimes that constitute a breach of trust against the State of Israel. That sounds like a most reasonable thing for terrorists. NO citizenship and they should really be deported. – rdb]

The ruling stated that citizens who carry out such actions can have their citizenship revoked even if they have no other citizenship, but said that the interior minister would then be obligated to provide that person with a residency permit.

The caveat effectively ensures that those impacted by the law retain all rights that a citizen holds except the right to vote, making it similar to laws in over a dozen US states where felons lose their voting rights during incarceration.

The left-wing group Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel warned that the ruling was “contrary to the principles of international law,” while right-wing ministers appeared split on the decision.

Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman praised the court for “ending this absurdity” under which citizens could “commit cruel acts of terrorism [and] hold Israeli citizenship.”

Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked, whose office oversees citizenship and its revocation, said the Supreme Court had “confirmed the obvious” with its decision, but had adopted “an interpretation that is contrary to the language of the law” by requiring the state to grant residency status to those impacted who do not hold citizenship in another country.

Thursday’s decision was in response to a petition regarding the state’s efforts to revoke the citizenship of two Arab citizens of Israel who carried out terror attacks in the past decade.

The first is Muhammad Mafarji, who carried out a terror bombing on a Tel Aviv bus in 2012, killing 11 people and injuring many others. The second is Alaa Ziwad, who carried out a ramming and stabbing attack in 2015, injuring four people.

While the panel of judges offered a broad stamp of approval to the practice under question, it nevertheless rejected its application in the two cases brought before it, arguing that the state had committed several errors in filing the requests.

Justifying their decision, the judges wrote that revoking the citizenship of those who carry out an act that is a breach of trust against the state “presents a clear and unequivocal declaratory message that the state can renounce its most basic duty towards citizens who breach the trust of the state.”

Specifying which actions constitute a breach of trust in the state, the court listed terror attacks, actions that constitute treason or severe espionage, and acquiring citizenship with the right for permanent residency in an enemy state. HUMMM? Sounds like we could get “Bi-Dum" on this one.- rd b]

The judges recognized that “the damage to the right to citizenship caused by the settlement is indeed severe” but argued that “it cannot be separated from its circumstances.”

Explaining why it wouldn’t approve revoking the residency of someone who doesn’t have citizenship in any other country, the court argued that this goes too far and is not done in other countries. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/high-court-okays-revoking-terrorists-citizenship-but-says-some-must-get-residency/>

**Ukrainian experts turn to Israel for mental trauma training**

***Although some are themselves displaced, 20 Ukrainian mental health professionals spending two weeks in Israel, say Ukraine not equipped to deal with the massive numbers of people affected by the Russian invasion***

*Associated Press | Published: 07.21.22, 18:54*

Ukrainian therapist Svitlana Kutsenko thought she was making progress with her patients, army veterans recovering from mental trauma suffered during fighting with Russia in 2014. Then, war erupted again.

 Now, five months after Russia invaded Ukraine, Kutsenko says the situation looks bleaker than ever. Many of her patients have returned to the front lines, while ordinary citizens scarred by the horrors of life in wartime are now seeking treatment.

Ukranian mental health specialists train in trauma care in Israel (Photo: AP)

"Sometimes it's bearable, sometimes it's not," Kutsenko, who lives in Kyiv, said. ,"Some people are suffering from huge fear, fear of death, fear of their relatives' death and some are pretty angry about what's going on and they want to somehow take this anger under control."

Kutsenko was among 20 Ukrainian mental health professionals who spent the past two weeks in Israel receiving training on how to treat trauma cases.

 Israel, which has gone through numerous wars with its Arab neighbors and has a large population of Holocaust survivors, has deep experience in treating psychological or mental trauma.

But in Ukraine, awareness for recognizing and treating mental trauma remains relatively low. And despite a conflict with Russia that has been ongoing since 2014, the country is not equipped to deal with the massive numbers of people affected by the Russian invasion.

Kutsenko said that there is a great difference between treating patients struggling to come to terms with events from the past and helping people who are under fire cope with grief and fear in real time.

Ukrainian Interior Minister Denys Monastyrsky, right, reacts at a scene of damaged by shelling building in Vinnytsia, Ukraine (Photo: AP)

"Right now, in Ukraine, it's not just, you know, shooting and people being killed, by missiles and bombs," says Kutsenko, adding that torture, rape and other terrible acts are also happening.

The course's instructor, Danny Brom, says treating mental trauma in Israel has taught him how to provide therapy to victims who are both post-traumatic and still remain in immediate danger. These lessons, he says, have helped him relate to mental health professionals from conflict zones across the world and especially Ukraine. MORE - <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/hja0da839>

**Senior IRGC caught and interrogated by Mossad in Iran, report says**

***Saudi backed, UK based Iran International says Yadollah Khedmati serves as the deputy chief of the head of the logistics department in the Revolutionary Guard Corps, provides information about arms shipments to Hezbollah and other proxies***

*Itamar Eichner | Published: 07.21.22, 19:50*

An alleged photo in which Yadollah Khedmati is being interrogated by Mossad operatives

A senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) member was caught and interrogated by the Mossad intelligence agency, Iran International reported on Thursday.

The Saudi-sponsored TV channel, broadcasting from London claims Yadollah Khedmati was captured by Mossad operatives and provided information about weapon shipments to Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen.

"A senior IRGC official named Yadollah Khedmati has been interrogated by Israel’s Mossad in Iran and confessed to his role in sending weapons to other countries," said the post published on Twitter.

[#BREAKING](https://twitter.com/hashtag/BREAKING?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) A senior IRGC official named Yadollah Khedmati has been interrogated by Israel’s Mossad in Iran and confessed to his role in sending weapons to other countries, according to exclusive information obtained by [@IranIntl](https://twitter.com/IranIntl?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw).

— Iran International English (@IranIntl\_En) [July 21, 2022](https://twitter.com/IranIntl_En/status/1550103225193431041?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

According to the report, the interrogation of the senior IRGC member led to the [grounding of an Iranian Plane in Argentina last month](https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rysnozvy5), in suspicion of possible links to the IRGC.



Yadollah Khedmati

The report claimed Khedmati serves as the deputy chief of the head of the logistics department in the Revolutionary Guard Corps Ali Asghar Norouzi who is behind the Iranian arms transfers to Hezbollah.

The mechanism for transferring the weapons to Iran's proxis is even called the "Norouzi mechanism.", after him.

In a video that was published in the Iranian media, Khedmati said: "My name is Yadollah Khedmati and I work for the logistics department of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps under the command of Norouzi." MORE - <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hkfkflv3c#autoplay>

**Senior US general warns Iran could resume attacks on American troops**

***Air Force’s new top general in the Middle East, Alexus Grynkewich, also expresses fears of Russian and Chinese influence taking hold in region***

*By* [*Isabel Debre*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/isabel-debre/) *Today, 8:25 pm*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The top US Air Force general in the Middle East warned on Thursday that Iran-backed militias could resume attacks in the region against the United States and its allies as tensions rise — assaults that could lead to a new escalation in the Middle East.

Speaking to journalists before stepping into his new role at al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, with responsibility for military operations in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and across the region, Lt. Gen. Alexus Grynkewich also expressed fears over Russian and Chinese influence taking hold as superpowers vie for economic and military influence in the Middle East. [Hummm? Soounds like this fellow could have some common sense. – rdb]

For instance, he said, recent US intelligence that Iran is preparing to send Russia armed and unarmed drones to use in its war on Ukraine “is not a surprise … but it’s concerning.”

Iran’s mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

[A person in a military uniform

Description automatically generated with medium confidence](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/Maj_Gen_Alexus_G._Grynkewich_3.jpg) Grynkewich, who had served as director of operations at Central Command in Tampa, Florida, thousands of miles from the baking desert outside of Doha, Qatar’s capital, spoke as regional tensions remain high over Iran’s rapidly expanding nuclear program and talks to revive Tehran’s nuclear deal with world powers at a deadlock.

“We’re in this position where we’re not under attack constantly, but we do see planning for attacks ongoing,” Grynkewich said. “Something will occur that unleashes that planning and that preparation against us.”

Iran tested a satellite-carrying rocket last month, prompting the White House to threaten more sanctions on Tehran to prevent it from accelerating its advanced ballistic missile program. And last week, as US President Joe Biden toured the region, Iran unveiled armed drones on its warships in the Persian Gulf.

Alexus Grynkewich (Courtesy)

Tehran has rapidly grown its stockpile of near-weapons-grade nuclear fuel in recent months, spreading fears about an escalation. It also has spun more advanced centrifuges prohibited under the landmark atomic accord, which former President Donald Trump abandoned in 2018.

“Everyone in the region is very concerned,” Grynkewich said.

Still in recent weeks, he said, US forces have seen a reduction in targeted attacks across the region, as a tenuous cease-fire between Iran-backed Houthi rebels and the Saudi-led military coalition continues in Yemen and as an ongoing government formation process in Baghdad keeps Iran-backed militias in limbo, waiting for the political chaos to settle before they strike.

“We’re in a bit of a period of stasis,” Grynkewich said. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/senior-us-general-warns-iran-could-resume-attacks-on-american-troops/>

**Iran doesn't appear to want a nuclear deal, British spy chief says**

***MI6 head Richard Moore says he still believes reviving the 2015 nuclear deal is the best way to constrain Iran's nuclear program but thinks Iran only wants to prolong talks***

*Reuters | Published: 07.21.22, 22:18*

Britain's spy chief said on Thursday he was skeptical that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei actually wants to revive a nuclear deal with world powers but he added that Tehran won't want to end the talks either.

Richard Moore, chief of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) known as MI6, said he still believed that reviving the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreement was the best way to constrain Iran's nuclear program.

Under the deal, Iran had limited its nuclear program in return for relief from economic sanctions.

"I'm not convinced we're going to get there ... I don't think the Supreme Leader of Iran wants to cut a deal," Moore told the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado.

Still, Moore cautioned: "The Iranians won't want to end the talks either so they could run on for a bit."

Since former President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the deal and re-imposed sanctions against Tehran in 2018, Iran has breached many of the deal's limits on its nuclear activities. It is enriching uranium to close to weapons-grade.

Western powers warn Iran is getting closer to being able to sprint towards making a nuclear bomb. Iran denies they want to do that. MORE - <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hysbdzvnq>

**Iranian amb. to Azerbaijan tweets apparent threat against Israeli amb.**

***"Apparently, the FIRST Evil Zionist is going to be buried by the zealous people of Tabriz, too," tweeted the Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan.***

*By* [*TZVI JOFFRE*](https://www.jpost.com/author/tzvi-joffre) *Published: JULY 21, 2022 21:43*



Israeli Ambassador to Azerbaijan George Deek (left) and Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Abbas Mousavi (right)

(photo credit: Mehrdad Esfahani/Student News Agency, President.az)

Iran's ambassador [to Azerbaijan](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/iranian-secretary-general-tweets-a-statement-in-hebrew-680874), Abbas Mousavi, tweeted an apparent threat against Israel's ambassador to the country, George Deek, saying the ambassador would be "buried" by the people of Tabriz, a city in northwestern Iran, on Thursday.

For the information of this adventurous boy: Our beloved [#Tabriz](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Tabriz?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) is known as the land of FIRSTS in [#Iran](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Iran?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)'s proud history. Apparently, the FIRST Evil Zionist is going to be buried by the zealous people of Tabriz, too. Never cross our red-line, ever![#IRANTABRIZ](https://twitter.com/hashtag/IRANTABRIZ?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/V0bGV9JX8V](https://t.co/V0bGV9JX8V)

— Seyed Abbas Mousavi (@SAMOUSAVI9) [July 20, 2022](https://twitter.com/SAMOUSAVI9/status/1549845251388497921?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Mousavi posted the tweet in response to a tweet by Deek reading "I’m learning so much about Azerbaijani history and culture in Tabriz in this great book I was recently presented. What are you guys reading these days?" accompanied by a photo of Deek reading a book titled *"Magic Tales of Tabriz." MORE -*

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-712782>

**Turkey accused of killing civilian tourists in bombardment in Iraq**

***Turkey has been accused of massacring civilian tourists in northern Iraq.***

*By* [*SETH J. FRANTZMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/seth-j-frantzman) *Published: JULY 21, 2022 18:43*

Turkey was accused of massacring numerous civilian tourists in an artillery bombardment in northern Iraq. It is the latest attack by [Ankara](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east-news/article-712381) on civilians in Iraq. Local authorities said that children were among the victims.

For years, Iraqi authorities have asked Turkey to stop using armed drones and artillery against people in Iraq. Ankara claims to be fighting “terrorists,” but, like many countries that use the claim of fighting “terrorism,” it often ends up killing civilians. Ankara has carried out more long-range attacks in Iraq in recent years, targeting people in vehicles in the Nineveh plains and Sinjar.

In each case, Ankara claims it neutralized “terrorists,” but locals say they fear the attacks and many civilians have fled areas where Ankara operates.

Turkey has denied the attacks on tourists and told Iraq not to make statements about the incident. Ankara has accused Iraq of being under the influence of “rhetoric and propaganda” of terrorists. This appears to be an escalation by Turkey against Iraq and represents a belief that Ankara can not only bomb civilians, but then control Baghdad’s response.

The latest attack targeted a tourist resort in [Zakho](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-712615), which is in the northern Iraqi Kurdistan region. The area is where there have been clashes for decades between Turkey and the Kurdistan Workers Party. Ankara claims the group is a terrorist group. Locals say they have been driven from villages by both the fighting and Turkey’s establishment of a dozen small bases and outposts in the mountains.

Security forces gather outside a hospital after a Turkish attack, in Zakho, Iraq, July 20, 2022 (credit: REUTERS/ARI JALAL)

According to reports from Iraq, the Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi slammed the recent attack. Kadhimi firmly condemned the bombardment, Rudaw media reported, blaming Turkey and calling it a “blatant and flagrant violation of Iraqi sovereignty and the lives and security of Iraqi citizens.”

Baghdad says it could respond, but in the past, Baghdad has only issued statements about these incidents. Iraq’s President Barham Salih, who is Kurdish, also slammed the attack, noting that the Turkish bombing was in violation of Iraq’s sovereignty.

“We strongly condemn the shelling of the Parekh Resort near the Darkar border of the Zakho Autonomous Administration by Turkish forces which, unfortunately, caused the death and injury of a number of tourists,” a statement from the Kurdistan region Council of Ministers said. “We extend our condolences to the families of the martyrs and wish the wounded a speedy recovery.”

The victims, according to Rudaw, were Iraqi tourists who came from southern and central Iraq. That means they are likely Arabs who went to the Kurdish region for vacation. In the summer heat, it is common for many Iraqis to go for a vacation in the stable and peaceful Kurdish region.

Prior to the ISIS war in 2014, the Kurdistan region was considered a huge center of tourism. When the war ended in 2017 – and after some disputes with Baghdad – it once again became a major center of tourism. Ankara’s attacks destabilized the area and caused panic. Ankara’s attacks not only target Kurds, but also minority Christians and Yazidis; and now it appears to have also killed tourists.

The killing of the tourists marks a major escalation. This is because, often when Ankara attacked Kurdish villages, they claimed to fight “terrorists” and thus gained impunity because of discrimination against Kurds in the region. US officials were wary to condemn Ankara because it is considered a NATO ally. Turkey has recently tried to make it difficult for Sweden and Finland, two democracies, to join NATO.

Turkey is considered one of the world’s largest jailers of journalists. The ruling far-right party in Ankara has become increasingly authoritarian and has roots in the Muslim Brotherhood. Turkey’s president met this week with both Iran’s president and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The escalation – namely, the bombardment of civilians – could be linked to Ankara’s belief that it can get away with these kinds of attacks.

Turkey knows that the Assad regime, backed by Russia and Iran, has massacred civilians in similar bombardments, and that Russia has done the same in Ukraine. This could be symbolic of how Ankara views the “new world order” that Iran has been talking about – a world without human rights safeguards. The tourists may be the collateral damage and victims of the new Iran-Turkey-Russia partnership that was cemented this week.

“All victims of the deadly bombardment were tourists from central and southern Iraq and were part of a 200 person tourist group, according to Zakho mayor Muhsin Bashir,” Rudaw said. “Top Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr also lashed out at Turkey for the bombardment, suggesting Iraq to take measures against the repeated violation of its sovereignty by reducing diplomatic ties with Turkey, closing off air and land crossings, filing an official complaint to the UN, and annulling all security agreements with Ankara. Similar suggestions were echoed by political rival and leader of the Fatah Alliance, Hadi al-Amiri.” MUCH MORE - <https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/russia-plans-annexation-votes-captured-ukraine-territories-mid-september-report>

**UK to pump more arms into Ukraine**

***The shipment will include 1,600 anti-tank weapons and 50,000 artillery shells***

*21 Jul, 2022 13:42*

The UK will send Ukraine anti-tank weapons, drones, artillery guns and tens of thousands of rounds of ammunition, Defense Secretary Ben Wallace told Parliament on Thursday. Ukraine will receive more than 20 M109 and 26 L119 artillery guns, as well as counter-battery radar systems and more than 50,000 rounds of ammunition for its existing Soviet-era artillery systems.

The UK will also send 1,600 anti-tank weapons as well as drones, including hundreds of *“loitering aerial munitions,”* more commonly known as *“suicide drones.”*

The arms will be sent to Ukraine in the coming weeks, and Wallace’s announcement comes several weeks after outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson pledged an additional £1 billion ($1.2bn) in military support to Vladimir Zelensky’s government. In total, the UK has spent £2.3 billion on weapons and training for Kiev’s military since Russia’s military operation in Ukraine began in February.

This money has already paid for nearly 7,000 NLAW, Javelin and other anti-tank missiles, 16,000 artillery rounds, six mobile anti-air missile launchers, as well as a number of M270 rocket artillery systems and 120 armored vehicles.

The impact of these shipments on the battlefield, however, has been debatable. Captured Ukrainian troops have [described](https://www.rt.com/news/555144-ukraine-javelin-nlaw-mariupol/) the Javelin missile launchers – sent by both the UK and the US – as *“completely useless”* in urban combat, while soldiers are reportedly encountering battery issues with the NLAW *“making it impossible to use.”* Russia’s military doctrine also favors heavy artillery bombardment of enemy positions from far beyond the NLAW’s 600 meter range.   
 Both sides have leaned heavily on artillery as fighting rages on in eastern Ukraine and the Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk. Utilizing superior firepower, Russian and allied troops recently brought the entirety of the Lugansk People’s Republic under their control and seized operational control of Seversk, which is within striking distance of the major cities of Slavyansk and Kramatorsk.  
 Ukraine has received a dozen M142 HIMARS rocket artillery systems from the US. While US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin [described](https://www.rt.com/news/559336-us-send-himars-ukraine/) these weapons as making *“such a difference on the battlefield,”* Ukrainian Defense Minister Alexey Reznikov claimed this week that his forces need at least 50 of the systems to hold back Russia’s advances and 100 – around a third of the US’ entire stockpile – to conduct a counteroffensive.  
 In terms of conventional artillery, the 50,000 shells promised by Wallace is enough to keep Ukraine’s guns firing for roughly eight days. As of last month, Ukraine’s deputy head of military intelligence [estimated](https://www.rt.com/russia/556948-ukraine-artillery-ammunition-donbass/) that his forces were expending 6,000 shells per day, and that Ukraine has one artillery gun for every 15 fielded by Russia.   
 Meanwhile, a [report](https://www.rusi.org/news-and-comment/in-the-news/introducing-wests-new-weapon-working-overtime-tilt-war-kyivs-favour) by the Royal United Services Institute, a British think tank, claims that Russia is firing approximately 20,000 artillery shells per day.  <https://www.rt.com/news/559393-uk-new-weapons-ukraine/>

**EU divided on gas rationing**

***Spain, Greece and Portugal have all come out against Brussels’ plan to lower consumption by 15%***

*21 Jul, 2022 16:47*

The governments of Spain, Greece and Portugal have all stated that they oppose an EU scheme that would see them slash their natural gas consumption by 15% over the winter.

Announced by the European Commission on Wednesday, the ‘Save Gas for a Safe Winter’ [proposal](https://www.rt.com/business/559312-eu--gas-conservation-plan/) would entail EU member states reducing their gas use by switching to other power sources and ordering their citizens to ration their own usage. If the commission’s proposal is adopted, member states would be required to report on their progress toward the 15% target every two months, and EU authorities would have the power to declare a state of emergency and make the reduction mandatory.

"I deeply regret to say that Spain does not support this proposal," Spanish Energy Minister Teresa Ribera said shortly after its announcement. Mentioning that the plan had been revealed without a debate in the European Council, Ribera declared that the commission *“cannot demand a sacrifice”* when *“they have not even asked our prior opinion.”*

*“Unlike other countries, we Spaniards have not lived beyond our means in terms of energy,”* Ribera added.

Echoing former German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s assertion in 2009 that Mediterranean countries “were living beyond their means” in the runup to the financial crisis, Ribera’s remark was likely aimed directly at Berlin. Having relied heavily on Russian gas to power its industry, Germany is currently facing [economic ruin](https://www.rt.com/business/559161-german-industry-halt-russian-gas/) after voluntarily canceling the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline and backing EU sanctions on Moscow.

Greece came out against the plan a day later, with government spokesman Giannis Oikonomou telling reporters on Thursday that Athens “does not agree in principle with the EU proposal f*or a 15% reduction in gas usage.”* Oikonomou said that the government has *“submitted our own proposals”* to the EU instead. Greece depends on Russia for 40% of its natural gas.

Portugal too “does not accept” the EU’s proposal, Energy Minister Joao Galamba told Portuguese newspaper Publico on Thursday. *"There are countries that have not protected themselves and are now asking for help,”* he said in an apparent reference to Germany, adding that a bloc-wide rationing program fails to take into account the fact that Portugal lacks pipeline connectivity with the rest of Europe, meaning that gas saved in Portugal could not be used to cover shortfalls elsewhere.

While Spain, Greece and Portugal have spoken out publicly against the plan, officials in Italy, Poland and Hungary also have their reservations, [Bloomberg](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-07-21/italy-poland-raise-concerns-about-eu-proposal-to-cut-gas-use) reported on Thursday.  Hungary’s opposition is unsurprising, as Budapest has staunchly opposed the sanctioning of Russian oil and gas during successive rounds of EU sanctions on Moscow.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen described the plan as an attempt to prepare for a “total cutoff of Russian gas,” accusing Russian President Vladimir Putin of *“blackmailing us”* with energy.

Putin stated on Tuesday that Russian energy firm Gazprom is *“ready to pump as much as necessary, but [the EU] closed everything themselves.”* Putin has previously called the bloc’s sanctions on Russia *“insane and thoughtless,”* and accused European leaders of committing economic *“suicide”* under the direction of the US.  <https://www.rt.com/news/559403-spain-portugal-gas-rationing/>

**Fires torch Europe: Continent set for record forest loss as heat fuels flames**

***Wildfires in Spain, France, Portugal burn 1.3 million acres, more than in all of 2021, as brutal heatwave kills hundreds and experts warn worst is yet to come***

*By* [*Stephane ORJELLET*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/stephane-orjellet/) *and* [*Patrick Galey*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/patrick-galey/) *Today, 3:40 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/Untitled-3-5.jpg)

Wildfires rage in the forest close to the village of Novelo, Slovenia, on July 21, 2022. (Jure Makovec/AFP)

AFP — The fires that have torched through Europe are on course to make 2022 a record year for forest loss on the continent, as scientists warn climate change is already contributing to ever fiercer blazes.

Fires in parts of France, Spain and Portugal have already burned more land so far this year than in all of 2021 — some 1.3 million acres, or the equivalent area of Trinidad and Tobago.

“The situation is much worse than expected, even if we were expecting temperature anomalies with our long-term forecasts,” Jesus San Miguel, coordinator of the European Union’s EFFIS satellite monitoring service, told AFP.

San Miguel said there could be worse to come, adding that the hallmarks of global heating were all over this year’s fire season.

“Ignition is caused by people [but] the heatwave is critical, and clearly linked to climate change,” he said.

“The fire season used to be concentrated from July to September. Now we are getting longer seasons and very intense fire. We expect climate change to create higher fire conditions in Europe,” he said.

Temperatures have warmed just over 1.1 degrees Celsius since the industrial era, and the United Nations says Earth is currently on track to warm some 2.7 degrees Celsius this century.

This additional heat is enough to make the kind of heatwaves that baked Europe this week more likely to occur and to last longer when they do. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/fires-torch-europe-continent-set-for-record-forest-loss-as-heat-fuels-flames/>

**Judge spikes plan by Soros-backed prosecutor to conceal evidence**

***Gardner ordered to turn over details of bungled prosecution to Just the News***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published July 21, 2022 at 11:03am*

A federal judge in Missouri has spiked a scheme by St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kimberly Gardner to conceal evidence of her bungled prosecution of former Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, who faced charges filed by Gardner that later were dropped.

It is [Just the News](https://justthenews.com/government/courts-law/thurjudge-orders-soros-backed-prosecutor-hand-over-records-just-news) that has been fighting for the documents for several years, and Editor in Chief John Solomon expressed satisfaction with the result.

Gardner, among the first in a wave of local prosecutors whose campaigns were funded by George Soros, an extreme leftist, was hit with the order from St. Louis City Circuit Judge Jason Sengheiser.

She had been claiming "privilege" regarding the documents, and had refused to turn them over despite previous court orders to do so.

"Kimberly Gardner has repeatedly been on the wrong side of the law," explained Solomon about the fight over the documents, "first in bringing charges against a sitting governor without the requisite evidence, then in violating numerous standards of professional conduct for a lawyer and finally by throwing repeated roadblocks to complying with the Missouri Sunshine law.

"I am grateful that Judge Sengheiser — like the state appeals court and Missouri Supreme Court — saw through Gardner's cloud of obstruction and ordered the release of these specific documents. In the end, the public is the ultimate winner as they will now see what if any outside forces influenced her bungled prosecution of Gov. Greitens. And we look forward to pressing for more transparency in the litigation that lies ahead, deeply grateful for the excellent work that the Southeastern Legal Foundation, Kimberly Hermann and David Roland have provided to create this win for transparency."

The Missouri Bar's ethics division already has accused Gardner of misconduct for prosecuting Greitens, and has recommended a reprimand.

That report accused Gardner of misconduct through withholding and misrepresenting evidence and allowing her chief investigator to commit perjury.

The case started in 2019 when Solomon requested the documents regarding Gardner's prosecution of Greitens. She accused him of felony invasion of privacy. But the case was dropped when Gardner confessed that she did not have evidence.

Solomon said he asked for records of communication between Gardner's office, Soros, and several left-wing organizations.

A trial court sided with Solomon in 2020, and Solomon filed a motion to hold her in contempt of court.

The Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District also had rejected Gardner's strategy to conceal documents.

Gardner also is the prosecutor who infamously brought charges against two Missouri residents. the McCloskeys, who simply held guns while defending their own property from a Black Lives Matter mob that broke into their neighborhood.

<https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/judge-spikes-plan-soros-backed-prosecutor-conceal-evidence/> [The degree of crooked garbage in our local political offices like this is just revolting. The source of funding needs to be chopped off. 0 rdb]

**Congressman demands Bill Gates answer questions about massive farmland purchases**

***Billionaire advocates for artificial meat while taking control of ag lands***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published July 21, 2022 at 5:41pm*

One member of Congress is demanding that Bill Gates, the influential computer software company founder and celebrated environmentalist, answer some questions about why he is buying up tens of thousands of acres of farmland.

That farmland, now, often is used for producing feed for cattle, that are turned into steaks and roasts and hamburgers. But Gates has openly advocated that nations should convert to synthetic beef.

So Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-S.D., wants him to explain what is going on.

At [Summit News,](https://summit.news/2022/07/21/congressman-demands-bill-gates-explain-why-hes-buying-up-vast-amounts-of-farmland/) a report reveals Johnson is insisting that Gates be brought before a congressional committee to explain his purchases of "vast amounts of farmland in the United States while telling Americans to stop eating meat."

Gates already owns more than 9,000 acres in Idaho, 16,000 acres in Washington, 20,000 in Nebraska, 4,500 in California, 25,000 in Arizona, 47,000 in Arkansas and more in a total of 19 states.

His total ownership is about 270,000, and his most recent fight for land was over 2,100 acres in North Dakota where he is "circumventing" a 1932 anti-corporate farm ownership law by promising to lease the land back to farmers.

"It has become clear in recent reports that Mr. Gates is the largest private farmland owner in America – he now owns nearly 270,000 acres of farmland across 19 states. Comparatively, the average farm size in 2021 was 445 acres, according to the United States Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service. I believe that Mr. Gates’ holdings across much of our nation is a significant portion that the Committee should not ignore," Johnson told David Scott, the chairman of the committee.

He said on social media, "Bill Gates is the largest owner of US farmland. I’m curious what’s planned for this incredibly productive ag land given that he believes developed countries like America 'shouldn’t eat any red meat.' How are his land purchases related to those aspirations?"

Summit News also posted an editorial about Gates and his plan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=376&v=ARDXlyq3EgI&feature=emb_logo>

<https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/congressman-demands-bill-gates-answer-questions-farmland-purchases/> [Gates is terminally evil and a eugenicist that wants “only the worthy” to be alive. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**The 'Green' Globalist Elites Will Make Serfs of Us All**[*Laura Hollis*](https://townhall.com/columnists/laurahollis/) *Posted: Jul 21, 2022 12:01 AM* What do you call an economic system where a relative few individuals own all the land and most of the people who live on that land do so at the sufferance of the landowner?  
 It's feudalism.  
 This was the economic system in most of Europe during the Middle Ages. The vast majority of the population was born into, lived and died in poverty. There was little hope for upward mobility unless one opted for a career in military service or the clergy. (From time to time, extraordinarily pretty peasant girls might be married off to a lesser lord.)  
 The rise of mercantilism and the guild system in northern Europe brought major changes to European feudalism. Poor youth could be apprenticed to merchants and artisans where they learned a skill and a trade. After a time, apprentices could establish shops of their own. This system eventually created a middle class, and the economic power achieved by the guilds and their members soon translated to political power as well.  
 Russia, however, lagged hundreds of years behind the rest of Europe. Tsar Alexander II finally freed the country's serfs in 1861, when the rest of the world had already entered the Industrial Revolution. The same wealthy Russians who had owned the farms soon owned the factories. The Russian poor went from being feudal peasants on rich farmland to half-starved factory workers in city tenements. Despair and hopelessness created by centuries of exploitation laid the groundwork for the appeal of Karl Marx's writings. Russia's failure to include its poorest citizens in the advances of industrialization was among the driving forces behind the revolutions that would thrust Russia into communism for the next 70-plus years.  
 America's trajectory has been quite different.  
 Our country was founded by men of faith with knowledge of history, politics and economics. We rejected monarchy and nobility. Our founding documents incorporate principles of universal human dignity and individual rights that not only formed the basis for a republican government elected by the people but also supported the notion of free enterprise. Unlike Russia (and plenty of other countries) where capitalism and the means of production have been controlled by a small group of wealthy people who use their political power to limit access to others, the United States has had a system of *entrepreneurial* capitalism. Anyone -- even noncitizens -- could come here and start their own business. And millions have.  
 America's system of entrepreneurial capitalism has been the breeding ground for the American Dream. It has done for this country what the guild system did for northern Europe, and then some. It has spawned unprecedented innovation, facilitated the creation and distribution of wealth, transformed the law of business enterprise and the widespread use of corporations, made investment and ownership of property and land accessible to the average person, and launched America's middle, upper-middle and even upper classes.  
 One would think that this extraordinarily successful system would be sought to be replicated around the globe. But that is not what appears to be happening. Instead, we have a new class of globalist elites who believe that *they* should control the planet and the lives of everyone on it. Economically secure and politically independent people are difficult to control, so we find ourselves in a situation where our economic security and our political independence are being threatened by those who have made their fortunes in the system they now seek to undermine.  
 There is no security without food. Global efforts to control farmland and farming, therefore, are creating worldwide worries.  
 Protests have erupted in the Netherlands in response to "green" regulations to reduce nitrogen emissions, which come mostly from farmers, by half. (Similar regulations imposed in Sri Lanka destroyed that country's agricultural output and its economy.) The Dutch government has stated that "there (will not be) a future for all farmers" to continue to operate, and EU politicians are calling for a certain percentage of farms to be closed or sold. "Solidarity" protests are now taking place in Germany, Poland, Italy and Spain.  
 China owns more than $2 billion in U.S. farmland. Microsoft founder and billionaire Bill Gates is now the largest private owner of farmland in the United States, with more than 270,000 acres. Just this month, he acquired another 2,100 acres of farmland in North Dakota. The purchase was originally blocked, but the state's attorney general ultimately permitted the sale to go through because the farmland "will be leased back to farmers."  
 Owning land is quite different from leasing it. A lease is just a contract. Contract terms can be changed. And contracts can be breached, at which point the nonbreaching party must bring a lawsuit for enforcement -- assuming that he or she can even afford to do so. Imagine a tenant farmer going up against the attorneys Gates can afford to pay.  
 In other words, you're on the land at the sufferance of the landowner. Sound familiar?  
 Gates is an active member of the World Economic Forum and a zealous advocate of their so-called green policies to avert "climate change" disasters. Gates is pushing for wealthy countries to move to eating "synthetic meat." (And he is, unsurprisingly, a major investor in the companies that would produce it.) Of course, if plastibeef isn't your thing, his climate change compadres insist that we eat bugs. And this is without mentioning the push to end private ownership of cars and suburbs with their single-family homes and green yards, forcing the public into densely populated concrete high-rises and onto public transportation.  
 But will Gates & Co. live this way? You're joking. They'll still have their multiple homes, their yachts, their chauffeured limousines, private jets and their meals of Wagyu beef. They will be able to afford everything because they will*own* everything.  
 Don't take my word for it. In 2016, the WEF posted a video on Facebook and Twitter, titled "8 Predictions for 2030." The video states, "You'll own nothing and you'll be happy. Whatever you want, you'll rent, and it will be delivered by a drone."  
 Translation: "We'll own everything, and you'll be a serf." <https://townhall.com/columnists/laurahollis/2022/07/21/the-green-globalist-elites-will-make-serfs-of-us-all-n2610576>

**How Bad Will Election Fraud Be in 2022?***By* [*Lex Greene*](https://newswithviews.com/author/lex/)*|July 21st, 2022* The short answer is, worse than in 2020.  
 It’s no secret that the Biden (Obama 3.0) administration is the most unpopular administration in U.S. history, and for plenty of good reasons. No previous administration has ever created such a huge dumpster fire across the country and around the world in such a short period of time.  
 Clearly, Joe Biden lacks the mental capacity to read a teleprompter correctly, much less run anything, or even know where he is, or why, most of the time. Kamala Harris is even worse than Biden, but not due to late stage dementia. She’s always been dumber than a box of rocks. Biden is down to a 28% approval rating, but Kamala is even lower.  
 So, Americans predicting a “red wave” on November 8th can read these tea leaves and draw the conclusion that democrats across the country will be politically slaughtered in the 2022 mid-terms. But there’s a key element to that prediction that most are ignoring…we don’t have legitimate elections.  
 2020 isn’t the first time democrats worked to perfect the art of stealing an election. In 2000, they tried to seat Al Gore in the Oval Office by denying the certification of the overseas Military vote, while knocking “[hanging chads](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-6I6RvSeNw)” from paper ballots on the floor in endless Florida recounts…A fraudulent process eventually stopped by the U.S. Supreme Court.  
 [All the way back in 1936](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Athens_%281946%29), the Democrat E. H. Crump political machine based in Memphis, which controlled much of Tennessee, extended to McMinn County with the introduction of Paul Cantrell as the Democratic candidate for sheriff. Cantrell engaged in electoral fraud, both by intimidating voters who voted against him, and by allowing ineligible people to vote. The U.S. Department of Justice had investigated allegations of electoral fraud in McMinn County in 1940, 1942, and 1944, but had never taken any action.  
 But by 2020, the Democrat Party had perfected a plethora of election fraud methods and they used all of them, making the 2020 elections the most fraudulent election in human history! The entire world knows it, and they can’t figure out why Americans have allowed it to stand.  
 For decades, the Democrat Party has been cheating in elections, by any means necessary. The Republican Party has allowed it to continue for decades, in part due to a legal agreement called a Consent Decree, which the GOP made with the Democrat Party back in 1982. Since 1982, the Republican Party had been legally prohibited from contesting elections due to suspected vote fraud. Of course, Republican voters and donors never agreed to any such thing, and most never even knew about it. A [Federal Court allowed that agreement to expire in 2018](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/rnc-freed-from-restrictions-of-consent-decree-goes-on-ballot-security-offensive), just ahead of the mid-terms.  
 Still, with massive fraud on open global display in the 2020 elections, the Republican Party sat quiet as the worst administration in U.S. history stole the White House and numerous Congressional seats in broad daylight, or the dark of night when it came to after-hours DNC ballot drops at key swing state distracts, captured on film. Republican Vice President Mike Pence participated in the steal and continues to participate in the coverup, as do many other Republican officials, the worst among them, Liz Cheney (WY) and Mitt Romney (UT).  
 Countless groups have worked around the clock to evidence and expose the massive 2020 fraud since, as all news networks and both political parties continue to deny any wrongdoing even today. [The evidence isn’t just compelling, it’s overwhelming](https://emeralddb3.substack.com/p/exclusive-how-democrats-cheated-in), despite an obvious effort to cover it all up.  
**So, just how bad will the democrat party fraud be in November 2022?**   
 Well, when there are no consequences for committing massive election fraud in front of the entire world, there is no reason to stop committing that fraud. In fact, it encourages the cheaters to up the ante in election after election until someone finally puts a stop to it. All they needed was a little cover, such as the fake COVID19 scamdemic used to open up unverifiable mail-in and drop box balloting, along with illegal ballot harvesting and election machine hacking. It worked once, so they will most surely do it again!  
 Because nothing at all has been done about the fraud in 2020, there is no reason to expect that democrats won’t continue that practice in 2022. No one in the USA has successfully challenged their crimes.  
**How far are they willing to go in 2022?**  
 Again, the short answer is, however far they need to go to make sure they retain political power after November. Nothing, and I do mean NOTHING AT ALL, is off the table in 2022.  
 Democrats know they are highly unpopular today, even among many lifelong democrats who foolishly voted for them in 2020. They know they have no chance of legitimately winning any election this November. As a result, they also know that they will have to cheat more in 2022 than they did in 2020 and they are already doing it across the country.  
 Will democrats use all of the fraudulent methods they used in 2020? YES  
 Will they launch another scamdemic to force unverifiable voting? YES  
 Will they continue to ratchet up war with Russia in Ukraine? YES  
 Will they continue to sell USA resources to Communist China? YES  
 Will they continue to demolish the US Military? YES  
 Will they continue to put illegal invaders and convicts on the streets everywhere? YES  
 Will they continue to target all law enforcement and border agents? YES  
 Will they continue to threaten and attack all Constitutionally Protected Rights? YES  
 Will they continue to destroy our schools and churches? YES  
 Will they continue to flood the USA with bioweapons and fentanyl? YES  
 Will they continue to plant terror cells in every city? YES  
 Will they continue to intentionally destroy our economy? YES  
 Will they continue to cause massive inflation and supply chain shortages? YES  
 Will they do all they can to cause a total economic collapse before November? YES  
 Will they continue to unleash Marxist terrorists like BLM and ANTIFA on the public? YES  
 Will they use “false flag” events to gaslight unsuspecting citizens? YES  
 Will they use the Military against Citizens if need be? YES  
 Will they continue to create a never ending stream of “emergencies” to win? YES  
 Will they continue to lie to win? YES  
 All the above is a known given… no need for any imagination, since we have watched democrats do it all for many years.  
 The democrat party also teaches their candidates in RED districts in open primary states, to run on Republican tickets. [They also teach democrat voters to cross over](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/06/23/liz-cheney-democrat-crossover/) in open GOP primaries to vote for the republican candidate, whom they want to run against in the general election.  
 Even worse, the [democrat party is spending millions on republican candidates](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-democrats-all-big-winners-marylands-republican-gubernatorial-primary) in open republican primaries, just to manipulate GOP elections and hand pick the candidate they think they can defeat in the general elections.  
 And of course, there is nothing new about global nation-wreckers like Nazi George Soros spending billions to manipulate elections from the top of the ballot to the bottom, coast to coast.  
 Will they flood our country with criminals and terrorists from every 3rd world toilet, replacing uncontrollable Americans with easily controllable 3rd world voters? YES  
 In my opinion, they are even willing to sponsor mass shootings, BLM and ANTIFA riots, or even nuke U.S. cities with dirty bombs they can blame on Putin, just to retain their ill-gotten power in an election year they are doomed to lose BIG! These criminals are highly capable of doing anything to retain power and any casualties of their crimes are acceptable collateral damage to whatever they deem necessary.  
 **So, how bad will election fraud be in 2022?**   
 Far worse than in 2020, and this time, they won’t limit their tactics to merely stuffing and stealing votes. They are desperate, and desperate people are very dangerous.  
 Unless American Citizens make it their business to do whatever it takes to secure the November elections, a RED WAVE remains highly unlikely, despite running against the most unpopular administration in U.S. history. There are many things the people can and should do to turn the tide, they just have to do it.  
 I work with TNALC.org that just released their most recent [Citizen Call to Action](https://www.scribd.com/document/581458882/Time-to-Meet-with-Your-State-RNC-Representatives). Anyone can do this, and everyone should, unless you have already surrendered. More action items will be issued by the group, so get connected with us to get properly engaged. <https://newswithviews.com/how-bad-will-election-fraud-be-in-2022/>

Folks – There are a wealth of excellent commentaries published today and I will provide some clips with links:

**The Strategic Fallout of Biden’s Failure**

*07/21/2022 Caroline Glick* Arguably, the moment U.S. President Joe Biden’s trip to Israel crashed and burned was on Friday morning during his remarks at Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.  
 Biden’s visit to the all-Arab hospital was the most controversial stop during Biden’s visit to the Jewish state, because it signaled an about-face on America’s long standing support for an undivided Jerusalem.  
 Not only did Biden refuse to permit Israeli officials to accompany him on his visit to the Jerusalem hospital, but his team removed the Israeli flag from Biden’s limousine as he made his way to it, and refused to permit Israeli reporters to participate in the press pool.  
 Quite simply, even before Biden made the visit, the hospital tour represented a glaring contradiction of his repeated protestations of undying friendship and support for Israel. If anyone still held out hope that the president who told Israeli television that he was a Zionist was telling the truth, that hope was dispelled utterly when Biden began his remarks at the hospital.    
 Biden began what quickly became a rambling, largely incoherent speech about how much he likes nurses, hates cancer and misses his late son Beau with the most hostile, *anti-Zionist* characterization any sitting U.S. president has ever made of Israel. Subscribe to The JNS Daily Syndicate by email and never miss our top stories MORE - <https://carolineglick.com/the-strategic-fallout-of-bidens-failure/>

**Biden Gave TikTok a Pass. American Kids Died**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*July 20, 2022*](https://www.danielgreenfield.org/2022/07/biden-gave-tiktok-pass-american-kids.html)

In the summer of 2020, President Trump imposed sanctions on TikTok, and in the next summer, Biden lifted them in his own executive order. While the Biden administration claimed that it would scrutinize the Chinese Communist company, there was an obvious ulterior motive.

Biden revoked Trump’s TikTok executive order in June 2021. That same month, the Biden administration began reaching out to TikTok influencers to build an “influencer army”.  
 It’s impossible to believe that the two White House decisions to revoke the TikTok order and to mobilize TikTok influencers made in the same month were unrelated. MORE - <https://www.danielgreenfield.org/2022/07/biden-gave-tiktok-pass-american-kids.html>

**The Next Republican President Must Fix the Military First**[*Kurt Schlichter*](https://townhall.com/columnists/kurtschlichter/) *Posted: Jul 21, 2022 12:01 AM* I was there when the United States military was great, when it inspired fear instead of laughter, when it smashed whole armies in a hundred hours instead of letting a bunch of seventh-century freaks drive it out of a country that would have to work up to join the Third World. The American armed forces had a culture of winning then; it now has a culture of not only losing but of turning on its own, destroying itself through social justice nonsense, and rejecting the warrior ethos. Predictably, the normal, patriotic Americans who traditionally answer the call to the colors [are refusing to sign onto an organization that hates them](https://www.theamericanconservative.com/what-are-military-recruits-defending/). Unless the boys, girls, and non-binaries of Santa Monica, the Hamptons, and the Gender Studies Department at Wellesley are going to enlist en masse to make up [the growing recruiting/retention deficit](https://apnews.com/article/covid-politics-health-army-dc5db721e3270e0e92a0210daa890860?taid=62d73e030c97d5000164feb0&utm_campaign=TrueAnthem&utm_medium=AP&utm_source=Twitter), we need a military culture that is friendly to the traditional warrior pool of rural and middle America. MORE - <https://townhall.com/columnists/kurtschlichter/2022/07/21/the-next-republican-president-must-fix-the-military-first-n2610493>

**Democrats Say They Hate Trump... So Why Do They Keep Empowering Him?**[*Larry O'Connor*](https://townhall.com/columnists/larryoconnor/) *Posted: Jul 20, 2022 1:30 PM* I may not be breaking new ground here with this observation. Still, it appears that Democrats, socialists, progressive leftists, and the Never Trump Republicans who love and empower them seem to dislike Donald Trump.   
 I know, I know, you wouldn't know it by the sober coverage of the former president and his political endorsements. It's not like the media has framed every major primary battle this year within the lens of "Trump-endorsed nominee wins!" or "Trump-backed nominee loses!"   
 Oh... wait... that's exactly how the media has covered the 2022 Republican primaries.   
 [Trump's Endorsement Record Midway Through Primary Season](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/29/us/politics/trump-endorsement-record-primaries.html)  
 [Seven endorsements that will test Trump's influence](https://thehill.com/homenews/3566567-seven-endorsements-that-will-test-trumps-influence/)  
 [Charted: Trump's endorsement success rate](https://www.axios.com/2022/07/20/trump-endorsement-success-rate)  
 [Trump-backed candidates run strong in primaries despite Jan. 6 investigation](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/jun/29/trump-backed-candidates-run-strong-primaries-despi/)  
 [Trump's endorsement will be tested again in IL-15 primary](https://news.stlpublicradio.org/government-politics-issues/2022-06-21/the-illinois-primary-between-davis-and-miller-will-test-trumps-sway-with-gop-voters)  
 Do you remember any former president's endorsements getting this kind of scrutiny in the media? It's reached the point where the day after a primary election, the headlines won't even mention the winning or losing candidate's name, just whether they were endorsed by Trump.  MORE - <https://townhall.com/columnists/larryoconnor/2022/07/20/democrats-say-they-hate-trump-so-why-do-they-keep-empowering-him-n2610509>

**Why Democrats Are Desperate to Charge Trump With Anything**[*Derek Hunter*](https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/) *Posted: Jul 21, 2022 12:01 AM* If you were to tell me that someone in politics is corrupt, criminally corrupt, I'd be open to believing you, but I wouldn't join you in calling for their head without a little something called evidence. Not your thoughts, not your conclusions, your women's intuition, or your Spidey sense tingling, I'd need proof. While there is no lack of haters of former President Donald Trump screaming at the top of their lungs about the former, the latter is where they lose not only me but should lose everyone.  
 These bogus made-for-TV January 6th Committee hearings are a prime example of how an unthinking group of people can be led down whatever path politicians want to prance them down. What's frightening is how so many Americans, particularly so-called journalists, are happy to goosestep right along with them.  
 I used goosestep not to shock but to illustrate their tactics. Lavrentiy Beria, the brutal head of Joseph Stalin's secret police, famously said, "Show me the man and I'll show you the crime," basically meaning the state can do whatever the hell it wants because it's the state. The state picks a target, then sets about to manufacture "crimes" to rid itself of said target.  MORE - <https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/2022/07/21/why-democrats-are-desperate-to-charge-trump-with-anything-n2610544>

**Why No One Cares When Palestinians Kill Palestinians***by* [*Bassam Tawil*](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Bassam+Tawil) *July 21, 2022 at 5:00 am* Case 1: Nizar Banat was a prominent Palestinian human rights activist from the Hebron area in the West Bank. In June 2020, Banat was [beaten](https://www.aljazeera.net/news/humanrights/2021/6/24/%D8%B4%D8%A8%D9%87%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D8%BA%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84-%D9%85%D9%86-%D9%87%D9%88-%D9%86%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A8%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%AA%D8%9F-%D9%88%D9%83%D9%8A%D9%81-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%81%D9%89) to death by Palestinian security officers who came to arrest him because of his frequent criticism of corruption in the Palestinian Authority (PA).  
 Case 2: Shireen Abu Akleh was a Christian Palestinian-American reporter working for the Qatari-owned Al-Jazeera TV network. In May 2022, Abu Akleh was [killed](https://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/2594760) while she was covering armed clashes between the Israeli army and gunmen from the Iranian-backed Palestinian Islamic Jihad organization in the West Bank city of Jenin.  
 Although more than a year has passed since the brutal murder of Banat, important mainstream media outlets in the West have not conducted any investigation into his case. MORE - <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/18729/palestinians-killed>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Benny Gantz: The Abraham Accords could lead to separation from the Palestinians**

***Defense Minister says agreements with Arab countries could lead to situation where Israel and Palestinians separate into two different entities.***

[*Nitsan Keidar*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/author/Nitsan_Keidar) *Jul 21, 2022, 11:30 PM (GMT+3)*

Defense Minister Benny Gantz participated on Thursday in the Aspen Security Forum, in a “fireside chat” moderated by editor of The Atlantic, Jeffrey Goldberg. The discussion focused on the impact of the Abraham Accords two years after their signing.

During the discussion, Gantz said, “The Abraham Accords enable us to expand our relations [with regional partners] in security aspects, in business to business [frameworks], organizations to organizations, and people to people. And of course we are creating a regional architecture for defense.”

He added, “Israel was moved from EUCOM to CENTCOM – and we use it as a strategic umbrella. Since the signing of the accords, there have been hundreds of meetings and discussions with regional partners, and Israel has participated in at least 10 multinational exercises with regional partners. I am very happy that the U.S. has led this and that the region’s leaders have realized and taken this opportunity. We are creating a better Middle East.”

Regarding Iran, Minister Gantz said, “Iran is first a global challenge, then a regional challenge and only lastly it is a threat to the State of Israel. We can see it everywhere around the world – the Iranian impact in Venezuela, Algeria, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen. The Saudis and the Emiratis also suffer from Iranian attacks, Iran does not only pose a threat to the State of Israel.”

He added, “The countries of the region understand that Israel is here to stay and that Israel is not a burden but rather an asset. Our excellent relations with the US can be used as a bridge. Israel does not threaten the countries of the region, while Iran does. We can see Iran’s malign activity in the region without a nuclear canopy, without nuclear deterrence. Imagine what they would do with it. And that’s why we cannot let Iran become a nuclear [state].”

“At the same time, I do not know of another country that has another country, in this case Iran, threatening its existence and building the means to do so. The government and leadership of Israel has a historic responsibility to build our capabilities and to prevent Iran from becoming nuclear.”

Regarding the Palestinian issue, Minister Gantz said, “I believe that we can leverage the Abraham Accords and ties with regional partners in order to strengthen the Palestinian Authority and promote confidence-building measures. From a Jewish, Zionist, and democratic perspective, I would like to see a better future between us and the Palestinians and that includes separating from the Palestinians.”

"I think the Abraham Accords can today help strengthen the Palestinian Authority, and build a reality of separation and two entities," Gantz stated.

"I see this as a Zionist matter and Israel must be a safe, democratic and Jewish state," he added. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/356929> [This is the essence of the two state solution which is an abomination and an affront to The Creator of the Universe and the Author of Israel. – rdb]

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| Urgent Appeal from Yaffa/Lev U'Neshama  Normally, I don't send appeal emails because our supporters are generous and we manage our money carefully to enable our programs to function smoothly. However, I am compelled to contact you now because we urgently need donations to reach our goal for basic school supplies.  For the past several years, donations made to the Education Fund were used in August before school resumes. Much of the fund is used to purchase coupons at our one-and-only office supply store. The family-owned store is happy for the business and they give a generous discount to stretch our funds.    We have 82 families in our program and they are already calling us asking if they will be receiving a coupon to be redeemed at this store. Smaller families have 5 or 6 children and large families have 13 and some more. Last year we gave 150 NIS credit to each family. Not sufficient but something. This year, of course, cost of school supplies has risen and we need to give 200 NIS.    200 times 82 = 16,400 NIS. Presently I have almost 8,000 NIS. A bit short, you can see. Also, a bit short on time. It's the middle of July and we need to have funds in place within a month to allow the coupons to be completed and mailed.  The amount in dollars is approximately $2,700. Not a huge amount in the scope of things but urgently needed by the kids here. About 1/3 of the children in Tzfat come from families who are in the poverty range. But they shouldn't be deprived of basic school supplies to have a good start in school.  Additionally, I am concerned that we will need funds to provide eye exams/eyeglasses and sport shoes and this is beyond what we are extrapolating for the school supplies.    I'm sending this appeal to everyone in the hopes of reaching our goal for school supplies and have some also for the shoes and eyeglasses; $60 for eyeglasses/exam and $30 for a pair of sport shoes).    You may already be a supporter of Lev U'Neshama and give generously but perhaps you can ask family or friends to join in this effort. If you haven't donated to us before or do so periodically, now is a good time.    **Donations may be made by** going to our web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com)  Go to the "How You Can Help" page and select an option to donate. You can even use a credit card.    Or you can use PayPal (although a fee is taken). Recipient email address: mortsmo@aol.com    Or you can use Zelle from US to US bank; no fee. You need to use my email address and my English name, Sheila Smolensky, as it is on the account.    Or . . . you could send a check made payable to my son Simcha Smolensky and send it to:  Rabbi Simcha Smolensky  6933 N Kedzie Ave  Unit 116  Chicago IL 60645  (Canadian checks or money orders must be in US dollars)    If you need/want a US Tax Receipt, email me and I'll give you the information.    Hoping you and/or someone you know, can help reach the goal to help our children.    Enjoy the remainder of summer in good health,    Yaffa Smolensky  Volunteer Program Manager  Lev U'Neshama    Tzfat Israel email: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com) web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com) |

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**Hebron | Cave of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs**

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2j7dt_6qxc>

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| "We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth... For my part, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst; and to provide for it." -- Patrick Henry (1736-1799) US Founding Father |

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

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

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

Exodus 22:26If thou at all take thy neighbour's garment to pledge, thou shalt restore it unto him by that the sun goeth down; 27for that is his only covering, it is his garment for his skin; wherein shall he sleep? and it shall come to pass, when he crieth unto Me, that I will hear; for I am gracious. 28Thou shalt not revile God, nor curse a ruler of thy people.

**Iran says fatwa against building nuclear weapons unchanged after ‘bomb’ comment**

***After top official said Iran was capable of making atomic bombs, Tehran says religious ruling against weapons of mass destruction remains in place***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 3:17 pm*

TEHRAN, Iran — Tehran gave assurances Wednesday that its nuclear policy was unchanged and that it still adhered to a fatwa banning weapons of mass destruction, after an Iranian official said the country was able to make atomic bombs.

It is the second time in the past 18 months that Iran has reiterated its opposition to nuclear weapons following comments by an official. Does anyone really believe that these folks give a flip about a fatwa. They can reverse that at a moments notice. – rdb]

“In regard to the topic of weapons of mass destruction, we have the fatwa,” or religious edict, by Iran’s supreme leader that prohibits the manufacture of such weapons, said foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani.

The fatwa declares the use of atomic bombs and other weapons of mass destruction to be haram, or forbidden by Islam, and it is often cited by Iranian authorities as a guarantee of Tehran’s good intentions. [ There is a big bridge in NYC I will sell you if you buy this. – rdb]

“It seems that there has been no change in the view and position of the Islamic Republic of Iran” regarding the nuclear policy, Kanani told a news conference.

His comments came in response to a question about remarks made by Kamal Kharazi, head of Iran’s strategic council of foreign relations to Al Jazeera on Sunday about Iran’s capability to manufacture nuclear weapons.

“It is no secret to anyone that we have the technical capability to make atomic bombs, but we have not made a decision in this regard,” Kharazi said, before reiterating Iran’s position that it does not want to make a nuclear bomb.

Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Kanani said: “Iran’s nuclear capacities are great, but, as it has mentioned many times, Iran’s nuclear technology is completely peaceful and under continued monitoring of the (UN’s) International Atomic Energy Agency.”

The remarks came amid heightened tensions between Iran and Western powers as talks in Vienna to revive a 2015 nuclear deal have been stalled since March.

“It is no secret we have the technological ability to build a nuclear bomb, but we have not made a decision in this regard. In a few days we went from 20% to 60% enrichment, we can easily reach 90%.” – Kamal Kharazi, former Iran FM & head of Strategic Council on Foreign Relations <https://t.co/uSCE0HEqVS>

— ☕️ (@hassan\_yazdi) [July 17, 2022](https://twitter.com/hassan_yazdi/status/1548692552043356163?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Vienna talks**

Qatar hosted indirect talks last month between the United States and Iran in a bid to get the process back on track, but those discussions broke up after two days without any breakthrough.

The Vienna talks, which began in April last year, aim to return the US to the nuclear deal, including through the lifting of sanctions on Iran, and to return Tehran to full compliance with its commitments.

The 2015 agreement gave Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its atomic program to guarantee that Tehran could not develop a nuclear weapon — something it has always denied wanting to do. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-fatwa-against-building-nuclear-weapons-unchanged-after-bomb-comment/>

**After years, IDF finally admits to using armed drones in airstrikes**

***Military censor says ‘no impediment’ in publishing Israel’s attack UAV capabilities; Hermes 450 used in Tuesday strike on Hamas post***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 9:17 pm*

After nearly two decades, the Military Censor on Wednesday said Israeli media could finally publish a long-known secret: the Israel Defense Forces uses armed drones to strike targets.

[A picture containing sky, outdoor, ground, day

Description automatically generated](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/E7YuEdvWYAAkCGX.jpg)The decision came a day after the IDF struck a Hamas post in the Gaza Strip in response to gunfire toward a town on the border, using an Elbit Hermes 450 armed drone.  
 “It was found that there is no impediment in publishing the IDF’s use of strike UAVs as part of its operational activities,” the censor said in a brief statement, after examining the issue.  
 For years the IDF would not state it uses armed drones, and Israeli journalists who attempted to report on it came up against the IDF censor.  
 Israel has used armed drones to strike numerous targets over the years, and according to reports, as early as the 2006 war in Lebanon and the 2008 war in the Gaza Strip.  
 Images published by foreign media outlets have shown the Hermes 450 with pods attached to its wings, used to launch small guided munitions.  
 Israeli drones have been used in several targeted killings of Hamas officials in the Gaza Strip, including a leader of the terror group’s military wing, Ahmed Jabari, in 2012.  
 Drones have also been used in a technique known as “knocking on the roof,” in which an inert missile is fired at the roof of a building to warn residents to leave before the structure is destroyed by armed munitions.

File: The IAF’s 161st Squadron’s fleet of Hermes 450 drones at the Palmachim airbase. (Barak Shalev, Tomer Matzkin/Israeli Air Force)

The Military Censor did not elaborate on what caused it to change its policy, other than saying it had held an “in-depth and topical” review of the matter.

Israel has not disclosed how many attack drones it has. The Hermes 450 is operated by the Air Force’s 161st Squadron. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-years-idf-finally-admits-to-using-armed-drones-in-airstrikes/>

**Thousands of settler activists create mayhem in West Bank campaign**

***In huge operation, settlers made their way to six locations to establish illegal settlements. Security forces have begun dismantling them***

*By* [*Jeremy Sharon*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jeremy-sharon/) *Today, 10:38 pmUpdated at 11:40 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/F220720YS236.jpg)

Settlers of the Nachala Settlement Movement set up tents near Kiryat Arba, with the intention to establish illegal outposts in Judea and Samaria, at the Gush Etzion Junction. July 20, 2022. (Yonatan Sindel/FLASH90)

Thousands of right-wing Israeli activists flocked to the West Bank on Wednesday in an effort to establish six new illegal outposts in the territory.

The massive operation was organized by the radical settler organization Nachala, which prepared detailed plans for where the activists should set up their outposts and which plots of land to move to once removed by the police.

A spokesman for the organization said some 10,000 volunteers participated in the initiative, although this number could not be independently confirmed.

The organization’s activists arrived at six sites on Wednesday afternoon and set up encampments at these spots as precursors to new outposts.

The police began dismantling these dwellings shortly after they were established, but Nachala said nearly 2,000 activists remained at several sites around the West Bank as of Wednesday night.

Religious Zionism MK Orit Strock issued a video message late Wednesday night from the newly minted illegal outpost of Orot Eliezer close to Kiryat Arba with numerous tents visible in the background and activists milling around.

“There are hundreds of families here, hundreds of people, with children, with babies, youth who have come from all over the country and have established a settlement here which should have always been part of Kiryat Arba,” said Strock.

Nachala issued a call to Defense Minister Benny Gantz late Wednesday night to call off the evacuation operations being conducted by the security forces and to “freeze the situation until at least the next cabinet meeting” scheduled for Sunday.

During the course of the afternoon, Nachala’s operatives were heard instructing activists to move on to new sites once they had been removed from their original designated location.

The Israel Police and Israel Defense Forces issued a joint statement on Wednesday evening saying that they were “working to prevent the establishment of illegal outposts” in “several locations,” adding that the head of IDF Central Command had issued closure orders for the sites in question.

According to the right-wing legal aid organization Honenu, five activists were arrested during the operation, although the police have yet to confirm this figure.

Ahead of the Nachala operation, the military and police also issued a joint statement, stating that establishing outposts in the West Bank without the necessary permits “is illegal and forbidden” and warning that security personnel “will act to prevent illegal activities in order to ensure their central mission, preventing and thwarting terror.” MUCH MUCH MORE- - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/thousands-of-activists-create-mayhem-but-no-new-outposts-in-west-bank-campaign/>

**In campaign salvo, Lapid says strong Yesh Atid necessary to block ‘extremists’**

***PM calls for domestic unity, but also assails right-religious bloc as ‘those who think only of their own good’ and a threat to Israeli democracy***

*By* [*Carrie Keller-Lynn*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/carrie-keller-lynn/) *Today, 11:29 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/PHOTO-2022-07-20-19-11-51.jpg)

Prime Minister Yair Lapid gives a campaign speech on July 20, 2022. (Elad Gutman)

Prime Minister and Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid transitioned into campaign mode on Wednesday evening, calling for “a strong Yesh Atid” as the “one thing” that can deliver a stable government “without extremists.”

“These elections have been forced upon us, but they could be a one-time opportunity to get out of the mess. To establish a broad and stable national government, without the extremists. Only one thing will allow this to happen: a big, strong Yesh Atid that will stabilize the Israeli ship,” the prime minister said in remarks preceding his party’s Tel Aviv faction meeting.

While he did not specify who the “extremists” are, Lapid has previously pointed the finger at ultra-right nationalists in the Religious Zionism party and lawmakers of the majority-Arab Joint List. He accused both opposition parties in April of having formed an “unholy, dangerous alliance.”

Lapid leads the Knesset’s second largest party. The architect of the most recent coalition, he guaranteed its investiture by bargaining away the top spot to Naftali Bennett. He only obtained his current seat three weeks ago, when the Knesset’s voluntary disbandment triggered a rotation from now-Alternate Prime Minister Bennett.

The upcoming November 1 elections, like the four that have preceded them since 2019, are quickly shaping up to be the fifth referendum on whether or not Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu should be at the helm of government. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-campaign-salvo-lapid-says-strong-yesh-atid-necessary-to-block-extremists/>

**Environment minister seeks moratorium on new wind farms to probe impact on nature**

***Ministry says 200 new turbines, some as high as Israel’s tallest towers, planned for gusty Golan and other areas, endangering wildlife, with protective tech having ‘zero effect’***

*By* [*Sue Surkes*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/sue-surkes/) *Today, 5:19 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/wind-turbines-dead-birds1-1-e1658283483364.jpeg)

A dead common kestrel at the foot of a wind turbine at Sirin in 2017. (Israel Nature and Parks Authority)

Seven new wind turbines that will tower over the Golan at the height of Tel Aviv skyscrapers were given the green light Monday by the National Infrastructure Council. If Environmental Protection Minister Tamar Zandberg has her way, they will be the last ones for at least five years.

Zandberg said Monday she was seeking a five-year moratorium on new wind turbine projects to allow for an assessment of existing turbines’ effects on nature, and particularly on birds and bats.

She made the request in a letter to Energy Minister Karine Elharrar and Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked.

The infrastructure committee nonetheless approved a request from Enlight Renewable Energy to add seven new turbines at its Valley of Tears wind farm on the Golan Heights. Enlight had applied for 11.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, backed by the Environmental Protection Ministry, had petitioned to reject the new wind farms.

The new turbines will be around 200 meters (656 feet) high, taller than the cylindrical Azrieli tower in Tel Aviv at 187 meters (614 feet).

Zandberg’s intervention followed a letter last week from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority’s Chief Scientist to the national infrastructure planning council that poured cold water on a technology installed by Enlight at the Valley of Tears farm to stop the blades from turning when a winged creature approaches.

The Golan Heights is an area of immense importance for species of birds such as vultures and eagles, many of them endangered MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/environment-minister-seeking-moratorium-on-new-wind-farms-to-probe-impact-on-nature/>

**Britain launches free trade talks with Israel**

***Seeking to expand its trade agreements, UK looks to Israel as a 'modern, high-tech superpower' to join forces 'in a revamped deal' to 'boost trade, support jobs and help take economic relationship to the next level'***

*Reuters | Published: 07.20.22, 21:24*

Britain on Wednesday launched free trade talks with Israel, aimed at boosting services and tech sector ties as it seeks new trade deals after leaving the European Union.

The current trade deal between the two countries is based on an old EU deal that has no specific provisions on services, Britain said, adding that the trading relationship is currently worth 5 billion pounds ($6 billion) a year.

When it left the EU, Britain signed deals to keep existing trade arrangements in place but later revisited them in search of better terms, including the agreement with Israel.

"The UK and Israel are both modern, hi-tech services superpowers, but our current trading relationship is based on an agreement from 1995, before smartphones, the internet, and digitally delivered services transformed the global economy," trade minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan said.

"Combining the power of our economies in a revamped trade deal will boost trade, support jobs and help take our economic relationship to the next level."

Britain said a deal could boost UK service exports by up to 78 million pounds and benefit over 6,000 businesses.

"Unlike in the past, we can now work with friends and allies like Israel to strike deals that are truly tailored to our strengths in areas like digital trade, services and life sciences," trade minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan said earlier this year.

Talks between the two countries have been taking place for more than a year and trade minister [Anne-Marie Trevelyan](https://www.ynetnews.com/business/article/s1ch65v0f) visited Israel earlier this year to advance the negotiations.

"Unlike in the past, we can now work with friends and allies like Israel to strike deals that are truly tailored to our strengths in areas like digital trade, services and life sciences," Trevelyan said in advance of her visit. <https://www.ynetnews.com/business/article/b1jkrthnc>

**Liftoff: Israeli startup’s ‘flying car’ aces first test**

***AIR says its AIR ONE aircraft, a two-seater eVTOL (electric vertical takeoff and landing) vehicle, performed ‘flawlessly’ in a hover test in northern Israel***

*By* [*Ricky Ben-David*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ricky-ben-david/) *Today, 11:21 am*

An Israeli startup that is developing a “flying” vehicle, an electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft for individual consumers, said its prototype aircraft successfully completed a first hover test with regulators recently, setting the company on a path for further flight certification.

Pardes Hanna-based startup AIR began accepting pre-orders for its AIR ONE aircraft, an all-electric two-seater eVTOL, last October after [unveiling the first designs](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-startup-unveils-electric-flying-car-for-consumer-travel/) for the consumer market.

The aircraft, according to the company, offers a range of 110 miles (177 km) on a single charge at speeds of up to 155 miles (250 km) per hour, with a flight time of one hour. It has collapsible wings for easy parking and the ability to take off from or land on any flat surface, the company says.

The AIR ONE already has an airworthiness certificate, a permit to operate an aircraft in flight, and in June embarked on a hover test that saw the full-scale prototype take flight above the green fields of Kibbutz Megiddo in northern Israel, under the supervision of the Civil Aviation Authority.

Rani Plaut, AIR’s co-founder and CEO, told The Times of Israel that it was the first actual flight for the aircraft following airworthiness certification.

“This test is the first time that [AIR’s] full-scale, full-weight aircraft was tested in flight,” marking “the beginning of a long journey that will continue to a manned flight [test] and later evolve into mass production unit testing,” he said.

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| A small airplane on the runway  Description automatically generated with medium confidence  Israeli startup AIR’s AIR ONE prototype aircraft for the consumer market. (AIR/courtesy) | A picture containing highway  Description automatically generated  The AIR ONE eVTOL aircraft by Israeli startup AIR. (Courtesy/AIR) |

The aircraft completed multiple hovers throughout over two weeks, lifting off, hovering in place, and returning to the ground, “performing optimally in a stable flight envelope,” the company said. (A flight envelope is the operating parameters and capabilities of an aircraft based on its design. It refers to factors like airspeed, altitude, and load factor.)

Plaut said this first flight was “intended to perform hover for a few minutes per flight and many parameters were measured such as energy consumption, flight control behavior and responsiveness to wind.”

He said the aircraft performed “flawlessly” in its first hover test and the company is now preparing for its next milestone: a full-flight test sometime in October. [Looks like it is now the time of the “jetsons” Lord Save Us. – rdb]

“It was truly awe-inspiring to watch AIR ONE lift off the ground for the first time. We’ve been on this upward journey for nearly five years and cannot wait for the public to join us on this ride,” Plaut said in the official company announcement last week. “This momentous milestone secures AIR’s spot as a market leader in the personal air mobility space, making the thrill of flight achievable on a daily basis.”

In addition to Israeli regulators, AIR has also been working with the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) to obtain G1 certification, which outlines initial safety and environmental standards for civil commercial operations.

Plaut said AIR is “on track with the certification process in the US,” a process that takes four to five years overall.

In a previous [interview](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-startup-unveils-electric-flying-car-for-consumer-travel/) with The Times of Israel, Plaut explained that, pending all regulatory approval, the plan is to finish the certification process by the end of 2023 and start delivering the aircraft in 2024.

In the meantime, the company would “continue to sign vendors for the supply chain for the mass production of the AIR ONE in the US in 2024, in time for deliveries,” he said.

In March, AIR signed a deal with Australian company FlyOnE, an electric aircraft distributor, to deliver 25 of the first AIR ONE vehicles to local customers in 2025. FlyOnE will also serve as AIR’s local service and maintenance partner.

Pre-orders for the AIR ONE were in the triple digits and the number is likely to grow as the certification process advances, Plaut has said.

**Making flight accessible**

AIR was first conceived in 2017 by Chen Rosen, an aviation expert, who was later joined by Plaut and Netanel Goldberg, both serial entrepreneurs. Plaut is also the executive chairman of Israeli automotive startup Moodify, and an executive board member at Tactile Mobility, a Haifa-based startup that provides smart cars with the ability to “feel the road.”

With AIR, the founders set out to “make a true difference by making the freedom of flight truly accessible to people,” according to Plaut.

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| A group of people in a vehicle  Description automatically generated with low confidence  The AIR ONE aircraft by Israeli startup AIR is shown at the Kentucky Derby, May 2022. (AIR) | A small airplane on a runway  Description automatically generated with low confidence  Israeli startup AIR developed an eVTOL aircraft called AIR ONE for consumer use. (AIR) |

The company “combines sustainable aerospace innovation with automotive know-how” and is tapping into a nascent eVTOL market [estimated](https://assets.verticalmag.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Morgan-Stanley-URBAN_20210506_0000.pdf) to reach $12 billion by 2030.

AIR’s founders believe that while the overall sector is focused on “commercially piloted or autonomous air taxis for cities,” the AIR ONE offers “an alternative for those who want to enjoy the ultimate freedom of flying on their own terms.”

“At the moment, flying for most of us involves getting into a huge metal tube and being transported in that way. You don’t really feel as if you are flying. We want to bring aviation to the masses and combine the range, simplicity and ease-of-use of fly-by-wire [computerized flight systems] with the DNA of cars — usability, low cost of maintenance and so on. And it’s electric so there’s a green element,” Plaut explained in our previous interview.

“Aircraft can be easy to handle if you have good tech,” he said. To that end, AIR developed what it called “fly by intent” software, which will allow ordinary people to operate and navigate the vehicle, not just trained pilots. The aircraft is also equipped with an AI-enabled monitoring system for frequent inspections to “ensure paramount safety, even for riders with minimal training,” the company says.

“We want to sell directly to consumers. Most of our competitors are doing things like air taxis and shuttles,” Plaut said.

“At the moment, there are approximately [1.5 billion cars](https://www.worldometers.info/cars/) in the world, with about 80 million cars produced every year. If we can get 10,000 cars into the air, we can start making a dent. Nobody is doing this,” he said.

He doesn’t foresee AIR becoming a major auto/aircraft maker, but Plaut said the initial vision is to sell approximately 10,000 AIR ONEs per year. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/liftoff-israeli-startups-flying-car-completes-first-test/> [I can’t imagine being in a city with about 500 or so of these flying around going to work.- rdb]

**Elevator project at the Western Wall unearths an ancient archaeological trove**

***Old City excavations, ahead of work to improve disabled access at holy site, uncover ornate 1st century villa, oil lamps and a ritual mikveh that overlooked the Temple esplanade***

*By* [*Ilan Ben Zion*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ilan-ben-zion/) *Today, 1:15 pm*

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| [The site of a Jewish ritual bath or mikveh, left, discovered near the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, July 17, 2022 (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22199351055459.jpg)  The site of a Jewish ritual bath or mikveh, left, discovered near the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, July 17, 2022 (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo) | )[Hebrew University archaeologist Dr. Oren Gutfeld, center, opens a gate to the site of a Jewish ritual bath or mikveh, discovered near the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, Sunday, July 17, 2022 (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22199351807601.jpg)  Hebrew University archaeologist Dr. Oren Gutfeld, center, opens a gate to the site of a Jewish ritual bath or mikveh, discovered near the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, Sunday, July 17, 2022 (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo) |
| [Clay oil lamps from the Islamic period is displayed at site of a Jewish ritual bath or mikveh, near the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, July 17, 2022 (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22199351952658.jpg)  Clay oil lamps from the Islamic period is displayed at site of a Jewish ritual bath or mikveh, near the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, July 17, 2022 (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo | [Hebrew University archaeologists Dr. Oren Gutfeld, left, and Michal Haber, pose at site of a Jewish ritual bath or mikveh (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22199351738418.jpg)  Hebrew University archaeologists Dr. Oren Gutfeld, left, and Michal Haber, pose at site of a Jewish ritual bath or mikveh (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo) |

AP– Installing an elevator doesn’t normally involve a 2,000-year plunge into an ancient city’s history. But in Jerusalem, even seemingly simple construction projects can lead to archaeological endeavors.

Archaeologists from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem say they have made numerous discoveries, including an ornate first-century villa with its own ritual bath, after a project began to increase access for disabled people to Jerusalem’s Western Wall.

The villa, located steps from where the biblical Jewish Temples stood, was uncovered during several years of salvage excavations in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem’s historic Old City.

Archaeologists perform salvage excavations to make a scientific study of ancient artifacts and buildings before they are removed to make way for modern construction.

Jerusalem’s Western Wall is the holiest site where Jews can pray and millions of worshipers and tourists visit it each year. But to get to the site from the adjacent Jewish Quarter, visitors typically have to descend 142 steps, or take a long detour around the city walls to one of the nearby gates.

In 2017, the Jewish Quarter Reconstruction and Development Company got the green light to begin construction of two elevators to let visitors make the 26-meter (85-foot) descent with greater ease. The location was a narrow sliver of largely undeveloped slope abutting the existing staircase on the eastern edge of the Jewish Quarter.

A picture containing person, outdoor, work-clothing

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Hebrew University archaeologists Michal Haber, left, and Dr. Oren Gutfeld pack up a vessel and other items they discovered at site of a Jewish ritual bath or mikveh, near the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, July 17, 2022 (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

“The Western Wall is not a privilege, it’s elemental for a Jew or for any person from around the world who wants to come to this holy place,” said Herzl Ben Ari, CEO of the development group. “We have to enable it for everybody.”

However, like modern development projects in other ancient cities, such as Istanbul, Rome, Athens and Thessaloniki, archaeological finds slowed progress to a crawl.

“This plot of land where the elevator is going to be built remained undisturbed, giving us the great opportunity of digging through all the strata, all the layers of ancient Jerusalem,” said Michal Haber, an archaeologist from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Five years into the undertaking, the archaeological work is nearing completion, but the elevators are only expected to be brought online in 2025.

During their dig, the archaeologists carefully peeled back successive layers of construction and debris that had accumulated over two millennia, over nine meters (30 feet) in total.

Historical waypoints included Ottoman pipes built into a 2,000-year-old aqueduct that supplied Jerusalem with water from springs near Bethlehem; early Islamic oil lamps; bricks stamped with the name of the 10th Legion, the Roman army that besieged, destroyed and was afterwards encamped in Jerusalem two millennia ago; and the remains of the Judean villa from the final days before the ancient Jewish Temple’s destruction in the year 70 CE.

A picture containing person, hand

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A clay oil lamp from the Islamic period is displayed at site of a Jewish ritual bath or mikveh, near the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, July 17, 2022. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Archaeologist Oren Gutfeld said they were surprised to uncover traces from Jerusalem’s reconstruction as the Roman city of Aelia Capitolina in the 2nd century.

Fragments of frescoes and intricate mosaics from the villa indicated the wealth of the home’s occupants. But upon reaching bedrock, Gutfeld and Haber’s team made one last find: a private Jewish ritual bath hewn into the limestone mountainside and vaulted with enormous dressed stones.

Haber said the most significant thing about the bath, known as a mikveh, was its location overlooking the Temple esplanade.

While the elevator project is less contentious, development or archaeology excavations in Jerusalem, a city holy to three faiths, often take on a political dimension. The Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the capital of their hoped-for state and Israel views the entire city and its eternal, undivided capital. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/western-wall-elevator-project-unearths-archaeological-trove-of-villa-artifacts/> [There is literally no place you walk in Jerusalem that you aren’t encountering aspects of biblical history. That is why the land is so amazing. – rdb]

**Meeting Palestinian leader Abbas, France’s Macron calls for renewed peace talks**

***French president stresses need for dialogue with Israel, saying there is no option other than negotiations, warns that violence could break out at any time***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 5:37 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22201397177276.jpg)

French President Emmanuel Macron, right, and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas arrive for a meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris, July 20, 2022. (Ludovic Marin/Pool via AP )

French President Emmanuel Macron called for a return to Israeli-Palestinian peace talks at a press conference alongside visiting Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Wednesday.

The French president stressed the need for the “renewal of direct political dialogue between the Israelis and the Palestinians.”

Speaking at the Elysee Palace in Paris, he warned that violence could break out at any time and that negotiations may be a “difficult path, but we have no other alternative.”

Direct peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians have not been held since 2014.

In his own remarks, Abbas denounced Israeli activity and the killing earlier this year of Palestinian-American journalist [Shireen Abu Akleh](https://www.timesofisrael.com/topic/shireen-abu-akleh/) “in cold blood without reason.”

“Who killed her? We want them to find out who did it,” he said.

He also repeated comments similar to those he made alongside US President Joe Biden in Bethlehem [last week](https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-west-bank-biden-endorses-two-states-but-says-ground-is-not-ripe/), urging a restart of talks based on a two-state solution.

The Biden administration has come under fire from Abu Akleh’s family and pro-Palestinian activists for announcing earlier this month that the prominent Al Jazeera reporter was not intentionally killed by Israel, even though it said an IDF soldier was likely responsible for shooting her. The US State Department said the bullet that killed Abu Akleh, and that the PA handed over for examination, was too damaged to make a more conclusive determination.MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/meeting-palestinian-leader-abbas-frances-macron-calls-for-renewed-peace-talks/>

**Nasrallah claims demarcation talks not moving despite Lebanese optimism**

***Nasrallah warned that an tit-for-tat strikes between Hezbollah and Israel "may turn matters into a war."***

*By* [*TZVI JOFFRE*](https://www.jpost.com/author/tzvi-joffre) *Published: JULY 20, 2022 18:38*

Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah claimed on Tuesday night that indirect maritime border demarcation talks between Lebanon and Israel were not moving forward, despite optimistic statements by Lebanese officials in recent weeks, according to the Lebanese *Al-Akhbar* newspaper.

"So far, the American mediator in the border demarcation negotiations has not come up with a clear answer, although Lebanon has made great concessions, and what Lebanon wants at the minimum has not been obtained," said Nasrallah in remarks during a meeting with clerics ahead of Ashura, a Muslim holy day which marks the day God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites in the Exodus and for Shi'ite Muslims also marks the day when the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussein was killed in battle.

The Hezbollah leader added that while there are "positive signs," Hezbollah is "still waiting, but there is no response from the enemy until today."

Nasrallah also rejected claims that [the terrorist movement](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-711890) was disrupting negotiations, claiming that a recent speech of his "led to affirming the negotiations, not disrupting them."

The Hezbollah leader stressed that while the movement does not want a war, Hezbollah would stop Israel from extracting gas everywhere if Lebanon is not permitted to begin extracting gas in its waters.

“The enemy today feels weak and does not want war, and knows that a war is not only with Hezbollah, but may develop with the whole axis to overthrow it. Going to war, for Israel, is a very risky and costly option," said Nasrallah. "We hope that we will not fire a bullet or a missile and that the enemy will retreat. We are waiting for developments and are ready for everything.”

Nasrallah added that there may be a "localized targeting" conducted by Israel and "an appropriate response" by Hezbollah and that, depending on the Israeli response to Hezbollah's response, this "may turn matters into a war."

Lebanon is facing "a historic and golden opportunity to get out of its crisis, and if we do not take advantage of it, we may not extract oil for the next 100 years," warned Nasrallah, according to *Al-Akhbar*.

**Hezbollah says Lebanese government does not control them**

Nasrallah's latest statements come just over two weeks after Hezbollah launched a total of four drones toward the Karish natural gas rig in two separate incidents. The drones were shot down and did not pose a threat to the gas rig, according to the IDF.

Last week, [Nasrallah warned](https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/article-712057) that the Lebanese government does not control the movement's operations against Israel, stressing that "whoever promises the Americans that the resistance will do nothing is deceiving them and deceiving themselves."

"If the goal is to prevent Lebanon from extracting oil and gas, no one will be able to extract gas and oil or sell gas and oil," warned the Hezbollah leader last week, stressing that the movement will attack all the gas fields and rigs along Israel's coast if Lebanon isn't permitted to extract gas.

**Lebanese officials optimistic about demarcation talks**

Despite Nasrallah's claims that demarcation negotiations are not moving forward, Lebanese officials have issued multiple statements expressing optimism about the process and condemning actions by Hezbollah in recent weeks. MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/article-712622> [Read this carefully and think on it. Hezbollah is stating that now Israel is week and we have an opportunity to remove the influence of the ‘enemy’. It isn’t a declaration of war but a hint. Much too much has transpired in the past few weeks from a prophetic perspective. – rdb]

**As Europe swelters, Israeli heat to ease slightly in coming days — but future bleak**

***While this year’s summer not out of ordinary, experts warn country to witness more intense summers and drop in average rainfall by middle of century, as global temperatures rise***

*By* [*Michael Horovitz*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/michael-horovitz/) *Today, 8:20 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/11/F210922MA004.jpg)

Israelis enjoy the beach in Tel Aviv, September 22, 2021 (Miriam Alster/FLASH90)

Temperatures are set to ease over the next few days in Israel, before shooting back up over the weekend, according to meteorologists’ predictions on Wednesday.

Temperatures hit 32°C (89.6°F) in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem by 3 p.m. on Wednesday according to the Israel Meteorological Service, while Beersheba in the country’s south reached 36°C (96.8°F). In the north, the weather was cooler, with Haifa recording a high of 29°C (84.2°F).

The mercury was set to drop by 1-2°C across the country before the weekend, with Beersheba expected to hit 34°C (93.2°F) Thursday, while temperatures in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem were expected to dip below 30°C (86°F).

But temperatures were set to rise again over the weekend leading into next week, according to forecasts.

Israel is experiencing a relatively average summer, as Europe swelters through a heatwave that has sparked fires in the continent’s south, and caused the mercury to rise above 40°C (104°F) in the United Kingdom for the first time on record.

Climate scientists have warned that such extreme weather events will become more frequent due to global warming.

A picture containing person, person, indoor, suit

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Nir Stav, Director-General of the Israeli Meteorological Service. (Courtesy)

The IMS is predicting that the country will suffer heatwaves lasting 7-10 days starting from 2030, with temperatures reaching 50°C (122°F) in certain parts of the country, according to their assessment revealed by the Haaretz daily on Tuesday.

By 2060, the number of annual heatwaves will rise from its current four to six, with the average summer temperature jumping from 33.5°C (92.3°F) to 35°C (95°F), Channel 12 news reported.

“If in the past, the chance of exceeding 50 degrees was once in 100 years, it’s nearly certain that in the current climate, the probability is already once in 10,” Nir Stav, director of the government body said according to Haaretz.

Daily highs during heatwaves will reach the mid-40s and sometimes 50°C (122°F) in the Jordan Valley in the country’s north by 2050, while the Negev in Israel’s south will also experience days reaching 40°C (104°F) to 45°C (113°F), Haaretz reported. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-europe-swelters-israeli-heat-to-ease-slightly-in-coming-days-but-future-bleak/>

**Putin predicts ‘revolutionary’ changes**

*20 Jul, 2022 17:34*

***Only “truly sovereign” states will succeed after “enormous” geopolitical transformations, the Russian leader claimed***

A new epoch of world history is approaching and only “truly sovereign” states will be able to succeed in the changed environment, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a business forum, Putin claimed that “truly revolutionary,” “enormous” changes would lead to the creation of a new, “harmonious, fairer and more community-focused and safe” world order. In this new epoch, “*only truly sovereign states can ensure high growth dynamics*,” he said.

By the term ‘sovereignty’ the Russian president means “freedom of national development, and thus of each person individually,” as well as *“technological, cultural, intellectual, educational viability of the state”* and a *“responsible, active and nationally minded, nationally oriented civil society.”*

Such a state, the president said, will serve as an example for others when it comes to “*the standards and quality of people’s life, the protection of traditional values and high humanistic ideals.”*

This kind of world is in sharp contrast to the Western-dominated unipolar world order, which, in Putin’s opinion, is *“becoming a brake on the development of our civilization.*”

He accused the West of being “*racist and neo-colonial*,” saying that its ideology *“is becoming increasingly more like totalitarianism*.”

The president argued that despite attempts by Western elites to preserve the existing world order, the changes are “irreversible.”   
 Putin has been discussing the end of the “*unipolar*” world for a long time. In his famous 2007 Munich Security Conference speech, the Russian president said that “*the unipolar world that had been proposed after the Cold War did not take place*.” He explained that a world of “*one master, one sovereign*” is destructive not only for everyone within the system but also for the sovereign itself. He accused the US of neglecting the “*basic principles of international law*” and stressed that *“unilateral and frequently illegitimate actions”* had never solved any problems.   
 In May, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov expressed hope that his country’s military offensive in Ukraine, when completed, would force the Western nations *“to stop promoting the so-called unipolar world under the dominance of the United States and its allies.*”   
 The idea of a new “*multipolar*” world has been discussed in the West, too, most recently by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.    
 However, following Moscow's offensive in Ukraine, the West declared its intention to “*isolate*” Russia and imposed tough sanctions on it. Russia views these actions as another manifestation of Western attempts to “*contain*” it and maintain the existing world order. <https://www.rt.com/russia/559338-putin-predicts-revolutionary-changes/>

**Russia’s Lavrov talks Ukraine, sanctions and nuclear war with RT (FULL VIDEO)**

*The Russian foreign minister sat down for an hour-long interview with RT Editor-in-Chief Margarita Simonyan*



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov speaks to RT Editor-in-Chief Margarita Simonyan during an interview, July 2022. © Russian Foreign Ministry

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov spoke about Russia’s military campaign in Ukraine, sanctions and the confrontation with the West in an interview to RT and Sputnik on Wednesday.

Speaking with RT Editor-in-Chief Margarita Simonyan, the minister explained why, despite a promising start, peace talks with Ukraine effectively broke down in spring.  
 He shared his views about the risks of a nuclear war with the West and how Western-supplied heavy weapons affect the fighting on the ground in Ukraine, as well as decision-making in Moscow regarding the conflict.  
 Lavrov also discussed the effects of the sanctions on the European economy and the delivery of Russian gas to EU member states.  
 You can watch the full interview here: <https://www.rt.com/russia/559308-lavrov-full-interview-rt/>

**US to send more HIMARS to Ukraine**

***Kiev will receive four additional advanced rocket systems in the next military aid package, Pentagon chief says***

Ukraine will receive four more high mobility artillery rocket systems (HIMARS) from Washington as part of the next security assistance package, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin announced on Wednesday.

*“Later this week, we’ll roll out our next presidential drawdown package of weapons, ammunition and equipment for Ukraine,”* Austin said while hosting a virtual meeting of the US-led Ukraine Contact Group.

*“It will include four more HIMARS advanced rocket systems, which the Ukrainians have been using so effectively and which have made such a difference on the battlefield. And it will include more rounds of MLRS and artillery ammunition,”* he added.

According to the Pentagon, once delivered, the new package will bring the total number of HIMARS in Ukraine’s possession to 16.

Last Friday, Ukraine’s defense minister, Alexey Reznikov, told the Financial Times that Kiev was confident the West would send more aid, including 300km-range munitions for the HIMARS. He described the American-made rocket systems as a game-changer.

HIMARS can fire guided rockets at a range of up to 80km but can also deploy tactical ballistic missiles a distance of up to 300km. Washington previously said it would not supply Ukraine with missiles having a range of 300km out of fear they could be used to strike Russian territory, thus greatly escalating the conflict between Kiev and Moscow.

*“I think it’s a step-by-step movement. We give them proof that we can use it with precision and sophistication and we get more, and longer range,”* Reznikov stated.

However, according to the spokesman for the army of the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR), Eduard Basurin, Ukrainian forces may have already received 300km-range HIMARS missiles. DPR troops have found pieces of munitions with a range of 110km to 120km, which meant that Kiev could have the 300km missiles as well, Basurin posited in an interview with Russia’s Rossiya 1 TV channel on Tuesday.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said today the West’s persistence in pumping Ukraine with long-range weapons, including the HIMARS, has already made Moscow reconsider the goals of its military operation in the neighboring country. They now go beyond Donbass and include several other Ukrainian regions, the minister [explained](https://www.rt.com/russia/559321-lavrov-russia-ukraine-frontline/) in an interview with RT and Sputnik. <https://www.rt.com/news/559336-us-send-himars-ukraine/>

**Russia’s Campaign in Ukraine: Nearing an Inflection Point?**

*Posted on* [*July 18, 2022*](https://www.nakedcapitalism.com/2022/07/russias-campaign-in-ukraine-nearing-an-inflection-point.html) *by* [*Yves Smith*](https://www.nakedcapitalism.com/author/yves-smith)

Notice how the amount of Western reporting on Ukraine has fallen off dramatically? That’s because the war is going well for Russia and its allies.

Russia is continuing its steady and systematic grind through Donbass. However, Russia has also picked up the pace of its shelling, has moved some of its best equipment into Ukraine, presumably pre-positioning, and just had the head of its Ministry of Defense, Sergey Shoigu, visit key commanders in Donbass. Not only did Shoigu state that Russia would [put an end to the Ukraine shelling of civilian targets in Donetsk](https://tass.com/defense/1480879), but also “gave the necessary instructions for further buildup of the troops actions in all operational directions.” In concert, Russia has moved its most advanced armor to the front lines en masse ([see here at 42:45](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLCLb37xxmA))

Part of this effort to stop the Ukraine shelling of civilians is recent and large uptick in Russian ballistic missile attacks. Jacob Dreizen (please filter out the Trumpian views for the comments on weaponry) [describes starting at 14:10 of his latest video](https://rumble.com/v1clo1d-corona-censors-reawaken-microchips-ukraine-rocket-war-and-escalation.html?mref=15jk98&mc=aftu3) how the Ukrainians are so low on artillery that they are forced to use it strategically and are sending off 1-2 big salvos a day, targeting Russian ammo dumps behind the lines, with some effect. However, other Russia-friendly sources have claimed that Ukraine has been using Western munitions, including the HIMARS, to shell civilians in Donbass. Per Dreizen, Ukraine uses their Tochka-U’s to tie up Russian missile defenses and then send some HIMARS and a few get through. MORE - <https://www.nakedcapitalism.com/2022/07/russias-campaign-in-ukraine-nearing-an-inflection-point.html>

**Chinese state media threatens US with ‘unbearable consequences’**

***Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan could cause US-China relations to “fall off a cliff,” per Global Times***

*20 Jul, 2022 23:30*

If House Speaker Nancy Pelosi goes through with her Taiwan visit in August, China will consider it a “strategic level provocation” that would push relations with the US “off a cliff,” the newspaper Global Times said in a series of harsh editorials this week, citing several experts and government officials. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has already said the visit would have a *“grave impact”* and violate the existing agreements between Washington and Beijing.

Neither Pelosi nor Taipei has officially confirmed the impending visit, but Financial Times reported that the 82-year-old speaker of the House would take a congressional delegation to Taiwan next month, citing *“six people familiar with the situation.”* Her previously rumored visit, in April, did not take place – ostensibly due to Pelosi contracting Covid-19.

If she goes ahead this time, Chinese experts told [Global Times](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1270930.shtml) the visit would amount to a provocation prompting a military response from Beijing, with “hard” consequences for the already troubled American economy.

*“China needs to make its determination clear and show its strengths, and let the US side decide to avoid [a] crisis and ensure a relatively stable situation, or make the turbulent world more chaotic,”* the outlet noted.

A separate unsigned Global Times [editorial piece](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202207/1270920.shtml) warned that “if Pelosi really visits Taiwan, she would be included in China's sanctions list,” and her family's assets would be “frozen imm*ediately.”*

Global Times noted that this wouldn’t be the first visit by a House speaker to Taiwan, as Newt Gingrich did so in 1997. However, he was a Republican in opposition to President Bill Clinton’s government, which had shown *“sincerity and made efforts to fix ties with China”* after the 1996 crisis over the island. Today, *“Pelosi and President Joe Biden are both Democrats, and the China-US relations are very intense,”* the outlet pointed out.

“If the visit eventually happens, it would not be a miscalculation but an intentional provocation by the US si*de,”* Lu Xiang, an expert on US studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times. If Washington ignores Beijing’s warnings, *“we will see the China-US relations fall off a cliff, for sure,”* he added.

Military expert and TV commentator Song Zhongping speculated that Pelosi is trying to score points for the Democrats ahead of the upcoming midterm elections, while counting on China not to respond too forcefully because the Communist Party will be preparing for its national congress in the fall.

*“The US, on one hand, asks for China's cooperation on issues related to Iran, North Korea and Russia, but on the other hand, keeps provoking China on core interests,”* Song said, adding that China could respond by strengthening relations with those three countries, or even making security deals in Latin America.

Global Times commentator Hu Xijin went so far as to suggest that the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) should send military aircraft to escort Pelosi’s plane and fly over Taiwan in a show of force. MORE - <https://www.rt.com/news/559353-china-pelosi-taiwan-threat/> Keep pushing the envelop until you can get a full blown war going dimwits. – rdb]

**The lies have it? 'Russia collusion' case takes abrupt turn**

***Halper's lawyer told his client 'may have made clear misstatements to the FBI'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published July 20, 2022 at 11:42am*

A lawsuit that could reveal many of the details of the Democrats' scheme to create a Russia-collusion claim to be used to damage then-candidate Donald Trump, a now-debunked conspiracy that they continued even after he was in the White House, has taken an abrupt turn.

 A judge has refused to dismiss it, suggesting the defendant in the defamation claim "may have made clear misstatements to the FBI" and might be responsible for "falsehoods" told about the plaintiff.  
 [WND reported recently](https://www.wnd.com/2022/06/revived-lawsuit-raises-specter-dems-russia-collusion-details/) the case was brought by Svetlana Lokhova against Stefan Halper, a British academic and longtime "confidential human source" for the FBI.  
 The case had been dismissed, but was returned by active status by an appeals court, prompting [Just the News](https://justthenews.com/accountability/russia-and-ukraine-scandals/revived-appeals-court-lawsuit-against-fbi-informant) to suggest, "If the case proceeds to discovery or trial, it is likely to renew scrutiny about the weakness of evidence the FBI used to justify investigating Trump, his campaign and his business associates for alleged collusion with Russia. No such collusion was ever found."  
 Now Margot Cleveland at [The Federalist](https://thefederalist.com/2022/07/20/judge-in-stefan-halper-case-drops-spygate-bombshell-in-denying-his-motion-to-dismiss-halper-likely-lied-to-the-fbi-on-purpose/) has reported that in refusing to dismiss the case, a judge had some warning statements for Halper.  
 That is that documents suggest he "may have made clear misstatements to the FBI" and may be responsible for "some falsehoods" about Michael Flynn and Svetlana Lokhova.  
   
Stefan Halper  
 The lawsuit focuses on claims made by Halper when he apparently discovered Lokhova was writing a book about the whole Russia collusion scenario, in which Halper played a leading role.  
 Halper allegedly told his lawyer to contact the planned publishers to get the book project killed.  
 But in doing that, Lokhova charges, Halper made false claims about her, and then "escalated the threats and intimidation to [Simon & Schuster’s] parent company, CBS Corporation."  
 The lawsuit charges "[t]he sole purpose of Halper’s actions was to interfere with [Lokhova’s] Book Contract and induce [Post Hill Press] to terminate the Contract."  
 The book reportedly described Halper as a "spy, an evil spider at work within and around the Trump campaign."  
 It charges he targeted for political destruction Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn. Halper reportedly was the source for unsubstantiated claims that Lohkova got into a cab with Flynn and traveled to London with him after a U.K. conference.  
 Cleveland noted, "Lokhova explained her motivation for writing the book in the amended complaint she filed in the Virginia federal court. 'In February 2017, a month after the birth of her first child,' the document read, Lokhova 'was inundated by the media and others over false allegations that had suddenly surfaced that she had supposedly conducted a clandestine romantic affair with General Michael Flynn, an American military and intelligence official whom she had met once at an academic dinner over two years earlier and had never seen or spoken to again.' Lokhova explained how she then spent the next two-plus years, 'piecing together what had happened to her, partly through her own research, partly through the gradual release of information by the United States government, and partly through reporting by U.S. media outlets.'"  
 She charges that Halper was responsible for threatening her publisher and others, and causing the cancellation of her book contract.  
 She eventually published the project herself. MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/lies-russia-collusion-case-takes-abrupt-turn/>

**Recruiting alarm sounded: U.S. Army understrength by 28,000 in next year**

***'How about we stop kicking out some of the most seasoned, battle-hardened soldiers?'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published July 20, 2022 at 7:53pm*

Facing what a top general called "unprecedented challenges" in recruiting, the U.S. Army expects to have 28,000 fewer soldiers over the next two years than previously projected.

Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Joseph Martin, the Army's No. 2 officer, told a House Armed Services Committee panel Tuesday the military branch likely be understrength by at least 7,000 soldiers on Sept. 30, the end of the current fiscal year, [the Military Times reported](https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2022/07/19/army-will-be-up-to-28000-troops-understrength-vice-chief-tells-congress/).

By the end of fiscal 2023, he anticipated the Army will be 28,000 soldiers short of the 473,000 that originally was projected.

In response, Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., said she wants the committee to hold a hearing on the "alarming" development and work on solutions.

An Army Times investigation published Monday found several reasons contributing to the plunge in recruitment. The reasons, the paper said, "are complex, including more detailed medical screenings, a shrinking proportion of Americans eligible to serve, poor marketing practices, low civilian unemployment and more." MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/recruiting-woes-army-understrength-28000-troops-next-year/>

**DOJ 'ignored a lawful instruction' to declassify Russia-conspiracy documents**

***Result is that FBI scheming to hurt President Trump remains concealed***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published July 20, 2022 at 11:00am*

The U.S. Department of Justice "ignored a lawful instruction" from President Trump to declassify and release to the public hundreds of pages of information about how it participated in the now-debunked Russia collusion conspiracy against the president.  
 That conspiracy, dreamed up by Democrats including Hillary Clinton, falsely contended that the Trump campaign from 2016 "colluded" with Russia on the election.  
 The DOJ, FBI and other federal agencies jumped on the political agenda, created false documents to submit to the courts and then obtained permission from those courts to spy on Trump associates.  
 A multi-year investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller found the original claims were without foundation. But the Democrats used the made-up claims to hurt Trump and his presidency for years.  
 Now, former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows has confirmed that the documents, ordered declassified and released by Trump, "never became public," according to [Just the News.](https://justthenews.com/accountability/russia-and-ukraine-scandals/mystery-solved-doj-secretly-thwarted-release-russia)  
 Meadows wrote in a memo at the time regarding the documents that exposed FBI abuses during the Russia collusion probe, how the agency used informants and FISA warrants to spy on the Trump campaign and misled both a federal court and Congress about failings in the evidence they relied on, that it was ordered to be released.  
 His memo, at the time, stated, with approval of the president, "I am returning the bulk of the binder of declassified documents to the Department of Justice (including all that appear to have a potential to raise privacy concerns) with the instruction that the Department must expeditiously conduct a Privacy Act review under the standards that the Department of Justice would normally apply, redact material appropriately, and release the remaining material with redactions applied."  
 Just the News explained it got the memo after going to the Trump collection at the National Archives and asking it to look for the binder of documents Trump had declassified. The Archives said it did not possess the documents, the Justice Department did and provided a copy of Meadows' memo.

Meadows said during an interview on "Just the News, Not Noise," program that he was dismayed "that DOJ ignored a lawful instruction from a sitting president and said it was part of a larger dynamic in which the permanent federal bureaucracy repeatedly tied to undercut Trump to protect itself," the report explained.

He told Just the News, "Well, you know, the swamp is pretty deep. But when we look at this, this particular president was all about draining the swamp, you know, and when he was running, that was more of a campaign slogan. When he got there, he realized that not only was the swamp very deep, but they would fight back. And oftentimes he said, 'You know, I want to do this and get this out to the American people, not just the classification in terms of issues that affected him or his campaign personally, but issues that affect the American people.'"

Meadows explained to Just the News that the president would issue a directive, and people getting the instructions would "nodding compliance," but then they would go out and say, "Well, we're not going to do that…" MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/doj-ignored-lawful-instruction-declassify-russia-conspiracy-documents/>

**'Absolute madness': Network star says Green New Dealers want you in 'pain'**

***'The trolls want to speed up the transition timeline before voters have their say in November'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published July 20, 2022 at 3:32pm* ***By Harold Hutchison*** *Daily Caller News Foundation*

Fox News Host Laura Ingraham ripped into proponents of the Green New Deal Tuesday night, claiming they were deliberately “inflicting” pain on Americans.

“This isn’t happening by accident, they are inflicting this necessary pain on you,” Ingraham said. “They believe it’s necessary, it’s a sacrifice you should make, and the list of what the climate trolls demand to take from you to save the planet, that keeps growing.”  
 “The gas-powered cars, they want that out,” she said. “They want non-smart thermostats gone. They want to diminish farmland. Beef and other livestock, they want that out. Fertilizer, they want to control that. Generators – they don’t like your generators. Discretionary travel? Not so much. Leaf blowers, they’ve always hated those.”  
 **WATCH:**   
 President Joe Biden has [called](https://twitter.com/POTUS/status/1516752535364812810?s=20&t=OQIcvuc-xYfPJ_RQxhxJeg) inflation and high gas prices “the Putin price hike,” but experts [point](https://dailycaller.com/2022/02/24/fossil-fuel-industry-oil-gas-production-russia-ukraine/) to the Biden administration’s hostility toward fossil fuel production in the United States as a factor in the high prices.  
 Ingraham noted that the list of things “climate trolls” wanted to ban even reached into the kitchens of Americans.  
 “Gas ranges and gas heat,” she said. “You think I’m joking about gas ranges? In dozens of counties on the West Coast, where the ‘climate con trolls’ are most influential, they have already banned natural gas in residential homes. Now the nation’s capital is set to become the second East Coast city to ban gas boilers and water heaters. Now, this is absolute madness. It’s going to drive up the cost of home heating for those who can least afford it.”  
 Ingraham claimed those who back such bans don’t care about Americans and ignore the increased use of coal by [other countries](https://dailycaller.com/2022/06/27/coal-use-china-poised-wipe-out-17-years-worth-us-emissions-progress/).  
 “They know their climate con is about to unravel and Americans are tired of being told to sacrifice as they see China and India doing whatever they damn well please on climate stuff,” Ingraham said. “Fossil fuels, forget about it, they will burn them — they don’t care. Using fear and intimidation, the trolls want to speed up the transition timeline before the voters have their say in November.”  
 The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment from the Daily Caller News Foundation. <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/absolute-madnessfox-news-star-says-green-new-dealers-want-pain/>

**Big Pharma jacked up drug prices over 1,000 times this year – research**

***Sky-high drug prices are forcing US patients to ration their medication***

*20 Jul, 2022 20:23*

The US pharmaceutical industry has raised drug prices some 1,186 times this year, according to Patients for Affordable Drugs, an advocacy group seeking to rein in the sky-high cost of prescription drugs. The group published their analysis on Wednesday.

Despite record profits, pharmaceutical companies jacked up the prices on 133 products between June 24 and July 5 alone, the group found, noting that the median price increase for 2022 was 5%. In July alone, 64 drug companies hiked their prices, according to Patients for Affordable Drugs.

Companies like Pfizer, who have made unprecedented profits on their Covid-19 vaccine, have nevertheless continued increasing their prices on other drugs. Pfizer’s leukemia medicine, Besponsa, for example, has seen four price hikes since the pandemic began and now retails at $21,056 for a single vial.

Another company, Amgen, has upped its price for autoimmune disease drug Enbrel so much and so often since acquiring the rights to the drug in 2002 that it outstripped even the record-beating US inflation rate. Between that acquisition and 2020, the company increased the drug’s price 27 times until it cost $5,554.96 per month – an increase of 457% over its initial cost. Two more price hikes took place this year, despite a 2020 investigation into Amgen’s pricing habits by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, in which the drug company’s practices were roundly condemned.

Noting that Americans are still struggling to make ends meet in the aftermath of the Covid-19 depression, Patients for Affordable Drugs founder David Mitchell said the industry was continuing “to raise drug prices with no regard for the health and financial well-being of Americans.” He pointed out that there was widespread support for capping the cost of prescription drugs across the political spectrum and questioned why nothing had been done.

While Senate Democrats advanced a bill earlier this month that would require Medicare to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies, critics have pointed out that the legislation only applied to those enrolled in the government’s Medicare program. Given that just 18.4% of Americans were on Medicare as of 2020, that leaves the lion’s share of drug consumers without any means of decreasing their own prescription costs.  MORE - <https://www.rt.com/news/559348-big-pharma-drug-prices-skyrocketing/> [No surprise here. - rdb

**Commentary:**

**The Wuhan 'Disinformation'**

*by* [*Pete Hoekstra*](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Pete+Hoekstra) *July 20, 2022 at 4:00 am* "My sources," read the incoming email on January 24, 2020, "received reliable information according to which the situation related to corona virus infection is very serious and it's hundreds the people who drop in the streets like flies both in Wuhan and in other 12 provinces." The message continued:  
 "The information given by Chinese government don't represent the huge risk linked to new corona virus.  
 "My sources confirm the new corona virus escaped from National Bio-safety Laboratory, in Wuhan, which is BSL-4 lab, through a laboratory technician who went in touch with this new corona virus.  
 "My sources say Chinese Authorities are covering this 'incident' happened inside the laboratory. So, it's extremely urgent to understand and to face the situation like a lethal threat for US National Security and the rest of the world."  
 The message came from a reliable European intelligence source with whom I had worked after leaving Congress and who had shared information on multiple issues. Like all intelligence sources, his material always needed to be vetted and confirmed, and, as happens in the intelligence world, results sometimes vary.  
 Over the next two years, he sent hundreds of additional emails about the COVID pandemic. Some of the information was clearly out of the mainstream. The World Health Organization (WHO) and mainstream medical professionals made it very clear that the only accepted explanation for the source of the pandemic was via natural transmission from some wet market or lost bat.  
 There was little-to-no consideration given -- in fact there was only outright dismissal and derision given -- to the possibility that the virus might have been scientifically manipulated and released -- or had escaped from -- a laboratory.  
 That all officially changed in a stunning set of events within the last few days. First it was reported that WHO Director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [believes](https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/world/covid-virus-likely-leaked-from-wuhan-lab-says-who-chief-tedros-ghebreyesus-2022-06-20-786016) COVID most likely leaked from the Wuhan laboratory. The WHO revised its earlier position, that a natural explanation was the most likely, to now saying that all options for the origins of COVID should be on the table.  
 In addition, Jeffrey Sachs, the lead of the [Lancet COVID 19 Commission](https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736(20)31927-9/fulltext), has [stated](https://www.theepochtimes.com/who-and-lancet-commission-chiefs-come-out-in-support-of-lab-leak-theory_4548666.html) that he now is convinced that the pandemic started in the lab. These are startling reversals by both organizations: The WHO and the Lancet Commission. They have consistently ridiculed and downplayed the possibility that the virus originated and escaped from a laboratory in Wuhan, China. Now, nearly three years after COVID began devastating the world as we knew it, there is just this collective "Oops!"?  
 These two organizations had from the start been at the forefront of promoting -- insisting on -- the natural origin of the virus. As my source indicated in his correspondence, there were those who suspected in late 2019 and early 2020 that the virus had escaped from the Wuhan laboratory, that it was far more dangerous than the Chinese were telling the rest of the world, and that the Chinese were firmly trying to cover it up.  
 The key points made by my source on January 24, 2020, have proven to be totally accurate. With the recent admissions by Tedros and Sachs and the organizations they represent, the prevailing origin theory now rests on the Wuhan laboratory. The virus has proven to be more deadly than the Chinese have ever let on, and to this day, the Chinese Communist Party government has not cooperated with international organizations to [contain](https://www.reuters.com/article/china-health-usa/china-has-not-yet-accepted-u-s-help-with-coronavirus-white-house-adviser-idUKL1N2A2034) the virus or [determine](https://www.france24.com/en/asia-pacific/20210813-china-rejects-who-call-for-renewed-probe-into-origins-of-covid-19) its exact origins.  
 China has instead done the exact opposite. In the initial stages, it [cleansed](https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-04-04/coronavirus-closing-china-s-wet-markets-isn-t-a-solution) the Wuhan wet market, [refused](https://www.foxnews.com/world/china-refuses-allow-international-coronavirus-investigators-until-final-victory-over-outbreak) to allow outside investigators in, [refused](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-56054468) to share information with the international community, and as the virus developed, [allowed](https://www.foxnews.com/media/chinese-virologist-government-intentionally-coronavirus) people to flee Wuhan on flights to the outside world as the city itself was being locked down.  
 For two years the WHO, the Lancet and others have been stooges for the Chinese Communists. It is time to identify them all and hold them accountable for their grave errors. Their actions probably cost the lives of millions and have so far allowed China to escape accountability.  
 One would think that the WHO and the Lancet would be reserved in making any more statements and observations about COVID, but that is not what is happening. Sachs, his credibility now in tatters, has been making a new [pronouncement](https://www.jeffsachs.org/newspaper-articles/d9jdb25tf2ahfdtxhwl5r9jwawy5r9): that the COVID virus was created with the aid of U.S. biotechnology.  
 It seems that while covering for the Chinese Communists since the beginning of the pandemic, Sachs also decided to absolve them of accountability, and instead point the finger of responsibility at the U.S.  
 Sachs may have a point, but he is not in any position to deliver more messages. The U.S. Congress must thoroughly investigate the U.S. government's role and cooperation with China in biotechnology research, including the coordination between U.S. labs and labs around the world engaged in further, reportedly even [more dangerous](https://www.technologyreview.com/2016/02/09/71575/top-us-intelligence-official-calls-gene-editing-a-wmd-threat/) types of research.  
 If, as seems possible, U.S. research dollars and information might have found its way into places it never should have been, it is time for the American people to demand action. More than one million Americans have [died](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home), yet Congress has done somewhere between little and nothing to determine the origins of or accountability for the virus.  
 While Congress needs to examine what role, if any, the U.S. government had in the research leading to the deadly virus, America's role is surely minor when compared to that of the government of the Chinese Communist Party. The Chinese government must be held to account for the Wuhan lab leak, the coverup, hoarding vital medical supplies, damage to the global economy, and most importantly, the [deaths](https://covid19.who.int/) of more than 6.3 million people worldwide.  
 *Peter Hoekstra was US Ambassador to the Netherlands during the Trump administration. He served 18 years in the U.S. House of Representatives representing the second district of Michigan* <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/18737/wuhan-covid-disinformation>

**Marxist Instructions: Never Talk About Politics & Religion, Don’t Trust Your Parents and be the Silent Majority***By* [*Karen Schoen*](https://newswithviews.com/author/karen/)*|July 20th, 2022* A newly released report from Steve Moore, states that there is no one, NOT ONE, ZERO person in the OBiden regime that knows anything about business. think about this: These people are pushing their untried, untested, complete failure policies on We the People because they don’t care about people or results. They only care about power.  
 It seems as though our SCOTUS believes in the US Constitution. We won great decisions in the Supreme Court but got screwed by the Gutless Outrageous Prostitutes = GOP. (Thank you Sally Baptiste for that great new name for the GOP.)   Are you still going to vote for the same traitors again? Chaney is out begging democrats to vote for her. I hope that even Wyoming Democrats are not that stupid.  
 To understand what’s going on today we really have to go back and look at the 60s-70s. Most Americans pushing abortion are Boomers from that era. The boomers, myself included were the hippies, the flower children, the rock n  rollers, anti-G-d, Anti-family and Anti-America.  Morality was tossed out the window when G-d was removed from public buildings, due to 1person complaining in [*Engel v. Vitale*](http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC_CR_0370_0421_ZS.html) . Then we accepted perversion, drugs, liquor,  sex as the new lifestyle. We would do anything our parents didn’t do. We hated the establishment.  
 In the 60s-70s we were so despondent and in such despair at seeing our great American heroes being assassinated in front of our very eyes. We strongly believed that the assassinations were part of a government coup. Of course we were told we were conspiracy nuts. HA! John F Kennedy, Martin Luther King JR, Robert Kennedy, our hope for a bright future was slowly fading.  We were forced into a war by draft in Vietnam that no one wanted. We were forced to fight a war in Vietnam against communism while promoting communism at home in school. How sick was that?  We were taught to lay our hatred on the heroes that were forced to fight. While those who avoided the draft became teachers in this new education called Social Studies/sustainability aka communism.  
 And so like all other peoples of the world when we were abused we responded. We were angry .We demonstrated, we marched and we rioted. We destroyed statues, burned buildings and listened to the emotional news about the war even though we knew they were lying.  
 We were taught to divert our attention into sex and drugs which we learned in school through a variety of “new” SEX Ed courses and we learned fast. After all we learned in school so it had to be OK. We had multiple outlets to express our new found “free love” like Studio 54, Plato’s Retreat and Playboy Club.  We often took out our hostility in our music and art. Bill Ayers (Obama’s mentor and leader of the Weather Underground responsible for multiple bombings of federal buildings, now a professor) asked John Lennon to write a song for the revolution. John wrote “Revolution”. Bill was pissed. (read the lyrics <https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/johnlennon/revolution.html>)  
 We took massive quantities of drugs and had Love Ins with sex, drugs and  lots of liquor hooking up at any time with anyone. Nothing has changed. Those teens, grew up and are now running America using their never tried utopian/Marxist theories that they write when under the influence of something. If they wanted the drug war over, they would end it instead of participating in it. These insane illogical theories don’t work, can’t work, will never work. They are instead designed to take forever and be way over budget.  If their programs worked, they couldn’t bleed us dry.  
 What did we learn? Well my group of teenagers were told *never talk about politics and religion*.  Don’t trust your parents after all anyone over 30 doesn’t know what is going on. *Be the silent majority*.  Never talk about the war. We were told the government knows best.  We grew up to being so anti-establishment that it didn’t matter what the establishment did or said we figured they were just lying. The GOP and DNC are filled with these globalists who vow to take down America’s greatness and steal everything they can’t get legally. . Check out the “GOP-Gutless Outrageous Prostitutes”  who just voted to take away the only protection we have with our guns while they bring terrorists into America. They hate Americans. They want us to suffer so we will be happy with their government crumbs. We will do more for less while they take everything and we will be happy with drugs and video games. [Yuval Noah Harari from World Economic Forum describes their intent, video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ex3_brOUdpA).  
 War makes their problem of too many useless eaters, easy to dispose of. These globalists will protect the border of Ukraine and provide Ukraine guns while disarming Americans. All they want is for us to DIE (Diversity, Inclusion, Equity) so they can steal our property and keep power.  
 Where did we turn to vent our frustration and agree to transform America? Our educators took care of that. In 1989, Shirley Mc Cune from the McRel Foundation told the Governors Association:  
 We will change education from fact based to value based (*on emotion*) learning.  
 (*Emotional people are easier to control using emotional triggers*.)  
 We will stop focusing on the individual, and focus on the collective (*we can conform everyone to the group mentality.)*  
 We will train for work, not educate for life. (*We need workers not thinkers or experts*).  
 Communists learned that uneducated people are easier to control.  
 While all eyes looked at colleges, they infiltrated K-12 while convincing the family to “keep up with the Jones” by overspending so both mom and dad had to work ensuring the breakup of the family. The evolution of the family went from *Father Knows Best* to *All in the Family* to *Married with Children* showing how dysfunctional families are really the norm.  
 Today we suffer the results of those teachings as our government officials and experts are only capable of reading their talking points. *I am just following directions,* you will hear as their excuse for their third world actions of government against the people. Our police, after being emasculated (the goal of the feminist movement), will stand and watch as children are being slaughtered because they are just following directions.  The hell with the Americans.  They are just useless eaters. Less people is better they have been taught. According to Stalin, “Less people, less problems.”  
 We turned to a new type of government called socialism. It sounded so social, fun and inviting. It sounded so nice. All people will look after each other. Everyone would share. It will be wonderful. Everyone will all have the same stuff. And so the confused children turned to the communists who were so ready to open their arms for their new flock. The commies changed all the words and definitions to reflect Peace and Love. We followed Saul Alinsky’s *Rules for Radicals* and they offered the people exactly what Khrushchev said. *I will feed you little bits of socialism and one day you will be a communist.*  
 **Now we have America’s new normal. How does that work?**  
 *Kevin Sorbo on  Twitter*:  
” Can I drive your car? No, you’re 5  
Can I have a beer?  No, you’re 5  
Can I have a cigarette? No, you’re 5  
Can I have a gun? No, you’re 5  
Can I take hormones and change my gender? Of Course, you know what’s best.”  
 ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………  
 *My conversation (Italics) with a Greenie*:  
Greenie: I am getting an EV. I will save tons of money on fossil fuel since it will soon be outlawed. I can depend on clean green energy from wind or sun. No dirty fuel for me.  
*That is great but what do you do if there is no wind or sun.* It won’t matter because I will plug my car in the wall socket.  
*Where does the electricity in the socket come from?* It comes from the wires.  *Where does the electricity in the wires come from?* It comes from the power company.  *Where does the electricity in the power company come from?* From the grid.  *Where does the electricity from the grid come from?* DUH! OOPS OK Where? *Fossil fuel.)* ***NO FOSSIL FUEL = NO ELECTRICITY.*** *We are assisting in our own failure.*   
 ……………………………………………………………………………………..  
 CO2 is necessary to produce food not climate change. America is having a food shortage crisis. CO2 helps plants aka food to grow.                       CO2 is about .03% of the atmosphere and is a result of warming, NOT the cause.  Joe said he doesn’t know why or what to do about the food shortages but Joe has a plan. He increased ethanol aka corn aka soy in gas which burns our food for fuel resulting in less food at a higher cost for Americans and more expensive gas.  
 “Growing ethanol not food wastes: 5Billion tons of N Fertilizer; 68 Trillion BTU of natural gas; 57000sq MILES (not acres) of farmland.” Dr. Sarah Taber.  Joe has opened border for illegals to eat our food giving Americans less food; higher cost.  
 Then Joe wrote an EO forcing new furnaces to eliminate CO2. No CO2 = No Food.  Since over 20 processing plants were attacked, Joe signed an EO to give $1Billion to farmers to build new plants. Only the EPA regulations make it cost prohibitive.  *Is it Joe’s intent to starve Americans so he can trade food for guns?*  
 ……………………………………………………………………………………………………  
 American government schools teach their students to be mediocre.  Multiple educators, myself included know that Common Core insures America’s children will be 2 years below average. Now we are surprised that they are.  
 <https://www.yahoo.com/news/identical-twins-raised-apart-korea-185552767.html>  
 Based on their IQ test results, the woman from the U.S. scored 16 points lower than that of her sibling in Korea.  
 <https://floridaphoenix.com/2022/05/31/fls-state-reading-results-troubling-about-25-percent-of-3rd-graders-could-read-proficiently/>  This is a recent article regarding the low # of 3rd Graders who can read at proficiency level of 4 or 5 on the scale of 1-5  
 These programs DON’T WORK  
 <https://populistpress.com/san-franciscos-lowell-high-school-returns-to-merit-based-admissions-after-lottery-system-was-a-disaster/>  
 We just had LGBTQ month. Where is the Hetero Month? or the Cisgender Month.  After all we are the majority and in a “Democracy” the majority wins. So why are we not recognized?  These labels are just used to divide the people. Really who cares what anyone does in their bedroom? My question is: Can you do the job? It is obvious in this failed regime the answer is No, but not to worry their departments met their DIE quota.  
 Now the big question:  Is America worth saving? What will you do about it? <https://newswithviews.com/marxist-instructions-never-talk-about-politics-religion-dont-trust-your-parents-and-be-the-silent-majority/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**CIA Director on Putin: As far as we can tell he is entirely too healthy**

***CIA Director William Burns plays down reports that Russian President is suffering from health problems: He's got his own way of looking at reality.***

[*Elad Benari*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/author/Elad_Benari) *Jul 21, 2022, 9:37 AM GMT+3*

CIA Director William Burns on Wednesday played down reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin is suffering from any sort of health problems.

“There are all sorts of rumors about Putin's health, and as far as we can tell he is entirely too healthy,” Burns said at the Aspen Security Conference taking place in Colorado when asked if the Russian President seems unstable.

“That's not a formal intel judgment. ... He's got his own way of looking at reality,” added Burns.

“Putin really does believe his rhetoric that Ukraine is not a real country. He believes that it is his entitlement, Russia’s entitlement to dominate Ukraine,” the CIA Director continued.

There have been reports for months about Putin’s failed health. In May, [a Russian intelligence official claimed](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/328424) that the Russian President has been given just three years to live by doctors.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov [refuted the report](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/328430), saying there were no signs pointing to any ailment.

In April, documents published in *The Telegraph* claimed that the Russian leader [was visited by a thyroid cancer doctor](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/325100) 35 times at his luxury Black Sea retreat, and regularly takes steroids.

The Kremlin has denied that Putin, 69, has or had cancer but Proekt, a Russian banned investigative news organization, said it had proof this was a lie.

In 2020, [there were reports](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/290672) that Putin is planning on resigning the following year. The report cited rumors that Putin is suffering from Parkinson’s disease.

In his remarks on Wednesday, Burns also said the United States estimates that Russian casualties in Ukraine so far have reached around 15,000 killed and perhaps 45,000 wounded, adding that Ukraine has endured significant casualties as well.

"The latest estimates from the US intelligence community would be something in the vicinity of 15,000 (Russian forces) killed and maybe three times that wounded. So a quite significant set of losses. And, the Ukrainians have suffered as well -- probably a little less than that. But, you know, significant casualties," he stated. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/356867>

**Ben Shapiro: Most US Jews aren't Jewish in their identity**

***In an extensive interview with INN, Ben Shapiro warns of the dangers of progressive ideology,***

[*Israel National News*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/author/Israel_National_News) *Jul 21, 2022, 4:58 AM GMT+3*

American conservative political commentator Ben Shapiro was in the Israel National News-Arutz Sheva studio for a very special interview that touched on many topics.

When asked if liberals and progressives are “the enemy,” Shapiro told former Israel Hayom editor-in-chief Boaz Bismuth: “I don’t think that liberals and progressives are the enemy as people but I think that the ideas of liberals and progressives are extraordinarily destructive to the social fabric in the United States.”

“In order to have a functioning country you have to have a common philosophy, you have to have a common culture, and you have to have a common history. Progressives in the United States are fighting against all three of these things,” he says.

Shapiro explains that to have a culture, a nation has to have a set of values or ideals.

“When it comes to the culture of the United States that sort of requires you to at least speak the same language. You have to speak in terms of facts. And in the United States you have open debate over whether men and women exist caused by the left. It’s going to be tough to have a conversation with people when words have no meaning. When it comes to history, the left in the United States believes that the history of the United States is an unending series of calamities filled with brutality and evil. And again, you can’t have a nation built that way,” he says.

“The ideas of progressives are extraordinarily dangerous to the social fabric in any country,” he adds. MORE - <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/356856>

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| Urgent Appeal from Yaffa/Lev U'Neshama  Normally, I don't send appeal emails because our supporters are generous and we manage our money carefully to enable our programs to function smoothly. However, I am compelled to contact you now because we urgently need donations to reach our goal for basic school supplies.  For the past several years, donations made to the Education Fund were used in August before school resumes. Much of the fund is used to purchase coupons at our one-and-only office supply store. The family-owned store is happy for the business and they give a generous discount to stretch our funds.    We have 82 families in our program and they are already calling us asking if they will be receiving a coupon to be redeemed at this store. Smaller families have 5 or 6 children and large families have 13 and some more. Last year we gave 150 NIS credit to each family. Not sufficient but something. This year, of course, cost of school supplies has risen and we need to give 200 NIS.    200 times 82 = 16,400 NIS. Presently I have almost 8,000 NIS. A bit short, you can see. Also, a bit short on time. It's the middle of July and we need to have funds in place within a month to allow the coupons to be completed and mailed.  The amount in dollars is approximately $2,700. Not a huge amount in the scope of things but urgently needed by the kids here. About 1/3 of the children in Tzfat come from families who are in the poverty range. But they shouldn't be deprived of basic school supplies to have a good start in school.  Additionally, I am concerned that we will need funds to provide eye exams/eyeglasses and sport shoes and this is beyond what we are extrapolating for the school supplies.    I'm sending this appeal to everyone in the hopes of reaching our goal for school supplies and have some also for the shoes and eyeglasses; $60 for eyeglasses/exam and $30 for a pair of sport shoes).    You may already be a supporter of Lev U'Neshama and give generously but perhaps you can ask family or friends to join in this effort. If you haven't donated to us before or do so periodically, now is a good time.    **Donations may be made by** going to our web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com)  Go to the "How You Can Help" page and select an option to donate. You can even use a credit card.    Or you can use PayPal (although a fee is taken). Recipient email address: mortsmo@aol.com    Or you can use Zelle from US to US bank; no fee. You need to use my email address and my English name, Sheila Smolensky, as it is on the account.    Or . . . you could send a check made payable to my son Simcha Smolensky and send it to:  Rabbi Simcha Smolensky  6933 N Kedzie Ave  Unit 116  Chicago IL 60645  (Canadian checks or money orders must be in US dollars)    If you need/want a US Tax Receipt, email me and I'll give you the information.    Hoping you and/or someone you know, can help reach the goal to help our children.    Enjoy the remainder of summer in good health,    Yaffa Smolensky  Volunteer Program Manager  Lev U'Neshama    Tzfat Israel email: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com) web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com) |

**07/20/2022 NEWS – Don’t Miss Note from Lev U’Neshama at end**

**Queen Esther Memorial in Iran**

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2DVRFEghOw>

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| Outside Independence Hall when the Constitutional Convention of 1787 ended,  Mrs. Powel of Philadelphia asked Benjamin Franklin, "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" With no hesitation whatsoever, Franklin responded, "A republic, if you can keep it." -- Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) US Founding Father |

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

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

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

Exodus 22:23If thou afflict them in any wise - for if they cry at all unto Me, I will surely hear their cry - 24My wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless. 25If thou lend money to any of My people, even to the poor with thee, thou shalt not be to him as a creditor; neither shall ye lay upon him interest.

**Jerusalem stabbing attack: 41-year-old in moderate condition**

***The suspected terrorist was shot by a civilian passerby \* The victim was transferred to the hospital in moderate condition***

*By* [*TZVI JOFFRE*](https://www.jpost.com/author/tzvi-joffre) *Published: JULY 19, 2022 17:07 Updated: JULY 19, 2022 17:56*

Scene of a stabbing attack in Ramot, Jerusalem, July 19, 2022(photo credit: MAGEN DAVID ADOM)

A man in his 40s was moderately injured in a suspected stabbing attack on a bus near the Ramot Junction [in Jerusalem](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-706424) on Tuesday afternoon, according to emergency services. The suspected terrorist was shot by a civilian and is in moderate condition.

The background of the incident is as of yet unclear. An image reportedly from the scene showed a police officer standing near a man laying on the ground. Police and medics had arrived at the scene.

Shaare Zedek Medical Center stated that the victim was at the hospital in moderate condition with multiple stab wounds to his upper body, adding that he was not in a life-threatening condition.

Meshi Ben Ami, a civilian, told KAN news that the suspected terrorist came towards him after injuring the person on the bus. "I didn't hesitate and I shot him once and he fell on the ground," said Ben Ami.

"The wounded man was lying on the sidewalk next to the bus while he was conscious and suffering from bleeding stab wounds to his body," said Magen David Adom paramedics Itai Shimonov and Netanel Lifshitz. "We were told he was stabbed inside the bus while it was driving. We provided him with life-saving medical care that included stopping the bleeding and bandaging him and quickly evacuated him in an intensive care unit to the hospital as his condition was stable."

Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem called the stabbing "a natural response to the occupation's crimes against our Islamic and Christian sanctities in the city of Jerusalem."

"This act of resistance confirms once again the failure of all attempts to stop the escalation of the act of resistance in the occupied West Bank and the city of Jerusalem," added Qassem.

The attack comes about two weeks after a [Palestinian stabbed](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-711364) and moderately injured an Israeli near Givat Shmuel in central Israel. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-712544> [Typical garbage from Hamas. Any excuse is a good excuse to kill a Jew. – rdb]

**IDF strikes Hamas post after gunfire from Gaza hits southern town**

***In relatively rare daytime strike, air force pounds Beit Hanoun in response to bullet from Hamas-run enclave that hit locksmith’s workshop***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 5:43 pm*

Responding to gunfire from the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, the Israel Defense Forces struck a Hamas observation post near the Palestinian city of Beit Hanoun, the military said.

The airstrike came after a bullet hit a locksmith’s workshop in the southern town of Netiv Ha’asara earlier in the day.

Nobody was hurt in the incident.

It was not immediately clear if the shot was errant fire or intentional.

Regardless, the IDF launched airstrikes in response.

Last month a [similar incident occurred](https://www.timesofisrael.com/gunfire-from-gaza-strip-hits-farm-building-in-southern-town-army/), apparently as Hamas security forces clashed with Palestinians close to the northern Gaza border. The military assessed that shot was errant fire, and did not respond.

[A picture containing measuring stick

Description automatically generated](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/WhatsApp_Image_2022-07-19_at_15.21.37.jpeg)

A bullet fired from the Gaza Strip after it hit an industrial structure in Netiv Ha’asara, July 19, 2022. (Israel Defense Forces).

Tuesday’s incident came after four rockets were fired at southern Israel from Gaza on Saturday, causing no damage, but drawing an Israeli airstrike in response.

Prime Minister Yair Lapid said Sunday that Israel will respond “swiftly and forcefully” to any attacks from the Strip.

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“This government’s policy has not changed. To any fire, any incendiary balloon — we will respond swiftly and forcefully, and without hesitation,” Lapid said, lauding the IDF for its response to the rocket fire.

According to the IDF, its airstrike on Saturday significantly [set back](https://www.timesofisrael.com/gaza-airstrike-significantly-sets-back-hamas-rocket-production-says-idf/) Hamas’s weapon production capabilities. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-strikes-hamas-post-after-gunfire-from-gaza-%d7%99%d7%9f%d7%90%d7%93-southern-town/>

**Lapid, Gantz warn that Hezbollah drones, threats could lead region to ‘escalation’**

***During tour of IDF’s Northern Command, premier says Israel seeks Lebanon as ‘stable neighbor,’ but Iran-backed group’s actions are ‘unacceptable’; vows to act against all threats***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 3:44 pm*

Prime Minister Yair Lapid and Defense Minister Benny Gantz issued a stern warning to the Iran-backed Hezbollah on Tuesday, a day after the terror group allegedly flew a small drone over the border with Israel and a week after its leader threatened war with Israel.

Hezbollah has recently escalated its rhetoric and actions over a border dispute, after Israel moved a natural gas drilling vessel into its Karish field, which Lebanon claims is a disputed area. In its boldest move, Hezbollah sent four drones toward the Karish platform some three weeks ago, all of which were intercepted by the Israel Defense Forces.

“Israel is prepared and ready to act against any threat. We are not heading into a confrontation, but anyone who tries to harm our sovereignty or the citizens of Israel will very quickly find out that he has made a serious mistake,” Lapid said during a tour of the military’s Northern Command and the Lebanese border.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/WhatsApp-Image-2022-07-19-at-2.25.39-PM.jpeg)

Defense Minister Benny Gantz (right) Prime Minister Yair Lapid (center) and Northern Command chief Amir Baram on the Lebanese border, near the coast, on July 19, 2022. (Amos Ben Gershom/GPO)

On Monday, Israeli forces [downed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-downs-drone-that-enters-israeli-airspace-from-lebanon/) another drone that Hezbollah apparently flew over the border.

And last week the leader of the terror group, Hassan Nasrallah, warned that drones sent at the Karish gas field were “only the beginning,” and that his group would go to war over the field.

“Lebanon and its leaders are well aware that if they choose the path of fire, they will be severely burnt and hurt,” Gantz said according to remarks provided by his office.

During Tuesday’s tour, Lapid and Gantz received a briefing from security officials, and held an assessment of the situation on Israel’s northern frontier.

“Israel is interested in Lebanon as a stable and prosperous neighbor that is not a platform for Hezbollah’s terror and is not an Iranian tool,” Lapid said. “Hezbollah’s activities endanger Lebanon, its citizens and their well-being.”

“We have no interest in escalation. But Hezbollah’s aggression is unacceptable and could lead the entire region to an unnecessary escalation, especially when Lebanon has a real opportunity to develop its energy resources,” he said.

“Israel is acting and will continue to act against all Iranian terror branches in the region and in general. Iran is the largest exporter of terrorism in the world. We will act on our own, and in cooperation with other countries in the region, to prevent Iran from undermining regional stability,” Lapid added.

Gantz said Israel was “ready to do a lot so that its neighbors will prosper, and is ready to act all the time to protect its citizens.”

“If they choose the path of stability, they will help the citizens of Lebanon,” he added.

[A picture containing text, device

Description automatically generated](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/vlcsnap-2022-07-02-20h15m06s641.png) On July 2, the Israel Defense Forces intercepted three Hezbollah drones heading for the Karish gas field. Hezbollah confirmed it launched the drones after previously threatening the field, which sits in a maritime area that both Lebanon and Israel claim as their own. In another incident on June 29, a drone launched by the terror group was downed over Lebanon’s waters.

Those drones were [“products of Iran,”](https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-says-hezbollah-drones-launched-at-offshore-gas-field-were-products-of-iran/) according to Gantz.

A drone which the Israeli military says was launched by the Lebanese Hezbollah terror group, is seen shortly before being intercpted by an Israeli fighter jet over the Mediterranean Sea, July 2, 2022. (Israel Defense Forces)

Some Lebanese leaders criticized the terror group for launching the drones, saying it was an unnecessarily risky action.

According to a Monday report, a Lebanese minister affiliated with the Hezbollah terror group [demanded](https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-demands-return-of-border-rail-tunnel-in-likely-bid-to-torpedo-israel-talks/) that Israel give Lebanon control over a long-shuttered rail tunnel that goes from Israel’s northern border town of Rosh Hanikra and stretches hundreds of meters into Lebanon.

Ali Hamieh’s comments were seen as an effort to torpedo talks between Israel and Lebanon aimed at resolving their disputed maritime border and the question of who has rights to lucrative offshore gas fields. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/lapid-gantz-warn-that-hezbollah-drones-threats-could-lead-region-to-escalation/> [With the issues with Russia, Ukraine, Iran and its surrogates and with China we are sitting on a powder keg ready to explode. – rdb]

**Lapid flies over threatened Israeli gas rig, calls on Lebanon to negotiate**

***Earlier this month, the IDF shot down three UAVs launched by Hezbollah toward the Karish rig.***

*By* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff) *Published: JULY 19, 2022 18:53 Updated: JULY 19, 2022 19:34*



Prime Minister Yair Lapid flies over the Karish gas rig, July 19, 2022(photo credit: AMOS BEN-GERSHOM/GPO)

Prime Minister Yair Lapid, on Tuesday, flew over the Karish gas rig that has been threatened and attacked by Hezbollah and called on Lebanon to recognize that it can benefit from its natural gas reserves through negotiations with Israel.

"Israel's gas reserves have the potential to contribute to resolving the global energy crisis. Lebanon can also benefit from the development of its economic water reservoirs, through negotiations, which must be completed soon," said Lapid.

"The new rig is the energy future of the State of Israel and an economic opportunity that includes the export of gas to Egypt and Europe, from which every Israeli citizen will benefit in the not too distant future," added the prime minister. MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-712549>

**On anniversary of AMIA and Burgas bombings, US urges global front against Hezbollah**

***At memorial for deadly 1994 Buenos Aires bombing, Jewish leader says that 28 years later, probe into grounded Iranian-Venezuelan plane shows Argentina still letting in terrorists***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 3:07 pmUpdated at 4:33 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/000_32ET7TN-1.jpg)

Relatives of victims of a bomb attack at the Jewish community center of the Mutual Israelite Association of Argentina (AMIA) that killed 85 people and injured 300, hold photos during its 28th anniversary, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on July 18, 2022. (Luis ROBAYO / AFP)

The US urged countries around the world to step up action against Lebanese terror group Hezbollah on Monday, as relatives and others marked the anniversaries of two deadly bombings by the group nearly two decades apart.

On July 18, 1994, a van packed with explosives crashed into the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA), a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, killing 85 people and wounding hundreds more in the country’s deadliest-ever attack. Exactly 18 years later, a bomb placed on a bus readying to transport Israeli tourists from an airport in Burgas, Bulgaria, exploded, killing five Israelis and a local bus driver and injuring nearly 40 others.

Emphasizing Iran’s sponsorship of the attacks, the US State Department called on more capitals to join “more than a dozen countries across Europe, South America, Central America, and the Pacific [that] have issued national level designations, bans, or other restrictions” against Hezbollah.

“The callous murder of civilians must not stand,” State Department spokesman Ned Price said in the statement. “We urge more countries to take similar measures, which make it harder for the group and its backers in Tehran to threaten peace and security around the globe.”

The comments came days after US President Joe Biden visited the Middle East for meetings focused on bolstering countries in the region against Iranian aggression. During the trip, Biden and Prime Minister Yair Lapid signed [a joint declaration](https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-and-lapids-jerusalem-strategic-partnership-joint-declaration/) in Jerusalem in which they committed to “work together with other partners to confront Iran’s aggression and destabilizing activities, whether advanced directly or through proxies and terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.” MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/on-anniversary-of-amia-and-burgas-bombings-us-urges-global-front-against-hezbollah/>

**Gantz, IDF warn settler activists against ‘illegal’ bid to form West Bank outposts**

***Defense minister says there will be ‘strict enforcement’ against plan by Nachala Settlement Movement to send out hundreds of activists to establish 3 new outposts on Wednesday***

*By* [*Jeremy Sharon*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jeremy-sharon/) *Today, 1:12 pmUpdated at 4:58 pm*

Defense Minister Benny Gantz, the Israel Defense Forces and the Israel Police issued statements Tuesday warning Israelis against participating in an initiative scheduled for Wednesday that aims to establish three illegal settlement outposts in the West Bank.

The Nachala Settlement Movement organization [has been planning for months](https://www.timesofisrael.com/settler-group-openly-planning-establishment-of-3-illegal-outposts-next-week/) to create new outposts and has recruited hundreds and possibly thousands of activists to participate in this operation.

According to a statement from Gantz’s office, the minister was briefed on the operation on Monday and gave instructions on Tuesday “to issue a clear message to Israeli citizens who intend to take part in the program that these are illegal activities that the security services are preparing to thwart.”  
 The statement noted specifically that “alongside the continued construction and strengthening of legal settlements,” there will be “strict enforcement” against the plans to establish new illegal outposts.  
 The police and the IDF also addressed the planned operation on Tuesday, saying in a statement that establishing settlements in the West Bank without authorization was illegal and that specially designated forces would operate to thwart “any illegal activity.”  
 The statement said that the IDF, Israel Police and Border Police were preparing for Nachala’s operation “on the roads, at checkpoints and at central locations in Judea and Samaria to protect security, the law and public order in the area.” The statement referred to the West Bank by its biblical name, commonly used in Hebrew.  
 Two MKs nevertheless spoke out against Gantz’s stance, and that of the security services, and encouraged the activists to undertake their mission regardless of the warnings that such activity was illegal.  
 Likud MK May Golan wrote on Facebook that she was “giving encouragement to the hundreds of settlers in [the] Judea, Benjamin, and Samaria [regions] to arrive tomorrow to the three settlement locations,” adding that it was “sad and outrageous that the defense minister is doing everything to thwart Jewish settlement in the State of Israel.” MORE -

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-idf-warn-settler-activists-against-illegal-bid-to-form-west-bank-outposts/> [Only one question – To whom did the Holy One of Israel, the creator of the Universe give the land of Israel? It was the descendants of Jacob and it was done at Sinai. – db]

**Kohavi meets Morocco’s defense minister, army chief on second day of landmark trip**

***IDF head greeted by honor guard, defense officials after landing in Rabat Monday evening; dozens stage protest against visit, burning photos of him***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 5:02 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/FYB1gKDXgAEFNnI.jpg)

IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi is greeted by an honor guard in Rabat, Morocco, July 19, 2022. (IDF)

Israel Defense Forces chief Aviv Kohavi was greeted on Tuesday morning by Moroccan defense officials and an honor guard, after landing in the North African nation the previous evening.

Kohavi is the first IDF chief of staff to visit Morocco on an official trip.

He met Tuesday with Morocco’s Defense Minister Abdellatif Loudiyi and chief of the Royal Armed Forces Belkhir El Farouk, as well as other senior defense officials.

Kohavi traveled with the military’s international cooperation commander, Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin, and the head of the Intelligence Research Division, Brig. Gen. Amit Saar.

As Kohavi arrived in the country, a few dozen people gathered in Rabat to protest against the visit, raising banners and burning pictures of him.

The IDF said in a statement that “the aim of the visit is to learn from each other and share knowledge, and is part of the IDF’s overall efforts to broaden military cooperation with other countries.”

[#صور](https://twitter.com/hashtag/%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)| احتجاجات في العاصمة المغربية الرباط رفضًا لزيارة رئيس أركان جيش الاحتلال أفيف كوخافي، الذي يزور [#المغرب](https://twitter.com/hashtag/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%BA%D8%B1%D8%A8?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) على رأس وفد أمني، في زيارة هي الأولى من نوعها. [pic.twitter.com/mR6Rr3MIoq](https://t.co/mR6Rr3MIoq)

— وكالة شهاب للأنباء (@ShehabAgency) [July 19, 2022](https://twitter.com/ShehabAgency/status/1549281020016467969?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

“This visit is in addition to recent meetings and cooperation between the two countries, as part of the advancement of military-security cooperation between the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Morocco,” the military said.

Last November, Defense Minister Benny Gantz signed a memorandum of understanding with his Moroccan counterpart, the first such agreement between Israel and an Arab state.

[Two men sitting in chairs

Description automatically generated with low confidence](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/FYB1gKDXoAMITG4.jpg) The agreement formalized the defense ties between the two countries, allowing for smoother cooperation between their defense establishments and making it easier for Israel to sell arms to the North African kingdom.

With the signing of the MOU, the two countries’ defense ministries and militaries could more easily speak with one another and share intelligence, whereas before, such communication was only possible through their respective intelligence services.

IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kohavi (right) meets with Belkhir El Farouk, Inspector General of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces in Rabat, July 19 2022. (Israel Defense Forces)

In March, senior Israeli military officials wrapped up their first official trip to Morocco, where the sides signed an accord that aimed to have the two militaries collaborate, and last month, Israeli officers and Defense Ministry officials participated in a major military drill in Morocco as observers.

Earlier this year, Kohavi traveled to Bahrain — also a first — and reportedly met with his Qatari counterpart, despite limited relations between the countries. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/kohavi-meets-moroccos-defense-minister-army-chief-on-second-day-of-landmark-trip/>

**PHILIPS launches new 4K Andriod TV in Israel**

***The home screen of the TV can be customized to display the user's preferable apps such as streaming services, download new games and resume content that the user has not finished watching.***

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

PHILIPS by Electra Trade launched on Tuesday a new 4K Android TV with advanced technologies, with it being one of the most advanced gaming TVs in Israel.

The home screen of the TV can be customized to display the user's preferable apps such as [streaming services](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/new-israeli-streaming-service-screen-il-launches-675628), download new games and resume content that the user has not finished watching.

 The TV comes with popular HDR formats, such as the P5 Perfect Engine with a 4K resolution at 120Hz Slim as well as Dolby Vision, which delivers higher quality audio. The 120Hz refresh rate is shown when it's connected to an Xbox Series X console or any other console via one of the many HDMI 2.1. Dolby Premium guarantees the user a viewing and listening experience "just like the director intended."

The 43' Android 11 TV is equipped with a 3-sided Ambilight Technology. The 4K UHD PHILIPS supports all the popular HDR formats, including Dolby Vision.

**Gaming mode**

When utilizing the TV by playing on a gaming console, the TV will automatically switch to "[gaming mode](https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/tech-and-start-ups/article-711946)," which provides low latency and input lag. The 43' PHILIPS TV is not just another TV but among the first TVs this size in the game TV market in Israel - which also offers any gamer looking for a TV of ideal size.

PHILIPS launches new 4K Andriod TV in Israel. (credit: HAREL MORDI)

The VRR support that the [TV](https://www.jpost.com/israeli-news/culture/article-712052) has provides a smooth and fast gaming experience for the user.

The recommended retail price for the TV is NIS 3,290, and sizes will soon be available in sizes 50', 55', 65', 75' and 86'. <https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/article-712528>

**Putin visits Iran on first trip outside former Soviet Union since Ukraine war**

***Putin's trip, which comes just days after US President Joe Biden visited Israel, sends a strong message to the West about Moscow's plans.***

*By REUTERS Published: JULY 19, 2022 16:43 Updated: JULY 19, 2022 18:08*



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi attend a meeting in Tehran, Iran July 19, 2022.(photo credit: Sputnik/Sergei Savostyanov/Pool via REUTERS)

Russian President Vladimir Putin [visited Tehran on Tuesday](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east-news/article-712379) for talks with Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Kremlin leader's first trip outside the former Soviet Union since Moscow's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

In Tehran, Putin will also hold his first face-to-face meeting since the invasion with a NATO leader, Turkey's Tayyip Erdogan, to discuss a deal aimed at allowing the resumption of Ukraine's Black Sea grain exports as well as peace in Syria.

Putin's trip, which comes just days after [US President Joe Biden visited Israel and Saudi Arabia](https://www.jpost.com/israeli-news/live-updates-711987), sends a strong message to the West about Moscow's plans to forge closer strategic ties with Iran, China and India in the face of Western sanctions.

Russian President Vladimir Putin takes part in a welcoming ceremony at an airport upon his arrival in Tehran, Iran July 19, 2022. (credit: Sputnik/Konstantin Zavrazhin/Pool via REUTERS)

"The contact with Khamenei is very important," Yuri Ushakov, Putin's foreign policy adviser, told reporters in Moscow. "A trusting dialog has developed between them on the most important issues on the bilateral and international agenda."

 "On most issues, our positions are close or identical."

Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks with officials during a welcoming ceremony upon his arrival in Tehran, Iran July 19, 2022. (credit: Sputnik/Konstantin Zavrazhin/Pool via REUTERS)

***The sanctioned party***

For Iran, also chafing under Western economic sanctions and at loggerheads with the United States over Tehran's nuclear program and a range of other issues, Putin's visit is timely.

Its clerical leaders are keen to strengthen strategic relations with Russia in the face of an emerging US-backed Gulf Arab-Israeli bloc that could tilt the [Middle East balance](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east-news/article-712404) of power further away from Iran.

"Considering the evolving geopolitical ties after the [Ukraine war](https://www.jpost.com/international/article-698699), Tehran tries to secure Moscow's support in its confrontation with Washington and its regional allies," said a senior Iranian official, who asked not to be named.

Emboldened by high oil prices since the Ukraine war, Iran is betting that with Russia's support it could pressure Washington to offer concessions for the revival of a 2015 nuclear deal.

However, Russia's increased tilt towards Beijing in recent months has significantly reduced Iran's crude exports to China - a key source of income for Tehran since US President Donald Trump reimposed sanctions in 2018.

In May, Reuters reported that Iran's crude exports to China have fallen sharply as Beijing favored heavily discounted Russian barrels, leaving almost 40 million barrels of Iranian oil stored on tankers at sea in Asia and seeking buyers.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Tehran, Iran, July 19, 2022. (credit: PRESIDENT WEBSITE/WANA (WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY)/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS)

Ahead of Putin's arrival, the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and Russian gas producer Gazprom GAZP.MM signed a memorandum of understanding worth around $40 billion.

**Syria, Ukraine**

High on the agenda in Tuesday's [trilateral talks](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east-news/article-712459) that will also include Turkey will be efforts to reduce violence in Syria, where Erdogan has threatened to launch more military operations to extend 30-km (20-mile) deep "safe zones" along the border. Moscow and Tehran both oppose any such action by Turkey.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi attend a signing ceremony in Tehran, Iran July 19, 2022. (credit: Turkish Presidential Press Office/Handout via REUTERS)

"Maintaining the territorial integrity of Syria is very important, and any military attack in northern Syria will definitely harm Turkey, Syria and the entire region, and benefit terrorists," Khamenei told Erdogan.

Erdogan said terrorism remained a common concern and threat for Iran and Turkey, and the two countries needed to wage a battle against all threats, including Kurdish fighters in Turkey, Syria and Iran considered terrorists by Ankara.

Any [Turkish operation in Syria](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-710592) would attack the Kurdish YPG militia, a key part of the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) that controls large parts of north Syria and is regarded by Washington as an important ally against Islamic State.

A senior Turkish official said Turkey's planned operation would be discussed in Tehran, as would reports that Russia and Kurdish forces were acting together in some areas of Syria.

Russia and Iran are Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s strongest backers, while Turkey supports anti-Assad insurgents.

Putin, who turns 70 this year, has made few foreign trips in recent years due to the COVID pandemic and then the Ukraine crisis. His last trip beyond the former Soviet Union was to China in February.

His bilateral talks with Erdogan will focus on a plan to get Ukrainian grain exports moving again.

Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and the United Nations are expected to sign a deal later this week aimed at resuming the shipping of grain from Ukraine across the Black Sea.  <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-712541>

**Jerusalem warily eyes Putin’s Tehran visit - analysis**

***Tehran and Moscow are working together to circumvent sanctions even more than before. Once, Russia helped Iran on that front, now, it goes both ways.***

*By* [*LAHAV HARKOV*](https://www.jpost.com/author/lahav-harkov) *Published: JULY 19, 2022 17:56*

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s visit to Tehran is not about Israel, but it comes on Tuesday, amid tensions in Russia-Israel relations that a meeting with Iranian leaders who profess to wanting to destroy Israel could exacerbate.

Those tensions come on the background of the Ukraine war. Prime Minister Yair Lapid, who was foreign minister at the time, [condemned Russia’s invasion of Ukraine](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-701128) within days of it happening and [Israel voted against Russia in the UN General Assembly](https://www.jpost.com/international/article-702246). Israel has sent large quantities of humanitarian aid and some protective gear to Ukraine.

At the same time, then-prime minister Naftali Bennett was careful not to criticize Moscow directly and Israel did not send any military aid to Kyiv, in order not to threaten the deconfliction mechanism that allows Israel to bomb Iranian targets in Syria, where there is a significant Russian Army presence. In addition, Jerusalem wanted to make sure it could continue to help Russian and Ukrainian Jews who want to immigrate to Israel.

That strategy has had mixed results. The deconfliction mechanism is mostly intact, though Moscow was sharply and publicly critical of a strike on the Damascus International Airport last month. The Russian government is obstructing the Jewish Agency from doing its work to help Russian Jewry move to Israel, labeling the organization a “foreign agent.” Other points of friction, like Russian remarks against Israel at the UN and [disputes over Russian Orthodox Church land in Jerusalem](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-699269), continue, as well.

Putin’s visit to Iran is also about the Ukraine war. With Russia more isolated than ever and under massive sanctions from the West, it needs all the friends it can get. Russia needs new markets to sell its wares – especially weapons, since Iran has its own energy sources – and to buy drones. MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-712546>

**Russia’s Gazprom signs major deal in Iran worth billions**

***The agreement will involve billions of dollars, according to Iranian media, and will come despite sanctions on Russia and Iran.***

*By* [*SETH J. FRANTZMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/seth-j-frantzman) *Published: JULY 19, 2022 13:35 Updated: JULY 19, 2022 18:41*



The logo of Gazprom company is seen on the facade of a business centre in Saint Petersburg, Russia March 31, 2022. (photo credit: REUTERS/REUTERS PHOTOGRAPHER)

Gazprom has signed a major agreement in Iran even as the Russian company says it cannot guarantee gas supplies to Europe. The agreement will involve billions of dollars, according to Iranian media, and it will come despite sanctions on Russia and Iran.

The company has declared force majeure, which enables it to cut supplies during extreme conditions. This means even as Gazprom is at the center of controversy in Europe, it is making deals in Iran.

**Russia Iran relations**

[Russian President Vladimir Putin is in Iran](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east-news/article-712379) this week and is seeking to push for more bilateral strategic agreements with Tehran. The US has said Russia is looking to [acquire Iranian drone technology.](https://www.jpost.com/international/article-712245)

Iran’s pro-government Tasnim News Agency said the CEO of Iran’s National Oil Company had told reporters there would be a signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Gazprom, and images on Tuesday showed the lead-up to the ceremony.

“This MoU will be the largest foreign investment in the history of Iran’s oil industry, as it will lead to an investment of several tens of billions of dollars of Russian investment in Iran’s oil and gas fields,” the report said. The agreement could eventually be worth some $40 billion, according to estimates.

**Iranian energy industry**

The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) is a government-owned national oil and natural-gas producer. It was founded in 1948. Iran has sought some $140b. in investments for its oil and gas sector. It has counted on Russia and China for this support.

Earlier reports said Iran exports around 800,000 barrels of oil a day. The country’s crude-oil exports had increased by 40% since the summer of 2021, NIOC CEO Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr said in March. According to reports last November, Iran said it was ready to produce 700 million cubic meters per day (cm/d) of natural gas from 37 offshore platforms in the South Pars field.

The Kish gas field and North Pars gas field will be among those that receive huge investments. Some 100 million cm/d will be added to Iran’s gas production. In all, six fields will be developed by [Gazprom](https://www.jpost.com/international/article-712435). Another part of the agreement will focus billions in investment in the South Pars gas field. Gas swaps and oil products will be part of the project.

Research is included in the MoU. “We are designing a package so that we can transfer technology to centers in the field of technology,” the MoU said.

According to Iranian media and statements from Iran’s energy sector, “Iran and Russia have a total of 70 trillion cubic meters of gas reserves, which is 30% of the world’s gas reserves. Therefore, these two countries play a very important role in ensuring the world’s energy sustainability.”

**Circumventing sanctions by the West**

The report also discussed the issue of sanctions. Iran and Russia are both under sanctions in the West. The Iranian National Oil Company has already dealt with contracts with Russian companies despite sanctions, the report said. “There is no concern about the role of sanctions in the failure of these understandings and contracts,” it said.

There is also an eight-year plan in Iran that aims to invest massively in this sector. “In this context, we will use foreign investment in the framework of obtaining maximum national benefits, and today we see that we are negotiating and signing contracts and memorandums with large and well-known international companies,” Gazprom said.

According to NIOC’s Khojasteh-Mehr, who outlined his company’s new operational and development strategies, “The world needs Iran’s oil, and the share of Iran’s oil exports cannot be removed from the world market, and this shows that Iran is a reliable and stable country for supplying energy to the world.”.

The gas fields mentioned in the report include South Pars and Kish, as well as six fields, said to be Mansouri, Abtaimur (Ab Timur), Karanj, Azar, and Changuleh. The names of the fields were translated from Persian and may include spelling errors. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-712520> [As I look into my crystal ball is see the nations of the EU freezing do death this winter and with their demand on their farmers to stop farming so they will lower their “emissions” I guess it will be a tie as to whether they starve to death or freeze to death first. Looks to me that this is simply one more step in the genocidal plan of the WEC and their like. They are behind this demand for Ukraine to go into NATO and therefore arm them against Russia in order to remove those with nationalistic ideas. You all better know how you stand with respect to the HOLY ONE because only he can fix these situations with his Messiah. – rdb’

**Russian strikes pummel Ukraine as Putin wins Iranian support for offensive**

***US accuses Moscow of planning to annex areas of Ukraine under its control; missiles hit areas near Odesa, killing 5-year-old girl, Kyiv says, though Russia claims ammo depots hit***

*By* [*susie blann*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/susie-blann/) *Today, 3:53 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/000_32EX4C6.jpg)

Firefighters put out a fire in a yard of a house in the town of Bakhmut following an airstrike on July 19, 2022, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. (Igor TKACHEV / AFP)

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian missiles struck cities and villages in eastern and southern Ukraine, hitting homes, a school and a community center on Tuesday as Russian President Vladimir Putin won strong support support from Iran for his country’s military operation.

In Kramatorsk, a city in eastern Ukraine’s Donetsk province considered a likely Russian occupation target, one person was killed and 10 wounded in an airstrike that hit a five-story apartment building, regional Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

[A picture containing outdoor, raft

Description automatically generated](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/000_32EX4C4.jpg) Fresh blood stained the concrete amid green leaves that were torn off trees as nearby apartments on at least two floors burned. Shrapnel was placed in a small pile near an empty playground.

“There was no one here. Everything is ruined,” said Halyna Maydannyk, a resident of one burned apartment. “Who knows why they’re doing this? We were all living peacefully.”

A local resident helps firefighters to put out a fire in a yard of a house in the town of Bakhmut following an airstrike on July 19, 2022, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. (Igor TKACHEV / AFP)

Kramatorsk residents Mykola Zavodovskyi and Tetiana Zavodovska stood in bandages outside a hospital. They heard a loud clap and went to their balcony to investigate, then everything exploded and the windows shattered.

“Probably it was a rocket, and probably it was brought down by Ukrainian forces,” Zavodovska said.

The midday strike came after Kyrylenko had reported four earlier Russian strikes in Kramatorsk and urged civilians to evacuate.

On the political front, Putin visited Tehran, where Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said the West opposes an “independent and strong” Russia. Khamenei said that if Russia hadn’t sent troops into Ukraine, it would have faced an attack from NATO, echoing Putin’s own rhetoric and reflecting increasingly close ties between Moscow and Tehran as they both face severe Western sanctions. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/russian-strikes-pummel-ukraine-as-putin-wins-iranian-support-for-offensive/>

**How the left hopes to seize control of local election offices this November**

***Millions of dollars lined up to be spent***

By [WND News Services](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) Published July 19, 2022 at 7:28pm **By Fred Lucas** The Daily Signal  
 [*Editor's note: This story originally was published by* [*The Daily Signal*](https://www.dailysignal.com/2022/07/18/how-the-left-hopes-to-use-big-money-to-seize-control-of-local-election-offices/)*.*]

Two big money liberal operations, ready to spend $80 million each, are trying to determine who controls elections and how in the years ahead.

“The overall objective of the political left is to change the way you conduct overall elections,” Jason Snead, executive director of the Honest Elections Project, which advocates clean elections, told The Daily Signal.

One of the two liberal groups, Run for Something, is a political action committee founded by a former Hillary Clinton campaign staffer. In the spring, Run for Something established its [Clerk Work](https://www.politico.com/news/2022/04/18/democrats-recruiting-push-local-election-officers-00025733) project with the goal of electing clerks, election supervisors, registrars, recorders, and other local officials charged with running elections.

The PAC says it will promote thousands of election administrators in the years ahead. But for 2022, it reports endorsing 11 candidates competing in races in California, Colorado, Illinois, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Local election clerks generally are empowered to interpret and enforce state election regulations. They often have discretion on matters such as whether to count absentee ballots that come in after Election Day, how strictly to enforce voter ID or signature-matching requirements, and how closely poll watchers may monitor the ballot counting on Election Day.

According to the [National Conference of State Legislatures](https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/election-administration-at-state-and-local-levels.aspx), county-level election officials are elected in 22 states. In 10 states, elected officials appoint members to a local board of elections. Another 18 states divide election administration duties between two or more offices.

In any case, donating to specific candidates to oversee elections could directly or indirectly affect who holds these positions.

Some practices of local election administrators also could be guided by another $80 million effort by the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence, a coalition of mostly left-leaning organizations financed in part by Big Tech executives to train local officials in running elections.

Snead and other critics say they see parallels between Run for Something and efforts to elect liberal prosecutors financed by liberal hedge fund manager George Soros. They also see strong similarities between the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence and Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg’s election administration grants in the 2020 election cycle.  
 “What we shouldn’t lose track of is they are playing the long game,” Snead said. “They are going to look for every possible way to impact elections, and they can make substantial changes in the long run through this kind of program that they wouldn’t have been able to make in 2020.”  
 The Alliance for Election Excellence is not formally aligned with Run for Something’s Clerk Work project. However, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (created by Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan) has donated to Run for Something.  
 “I would not be surprised if someone gets elected with the support of Run for Something and then immediately plugs themselves into the [Alliance for Election Excellence], because there are those natural synergies,” Snead said.  
**Election Clerk Controversies** The Clerk Work project is new this year, but politicization of election officials has been a growing controversy for years.  
 Last month in Philadelphia, a former Democrat congressman, Michael “Ozzie” Myers, pleaded guilty in federal court of [bribing the city’s election officials](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-congressman-charged-ballot-stuffing-bribery-and-obstruction) to stuff ballot boxes in local races.  
 In 2012, Kathy Nickolaus, a [Republican county clerk](https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/05/scott-walker-recall-wisconsin-kathy-nickolaus/) in Waukesha County, Wisconsin, agreed to step down after saying that “human error” led to the late discovery of 14,000 uncounted votes in a contested election.  
 In 2019, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican, removed Broward County Supervisor of Elections [Brenda Snipes, a Democrat](https://www.dailysignal.com/2018/11/10/trump-calls-out-embattled-county-election-official-in-florida-vote-count-mess/), who admitted in a 2017 lawsuit that the county had more registered voters than eligible voters, and that noncitizens and ineligible felons may have voted in past elections.  
 A Florida judge ruled in 2018 that Snipes violated the law when she destroyed ballots from a Democrat congressional primary in August 2016. Her office once posted the results of an election 30 minutes before polls closed.  
 In 2012, Donald Whitten, a Democrat who was county clerk in [Lincoln County, West Virginia](https://www.heritage.org/voterfraud/9529), [pleaded guilty](https://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/lincoln-sheriff-clerk-caught-in-vote-probe/article_ef824a43-f4b5-5c9f-b102-3e2b80f7b666.html) to stuffing ballot boxes and falsifying absentee ballots in 2010.  
 A national project aimed at electing partisans to election supervisory positions poses threats to clean and honest elections, said Hans von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow at The Heritage Foundation, parent organization of The Daily Signal.  
 “It is a very dangerous development for local election officials, who were supposed to be objective and nonpartisan,” von Spakovsky said.  
 “This group is trying to elect political consultants and political activists to these positions, with the potential for meddling with the election results and further undermining confidence in elections,” he said of Run for Something.  
**Soros Prosecutors Provide Model** Run for Something’s $80 million Clerk Work project, which began in April, is set to span three years and encompass 35 states.  
 The project closely resembles one by Soros, a Hungarian-American billionaire, to [elect district attorneys](https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/10/18/soros-funded-prosecutors-put-social-justice-above-law-and-order-analysts-say/) across the country who would take a progressive approach to prosecutions, Snead said. But in this case, it’s a national effort to elect left-leaning election officials, he said.  
 Soros was the primary funder behind Justice and Public Safety, the super PAC that gave big donations to the campaigns of liberal candidates for district attorney.  
 “What we are seeing is the same sort of strategy being directed toward election officials,” Snead told The Daily Signal, referring to activists on the left. “They are trying very much to repeat that strategy and the successes that they’ve seen in these local election officials, and the consequences could be significant.”  
 In the case of electing prosecutors who would be softer on criminals, Soros fueled national campaign resources into what had previously been low-dollar, down-ballot local campaigns. The effort to put sympathetic elections officials in place could be similar, Snead said. MUCH MORE - [**https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/left-hopes-seize-control-local-election-offices-november/**](https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/left-hopes-seize-control-local-election-offices-november/)

**Pentagon and Lockheed reach deal to build 375 F-35 fighter jets**

***The deal is a starting point for finalizing pricing which would likely not be locked in for several weeks if not months, making the ultimate value of the deal and each jet still uncertain.***

*By REUTERS Published: JULY 19, 2022 07:13*

AN F-35 seen during an aerial display at an IAF pilots’ graduation ceremony at Hatzerim air base in the Negev. Stealth fighter aircraft of this type were involved in the downing of the Iranian UAVs.

(photo credit: AHARON KROHN/FLASH90)

The US Department of Defense reached an agreement with Lockheed Martin Corp to build about 375 F-35 fighter jets over three years, the two parties said on Monday, amid expectations the price of the most common version of the jet would increase due to lower quantities and inflation.

"We are pleased to announce that the Department and Lockheed Martin reached a handshake agreement for the next F-35 lot buy on a basis of 375 aircraft," said William LaPlante the [Pentagon](https://www.jpost.com/international/article-709950)'s chief weapons buyer.

Earlier on Monday Reuters reported the deal, worth about $30 billion, was nearing an agreement.

The "handshake" deal is a starting point for finalizing pricing which would likely not be locked in for several weeks if not months, making the ultimate value of the deal and each jet still uncertain.

The F-35A, the most common version of the jet, currently costs the United States about $79 million.

**Adjustments to be made**

The Pentagon said the final aircraft quantity may change based on any "adjustments made by the [US Congress](https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-710673) in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget and any orders requested by international partners."MORE - .

<https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/article-712472>

**Dr. Deborah Birx admits she deceived Trump to push COVID measures**

***'I couldn't do anything that would reveal my true intention'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published July 18, 2022 at 7:57pm*

Dr. Deborah Birx, who served as the White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator under President Donald Trump, has admitted in a new book that she manipulated data and quietly altered CDC guidance without authorization.

In "Silent Invasion," she confesses she "devised" a "strategic sleight-of-hand" method of reporting she described as "subterfuge."

"This wasn’t the only bit of subterfuge I had to engage in," she writes.

Birx insisted, contrary to the White House and the CDC, that the asymptomatic spread of COVID-19 was significant.

She says that "eight months into the pandemic, many at both the White House and the CDC still refused to see that silent spread played a prominent role in viral spread and that it started with social gatherings, especially among the younger adults."

Birx opposed the advice of then-coronavirus adviser Dr. Scott Atlas to limit testing on the premise that asymptomatic transmission was minimal and not driving the pandemic.

She and then CDC Director Robert Redfield "agreed to quietly rewrite the guidance and post it to the CDC website."

"We would not seek approval. Because we were both quite busy, it might take a week or two, but we were committed to subverting the dangerous message that limiting testing was the right thing to do," she writes.

Birx recalls a phone call from White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows: "What the hell do you think you’re doing? You rewrote and posted the CDC testing stuff," said Meadows, according to Birx' account.

“Yes, I did, but – " Birx replied.

"There’s no ‘buts’ here. You went over my head," Meadows said, according to Birx.

Birx resigned from her White House role in December 2020.

[Jeffrey A. Tucker, founder and president of the Brownstone Institute, recalled](https://brownstone.org/articles/dr-birx-praises-herself-while-revealing-ignorance-treachery-and-deceit/) that while Dr. Anthony Fauci has been the front man for the media, Birx was the main influence in the White House behind the nationwide lockdowns.

But after warning Americans to restrict their Thanksgiving 2020 gatherings to "your immediate household," she traveled to Delaware, where she met with four generations for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

Tucker noted her only real experience with infectious disease came from her work on AIDS, which Tucker points out is "a very different disease from a respiratory virus that everyone would eventually get but which would only be fatal or even severe for a small cohort, a fact that was known since late January." <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/dr-deborah-birx-admits-deceived-trump-push-covid-measures/> [Evil lying witch. Needs to go to jail. – rd ]

**'Playing by their rules': Fox News guest wants to give illegals 'directions to Nancy Pelosi's home'**

***'They laid it out and we will play the same game'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published July 19, 2022 at 12:24pm* **By Harold Hutchison**Daily Caller News Foundation

A Fox News guest suggested Monday that illegal aliens be given the address for prominent Democrats, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

“I would also give each of them directions to Nancy Pelosi’s home, Muriel Bowser’s home, the White House, Capitol Hill so they can go park themselves…” Monica Crowley said in reference to illegal immigrants being bused into Washington, D.C. from Texas and Arizona before she was cut off by Fox News host Sean Hannity.

“Monica, now you’re doxxing like the Supreme Court justices,” Hannity said.

**WATCH:**

Protesters [demonstrated](https://dailycaller.com/2022/05/10/poll-joe-biden-supreme-court-protest-abortion-jen-psaki/) outside the homes of conservative Supreme Court justices after a draft opinion in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization [leaked](https://www.politico.com/news/2022/05/02/supreme-court-abortion-draft-opinion-00029473) weeks prior to the high court’s official release of the ruling that [overturned](https://dailycaller.com/2022/06/24/roe-v-wade-overturned-supreme-court-dobbs-v-jackson-womens-health/) Roe v. Wade. Conservatives [accused](https://dailycaller.com/2022/06/24/davis-in-january-the-house-must-impeach-attorney-general-merrick-garland/) Attorney General Merrick Garland of not acting against the protests, which they claimed violated federal law.

“Apparently, the White House, AOC, other Democrats are perfectly fine with that,” Crowley, a talk-show host and commentator who served as a spokeswoman for the Treasury Department in the Trump administration, responded. “So this is their rules, right, Sean? We are playing by their rules. They laid it out and we will play the same game.” MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/playing-rules-fox-news-guest-wants-give-illegals-directions-nancy-pelosis-home/> [ Great idea!]

**Commentary:**

**The Banner on Boston's Church of the Covenant and the Decline of Christianity**[*Dennis Prager*](https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/) *Posted: Jul 19, 2022 12:01 AM* On the front of one of the oldest and most beautiful churches in the country, the Church of the Covenant in Boston, hangs a large banner on which is written:  
 "And God said...  
 "Protect Abortion Access 4 All  
 "Ensure Black Lives Matter  
 "Honor Bodily Autonomy  
 "Defend LGBTQ+ Rights  
 "End Voter Suppression  
 "Turn Guns into Plows  
 "Abandon Fossil Fuels  
 "Provide Sanctuary  
 "Abolish Prisons  
 "Disarm Hate  
 "Speak Truth  
 "Breathe  
 "In other words...  
 "Love"  
 If you needed one example of how destructive leftism has been to mainstream Christianity, both Catholic and Protestant, and to non-Orthodox Judaism, this banner would suffice.  
 God says, "Protect Abortion Access For All"? Where? Why? Terminating innocent life, that's God's will? Does this include abortions of viable babies undergone by healthy mothers? Is that, too, God's will?  
 "Ensure black lives matter"? Blacks, like every other racial, ethnic and national grouping of human beings are created in God's image. But if this banner implies support for the group Black Lives Matter, that is another matter. God abhors groups that affirm racism. Unlike the Left, the Bible knows that anyone, black or white, can be racist.  
 As regards LGBTQ+, the Bible goes out of its way to uphold divine distinctions such as good and evil, God and human, human and animal, and male and female. When God creates the human being, the Bible asserts this last distinction as clearly as possible: "Male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27).  
 "Turn guns into plows" is, of course, taken from the Prophet Isaiah's call to "Beat your swords into plows" (Isaiah 2:4). Unfortunately for the Church of the Covenant, another biblical prophet says the very opposite: "Beat your plows into swords... let the weak say, I am strong" (Joel 4:10). Unlike the Left, the Bible understands that while the ultimate dream is that human beings have no need for swords, until that messianic age, the weak must have swords.  
 As for abandoning fossil fuels, these ubiquitous sources of energy have been one of God's gifts to humanity. Without them, the modern world would not have been possible. No hospitals, no reliable heat in the winter (not to mention cold in the summer), no transportation beyond riding animals. No modern medicine. Nothing in the way of modern technology. Just a primitive life -- and a short and painful one at that. God would say before abandoning these fuels, make sure you have a reliable substitute. (We do: nuclear power.) Until then, thank God for His gift of fossil fuels.  
 As regards sanctuary, if the meaning is sanctuaries for illegal aliens, on the basis of what biblical idea does the Church of the Covenant infer that God wants America -- or any other country -- to have open borders?  
 "Abolishing prisons" alone is an idea that should alienate any rational and moral human being from the Left. Abolishing prisons means allowing an enormous number of innocent people to be murdered and beaten, of women to be raped, of shops to be looted, and of children to be molested. Nothing exemplifies the moral idiocy at the heart of leftism as well as "abolish prisons."  
 Perhaps some prominent conservative Christian church should put up a banner addressing the same subjects:  
 "God said...  
 "Protect The Life Of Mothers -- And Their Unborn Babies  
 "Human Worth Is Not Related To Race  
 "Honor Bodily Autonomy -- End Vaccine Mandates  
 "There Are Only Two Sexes: Male And Female  
 "Protect Voting Integrity  
 "Defend Yourself And Others -- Get A Gun  
 "I Have Blessed Mankind With Energy  
 "Protect Your Citizens by Protecting Your Borders  
 "Imprison the Guilty To Protect The Innocent  
 "If You Love Me, Hate Evil (Psalms 97:10)  
 "Speak Truth -- Because There is Only One Truth  
 "In other words...  
 "Love"  
 If a traditional church did put up such a banner, it would make national news and its leaders would be dismissed as right-wing religious zealots for putting words into God's mouth. Only left-wing churches and synagogues are allowed to speak for the Almighty.  
 Of all the Ten Commandments, only one states that its violation cannot be forgiven. It is the Third Commandment: "Do not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain because He will not forgive whoever takes His name in vain."  
 Nearly everyone familiar with the Commandment thinks the Commandment prohibits saying the word "God" outside of prayer or Bible study. But it cannot mean that. What kind of God would forgive a murderer but not someone who said, "God, did I have a tough day at work today"?  
 Clearly, the Third Commandment must mean something else. And it does. As I explain in my Bible commentary, "The Rational Bible," the Hebrew actually says, "Do not (SET ITAL) carry (END ITAL) the name of the Lord thy God in vain..."  
 "Carry," not "take."  
 Doing evil in God's name or attaching God's name to false or immoral ideas is the one sin God will not forgive.  
 And that is the sin of left-wing churches and synagogues. They carry God's name in vain. Indeed, they desecrate it.  
 What is happening to Christianity and Judaism provides yet another example of the most important principle of modern life: Whatever the Left touches it destroys. <https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/2022/07/19/the-banner-on-bostons-church-of-the-covenant-and-the-decline-of-christianity-n2610437>

**The Global Food System and Totalitarian Control***By* [*Kelleigh Nelson*](https://newswithviews.com/author/kelleigh/)*|July 19th, 2022  
 Politicians are more or less so warped by party feeling, by selfishness, or prejudices, that their minds are not altogether balanced.  They are the most difficult to cure of all insane people.  —Robert E. Lee, from his personal journal, circa 1860*  
 *A decline in courage may be the most striking feature that an outside observer notices in the West today. The Western world has lost its civic courage.  Such a decline in courage is particularly noticeable among the ruling and intellectual elite, causing an impression of a loss of courage by the entire society.  —Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn*  
 *Sick cultures show a complex of symptoms such as you have named…but a dying culture invariably exhibits personal rudeness. Bad manners. Lack of consideration for others in minor matters. A loss of politeness, of gentle manners, is more significant than is a riot. —Robert A. Heinlein, in his book Friday*  
 *For us in Russia, communism is a dead dog, while, for many people in the West, it is still a living lion.  —Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn*  
 As a youngster, my church and my family educated me as to what was coming in the future, Biblically and politically. I knew about communism, but back then I didn’t know [it had been around since the early 19th century](https://newswithviews.com/the-great-reset-is-communisms-final-solution/).  President Kennedy was shot and killed when I was a junior in high school. Then came the murders of Martin Luther King and two months later, Bobby Kennedy.  Tanks rolled down the streets of Chicago in April and August of 1968, and a 10 p.m. curfew was declared for the entire city.  Apartment buildings were boarded in case of attacks by rioters.  Chicago was on fire, looting and burning was everywhere after King’s death.  Mayor Richard J. Daley told the police, shoot to injure if they are stealing, shoot to kill if they’re starting fires.  
 Fires were dotted across the South Side and the Near North Side.  Six hundred fires burned destroying 28 blocks on Chicago’s West Side.  Daley, looking down from a police helicopter, broke into tears.  He asked, “What did they do to my city?”  That was 1968.  
 I don’t believe I fully realized the enormous consequences of what had happened back then, and it wasn’t the beginning; it was just another piece of the slow destruction of our beloved nation.  
 Murders on the world stage, every one of them for an evil purpose.  
 In 2020, the assassinations were aimed at the “Rule of Law” and our culture.  Antifa, BLM and smaller communist groups joined together to riot and destroy public property and to set fire to anything that would burn, all allegedly because of George Floyd’s death.  Police were injured and some killed, often outnumbered, or told to stand down while cities and towns were set ablaze.  Monetary damages reached two billion.  
 Instead of mayors telling the police to halt the violence by shooting those who set fire, they encouraged the riots.  [Kamala Harris](https://alphanews.org/kamala-harris-fund/) promoted the Minnesota Freedom Fund that bailed out a twice-convicted rapist accused of sexual assault, an alleged murderer and a woman accused of shooting at police.  And no one can forget [Maxine Waters](https://redstate.com/nick-arama/2021/04/20/maxine-waters-asked-for-police-protection-during-trip-where-she-urged-being-confrontational-n364849) urging rioters to attack people when they see them in restaurants, at gas stations, etc.  She actually asked Minnesota rioters to get more “confrontational.”  
 Our once courteous and well-bred culture has been purposely eviscerated.  
 Now we face an even worse threat.  Alex Berenson [reports](https://alexberenson.substack.com/p/stunning-official-canadian-data-show/comments) that official Canadian data show vaccines now RAISE the risk of death from Covid.  It’s much the same in [Britain](https://gellerreport.com/2022/07/uk-government-report-vaccinated-account-for-94-of-all-covid-19-deaths-since-april-90-of-which-were-triple-quadruple-jabbed.html/?lctg=14390266) and worldwide.  We all know it, but Big Pharma, WHO, FDA, CDC, NIH all continue.  
 Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum, made it clear when he said, “The pandemic represents a rare but narrow window of opportunity to reflect, reimagine and reset our world.”  
 There’s only one conclusion, they want us dead.  Those who survive will be enslaved.  
 Control of food production will guarantee massive genocide.  
**Blackrock, Vanguard and State Street**  
 In August of 2021, Jim O’Neill wrote a stunning expose of Blackrock, Vanguard and State Street entitled [Monolithic Monopoly](https://canadafreepress.com/article/monolithic-monopoly). Take a gander at it.  Jim has listed the large companies of which Vanguard, Blackrock and State Street are top shareholders.  His article first alerted me to Blackrock’s Chairman and CEO, Larry Fink.  
 In March of 2022, [Investopedia reported](https://www.investopedia.com/articles/markets/012616/how-blackrock-makes-money.asp), “BlackRock Inc. ([BLK](https://www.investopedia.com/markets/quote?tvwidgetsymbol=BLK)) is by some measures the biggest investment management company across the globe, with more than $10.0 trillion in [assets under management](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/a/aum.asp) (AUM) as of Dec. 31, 2021. [[1](https://d18rn0p25nwr6d.cloudfront.net/CIK-0001364742/3173f90f-150e-43a3-941a-fba9a7e35773.pdf)] As a major publicly traded company with a market capitalization of about [$112.3 billion, Black Rock](https://www.investopedia.com/markets/quote?tvwidgetsymbol=BLK) provides investment and technology services to both institutional and retail clients around the world.”  
 According to a May 1, 2022 Newstarget [article](https://newstarget.com/2022-05-01-blackrock-vanguard-controlling-america-centralized-food-production.html), Blackrock and Vanguard have taken over centralized food production technologies and will have near-total control over the future food supply in America.  It’s been under the radar for the majority of America, and it certainly doesn’t bode well for the future.  Remember Kissinger’s famous quote, “Who controls the food supply controls the people; who controls the energy can control whole continents; who controls money can control the world.”  
 The USDA and FDA have already approved lab grown meat, genetically modified cattle, and are funding the globalists to research and develop cellular agriculture as well as indoor growers and genetics companies, while they slack on regulations for gene-edited produce.  
 Union Pacific is mandating railroad shipping reductions by 20%, impacting CF Industries Holdings, the world’s largest fertilizer company. Vanguard, BlackRock, and State Street happen to be the top shareholders of Union Pacific, and BlackRock and Vanguard are in the top 3 shareholders of CF Industries Holdings.  
 Only [10 companies](https://www.businessinsider.com/10-companies-control-food-industry-2017-3) control almost every food and beverage brand in the world.  Vanguard and Blackrock are the top shareholders in most of these companies.  Their plans include owning all the seeds, produce and meat.  Everything will be grown inside secured facilities after a gene splice or inside a petri dish, and farmland will become dormant due to overreaching regulations, lack of supplies, and manufactured inflation.  
 No more farmer’s markets.  
 If you missed Kathleen Marquardt’s latest article, [Being BlackRocked = Being Cancelled by a Global Public Private Partnership](https://newswithviews.com/being-blackrocked-being-cancelled-by-a-global-public-private-partnership/), dig into it because it’s all about our taxpayer dollars going into these global public/private partnerships which is a network of the world’s stakeholders!  
 Think we’re kidding?!  Over [100 food processing plants have caught fire](https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/another-food-plant-erupts-flames) and been destroyed.  Conspiracy theory?  Hardly!  
**Vertical Farming**  
 Bill Gates owns tons of our farmland, 242,000 acres, but insists that all foods will eventually be grown in huge indoor vertical farming and will be in urban areas where people will migrate to, more like forced into.  Who gets to sit at the table with healthy produce served up by Gates while the rest of the population eats gene-edited produce from locked-down facilities, delivered to their local grocery store, and accessed only through a digital ID?  Check out the 11-minute video of one of these farms in Wyoming.  
 But guess what else Gates owns?  In an April 27, 2022 [article](https://www.coreysdigs.com/global/new-controlled-food-system-is-now-in-place-and-they-will-stop-at-nothing-to-accelerate-their-control/) on controlled food systems, we read, “The Consultative Group of International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) [holds](https://regenerationinternational.org/2020/11/01/one-empire-over-seed-control-over-the-worlds-seed-banks/) the world’s largest private seed banks consisting of 10% of the worldwide germplasm across the globe, which is controlled by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rockefeller and Ford Foundations, and World Bank, [managing](https://www.cgiar.org/the-genebank-platform/) 768,576 accessions of hijacked farmers seeds.”  How lovely!  Total control by total evil!  
 In one of [Dr. Joseph Mercola’s articles](https://redoubtnews.com/2022/05/new-food-system-will-stop-at-nothing-to-control-you/), he stated the following:  
 “In August 2020, Monsanto/Bayer helped found a startup called [Unfold](https://unfold.ag/), which develops new vegetable seed varieties specifically geared for vertical farms. According to investigative journalist, Corey Lynn, ‘GMOs already account for 75 to 80% of food Americans consume,’ and once fresh produce is under patent, that percentage will inch closer to 100%.  
 The University of California is also working on plant-based mRNA vaccines. The idea there is to disseminate vaccines through the conventional food supply, which puts a whole new spin on the old adage to ‘Let thy food be thy medicine.’” (Oh yummy!)  
 Good old Monsanto/Bayer who has allegedly poisoned the planet with Roundup’s cancer-causing glyphosate has a long and evil history.  Eva Moses Kor and her twin were in Auschwitz.  [Mrs. Kor sued Bayer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eva_Mozes_Kor) and stated, “They were right there with Dr. Joseph Mengele at Auschwitz.”  The parties negotiated a settlement establishing the creation of a $5 billion fund for the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future.  I was fortunate to have had a lengthy conversation with Eva in 1997; what an unbelievably amazing woman.  
 German companies, Bayer and BASF, two of the world’s largest suppliers of seed, are both heavily involved with the vertical farm industry.  
 It was during the Obama administration in 2014 when congress established the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research Act (FFAR) through the Farm Bill, which ultimately created a non-profit organization outside of the government with a $200 million kickoff from taxpayer dollars and additional millions in support from Bill Gates as seen [here](https://foundationfar.org/news/ffar-and-gates-foundation-help-farms-combat-pests-disease/), and [here](https://foundationfar.org/news/ripe/). Then a 15-member board of directors was appointed which unsurprisingly included deputy director Dr. Robert Horsch of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and high-ranking employees from Cargill and the Aspen Institute, among others.  
 UN Agenda 21 author and promoter, [Maurice Strong](https://canadianpatriot.org/2020/11/25/maurice-strong-and-the-roots-of-the-great-reset-agenda/), was the [Director of the Aspen Institute](https://naturalclimatechange.org/perspectives-on-maurice-strong/) for some years.  
**UN Agenda 21/30**  
 In June of 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio de Janeiro.  It is known as the “Earth Summit.” In the book, “Earth Summit, Agenda 21, The United Nations Programme of Action from Rio,” the foreword is written by Maurice Strong, who was at the time, the Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.  
 He starts out telling us that humanity is in the midst of a profound civilization change and we can see the signs everywhere and that all the people who attended the Rio summit and all the people of the world, there are exhilarating and uplifting signs.  
 He states, “While it is still too early to provide a precisely calibrated measure of the ultimate success of the Earth Summit, I believe it has ignited a wildfire of interest and support at every level of society in every corner of the planet.”  He goes on to tell us that since the Summit, “There has been a profusion of conferences, seminars, symposia and other organized colloquies of major sectoral groups.  Industrialists, economists, financiers, engineers, scientists – those who, in truth, hold the levers of economic power and change –have joined the constituency of earnest environmentalists in a commitment to the fulfillment of the hopes and aspirations engendered by Rio.”  
 Strong continues, “In short, the movement to turn the world from its self-consumptive course to one of renewal and sustenance has unmistakably spread from the grass roots to the brass roots.  The Declaration of Rio and its Agenda 21 action programme are now, it seems clear, on everyone’s agenda.”  
 United Nations Agenda 21/30 is now called the “Great Reset.”  All of this was planned long ago and it is fast coming to fruition.  
**Conclusion**  
 Fifty-nine years ago, President Kennedy was murdered in Dallas.  Five years later, Martin Luther King was fatally shot in Memphis, Tennessee.  On April 4th, 1968, Robert F. Kennedy, who just announced his presidential candidacy, delivered the news to a predominantly black neighborhood in Indianapolis that King had died. That night, amid one of the most chaotic years in American history, the country burned. Riots broke out in more than 100 cities, including Washington, where at least a dozen people died.  Two months later, Robert F. Kennedy was gunned down at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. The country reeled in shock, horror, and disbelief.  
 In March of 2020, America was locked down due to COVID.  We lost many of our unalienable rights, especially those of the [first amendment](https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/first_amendment).  That summer, Antifa and Black Lives Matter looted and torched the entire country.  
 America was set ablaze, but the [Insurrection Act](https://www.britannica.com/topic/insurrection-politics) was never used.  There were no Mayors like Richard J. Daley.  
 Communism isn’t on its way, it’s already here.  
 Klaus Schwab wants to “reflect, reimagine and reset our world.”  
 Yes, a reset to totalitarian control.   The world population and all its resources will be run by governments empowered to “fairly” distribute goods and services to the people.  
 Food production is the number one target of control by the World Economic Forum’s Great Reset.  The key to genocide is food control and a totalitarian slave system.  
 As Americans, we must make Schwab’s “rare but narrow window” an impossibility. <https://newswithviews.com/the-global-food-system-and-totalitarian-control/>

**Man-Made Chaos: ‘Something’s Not Right,’ says the Ants**

[*Will Alexander*](https://townhall.com/columnists/willalexander/) *Posted: Jul 19, 2022 12:01 AM* The largest known ant colony was discovered on the Ishikari coast of Hokkaido, Japan years ago.  It was estimated to have 306 million worker ants and 1.1 million queens that formed a cluster of 45,000 interconnected nests that stretched for 12.4 miles along the coastal grasslands of the Sea of Japan.   
 This was a supercolony.   
 Yet in 2009, scientists discovered that this supercolony was even larger, part of one vast ant megacolony that spanned Europe, Japan and the United States.  These ants shared a chemical profile of hydrocarbons that allowed them to recognize and cooperate with one another.  Without that chemistry, they fought to the death against outsider ants – even within their own species – to protect the health of their megacolony.    
 It wouldn’t surprise me a bit if this was the same megacolony I stumbled across a few months ago after the builder I work for broke ground on 53 acres of bare California land to build a new community of 200 homes.    
 I’ve never seen so many ants – thousands swarming the construction site every day in utter confusion over what to do about the sudden, and relentless, disruption to their lives.   
 “It takes a lot longer to build a supercolony than to destroy one,” wrote LA Times reporter Ginny Parker (1999), about the supercolony’s eminent extinction due to construction.  “… it [an ant colony] is extremely sensitive to change.  Vibrations caused by jackhammers and trucks can easily wipe out entire nests.”  
 These little creatures, no doubt, are “exceedingly wise,” as King Solomon wrote in Proverbs, but no amount of smarts could help the ants on our site piece together the plans we had to fundamentally, and forever, transform all 53 acres of that land.    
 The trucks, the jackhammers, the trenchers, the framers, the drywallers, the road pavers, and the landscapers bustled the site with constant noise that left terrified ants scrambling toward untrenched parts of the land in a desperate search for normalcy.    
 But it was too late for “normal.” The builder’s plan was set in stone.  Even as exterminators were deployed to terminate them, the ants – settling for any normalcy they could find between the chaos – were hopelessly locked into the same patterns they’d always followed.       
 Many Americans, especially in the post-pandemic, post-George Floyd era, are starting to feel like those ants.  With all the craziness we’ve seen over the past two years, we’re sensing that something’s gone very wrong with America and the world.    
 We hear the noise, we feel the vibrations, and we see the frenzied activity to tear down centuries-old institutions and to replace them with … God-knows-what.  And as painful and destructive as it’s been for innocent people, the chaos never ends because it’s all part of a multi-layered, deliberate plan designed to make it impossible to connect the dots, even in plain sight.     
 But clues are now popping up everywhere.  The draconian emergency response to COVID opened a golden window of opportunity for the master planners, but in their haste to destroy things, they’re getting sloppy.  
 Lawless mass migration, orchestrated food shortages, the killing of fossil fuels with nothing to replace it, the giving away of national sovereignty to global unicorns, the rigid intolerance against the tyrannical religions of inclusiveness and equity – all synchronized at the same moment in history to act as political bulldozers to demolish entrenched norms at the heart of Western democracies.      
 So as we’re hearing more about the World Economic Forum’s (WEF) Great Reset and its pushback against getting back to pre-COVID normal, it’s becoming impossible not to connect the dots.  Unelected global elites have big plans for the world.    
 WEF founder Klaus Schwab wrote that COVID was an opportunity to make those plans achievable by 2030, and they’re working with reckless abandon to fundamentally change the world under the cover of global chaos.  Getting back to pre-COVID normal, for them, is out of the question.  
 “Many of us are pondering when things will return to normal. The short answer is: never,” wrote Schwab in COVID-19: The Great Reset, a book he published, remarkably, four short months after COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic.  “Nothing will ever return to the ‘broken’ sense of normalcy that prevailed prior to the crisis because the coronavirus pandemic marks a fundamental inflection point in our global trajectory.”   
 Never?  Who appointed this guy god of the universe?  
 In cahoots with the governments and corporate partners around the world, the WEF strategically [partnered](https://www.weforum.org/press/2019/06/world-economic-forum-and-un-sign-strategic-partnership-framework) with the United Nations in 2019 to implement its [17 Sustainable Development Goals](https://www.un.org/en/exhibits/page/sdgs-17-goals-transform-world) (SDG) for Agenda 2030.  
 Along with foretelling the end of U.S. dominance by 2030 and that tiny robotic tubes and bio-printed organs will replace scalpels and organ donors, one of WEF’s [predictions](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/11/8-predictions-for-the-world-in-2030) for the world of 2030 is to transform the way humans produce and consume food.  They want to “de-carbonise” the food system by reducing “the amount of greenhouse-intensive food we produce,” especially when it comes to meat,” which will be replaced with lab-grown “meat.”  And yes, [bug protein](https://drhorton-my.sharepoint.com/personal/wmalexander_drhorton_com/Documents/Desktop/%C5%B8nsect%20%7C%20World%20Economic%20Forum%20(weforum.org)) and insect products are on the menu.    
 But since market forces would never cooperate with its 2030 goals, WEF partners like [the Netherlands](https://investinholland.com/news/the-netherlands-and-the-world-economic-forum-launch-food-innovation-hubs-initiative/) – the world’s 2nd largest exporter of agriculture – use the climate change “emergency” to create regulations that produce man-made crises.  Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte’s policy to cut nitrogen oxide emissions in half by 2030 will put his own farmers out of business.  But that’s the plan since Rutte works under the guidance of WEF’s Global Coordinating Secretariat to create [Food Innovation Hubs](https://www.foodinnovationhubs.org/).    
 “How is it possible that in an age when everybody’s talking about the possibility of food shortages of insecure supply chains, the Dutch government is pursuing this policy which will lead to even more dependency on international supply chains and, thus, uncertainty for the Dutch consumers?”  Parliament member Thierry Baudet asked in an Epoch Times interview.    
 It was a rhetorical question.   
 “… [P]eople governing this country are following the script written by the EU to realize what they call a Great Reset,” said Baudet.  “Across the board, a radical agenda is being pushed, which is called the Sustainable Development Goals.  All the climate hysteria of which, scientifically, is bonkers!”  
 Fighting this garbage, he said, is “the single most existential fight in the history of civilization.”   
 Western civilization is a vast “megacolony” of God-fearing, freedom-loving people spanning across Europe, the United States and the world who share political and cultural “hydrocarbons” that allow them to recognize and cooperate with one another.    
 We are not ants, but like the ants who put up a fierce fight against “outsiders” – even those of their own species – every American has a duty to those who died for this country to protect the health of the nation and the values that created Western civilization.  It takes a lot longer to build a civilization than to destroy one.   
 Today, it’s being destroyed.    
 And nothing will change if, like the ants on my construction site, we simply settle for any normalcy we can find between the chaos, hopelessly locked into the same patterns we’ve always followed.     
 We are Americans.  Their plans are only set in stone if we allow it.   <https://townhall.com/columnists/willalexander/2022/07/19/manmade-chaos-somethings-not-right-says-the-ants-n2610438>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Smotrich to Netanyahu's associates: Don't interfere in how I run my party**

***Religious Zionism chairman reportedly furious at the attempts of the Likud to intervene in his talks with Otzma Yehudit.***

[*Israel National News*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/author/Israel_National_News) *Jul 20, 2022, 10:01 AM GMT+3*

The chairman of the Religious Zionism Party, MK Bezalel Smotrich, reacted sharply to the attempt of the chairman of the opposition, Benjamin Netanyahu, to interfere in his negotiations with the Otzma Yehudit Party, *Kan 11 News* reported on Tuesday evening.

According to the report, in one of his conversations with the Likud chairman, Smotrich said, "No one should interfere with how my party is run. Ben Gvir will not get the ‘zipper method’ (equal division of seats on the slate -ed.) and not one of his MKs for every two of mine. He can run alone."

Smotrich denied that he said the sentence in question.

Earlier reports said that [Netanyahu's office is pressuring Smotrich and MK Itamar Ben Gvir](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/356779), who chairs Otzma Yehudit, to reach an agreement in which they will run together in the upcoming elections.

The pressure stems from concerns that if the two parties, which ran together last year, split up, one or both may not pass the electoral threshold, costly the right-wing bloc a significant number of seats. Associates of Netanyahu would like to see the parties finalize their joint run in the coming days.

On Tuesday morning, Smotrich told *Galey Israel Radio*, "We are, with God's help, running together. This partnership has proven itself. We will manage it in a closed room, responsibly. There is one thing that interests us - the responsibility to the State of Israel and to the Right." MORE - ." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/356813>

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| Urgent Appeal from Yaffa/Lev U'Neshama  Normally, I don't send appeal emails because our supporters are generous and we manage our money carefully to enable our programs to function smoothly. However, I am compelled to contact you now because we urgently need donations to reach our goal for basic school supplies.  For the past several years, donations made to the Education Fund were used in August before school resumes. Much of the fund is used to purchase coupons at our one-and-only office supply store. The family-owned store is happy for the business and they give a generous discount to stretch our funds.    We have 82 families in our program and they are already calling us asking if they will be receiving a coupon to be redeemed at this store. Smaller families have 5 or 6 children and large families have 13 and some more. Last year we gave 150 NIS credit to each family. Not sufficient but something. This year, of course, cost of school supplies has risen and we need to give 200 NIS.    200 times 82 = 16,400 NIS. Presently I have almost 8,000 NIS. A bit short, you can see. Also, a bit short on time. It's the middle of July and we need to have funds in place within a month to allow the coupons to be completed and mailed.  The amount in dollars is approximately $2,700. Not a huge amount in the scope of things but urgently needed by the kids here. About 1/3 of the children in Tzfat come from families who are in the poverty range. But they shouldn't be deprived of basic school supplies to have a good start in school.  Additionally, I am concerned that we will need funds to provide eye exams/eyeglasses and sport shoes and this is beyond what we are extrapolating for the school supplies.    I'm sending this appeal to everyone in the hopes of reaching our goal for school supplies and have some also for the shoes and eyeglasses; $60 for eyeglasses/exam and $30 for a pair of sport shoes).    You may already be a supporter of Lev U'Neshama and give generously but perhaps you can ask family or friends to join in this effort. If you haven't donated to us before or do so periodically, now is a good time.    **Donations may be made by** going to our web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com)  Go to the "How You Can Help" page and select an option to donate. You can even use a credit card.    Or you can use PayPal (although a fee is taken). Recipient email address: mortsmo@aol.com    Or you can use Zelle from US to US bank; no fee. You need to use my email address and my English name, Sheila Smolensky, as it is on the account.    Or . . . you could send a check made payable to my son Simcha Smolensky and send it to:  Rabbi Simcha Smolensky  6933 N Kedzie Ave  Unit 116  Chicago IL 60645  (Canadian checks or money orders must be in US dollars)    If you need/want a US Tax Receipt, email me and I'll give you the information.    Hoping you and/or someone you know, can help reach the goal to help our children.  Enjoy the remainder of summer in good health,  Yaffa Smolensky  Volunteer Program Manager  Lev U'Neshama    Tzfat Israel email: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com) web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com) |

**07/19/2022 NEWS – Don’t Miss Note from Lev U’Neshama at end**

**BREAKING: Iran Declares it Can Now Produce a Nuclear Bomb;**

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ickhrib6Wl8>

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| "Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature." -- Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) US Founding Father |

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

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

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

Exodus 22:18Thou shalt not suffer a sorceress to live. (19) (22:18) Whosoever lieth with a beast shall surely be put to death. 20He that sacrificeth unto the gods, save unto the LORD only, shall be utterly destroyed. 21And a stranger shalt thou not wrong, neither shalt thou oppress him; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

**IDF downs drone that enters Israeli airspace from Lebanon**

***Small commercially made craft apparently sent by Hezbollah terror group, likely brought down using electronic warfare means***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 7:42 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/WhatsApp_Image_2022-07-18_at_17.58.05.jpeg)

A drone likely belonging to Lebanon's Hezbollah terror group is seen after being downed by troops on the border with Lebanon, on July 18, 2022. (Israel Defense Forces)

Israeli forces on Monday downed a drone that Lebanon’s Hezbollah terror group apparently flew over the border, the military said.

The incident occurred some three weeks after the Israel Defense Forces [downed four UAVs](https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-lebanese-paper-report-idf-confirms-another-hezbollah-drone-downed-last-week/) launched by the terror group at an offshore gas field.

A statement from the IDF on Monday said air control units tracked the unmanned aircraft “throughout the incident” before taking it down.

It did not specify how the drone was brought down as it entered Israeli airspace; however, it was believed to have been using electronic warfare means.

“The drone likely belongs to the Hezbollah terror group,” the IDF said.

“The IDF will continue to operate in order to prevent any attempt to violate Israeli sovereignty,” the statement added.

In an image shared by the army, the drone appears to be a commercially available quadcopter manufactured by Chinese company DJI.

Defense officials have previously noted that at least some of the drones Hezbollah apparently uses for surveillance purposes are commercially available devices.

There was no immediate statement from Hezbollah or affiliated media outlets on the drone downing. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-downs-drone-that-enters-israeli-airspace-from-lebanon/> Hezbollah just continues to taunt and niggle away at Israel just waiting for something so they can attack. – rdb]

**Kohavi lands in Morocco for first official trip by Israeli military chief**

***Chief of staff slated to meet counterpart, Moroccan defense minister, other military officials; army says visit part of ‘efforts to broaden military cooperation’***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 7:24 pm*

Israel Defense Forces chief Aviv Kohavi landed in Morocco on Monday, becoming the first Israeli army head to visit the North African nation as part of an official trip.  
 Kohavi was slated to meet Tuesday with Morocco’s Defense Minister Abdellatif Loudiyi, chief of the Royal Armed Forces Belkhir El Farouk, and additional senior defense officials, the IDF said in a statement.  
 “The aim of the visit is to learn from each other and share knowledge, and is part of the IDF’s overall efforts to broaden military cooperation with other countries,” the statement said.  
 Kohavi is traveling with the military’s international cooperation commander, Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin, and the head of the Intelligence Research Division, Brig. Gen. Amit Saar.  
 “This visit is in addition to recent meetings and cooperation between the two countries, as part of the advancement of military-security cooperation between the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Morocco,” the military said.  
 Last November, Defense Minister Benny Gantz signed a memorandum of understanding with his Moroccan counterpart, the first such agreement between Israel and an Arab state. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/kohavi-lands-in-morocco-for-first-official-trip-by-israeli-military-chief/>

***Netanyahu vetoed large donation by Packer to Peres Center, key witness tells court***

***Former PM, a longtime political rival of late Shimon Peres, ‘was very angry’ upon learning of Australian billionaire’s plan to assist center, Hadas Klein says***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:48 pm*

A key witness in the corruption trial of opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu testifies that the former prime minister vetoed a $3 million donation to the Peres Center by Australian billionaire James Packer.

Hadas Klein, the personal assistant of Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan and an aide to Packer, told the Jerusalem District Court on Monday that Packer proudly announced to Milchan that he intended to make the donation.

“After donating one million, Milchan told Netanyahu about it,” she said.

“Netanyahu was very angry and called [Packer] and demanded that we halt the rest of the donation, saying there were other bodies worth donating to,” she added.

“Since then, Packer never donated to the Peres Center again.”

The Peres Center for Peace and Innovation in Jaffa was established in 1996 by the late president Shimon Peres. The center was founded based on the principles of promoting peace with the Palestinians and Israeli innovation.

Peres was a longtime political rival of Netanyahu.

Klein’s testimony has focused on Case 1000, relating to the luxury gifts the former prime minister and his family received and any quid-pro-quos Netanyahu may have provided in return. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-vetoed-large-donation-by-packer-to-peres-center-key-witness-tells-court/> [HUMMM” just a tad bit of jealousy and bitterness a a bunch of grudge holding for Bibi? – rdb]

**Israeli elections: Michaeli wins Labor primary, will lead the party in election**

***Merav Michaeli's back-to-back primary victories were the first ever since the Labor party began its holding primary elections in the early 90s.***

*By* [*ELIAV BREUER*](https://www.jpost.com/author/eliav-breuer) *Published: JULY 18, 2022 10:09 Updated: JULY 18, 2022 20:29*



Merav Michaeli elected as Labor leader, July, 18, 2022. (photo credit: AVSHALOM SASSONI/MAARIV)

Incumbent Labor party leader and Transportation Minister Merav Michaeli defeated lawyer and party secretary-general Eran Hermoni on Monday in the Labor chair [primary election.](https://www.jpost.com/israeli-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-712334)

Michaeli received 82.48% of the vote, versus Hermoni's 16.6%, and her back-to-back primary victories were the first ever since the Labor party began its holding primary elections in the early 90s.

Some 15,070 party members cast their votes, which amounts to 43% of the eligible voters.

Monday's primary was only for the Labor party leadership, with the winner automatically becoming number one on the list. The primary election for the party's list to the Knesset is scheduled to take place on August 9. MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-712384>

**Israel to give olim moving to the Negev, Galilee grant package**

***The grant package is being allocated to incentivize healthcare professionals and engineers to live in Israel’s periphery.***

*By* [*ZVIKA KLEIN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/zvika-klein) *Published: JULY 18, 2022 14:02 Updated: JULY 18, 2022 17:43*

LOWER GALILEE view from Tzipori. (photo credit: Courtesy)

Israel’s Aliyah and Integration Ministry, in coordination with the Development of the Periphery, Negev and Galilee Ministry, has approved a grant package for certain immigrants who decide to live and work in the country’s northern and southern peripheral regions, to incentivize healthcare professionals and engineers to live in Israel’s periphery.

Physicians will be eligible to receive 50,000 NIS ($14,500) per family, while the other professions will be given 20,000 NIS ($5,800). Both grant packages will be disbursed in two installments, delivered during their second and 13th month residing in the North or in the southern Negev region.

In order to receive the package, one head of the household must be an eligible new immigrant who made aliyah in the past 24 months, will be living and working in Israel’s periphery, and has a license to work in the following professions: medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, pharmaceutical assistant, optometry, orthotics, clinical genetics, medical lab worker, speech pathology, dietitian, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dental technician, dental hygienist, nursing, clinical criminology, podiatry, and surgical podiatry.

A person standing next to a bulldozer

Description automatically generated with medium confidence The incentive comes in the wake of a looming [healthcare staffing shortage](https://www.jpost.com/jerusalem-report/article-705910) that is slated to impact the entire country, and in particular, the periphery. According to Dr. Sefi Mendlovic, associate director-general of the Health Ministry, the next three years will be a critical period to address this issue, as Israel may very well see a severe shortage of physicians from 2026-2030.

“As part of my role as minister for the Development of the Periphery, Negev and Galilee, I am implementing an important strategic plan that the Israeli government approved that will look out for the health needs of the residents of the Negev and the Galilee,” said Minister Oded Forer.

“For many years there has been a major shortage of doctors in Israel’s peripheral regions, therefore I made it a top priority when I took office to change the situation. The program we initiated is meant to encourage the immigration of Jewish medical professionals and engineers from around the world to Israel. In this way, we hope to expand and strengthen Israel’s periphery, grow Israel’s economy, and improve the medical treatment and availability for the residents of these areas. This is true Zionism,” Forer added.

Pnina Tamano-Shata, Aliyah and Integration minister, said that "the medical professionals and engineers who choose to make aliyah and [live in the Negev and Galilee](https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/article-694093) are the essence of Zionism, and an integral part of our national mission to grow the country. We will continue to assist these professionals in all areas of life by removing the barriers and challenges they may face. The new grants package is just part of a broad process to encourage the immigration of trained professionals from the medical and engineering fields to Israel’s periphery.’’

Tamano-Shata said that she welcomes immigrants “who are strengthening the Negev and the Galilee. I am confident that the grant package will help strengthen the economy and health care system in these regions which urgently require high-level manpower assistance.”

**Nefesh B’Nefesh**

Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, co-founder and executive director of Nefesh B’Nefesh, said his organization “has been working closely with the Israeli government to find viable solutions to Israel’s healthcare staffing crisis. We are streamlining the aliyah process for olim looking to practice medicine in Israel. We welcome this grant package as a means to incentivize talented individuals to establish their home in Israel’s periphery and to contribute their invaluable care and expertise.”

As such, the organization has provided a plethora of resources to potential immigrants in the medical professions, including during its [annual MedEx event held in New Jersey](https://www.jpost.com/aliyah/article-703847), which offers a one-stop shop where prospective immigrants can have their medical license recognized and interview for potential jobs all in one day.

Those interested in receiving the new grants must apply by December 24. The grants also apply to returning minors and immigrant citizens.

Those planning on making aliyah before December 24 should apply for the grants with their local Jewish Agency branch, while those already residing in Israel should apply via the Aliyah and Integration Ministry. <https://www.jpost.com/aliyah/financial-services/article-712402> [It appears they are looking for primary care folks just like the US is trying to court more MD’s to rural areas. The “Lure of the big city” isn’t there but the cost of living is oftentimes significantly less in those areas. – rdb]

**Moderna’s new variant-busting COVID vaccine starting trial in Israel**

***Study will assess how well special shot built to be Omicron-proof protects against infection; expert says Israel helping lead way in ‘the future of the fight against the pandemic’***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 1:51 pm*

An Israeli hospital announced Monday that it is part of a trial for Moderna’s new variant-busting coronavirus vaccine.

Moderna and Pfizer are both racing to release vaccines that have been updated to counter new variants of the coronavirus, as vaccines currently in use were formulated to deal with the original strain of the virus.

Sheba Medical Center announced that it is taking part, along with other hospitals internationally, in the testing phase for Moderna’s shot. [I find it disgusting and reprehensible that they are performing trials and tests in Israel on the Jewish people. This is as far as I am concerned not much different than what was done by the Nazi criminals in WWII. – rdb]

Announcing the trial, the pharmaceutical giant noted that the Israeli hospital had pioneered research throughout the pandemic.

Prof. Gili Regev-Yochay, Sheba’s top vaccine researcher whose studies have been closely followed around the world, said her hospital considers it a “professional duty to continue to lead global research in the field.”

“The whole world is still managing the coronavirus waves, and the significant challenge we face is to find vaccines and drugs that will address the various variants and enable safe life alongside the virus,” she said. [Sorry madam but from what I am seeing “most of the waves” of variants aren’t very significant and they aren’t making most people that sick and can not warrant a JAB. – rdb]

Experts say that the testing and launch of variant-proof vaccines will be a game-changer for the pandemic. Epidemiologist Prof. Michael Edelstein of Bar Ilan University, who is not part of the Sheba study, told The Times of Israel that it was an important step.

“This is exciting because it’s testing for what will be one of the first bivalent vaccines, which means it will expand the range of variants it defends against,” he said. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/modernas-new-variant-busting-covid-vaccine-starting-trial-in-israel/> [Most of the trash concerning this issue has been lies and garbage. – rdb]

**COVID czar says new variant still mystery but mask mandate 'off the table'**

***Despite recent discovery of BA.2.75 subvariant in Israel, Professor Zarka says number of new cases indicates that current virus wave is 'on decline'; adds professionals hope to overcome future waves without restrictions on public***

*Adir Yanko, Alexandra Lukash | Published: 07.18.22, 13:14*

Israel's coronavirus czar said Monday that while the severity of the new COVID variant, which has recently been detected in Israel, is still unknown, a mask mandate is not expected to be reintroduced anytime soon.

The Health Ministry announced Sunday that among travelers who recently returned to Israel, three positive cases of the new sub-variant were identifies, including one case imported from India and the other two from France.

Professor Salman Zarka told Ynet that the latest Omicron offshoot BA.2.75 does not appear to be more dangerous than previous strains of the variant.

"There is no logic in mandating the public to do these things in this situation," said Zarka referring to potential health curbs, adding that the spread of the BA. 2.75 is "similar to the other variants."

"The working assumption is that there are more cases in Israel than the three we discovered, but it's still too early to say if this sub-variant will become the most common in the next few weeks," said Zarka.



Professor Salman Zarka (Photo: GPO)

"As of now we're still in the wave of the BA.5 strain. This is our life - there are new variants, and we'll deal with them while carrying on with our routine lives," he added.

Professor Zarka also said that although there are currently [430 COVID patients in severe condition in Israel,](https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/rkfp6dznq) "in the last ten days there are signs indicating that the spread is declining."

"We believe that we're on our way out of the current wave."

He added that should more waves of the virus emerge, it would be possible to overcome them without restrictions on the public. "This is totally our goal," he said, "that life goes on while we protect those in danger."

Zarka did, however, warn against the potential of another mass infection wave in the upcoming winter.

"We'll professionally assess if to recommend that all the public receive the fifth dose of the vaccine," he said. <https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/byt00sog29> [I guess the process is to keep JABBING until you kill them. – rdb]

**Israel signs deal to procure 10,000 monkeypox vaccines**

***Health Ministry says 101 men have been infected with disease since first detection in May***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 11:09 pm*

The Health Ministry on Monday said it was purchasing thousands of monkeypox vaccines, as total number of cases in the country rose to 101.

The ministry said it signed an agreement a week ago to procure 2,000 doses from the manufacturer that produces “the new generation of vaccine,” which was expanded on Friday to 10,000 doses.

The ministry did not name the company or the vaccine, but according to The New York Times, Jynneos is the only vaccine developed for monkeypox, and it is made by a small Danish company, Bavarian Nordic.

The vaccines are to be delivered in the coming weeks, the ministry said. It added that they would be available to “at-risk” populations first.

Israel reported its first monkeypox case in May, a man who returned from abroad, and communal spread was first detected last month.

As of Monday, 101 men have been infected, the ministry said, though monkeypox usually clears up after two to four weeks, according to the World Health Organization.

The Health Ministry said it was closely monitoring the situation and was in contact with various nations’ health authorities.

“The Health Ministry calls on those who develop a fever or blistering, or have been in close contact with someone suspected of being sick with monkeypox, to speak to a doctor,” the ministry said in a statement.

Israeli health officials have played down the risk of the virus, with a top health official urging calm in a briefing in May and saying the recent cases were not a major risk to public health. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-signs-deal-to-procure-10000-monkeypox-vaccines/> [So how is it spread and what population is most susceptible? – rdb]

**Rabbis refuse to recognize hundreds of conversions conducted in Israel**

***According to Ynet investigation, Chief Rabbi David Lau refuses to sign conversion certificates of at least 228 people despite them fulfilling all demands, including those contradictory to Jewish laws, which compound Jews to love and accept converts***

*Kobi Nahshoni | Published: 07.18.22, 14:19*

 Rabbis refuse to recognize conversion to Judaism of hundreds of people who conducted the procedure in Israel, according to new findings revealed Monday.

According to the Conversion Authority documents seen by Ynet's sister publication Yedioth Ahronoth, at least 228 people who completed their conversions in full in the past few years had not received their certificate confirming they were considered Jewish by the state. Without the certificate, those people do not have rights given to Jews by law.

Government conversion panel (Photo: Ezra Landau)

The information was released after a motion under The Freedom of Information Law was filed by the Itim organization, a non-profit assisting the public in their dealings with religious authorities.

Itim filed the motion after receiving a large number of requests from people who had not been granted the necessary documentation, having completed their conversion process.

The non-profit said that hundreds of cases they found were from conversions performed in the years 2017-2021, with Chief Rabbi Israel David Lau refusing to issue their conversion letters. The organization estimated there were hundreds more who had converted since 2021 and were facing similar troubles.

Lau's position was believed to be a vote of no-confidence in the government's conversion policies and in opposition to the rabbis appointed to the conversion task.



Chief Rabbi Israel David Lau (Photo: Alex Kolomoisky)

One such convert is "A" who arrived in Israel from the former Soviet Union with her family in 1992. The rabbinate retroactively rejected documents confirming her mother's Jewish heritage twice, prompting the woman to undergo a conversion which lasted three years and was completed in full.

However, her conversion certificate had not been issued. MORE - [**https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h1xja5z25**](https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h1xja5z25)

[This is most unfortunate and has much of the appearance of political disputes and power plays. – rdb]

**Putin, Erdogan head to Iran for talks on Syria, future of Middle East**

**The goal of the July 18-19 meeting in Iran is ostensibly part of the Astana process relating to Syria. Putin to also *meet Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.***

*By* [*SETH J. FRANTZMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/seth-j-frantzman) *Published: JULY 18, 2022 09:12 Updated: JULY 18, 2022 17:05*

Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to meet with Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during his upcoming visit to Iran’s capital Tehran, the Russian state-owned news agency RIA reported Monday, citing spokesperson Dmitry Peskov.

The trip signifies a new era of Turkey-Iran-Russia relations, with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also heading to Tehran to meet his Iranian and Russian counterparts this week. [HUMMMMM? -rdb]

This comes in the wake of [US President Joe Biden visiting the region](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east-news/article-712330). The goal of the July 18-19 meeting in Iran is ostensibly part of the Astana process relating to Syria and could have significant ramifications for Syria which remains divided.

The Russian and Iranian-backed Syrian regime controls the major cities, while Turkey controls northwest Syria, and the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces control eastern Syria.

Russia’s goal in Syria is a stable Syrian regime. Iran’s goal is to use Syria as a base for threats against Israel and to traffic weapons to Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Turkey’s goal in Syria is to use it as a dumping ground for Syrian refugee push-backs, to cultivate pro-Turkish Syrian rebel groups, and to remove Kurds from border areas. The US goal in Syria is ostensibly to defeat ISIS, although ISIS was mostly defeated in 2019. The US overall policy remains unclear.

***There are other issues afoot.***

Russia is at war in Ukraine and Iran wants to take advantage of Russia’s distraction to expand its influence in Syria. Iran also uses Syria to traffic drugs, mostly captagon pills, [a traffic that threatens Jordan](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-704559) and the Gulf. Turkey wants to begin a new invasion, targeting Kurds in Manbij and Tel Rifaat and other areas. Meanwhile, the US recently [used a drone to kill another ISIS leader](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-711880) near the Turkish border between Idlib and Afrin. In the wake of the Biden visit, it’s important that Iran and Turkey feel they are getting press and high-level attention from Putin.

**"As part of the visit, the seventh meeting of the top-level Turkish-Iranian Cooperation Council will be held on July 19. It is planned to approve steps on the further development of bilateral relations. Along with bilateral matters, it is also planned to discuss regional and global issues.”**

Turkish presidential office

“As part of the visit, the seventh meeting of the top-level Turkish-Iranian Cooperation Council will be held on July 19. It is planned to approve steps on the further development of bilateral relations. Along with bilateral matters, it is also planned to discuss regional and global issues,” the Turkish presidential office said in a statement on Sunday.

“Our president will take part in the seventh Astana-format summit chaired by the Iranian president [Ebrahim Raisi] and attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin,” the statement continued.  
 “During the summit, the sides will hold political consultations on the situation in Syria, the fight against terrorist organizations posing threats to the region’s security, such as the Kurdistan Workers’ Party and Islamic State [outlawed in Russia], will discuss efforts geared toward reaching a political solution, the humanitarian situation, the problem of voluntary return of Syrian refugees.”  
 A meeting between Putin and Erdogan is also planned. Iranian media noted, “All three countries have interests in Syria; Iran and Russia support the legitimate government of Damascus, and Turkey is one of the opponents of Bashar Assad.”  
 Other reports say that although [Turkey wants to launch a new offensive](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-710270), Iran opposes this operation. “Tuesday's meeting will also allow Erdogan to hold his first face-to-face meeting with the Russian president since the start of [Moscow's special military operation in Ukraine](https://www.jpost.com/international/article-712304),” Iran’s Fars News noted. AFP also reported on the upcoming meeting, noting that Ankara wants a green light for its operation.

Turkey’s Anadolu News said all aspects of the Turkey-Iran “relations and potential steps that would enhance the bilateral cooperation will be discussed during the Council Meeting, which will be held with the participation of relevant ministers.”  
 Among the issues Turkey is discussing is not only its demand for a new operation against “terror groups” but also a desire to look at “the humanitarian situation and the voluntarily return of Syrians to their homes will be on the agenda of the summit,” it added.  
 Big questions hang over this meeting. If Russia and Iran approve a new Turkish offensive, the US will be in a complex position. The US backs the Syrian Democratic Forces. Turkey, however, seeks to target areas influenced by the SDF but not areas the US controls. The US left parts of Syria in 2019 at the behest of Turkey when Turkey invaded a border area.  
 Ankara has ethnically cleansed Kurds, Yazidis and others from Afrin and Sere Kaniye. The US has sanctioned one of the Syrian extremist groups backed by Ankara. With the US concentrating on Ukraine, it is unclear if Washington will be able to deal with a new crisis in Syria. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east-news/article-712379>

**Gazprom Declares Force Majeure, Will Halt Gas Flows To Germany Indefinitely**

*by Tyler Durden Monday, Jul 18, 2022 - 07:51 AM*

Already days before the July 22 European ["Doomsday"](https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/world-braces-europes-july-22-doomsday) when the scheduled Russian 10-day maintenance of the crucial Nord Stream pipeline to Germany is slated to end - but which was thrown into deep doubt given Gazprom recently said it can no longer guarantee its "good functioning" due to crucial turbines being previously held up in Canada related to sanctions - the Russian energy giant has **declared *Force Majeure*to one major European customer**.

Simply put, Gazprom declared extraordinary and extreme circumstances to void itself from all contractual obligations to this customer, thus the gas will stop flowing indefinitely, as *Reuters* reports in a breaking development Monday, "Russian gas export monopoly Gazprom has declared force majeure on gas supplies to Europe to at least one major customer starting June 14, according to the letter seen by Reuters." The letter is dated July 14. "It said the force majeure measure, a clause invoked when a business is hit by something beyond its control, was effective from deliveries starting from June 14," writes [*Reuters*](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/russias-gazprom-declares-force-majeure-gas-supplies-europe-2022-07-18/).

The letter invoked "extraordinary" circumstances outside the company's control, R*euters* continues, citing a source saying the customer in question is **Germany via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline**.

And *Bloomberg* is also confirming:

* GAZPROM SENT FORCE MAJEURE NOTICE TO AT LEAST 3 BUYERS
* GAZPROM FORCE MAJEURE NOTICE **APPLIES TO FLOWS FROM JUNE 14**
* UNIPER SAYS IT HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM GAZPROM EXPORT IN WHICH COMPANY RETROACTIVELY CLAIMS FORCE MAJEURE FOR PAST AND CURRENT SHORTFALLS IN GAS DELIVERIES
* UNIPER: WE CONSIDER THIS TO BE UNJUSTIFIED AND HAVE FORMALLY REJECTED FORCE MAJEURE CLAIM

As we've been detailing, German authorities have of late taken unprecedented steps in anticipation of an enduring Russian gas halt, essentially dimming the lights across the country - which has included everything from limiting hot water, to shutting down swimming pools, to quite literally dimming city street lights as it entered "alarm" stage over dwindling supply.

*And as demonstrated in the Monday morning oil price spike (below: WTI crude futures for September), the bid for oil will remain strong* *the longer the force majeure holds, given utility companies and the manufacturing sector are likely to seek transition to oil from gas...*

It seems this letter declaring its legal release from supply obligations going back to June 14 is in preparation for definitive action on July 22, namely that the pipeline's operations are likely to remain suspended past the scheduled reboot/supply back online designated date.

EU - Whilst you are distracted by hysterical news reports about climate, the real heat (or lack of) is in Europe.  
Russian Gazprom has declared a Force Majeure notice on gas deliveries.  
  
Meaning … there won’t be any!  
  
This is huge news.<https://t.co/gMilU5VKSr>

— Bernie's Tweets (@BernieSpofforth) [July 18, 2022](https://twitter.com/BernieSpofforth/status/1549008950296813570?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

In an analysis from earlier this month (available to pro subscribers), UBS economists laid out a detailed vision of what they see happening if Russia halts gas deliveries to Europe: **It would reduce corporate earnings by more than 15%. The market selloff would exceed 20% in the Stoxx 600 and the euro would drop to 90 cents. The rush for safe assets would drive benchmark German bund yields to 0%, they wrote.**

*“We stress that these projections should be seen as rough approximations and by no means as a worse-case scenario,” wrote Arend Kapteyn, chief economist at UBS.*

*“We could easily conceive economic disruptions that lead to more negative growth outcomes.”*

To be sure, markets are already pricing in some of the damage beginning with the euro which starting this month traded at a fresh two-decade low and touched parity with the dollar, something it hasn't done since 2002.

IEA WARNS EUROPE MUST CUT GAS CONSUMPTION IMMEDIATELY - FT

— First Squawk (@FirstSquawk) [July 18, 2022](https://twitter.com/FirstSquawk/status/1549005508090429440?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Meanwhile the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) is still even amid this "red alert crisis" for Europe bizarrely focused on responding to the emergency in a way **"consistent with the EU’s climate ambitions"**... this as Germany and other European populations are about to clearly enter an extremely difficult winter, to put it mildly.

From a fresh [IEA report](https://www.iea.org/commentaries/coordinated-actions-across-europe-are-essential-to-prevent-a-major-gas-crunch-here-are-5-immediate-measures): *After many months of warning signs, Russia’s latest moves to squeeze natural gas flows are a red alert for the EU*- a snippet of which is below... MORE - <https://www.zerohedge.com/energy/gazprom-declares-force-majeure-will-halt-gas-flows-germany-indefinitely> [So who have all these sanctions hurt? The people making the sanctions as much or more than Russia plus the “common man” who has to put up with his globalist leaders. – rdb]

**Switzerland turns down NATO request on Ukrainians**

***Bern has refused to treat Ukrainian civilians, arguing that they are “indistinguishable” from soldiers, local media report***

*18 Jul, 2022 17:55*

The Swiss federal government has turned down a request to treat wounded Ukrainians, arguing that the move would violate the Alpine nation’s neutral status, the country’s Tages Anzeiger newspaper has [learned](https://www.tagesanzeiger.ch/schweiz-verweigert-aufnahme-von-verletzten-aus-der-ukraine-245604501505). The request was made by a NATO department.

The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre – a NATO structure that currently coordinates international medical evacuations and treatment of Ukrainians injured during the ongoing conflict between Moscow and Kiev – reportedly reached out to the Swiss Army’s Coordinated Medical Service (KSD) in May. The military bloc sought aid from Swiss medics in caring for not just Ukrainian soldiers but for civilians in need of hospital treatment as well, media reported on Monday.

Switzerland’s national association of health-service providers – the conference of cantonal health directors (GDK) – then said it was *“fundamentally open”* to the idea of admitting injured Ukrainians to Swiss health facilities. The Federal Health Office signaled its approval as well. In mid-June, the idea, however, was turned down by the Foreign Affairs Department, which said any such admission would be impossible for “legal and practical reasons,” Tages Anzeiger reports.

Under the Geneva Conventions ratified by Bern, a neutral state might treat soldiers taking part in a conflict between third countries but it must then ensure they *“can no longer take part in the acts of war,”* the Swiss media reported. Otherwise, such a nation would lose its neutral status, media reports explained.

According to the Swiss Blick [newspaper](https://www.blick.ch/politik/obwohl-spitaeler-dafuer-waren-schweiz-will-keine-verwundeten-aus-ukraine-behandeln-id17670838.html), Bern might potentially go as far as to imprison any Ukrainian soldiers it has treated. Another option would be to ask Moscow to allow the recovered soldiers to return to Ukraine, the paper added.

Treatment of civilians turned out to be just as problematic for the Swiss authorities under the existing circumstances, according to the country’s media. Johannes Matyassy, the Director of the Foreign Affairs Department’s Consular Directorate, told journalists that “it is almost impossible to distinguish between civilians and soldiers” when it comes to the modern-day Ukraine since “many *civilians in Ukraine have taken up arms.”*

According to the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, Bern *“did not just say no”* but offered to provide some help *“on the ground”* instead. Switzerland plans to send humanitarian aid to support civilian hospitals in Ukraine, Swiss media report, adding that the exact scale of this aid is still being discussed.

Switzerland – a nation that prides itself on its neutrality – has still joined some of the western sanctions against Russia over its military operation in Ukraine. Bern nonetheless repeatedly prevented other western nations from sending Swiss-made arms and ammo to Kiev. In April, Switzerland blocked delivery of ammunition used by Germany’s Marder infantry fighting vehicles to Ukraine, according to local media.

In early June, it also turned down a Danish request to re-export Swiss-made armored vehicles to Kiev. Bern also said that nations like Germany or Italy could send arms with Swiss-made components to Ukraine, but only if the proportion of Swiss-made elements in them is below 50%. <https://www.rt.com/news/559198-switzerland-refuse-nato-request-ukrainian/>

**LGBT ‘propaganda’ faces complete ban in Russia**

***A new bill compares the promotion of “non-traditional sexual relations” with war propaganda and inciting national, racial or religious hatred***

*18 Jul, 2022 16:16*

The promotion of LGBT relations could be permanently banned in Russia under a bill introduced to the State Duma on Monday, which likens such messaging to war propaganda and incitement of hatred.

Currently, LGBT ‘propaganda’ in Russia is only banned when directed at children, but some politicians have been calling for harsher restrictions and punishments for the *“denial of family values”* and *“propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations.”*

In an explanatory note attached to the bill, the authors argue that LGBT ‘propaganda’ has become widespread in Russia and is being promoted through the media, public events, streaming services and through the depiction of such relationships in films.

*“In Russia, at the legislative level, it is not allowed to promote suicide, drugs, extremism, criminal behavior, as they are considered negative and socially dangerous phenomena. At the same time, formally, until now, there is no ban on propaganda of the denial of family values and non-traditional sexual relations, including with the use of film distribution,”* the note reads.

The authors of the bill – who do not include members of the ruling United Russia party – claim the denial of family as a social value, promotion of so-called “childfree” lifestyles, and the approval and recognition of non-traditional sexual relations, is dangerous not only for children and young people, but for society as a whole, since it *“puts the issues of demography and future economic growth at risk.”*

The bill seeks to supplement current legislation by introducing administrative and criminal responsibility for spreading LGBT messaging across any demographic in the Russian Federation and to deny distribution rights to films that promote such relations.

“Family, motherhood and childhood in their traditional understanding, taken from the ancestors, are the values that ensure the continuous change of generat*ions,”* urge the authors of the bill, adding that they are a *“condition for the preservation and development of the multinational people of the Russian Federation, and therefore need special protection from the state.”*

The lawmakers note that the prohibition of LGBT propaganda does not deprive Russian citizens of the opportunity and right to determine their sexual preference and orientation, nor does it allow for their discrimination in any way. However, they insist that these privileges *“do not give them the right to seek public approval of such relations”* or *“disseminate ‘new’ values that carry hidden threats to society.”*

Last month, a similar bill was also introduced to the State Duma, seeking to introduce fines of over $160,000 for promoting non-traditional sexual relations. However, it failed to pass its first reading. <https://www.rt.com/news/559191-russia-lgbt-propaganda-ban/>

**EU-Israel Association Council to be revived after a decade**

***The EU-Israel Association Council was established in 1995, meant to ensure dialogue and strengthen relations between the countries.***

*By* [*LAHAV HARKOV*](https://www.jpost.com/author/lahav-harkov) *Published: JULY 18, 2022 18:18 Updated: JULY 18, 2022 22:16*

European Union foreign ministers unanimously voted in Brussels on Monday to revive a high-level [dialogue with Israel.](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east-news/article-712403)

The EU-Israel Association Council is a body established by the European states in 1995, meant to ensure dialogue and strengthen relations between the countries.

However, the council has not met since 2012. Israel canceled its 2013 meeting in protest over an EU decision to differentiate between settlements and the rest of Israel in all agreements. In addition, several EU states did not agree to hold a council meeting each of the following years, beginning after Operation Protective Edge in 2014, in protest over [policies toward the Palestinians.](https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-712353) Some states called for more progress on peace with the Palestinians before moving toward closer EU-Israel ties.

“The position of the EU has not changed with respect to the Middle East peace process, and we will continue... supporting the two-state solution,” said EU High Commissioner for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell, at the end of the Foreign Affairs Council meeting.

“We know the situation on the ground in the Palestinian territories is deteriorating, and I think ministers agree this association council is a good occasion to engage with Israel about these issues.” Borrell said that it would be an appropriate time to think about the EU’s position in the peace process. MORE -

<https://www.jpost.com/israeli-news/article-712423> [HUMM? Why do you suppose the situation on the “PA” ground is worse? Because their leadership is filled with criminals who skim off the top. – rdb]

**Nearly half of EU territory at risk of drought as heatwave strikes Europe**

***Agriculture in union’s southern states takes beating, with river basin in Italy facing worst possible level of drought***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 3:57 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/000_32ET72P-e1658147402411.jpg)

Boats in Brenets Lake (Lac des Brenets), part of the Doubs River, which has dried up due to a combination of factors, including geological faults that drain the river, decreased rainfall and heat waves. It acts as a natural border between eastern France and western Switzerland, July 18, 2022. (Fabrice Coffrini/AFP)

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Researchers at the European Commission warned on Monday that nearly half of the EU’s territory is currently at risk of drought, as southwest Europe wilted under a punishing heatwave.

In a report for July, the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre said that 46 percent of the EU’s territory was exposed to warning-level drought, with 11 percent at an alert level, with crops already suffering from the lack of water.  
 Italy was the hardest hit, with the Po River basin in the north of the country facing the highest level possible of drought severity, the EU said.  
 In Spain, water reservoir volumes are currently 31 percent lower than the 10-year average, the report said, while in Portugal, water to produce hydroelectric energy is at half the average of the previous seven years.  
 The EU researchers also warned that the lack of water and strong heat are driving crop yields lower in France, Romania, Spain, Portugal, and Italy.  
 Weather forecasts predict more of the same, the report said, adding to an already “very critical situation” that will exacerbate the effects on agriculture, energy, and water supply. MORE -

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/nearly-half-of-eu-territory-at-risk-of-drought-as-heatwave-strikes-europe/>

**Tech letting patient send text messages – by thinking!**

***Described as a 'major step' for handicapped***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published July 18, 2022 at 6:24pm*

I n what is being called a "major step forward" for handicapped people, a company soon will help a patient send text messages – by thinking them.

A [report in Bloomberg](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-07-18/brain-computer-interface-company-implants-new-type-of-device) explained the work being done by Synchron to develop a brain-computer interface that can be implanted.

The first such implantation already has been done in the U.S.  
 The report explained it was on July 6 that a doctor at Mount Sinai West medical center in New York implanted a tiny device of wires and electrodes into a patient with ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, which also is known as Lou Gehrig's disease.  
 The report said, "The hope is that the patient, who’s lost the ability to move and speak, will be able to surf the web and communicate via email and text simply by thinking—the device will translate his thoughts into commands sent to a computer."  
 The maker previously implanted four people in Australia and they've not yet had side effects. But they have been able "to carry out such tasks as sending WhatsApp messages and making online purchases."  
 The recent surgery was a first for the U.S, and neurointerventional surgeon Shahram Majidi said it was special because of the potential.  
 Synchron's device is called the stentrode and can be implanted without the major trauma, required by some other processes, of cutting through the skull.  
 "A doctor makes an incision in the patient’s neck and feeds the stentrode via a catheter through the jugular vein into a blood vessel nestled within the motor cortex. As the catheter is removed, the stentrode—a cylindrical, hollow wire mesh—opens up and begins to fuse with the outer edges of the vessel. According to Majidi, the process is very similar to implanting a coronary stent and takes just a few minutes," the Bloomberg report said.  
 Another procedure links the stentrode to a computing device implanted in the patient’s chest.  
 Bloomberg said it took several years of work for Synchron to get permission to do the first U.S. implant from the Food and Drug Administration.  
 The case is the first in a six-person, $10 million trial that U.S. taxpayers are funding.  
 The report said, "The technology remains in its early stages of development, and the trial is meant to focus more on how the human body reacts to the implant and how clear the brain signals are than on the functions a person can perform with the device." https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/tech-letting-patient-send-text-messages-thinking/ [This is the Klaus Schwab idea. He has been working for a total AI drone population. – rdb]

**Gallup: Confidence in K-12 education plunges 'drastically'**

***'Differing degrees of trust held by the country's two major political parties'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published July 18, 2022 at 3:39pm*

New polling results released by [Gallup](https://news.gallup.com/poll/1612/education.aspx) show that back around 2004 more respondents to a poll were satisfied with K-12 education in the U.S. than dissatisfied.

That happened again, briefly, around 2019.

But not for a majority of the past 20-plus years and certain not now.

The results drew the comment from [Just the News](https://justthenews.com/politics-policy/education/barely-one-quarter-americans-trust-public-school-system-poll) that barely one-quarter of Americans – actually 28% -- trust the public school system.

Most of the time over the last 20 years those who have been unhappy with public schools have outnumbered those who like the system roughly 54-44.

The report explained, "The confidence Americans have in the United States public school system has fallen drastically and is currently close to the all-time low of 26% recorded in 2014."

Only 28% said they have a great deal of confidence, or quite a lot of confidence, in schools.

"Trust has fallen sharply since the all-time high of 62% in 1975, though it briefly rebounded to 41% in 2020. In 2021, the rate of trust fell nearly 10 percentage points to 32%, and dropped again to 28% in 2022," the poll said.

The last two years have been marked by the closure of most schools because of COVID-19, and the resulting online classes for many students.

What that meant was that parents actually could hear and see what public school teachers were doing – and many justifiable objected to leftist indoctrination being delivered to their children.

That resulted in teachers trying, mostly unsuccessfully, to have parents banned from listening to or watching those classes along with their children.

"The poll illustrates the differing degrees of trust held by the country's two major political parties," Just the News commented. "Among Democrats, 43% say they have confidence in the school system, compared to just 14% of Republicans. The rate among independents is 29%."

The developments in recent years have boosted those in the GOP who have little faith in the leftist schools, where decisions often are made for curriculum and such by activists in the leftist teachers' unions.

"Republican faith in the public schools has nosedived in recent years. Since 2020, an 8-point gap between Republicans reporting their trust in the system as 'very little/none' and those reporting 'a great deal/a lot' of trust has widened into a 36-point gap," the report said.

The survey also revealed 12% of respondents say their school-aged children have worried about safety in schools, 21% say racial segregation is very serious, and 53% say the government needs to address that.

The significance of a college education is declining, with only 53% saying it is very important today, down from 70% in 2013.

And while almost two-thirds like the ideas of free community colleges and free four-year universities, only a fraction believed the government would be able to pay the costs of those programs. <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/gallup-confidence-k-12-education-plunges-drastically/> [This is pathetic and remember folks YOUR TAX DOLLARS are paying for bad service. – rdb]

**80% raped': Senators spotlight sexual abuse of migrant women**

***Traffickers mock their victims with 'rape trees'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published July 18, 2022 at 7:29pm*

An astonishingly high rate of female migrants from Central America are raped by members of the Mexican cartels and transnational gangs as they travel through Mexico to the United States.

In 2019, [a Fusion investigation estimated 80% of migrant girls and women are raped on their journey](https://checkyourfact.com/2018/04/09/fact-check-80-percent-women-raped-mexico-us/).

Now, Republican senators who visited the U.S.-Mexican border last week are drawing attention to a phenomenon called the "rape tree" to illustrate the failure of President Biden's immigration policies.

"We heard multiple reports of something, I'll be candid, I had never heard of before until today — something called a rape tree, which are trees where the traffickers would violently rape young women and then hang their undergarments in the tree as a trophy," Cruz said at a news conference Friday.

The senators explained that migrants typically cannot afford to pay the high fees charged by traffickers for escorting them to the United States.

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., referred to the "rape tree" when he asked: "How do you think the young women pay off their five, six, seven, eight thousand dollar human trafficking fee? I think we all know." <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/80-raped-senators-spotlight-sexual-abuse-migrant-women/> This is more than disgusting. What the demon-rats is doing by pushing for this is actually criminal. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**The Abortion Midterms May Abort the Democrats**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*July 18, 2022*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2022/07/the-abortion-midterms-may-abort.html)

After the Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade, Democrats lost no time in insisting, all evidence to the contrary, that abortion would swing the midterm elections for them.  
 Georgia shows why abortion might abort their party instead.

Stacey Abrams, after months of dodging and refusing to be pinned down on her abortion views, finally [came out](https://www.ajc.com/politics/politics-blog/stacey-abrams-outlines-stance-on-abortion-limits/AO6DOWGW2FF53EUBX6PE3B5RQM/) and said that, “my intention is going to be to pass legislation that says a woman has the right to an abortion. And that right continues until a physician determines the fetus is viable outside of the body, except in the case of protecting the woman’s life or health.”  
 After all the ducking and weaving, Abrams effectively supports full abortion until the third trimester. That’s a radical position, but still more moderate than the current Dem one.  
 As recently as 2006, Biden had said, "I do not view abortion as a choice and a right. I think it's always a tragedy." Now, Biden called the Supreme Court’s Dobbs ruling a “tragic error”.  
 Support for abortion until the moment of birth has become routine among party leaders, but Abrams herself apparently did not support abortion until she first ran for office in 2006.  
 "I was very much on the side of anti-abortion, through much of my upbringing. I grew up in Mississippi, in a very religious family, in a religious community," Stacey Abrams told CNN.  
 In 2014, historically black protestants in Georgia were split on the question of abortion. That split, like Abrams’ religious background, has all but disappeared.  
 "With the protections of Roe gone, the midterm elections in Georgia have become a referendum on reproductive freedom," Nikema Williams, the Georgia Democratic Party chair, [declared](https://www.axios.com/local/atlanta/2022/06/28/georgia-2022-candidates-abortion-stance).  
 But there's little evidence that the public cares. Georgia voters were [split on abortion](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/01/21/do-state-laws-on-abortion-reflect-public-opinion/) in 2019.  
 Rep. Henry Cuellar, the last pro-life Democrat, survived a challenge from the abortion lobby in Texas even though Jessica Cisneros, the leftist running against him, outraised him by a million dollars and was backed by Bernie Sanders, AOC, and Elizabeth Warren, along with NARAL, Planned Parenthood's PAC, and EMILY's List. Making abortion into a litmus test backfired.  
 A recent Axios poll found that first-generation Latino immigrants are the most skeptical on abortion with only 41% supporting legal abortion. And only [29% of Latinos](https://www.axios.com/2022/06/28/abortion-views-latinos-supreme-court-roe-poll) who speak Spanish at home agreed. These numbers are a warning that what plays well at D.C. marches doesn’t necessarily work with sizable chunks of the increasingly fragmented Democrat-Left coalition.  
 2006, when Biden still played at being pro-life and Stacey Abrams decided to let her abortion flag fly. was a key year in the fatal Democratic pivot away from even the pretense of moderation on abortion. Senator Bob Casey Jr, who ran as a pro-life candidate in 2006, and insisted that he was "pro-life" and claimed to oppose Roe despite voting with Planned Parenthood most of the time, now announced that he would vote to turn Roe v. Wade into law.  
 Some called this "the end of the pro-life Democrat", but Casey just redefined pro-life to mean pro-abortion. “I think it’s clear to most people that the description of pro-life Democrat is accurate," the Senate Democrat from Pennsylvania [put it](https://www.politico.com/story/2018/07/02/casey-abortion-pennsylvania-midterms-689505), by which he now meant trying "to reduce both the number of abortions and the number of unwanted pregnancies".  
 Bill Clinton’s call that abortion should be “safe, legal, and rare” had been displaced by a 2020 presidential field of radical candidates who almost [universally supported](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/25/us/politics/abortion-laws-2020-democrats.html) government funding of abortion by repealing the Hyde Amendment and having Medicaid cover abortions. Nine of the presidential candidates, including Kamala Harris, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, wanted to force states to get federal preclearance for abortion laws.  
 After a generation of playing it safe, Democrats are all in on abortion radicalism.  
 Warren and AOC proposed abortion clinics in national parks. There have been suggestions to set up more abortion clinics on Indian tribal lands and by declaring a public health emergency.  
 Schumer’s Senate abortion bill would have legalized late term abortion until birth, but the show vote couldn't even get to 50 votes.  
 "Republicans in Congress — not one of whom voted for this bill — have chosen to stand in the way of Americans’ rights," Biden insisted afterward. "To protect the right to choose, voters need to elect more pro-choice senators this November, and return a pro-choice majority to the House."  
 There’s no sign of that happening.  
 Only 15% of likely voters see abortion as a top priority. And few think of it as something to be proud of. Democrats have embraced abortion as an assertion of feminism. Pro-abortion protesters kick around bibles, taunt pro-life protesters by praising the devil, and smear blood on themselves. That may play well on campus, but it just further alienates elements of the Democrat coalition.  
 Democrats want to make 2022 into an abortion referendum, but they may not like the results.  
 Kamala Harris has added to her extensive portfolio by becoming the point woman for the White House abortion response. "The rights of all Americans are at risk. This is the time to fight for women and our country with everything we have,” she declared.  
 The mingled stench of radicalism and electoral desperation isn’t hard to smell here.  
 With a bad economy and uncontrollable inflation, Democrats want 2022 to be about anything else, especially social and cultural issues intended to rally their base in the midterms. But abortion isn’t and has never been a winning strategy. And that’s even when people can afford to drive.  
 Or buy food to feed their families.  
 The dirty little political secret about abortion is that support for it rises sharply by income and also falls by income. Support for abortion is highest among those earning over $100,000 a year and lowest among those who make only $30,000. And yet, abortion rates are also highest among poor women. That’s not a paradox, it’s political eugenics. And that’s what it always was.  
 Planned Parenthood’s tarnished saint, Margaret Sanger, explicitly focused her murderous efforts on poor women from immigrant groups that were in disavor at the time, Italians and Jews. Her alliance with eugenicists has been the abortion industry’s most awkward and worst kept secret.  
 Sanger’s radical sainthood has been revoked and the abortion lobby is eager to dress up its movemement with black women, like Stacey Abrams, who recanted their pro-life upbringing.  
 Abortion is big business, economically and politically, fueling a surge of donations from wealthy blue state women who support abortion and want poor women to be the ones to kill their children. Democrats have turned abortion into a culture war issue partly to profit from that cash.  
 But abortion also alienates many of the minorities who are its natural eugenic targets.  
 The Democrats want the midterms to be about the vital importance of taking money from rich white people to kill poor black babies. That may not be the winning strategy they think it is.  
 Especially in Georgia.

[*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/2022/07/the-abortion-midterms-may-abort.html>

**Who Will They Get to Do the Tyrants' Dirty Work?**

[*Kurt Schlichter*](https://townhall.com/columnists/kurtschlichter/) *Posted: Jul 18, 2022 12:01 AM* The shameful video of Uvalde cops cowering in the hallway while some freakish mutant murdered little kids brings to mind an important point. It's not a point about the cowardice of badly-led police officers – that point has been made. It's not the hygiene focus of the guy who paused just standing there to splurt a dollop of hand sanitizer into his paw. It's not even about the fact that we normal citizens cannot rely on the forces of the government to protect us.   
 It is the fact that the members of our garbage ruling elite cannot rely on the forces of the government to protect them.   
 We have seen the systematic weaponization of law enforcement against normal people under the Biden dorktatorship. The FBI has become the personal Stasi of the Democrats, seizing elderly men with SWAT teams, while the DOJ has been selectively prosecuting conservatives, or those believed to be conservative-aligned, but giving a pass to those terrorists, rioters, and scumbags aligned with the trash donkey political party. Even local law enforcement is getting into the act in some places – a heroic bodega worker stabbed a multi-felon convict to death before the criminal could beat him to death in New York. Now he's facing a murder charge, though the stiff should have still been in jail.   
 This is all fine and good for the lib fascists living off the dwindling residual respect for the institutions of law enforcement present in the normal population. That respect is gone for us conservatives – we are woke to the fact that its justice is not blind but is, in fact, looking to persecute us for its progressive masters. But normal people are slowly coming around to see that. The FBI is not Efrem Zimbalist, Jr., chasing bank robbers, mob bosses, and commies but, rather, that satanic-looking Peter Strzok weirdo trying to frame the enemies of Hillary.   
 As my just released non-fiction book "We'll[Be Back: The Fall and Rise of America](https://townhall.com/columnists/kurtschlichter/2022/07/12/excerpt-well-be-back-n2610101)" points out, a crucial nutrient for the growth of social/political conflict is the corruption of the justice system. A two-track system cannot endure; justice cannot be just for them. If people are not getting their end of the social contract, they will rightfully treat it as breached. And then things will get ugly.   
 It is beyond dispute that the left has moved from leveraging private power (via their corporate allies) to control us to using armed thugs to do it. Right now, they do it behind the veneer of the justice system, but as we have seen, that play has a SELL BY date. So what happens next? History provides a clear answer for that question – more and more armed force is used against opponents, with less and less attention paid to maintaining the pretense of a fair and neutral judicial system. From Stalin through Hitler through Mao through Castro, socialists always – always – end up sending men with guns to suppress the uppity. Don't think Biden or his heirs won't if that's the price of keeping power. They are already setting the stage – you are not a mere opponent if you liked Trump. Why, you are a treasonous insurrectionist traitor! They hate you, and they don't hide it.  
 In other words, unless we retake power in the next couple of elections and defund, disestablish, and demolish the rotten aspects of the law enforcement system, eventually out will come the stormtroopers. The left is not going to keep political power with its agenda of $10 gas, overseas humiliation, and castrating little boys to conform to the gender delusions of their Chardonnay-addled Munchausen mommies.  
 But the underlying premise is that the ruling caste can generate enough thugs to actually pull it off.  
 Who would do their dirty work, and when it comes to it, would they be any more proactive in facing millions of armed patriots than the Uvalde cowards were facing one mutant in a schoolhouse?  
 A few of the potential thugs are active leftists who support the ruling caste. Most of the true believers are senior cops or generals and admirals, ones who were appointed to their jobs by the left because of political reliability. They would happily round up the kulaks.  
 Now, we know there is also a contingent of law enforcement and the military that gets off on the exercise of power. They became cops or soldiers because they like to push people around. They can be counted on to support whoever lets them do that. These are the ones who got off hassling mommies for letting their kids run around the park unmasked.  
 Then there is the pension platoon, the time-servers who do what they have to do to get their money. They tell themselves they are doing it for the good of the country, their family, or whatever, but they are doing it for the money. They are loathsome. They are the ones who were slightly embarrassed to hassle mommies for letting their kids run around the park unmasked, but they did it anyway.   
 The rest? Aren't there some potential enforcers who won't play along? Yes, but they sadly refuse to just quit in protest – where are all the "[good apples](https://townhall.com/columnists/kurtschlichter/2021/07/19/are-there-any-good-apples-n2592697)?" They either don't join in the first place – military and cop recruiting is hitting rock bottom – or they quietly move on to a police agency that is not fully woke or to another career field entirely. These tend to be the true public servants, the good ones, who won't serve if they are serving the powerful instead of the public. So, about the time the ruling caste is ready to go full fascist, you will have some forces willing to do the thuggery, if not entirely eagerly, but they are not the best or the brightest. Nor are they the bravest.  
 Which brings us back to the mortifying Uvalde video. You had about 30 allegedly trained cops with all their tacticool gear and their bitchin' AR15s, and they retreated from a single untrained, barely capable civilian with one of the same guns. It takes very few opponents to stymie the enforcers. As my book "We'll[Be Back: The Fall and Rise of America](https://townhall.com/columnists/kurtschlichter/2022/07/12/excerpt-well-be-back-n2610101)" points out, you can also look back at those Boston terrorists with no training, a couple of pistols, and some pressure cooker bombs, and they completely shut down an entire city (there, the police were at least aggressive).   
 If 30 local cops who knew the families of the kids being slaughtered refused to put their asses on the line to take on one untrained civilian half-wit, what's going to happen when they are told to go get a few million citizens with ARs (and other modern weapons), many of them with military and law enforcement training, who are ideologically committed to defending their Constitution and all the rights actually found within it?   
 Think the thugs might hesitate?   
 Cops win by creating overwhelming force – they swamp the criminals. The [North Hollywood shootout](https://youtu.be/Ct9KMj9qt7w) is remembered a quarter century later because two guys with modified weapons were able to do the unthinkable – they turned the tables and overwhelmed the cops for a short time until so many LAPD officers showed up that they were finally killed. And if the target of political oppression is small, discrete sets of targets, that can still happen. But there are only so many federal SWAT teams, and if they are sending in the HRT to take down the ancient Roger Stone in his PJs, they can't be taking down anybody else.   
 What if there are millions of anybody elses?   
 And what if those anybody elses are not inept dirtbags?   
 In that scenario, who exactly is going first through the door? The political police chiefs? The bullies? The guys who just want to do their 20 years, file a fake disability claim for their lumbago, and spend the next few decades fishing for bass?   
 The ruling caste better figure out who is going to be the sucker who puts his butt on the line for their dreams of a prog-fascist tomorrow because there are millions of patriots who would gladly put their butts on the line to resist serfdom. <https://townhall.com/columnists/kurtschlichter/2022/07/18/who-will-they-get-to-do-the-tyrants-dirty-work-n2610360>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**As revealed on INN: Yossi Brodny elected to head Jewish Home Party**

***Jewish Home Central Committee approves proposal of party leader Hagit Moshe to place Brodny at the top of the party's election slate.***

[*Hezki Baruch*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/author/Hezki_Baruch) *Jul 19, 2022, 7:29 AM GMT+3*

The Central Committee of the Jewish Home Party on Monday evening elected Yossi Brodny, Mayor of Givat Shmuel, to head the Jewish Home slate that will run for the 25th Knesset, alongside Hagit Moshe, who will continue to serve as party chairwoman and as Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem.

Moshe congratulated Brodny on his election and said, "From today we all have a home to return to, the Jewish Home of the National Religious Party is returning to the forefront and it there is not a candidate that is more worthy of leading it than Yossi Brodny, who will head our slate for the Knesset. Very soon we will put behind Yossi a slate of values, Zionism and Israel that will return the spirit of the historic NRP to the heart of the Israeli leadership."

"We will go out together, Yossi, to reconquer the hearts of the national religious public and instill the belief that the home must be maintained. It is time for everyone to return home to the Jewish Home," Moshe added.

Brodny has served as Mayor of Givat Shmuel for 14 consecutive years since 2008. Prior to that, he was the CEO of a construction company. Brodny is a lawyer with a master's degree. In between, Brodny continues to serve as an officer in the reserves.

In his post-election speech, he said, "I am excited to stand here tonight with you. I thank God for giving me the privilege of continuing to lead the legacy we grew up with, and thank you dear friends for trusting me to head the Jewish Home slate for elections to the 25th Knesset. I'm not standing here alone. Also standing with me here are our grandparents, the parents of all of us and also our children - the future generation of the national religious public - the future generation of the State of Israel."

Brodny noted that the Jewish Home Party has undergone upheavals in recent years, "In recent years we have disappeared from the political map. A vacuum has been created, and many among the national religious public feel they have no real representation in the Knesset. Today there is a large public looking for a home. A public that needs its representatives in the Knesset to really be there for it and reflect its values. A house that will give a real place for a variety of opinions. There is no room for extremism here. Our house unites within it a mosaic of colors that come together."

In conclusion, Brodny stressed, "The Jewish Home is the political home of the national religious sector, which unites religious, traditional and secular alike. I believe we are the connecting link between all and that only we can do so. That is why I boldly and humbly take on this difficult and important task with you. Today we return to the Jewish Home and the center of Israeli political influence. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/356745>

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| Urgent Appeal from Yaffa/Lev U'Neshama  Normally, I don't send appeal emails because our supporters are generous and we manage our money carefully to enable our programs to function smoothly. However, I am compelled to contact you now because we urgently need donations to reach our goal for basic school supplies.  For the past several years, donations made to the Education Fund were used in August before school resumes. Much of the fund is used to purchase coupons at our one-and-only office supply store. The family-owned store is happy for the business and they give a generous discount to stretch our funds.    We have 82 families in our program and they are already calling us asking if they will be receiving a coupon to be redeemed at this store. Smaller families have 5 or 6 children and large families have 13 and some more. Last year we gave 150 NIS credit to each family. Not sufficient but something. This year, of course, cost of school supplies has risen and we need to give 200 NIS.    200 times 82 = 16,400 NIS. Presently I have almost 8,000 NIS. A bit short, you can see. Also, a bit short on time. It's the middle of July and we need to have funds in place within a month to allow the coupons to be completed and mailed.  The amount in dollars is approximately $2,700. Not a huge amount in the scope of things but urgently needed by the kids here. About 1/3 of the children in Tzfat come from families who are in the poverty range. But they shouldn't be deprived of basic school supplies to have a good start in school.  Additionally, I am concerned that we will need funds to provide eye exams/eyeglasses and sport shoes and this is beyond what we are extrapolating for the school supplies.    I'm sending this appeal to everyone in the hopes of reaching our goal for school supplies and have some also for the shoes and eyeglasses; $60 for eyeglasses/exam and $30 for a pair of sport shoes).    You may already be a supporter of Lev U'Neshama and give generously but perhaps you can ask family or friends to join in this effort. If you haven't donated to us before or do so periodically, now is a good time.    **Donations may be made by** going to our web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com)  Go to the "How You Can Help" page and select an option to donate. You can even use a credit card.    Or you can use PayPal (although a fee is taken). Recipient email address: mortsmo@aol.com    Or you can use Zelle from US to US bank; no fee. You need to use my email address and my English name, Sheila Smolensky, as it is on the account.    Or . . . you could send a check made payable to my son Simcha Smolensky and send it to:  Rabbi Simcha Smolensky  6933 N Kedzie Ave  Unit 116  Chicago IL 60645  (Canadian checks or money orders must be in US dollars)    If you need/want a US Tax Receipt, email me and I'll give you the information.    Hoping you and/or someone you know, can help reach the goal to help our children.    Enjoy the remainder of summer in good health,    Yaffa Smolensky  Volunteer Program Manager  Lev U'Neshama    Tzfat Israel email: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com) web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com) |

**07/18/2022 NEWS – Don’t Miss Note from Lev U’Neshama at end**

**How Israel's Immigration Fulfills Biblical Prophecy**

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilSxo3wcX8E>

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| "I will now tell you what I do not like.  First, the omission of a bill of rights, providing clearly, and without the aid of sophism, for freedom of religion, freedom of the press, protection against standing armies, restriction of monopolies, the eternal and unremitting force of the habeas corpus laws, and trials by jury in all matters of fact triable by the laws of the land, and not by the laws of nations. ... Let me add that a bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth, general or particular; and what no just government should refuse, or rest on inference." -- Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), US Founding Father, drafted the Declaration of Independence, 3rd 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 CF – fell off ladder and bad fracture leg.**  **Pray for EL – Had stoke – doing better**  **Pray for KH – diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

Exodus 22:16And if a man entice a virgin that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely pay a dowry for her to be his wife. 17If her father utterly refuse to give her unto him, he shall pay money according to the dowry of virgins.

**Top Iranian official boasts Iran has technical ability to manufacture nuclear bomb**

***Kamal Kharazi, head of Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, says country choosing not to make weapon, warns any attack from neighboring countries will trigger reprisal at Israel***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:49 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/Kamal-Kharazi-e1658071264702.jpg)

Screen capture from video of Kamal Kharazi, the head of Iran’s Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, during an interview with Al-Jazeera, February 2019. (YouTube)

A top aide to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said Sunday that his country has the ability to produce a nuclear weapon, but is choosing not to do so.

Kamal Kharazi, the head of Iran’s Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, told Al Jazeera’s Arabic channel: “It is no secret that we have the technical capabilities to manufacture a nuclear bomb, but we have no decision to do so.”

“In a few days, we were able to enrich uranium up to 60 percent, and we can easily produce 90% enriched uranium,” he said.

Iran is in the throes of negotiations to save a failing 2015 agreement it signed with world powers that was supposed to prevent it producing a nuclear weapon. The so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action provided Iran with relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear program. It was signed between Iran and the US, Britain, France, Russia, China, and Germany. [In light of this statement it is absolute idiocy to persist with so called negotiations. Brainless idiots are in DC. – rdb]

However, in 2018 the Trump administration pulled out of the pact — saying it did not go far enough to prevent Iran producing nuclear weapons and also due to its concerns over Iran missile development program. Washington reimposed stiff sanctions on Iran which responded by dropping many of its own commitments to the deal, ramping up its nuclear activities and in particular increasing uranium enrichment beyond the limits of the JCPOA.

European-sponsored talks to bring the US back into the JCPOA have stalled for months and another recent round of negotiations between Iran and the US in Qatar also failed to make progress.

Kharazi said negotiations on a return to the nuclear deal with the US are difficult, due to distrust between the sides and because, he claimed, Washington will not provide any guarantees that it will remain in the agreement.

He further rejected any possibility of including Iran’s missile program or its regional policies in the negotiations — as to do so would be “surrender.”

Israel, which opposes a US return to the JCPOA, has threatened to act alone in striking Iranian facilities if it feels there is an existential threat to the Jewish state from Iran equipping itself with nuclear weapons.

Kharazi also commented on the recent visit to the region by US President Joe Biden, which included a stop in Israel where he signed a declaration of security commitment to Israel, and a visit to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia for a summit with Gulf Council leaders.

He claimed that Israel “is in a phase of weakness, and US President Joe Biden’s support for it will not bring it back to the fore.” [The weakest one is “Bi-Dum". – rdb]

Kharazi dismissed the Jerusalem Declaration — signed by Israel and the US last week — as repeated dogma that will not produce any significant results. At the signing ceremony, Biden [vowed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/signing-jerusalem-declaration-biden-vows-to-use-all-us-power-to-stop-nuclear-iran/) to use all power available to stop an nuclear Iran.

He also described efforts to organize defense cooperation among some Arabs states — together with Israel and including Saudi Arabia — against threats from Iran as empty threats. He pointed to the Saudis who themselves have publicly said the idea is not an option.

Kharazi said Tehran is willing to open dialogue aimed at normalizing ties with Riyadh, and also warned that “targeting our security from neighboring countries will be met with a response to these countries and a direct response to Israel.”

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan [insisted](https://www.timesofisrael.com/contradicting-biden-saudis-deny-opening-of-airspace-is-step-toward-ties-with-israel/) Saturday that he was not aware of any talks at the Jeddah summit on including Israel in an integrated Middle East air defense network — an initiative that Washington and Jerusalem have both discussed openly in recent months.

The idea of a joint air defense network between Israel and its Arab neighbors was raised during the Negev Summit of foreign ministers from Israel, the US, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Egypt in March.

In late June, Defense Minister Benny Gantz said an air defense pact between Israel and its regional allies to combat Iran was “already in action.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/top-iranian-official-boasts-iran-has-technical-ability-to-manufacture-nuclear-bomb/>

**Tehran says US used ‘Iranophobia’ to ramp up Mideast tensions during Biden visit**

***Iranian foreign ministry makes accusation after US president wraps up trip to Israel, West Bank and Saudi Arabia***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:41 am*

Tehran accused the United States on Sunday of using “Iranophobia” to amplify tensions in the region during US President Joe Biden’s visit to Israel, the West Bank and Saudi Arabia.

“The United States has once again sought to create tension and crisis in the region by appealing to the failed policy of Iranophobia,” said Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani, according to the [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/tehran-says-us-using-iranophobia-create-tension-during-biden-visit-2022-07-16/).

It was unclear if Kanani was referring to any specific statement or action by the US president.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/000_32EL2PG.jpg)

An Iranian student from the Islamic Basij volunteer militia burns a US flag in Tehran, on July 16, 2022, during a protest against US President Joe Biden's visits to Israel and Saudi Arabia (ATTA KENARE / AFP)

The comment came days after Biden and Prime Minister Yair Lapid [signed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/signing-jerusalem-declaration-biden-vows-to-use-all-us-power-to-stop-nuclear-iran/) a declaration in which the US vowed to use “all elements in its national power” to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

A Biden administration official briefing the White House press corps in Saudi Arabia during the second leg of the presidential visit said including Israel in the integrated air defense network that it is hoping to establish with Mideast allies to combat Iran would be significantly beneficial. The official avoided a direct response to a question on whether there had been any progress in advancing the initiative.

A picture containing calendar

Description automatically generated The idea of a joint air defense network between Israel and its Arab neighbors was raised during the Negev Summit of foreign ministers from Israel, the US, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Egypt in March.

Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani holds a press conference in Tehran on July 13, 2022. (ATTA KENARE / AFP)

However, on Saturday Saudi Arabia’s Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan [insisted](https://www.timesofisrael.com/contradicting-biden-saudis-deny-opening-of-airspace-is-step-toward-ties-with-israel/) that he was not aware of any talks at the Jeddah summit on including Israel in an integrated Middle East air defense network — an initiative that Washington and Jerusalem have both discussed openly in recent months.

Biden on Saturday assured Arab leaders the United States would remain fully engaged in the Middle East, as he wrapped up his first tour of the region since taking office. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/tehran-says-us-used-iranophobia-to-ramp-up-mideast-tensions-during-biden-visit/>

**Lapid describes Saudi gestures as 'normalization'**

***Despite dismissive statements from Riyadh, PM voices optimism and says process progressing in 'baby steps' and 'an important step toward Israel's integration into the region'***

*Itamar Eichner | Published: 07.17.22, 19:49*

Prime Minister Yair Lapid said on Sunday that a series of gestures on Saudi Arabia's part toward the Jewish state constitutes a form of normalization between the countries.

"What's happening with Saudi Arabia is indeed normalization," Lapid said at the opening of the weekly Cabinet meeting but reserved that the process is progressing in "baby steps."

Prime Minister Yair Lapid speaks at the weekly Cabinet meeting (Photo: Reuters)

Riyadh announced over the weekend it would allow commercial flights from Israel to use its airspace en route to the Far East. Lapid called the decision "an important step toward Israel's integration into the region" and added that the move would "save money and time for our citizens and increase competitiveness between airlines."

However, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said on Saturday he was not aware of any discussions on a Gulf-Israeli defense alliance and that the kingdom was not involved in such talks. MORE - <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hjq00d2z39>

**Gaza airstrike significantly sets back Hamas rocket production, says IDF**

***16 tons of explosives destroyed when jets dropped bunker-busting bombs on subterranean facility on Saturday in response to rocket fire; IDF: Drones also manufactured at site***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 6:54 pm*

An Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip on Saturday has significantly set back the Hamas terror group’s weapon production capabilities, military officials said.

The major strike against the Hamas underground facility came in response to [rockets](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-said-to-strike-in-gaza-in-response-to-rocket-attack-2-more-rockets-fired/) launched from the coastal enclave at southern Israel, which caused no injuries or damage.

The Israel Defense Forces said Saturday that the targeted facility was “one of the largest and most important sites in the Strip for the production of base materials for rockets by terror groups,” asserting that the attack would significantly impede the terror group’s rocket-making.

On Sunday, speaking to the Ynet news site, military spokesperson Ran Kochav said the underground site was also used to manufacture drones.

“In this specific case, [the IDF struck] 16 tons of explosives in an underground UAV production hall and facility,” Kochav said.

Without citing a source, Channel 12 news claimed that the missiles used in the strike were GBU-28 bunker buster bombs. The laser-guided weapon, with a payload of 286 kilograms (630 pounds), has the ability to penetrate fortified bunkers deep underground.

[A picture containing outdoor, smoke, clouds, sunset

Description automatically generated](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22197308347975.jpg)

A view of an explosion caused by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City, July 16, 2022. (AP Photo/Mohammed Ali)

The GBU-28 was secretly sold to Israel in 2009, and has since been used in Gaza, mostly against Hamas’s tunnel systems.

In response to additional rocket fire on Saturday, the military struck another Hamas site, which it said was used as an weapon production facility.

Kochav added that it was important for the IDF to block Hamas’s rocket capabilities, rather than to strike the terror group’s observation posts, which are situated along the border with Israel.

“There’s 20 or 30 of these posts along the Strip, and each time there’s a new post… it’s more important to significantly strike Hamas’s rockets, rather than observation posts, which are definitely intrusive, but do not have any military impact,” he said.

With the Gaza Strip under a strict blockade by both Israel and Egypt for more than 15 years, much of Hamas’s arsenal is locally manufactured, often with parts and materials smuggled in.

A Channel 12 report said the site was specifically used to convert so-called dual-purpose materials, such as agricultural fertilizers, into explosives and fuel for rockets.

The report added that a decision to carry out the strikes on the major facility was made knowing that the price could be significant escalation, with the rocket attacks seen as an opportunity to take the facility out of action.

Still, Kochav said the military estimated that the attack would not lead to an escalation and Hamas has indicated that it is not interested in further inflaming the situation.

“We don’t know for sure who fired, but we know who didn’t fire, and Hamas is quick to say it was not behind the rockets on Saturday… it’s deterred,” Kochav said. “This specific event is behind us. I hope we will have a quiet summer, but the IDF’s role is to prepare and be prepared for defense, attack, and intelligence, and not just in Gaza,” he added.

Footage shows the two rockets launched from the Gaza Strip toward Ashkelon. (Video: Dadi Fold) [pic.twitter.com/nXqgq9APXL](https://t.co/nXqgq9APXL)

— Emanuel (Mannie) Fabian (@manniefabian) [July 15, 2022](https://twitter.com/manniefabian/status/1548081185405825025?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The rocket fire came hours after US President Joe Biden departed the country, and shortly after he announced an agreement that included steps by Riyadh benefiting Israel. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/gaza-airstrike-significantly-sets-back-hamas-rocket-production-says-idf/>

**Cop killed in car ramming laid to rest; widow berates minister over open-fire rules**

**Master Sergeant Barak Meshulam, 29, a father of two, buried in Kfar Saba; Ramallah resident, 17, who ran him over at roadblock in stolen car being investigated for murder**

By [TOI staff](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) Today, 6:06 pm Updated at 7:47 pm

Police said Sunday that the 17-year-old Palestinian arrested in the deadly ramming of police Master Sergeant Barak Meshulam earlier in the day at a roadblock in central Israel is being investigated for murder.

The suspect, who has not been named, appeared in court before a judge Sunday afternoon, and was ordered remanded into custody for only a further day.

An attorney for the teenager denied that he intended to harm anyone, claiming that Meshulam’s death was a tragic accident.

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| [Ariella Meshulam, the widow of police Master Sergeant Barak Meshulam, who was fatally run over by Palestinian teen driving a stolen car, confronts Public Security Minister Omer Bar Lev at the funeral, July 17, 2022. (Twitter screenshot; used in accordance with clause 27a of the copyright law)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/Screen-Shot-2022-07-17-at-20.44.28-e1658080194685.jpg)  Ariella Meshulam, the widow of police Master Sergeant Barak Meshulam, who was fatally run over by Palestinian teen driving a stolen car, confronts Public Security Minister Omer Bar Lev at the funeral, July 17, 2022. (Twitter screenshot; used in accordance with clause 27a of the copyright law | [Police officer Barak Meshulam, killed July 17, 2022 (Courtesy)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/IMG-20220717-WA0010-e1658040084204.jpg)  Police officer Barak Meshulam, killed July 17, 2022 (Courtesy) |

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/Screenshot-2022-07-17-at-7.17.26-pm-e1658075196107.png)

Screen capture from video of the funeral of police Master Sergeant Barak Meshulam, who was fatally run over by Palestinian teen driving a stolen car, July 17, 2022. (Twitter)

Meshulam, 29, who was married with two children, was laid to rest in the military cemetery in his home town of Kfar Saba on Sunday evening.

Hundreds attended the ceremony, including Police Chief Kobi Shabtai and Public Security Minister Omer Barlev, who is responsible for police.

“Love of my life for 11 years,” eulogized Meshulam’s wife, Ariella. “It is important you know that I am not angry. I keep telling them what an amazing father you are. I promise to be strong for them,” she said, referring to their children.

“You are a hero. It is hard for me to believe that I won’t see your face. I will love you forever.”

Meshulam’s mother, Zuki, described him as “the light of our lives, our foundation stone, the thread that connected us all.” She added that it “is not natural for a parent to bury their child,” decrying the incident as “premeditated murder.” MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-teen-suspected-of-murder-for-killing-officer-in-car-chase-say-police/>

**Allied with Sa’ar, Gantz sets out to crack the ‘soft right’**

***As Netanyahu has flirted with the extremes, a fertile patch of political ground has appeared; Blue and White-New Hope is hoping to capture it***

*By* [*Simon Davies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/simon-davies/) *and* [*Joshua Hantman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/joshua-hantman/) *Today, 1:42 pm*

In microeconomics and game theory, the median voter theorem states that “in a majority rule voting system, the candidate or party most preferred by the median voter will be elected.”

While Israel has an extremely diverse political landscape, with 13 parties in the current Knesset, modern Israeli politics has often been a battle over this median voter, or what commentators call the “soft right.”

At this juncture, it is important to note that the right and left in Israel today are not what foreign readers may be used to. In Israel, right and left are generally not defined by economic ideologies or social platforms. Instead, the words “right” and “left” have become identity markers (and of course slurs), often revolving around attitudes toward peace, the Palestinians, and more recently, issues relating to democracy and the judiciary.

There is also a large degree of “tribal identity” – if you were born to a right-wing family in Netivot, or a left-wing family in north Tel Aviv, data suggests your children and your neighbors will vote in a similar way. Economics, fiscal policy, and debates about big government versus small government do not contribute much to Israel’s delineation between right and left, nor does the issue of religion and state. Israel, for example, has self-defining right-wing secular parties, and religious parties whose social welfare policies (and voting patterns) can be firmly on the left.

Many pollsters and strategists (including the authors) have conducted polls and focus groups in an attempt to map out and define the “soft-right” — demographically, geographically and psychographically.

Some characteristics and patterns do stand out. The voters tend to be more traditional in terms of religiosity, and more hawkish on security and peace. In many focus groups, we also came across traditional Likudniks, of the Benny Begin or Dan Meridor ilk, who had simply lost faith in the personalization of the party.

But perhaps the most unique feature of this part of the electorate is that there is no defining feature. It’s your median voter. It’s the closest thing Israel has to a norm.

So, what does that leave in the center? Well, if we’re judging by the median voter, or perhaps even the mean voter, the soft right *is* the center. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/allied-with-saar-gantz-sets-out-to-crack-the-soft-right/>

**Michaeli expected to hold onto Labor leadership in primary — a first in decades**

***Incumbent expected to easily win Monday’s vote, but underdog challenger Eran Hermoni says Labor needs to shift to the center if it wants to be a ‘ruling party’ again***

*By* [*Carrie Keller-Lynn*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/carrie-keller-lynn/) *Today, 4:53 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/F220623AVS08-e1658060983245.jpg)

Labor leader and Transportation Minister Merav Michaeli attends a press conference at the new Allenby underground station, part of Tel Aviv's developing light rail system, June 23, 2022. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)

Labor leader and Transportation Minister Merav Michaeli is expected to coast to victory in her party’s leadership primary on Monday, which would make her the first Labor chief since the 1980s to be reelected to the position for a consecutive term.

Although party sources say a Michaeli victory is anticipated, her self-proclaimed “underdog” challenger — party secretary general Eran Hermoni — said that he is mounting his campaign because he thinks Labor has drifted too far to the left and would have a shot at regaining its status as a “ruling party” if it rebalanced towards the center.

“Diplomatically and security-wise, we’ve been carried too left. We need to move more to the center,” Hermoni told The Times of Israel in a Sunday phone interview, adding that the political center is Labor’s “natural place.”

As one of a handful of Israeli political parties that open their candidate list to voter input, Labor will hold a separate primary for the rest of its Knesset roster on August 9, in anticipation of general elections scheduled for November 1. Michaeli would make history if she holds on to power in the vote, which no Labor leader has done Shimon Peres in the 1980s — though Ehud Barak returned to lead the party in 2007 after an earlier stint.

Last year, Michaeli brought Labor back into the coalition and, as she has said repeatedly, managed to maintain party discipline within her 7-seat faction despite ideological challenges in the big tent political alliance — until it ultimately crumbled last month. She also claims to have brought energy into her role as transportation minister, putting an emphasis on refreshing public transportation and associated infrastructure. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/michaeli-expected-to-hold-onto-labor-leadership-in-primary-a-first-in-decades/>

**US Central Command chief arrives in Israel to discuss air defenses**

***Visit follows recent ‘war games’ discussion between visiting CENTCOM delegation and senior IDF officers; Biden viewed Israeli defense tech during trip last week***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 4:35 pmUpdated at 8:35 pm*

Michael Erik Kurilla, head of the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), arrived in Israel on Sunday for his second official visit since entering the role in April.

His arrival followed a meeting held between a visiting delegation of CENTCOM officers and senior Israel Defense Forces officials last month, where joint action plans for a multi-front war were discussed and simulated, the IDF said.

The IDF said that Kurilla — who was most recently in Israel in May — will focus on Israel’s air defenses during his visit, without elaborating further.

On Wednesday, US President Joe Biden was given a tour of Israel’s multi-tier air defense systems, including the long-range Arrow, medium-range David’s Sling, short-range Iron Dome, and an in-development high-powered laser interception system dubbed Iron Beam.

Israel hopes to partner with Washington on the Iron Beam project, including American investment in further development and deployment of the system.

Amid reports of efforts to create an integrated air defense network for Israel to cooperate with its Arab allies against Iran, a US official told The Times of Israel that the initiative is [still in the works](https://www.timesofisrael.com/iron-dome-yad-vashem-maccabiah-bethlehem-bidens-2-days-in-israel-and-west-bank/), and that Biden’s look at some of the technologies Israel exports to some of its regional allies would be a “nod” to such cooperation.

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| [Michael Kurilla, head of the United States Central Command (left) meets with IDF chief, Aviv Kohavi, on July 17, 2022. (Israel Defense Forces)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/WhatsApp_Image_2022-07-17_at_11.05.20_2_0.jpeg)  Michael Kurilla, head of the United States Central Command (left) meets with IDF chief, Aviv Kohavi, on July 17, 2022. (Israel Defense Forces) | [A group of men in military uniforms  Description automatically generated with low confidence](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/WhatsApp-Image-2022-07-17-at-7.38.07-PM.jpeg)  CENTCOM commander Michael Erik Kurilla (left) meets with Defense Minister Gantz (center) and military chief Aviv Kohavi (right), July 17, 2022. (Ariel Hermoni/Defense Minstry) |

Greeting Kurilla, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kohavi said “the common interests of the United States and the State of Israel, and the ongoing cooperation regarding the challenges in the Middle East, is a major reason for the close partnership between the US Armed Forces and the IDF,” according to a statement.

“Through cooperation with the US Central Command, we have been able to promote an innovative regional defense system that will provide a broad and accurate operational response to the various security threats in the area. At the same time, we are training and developing a wide range of additional strike capabilities in the face of evolving threats,” he said.

In remarks provided by the IDF, Kurilla said ” the United States’ commitment to Israel remains ironclad.”

“Regional security remains paramount for both CENTCOM and the IDF,” he added.

Later, Kurilla met with Defense Minister Benny Gantz, for the first time.

“During my first meeting with CENTCOM Commander General Kurilla, I emphasized the unparalleled defense relations between Israel and the US, as reflected during the historic POTUS visit. I also highlighted CENTCOM’s important role in maintaining regional peace and stability,” Gantz said on Twitter.

[A picture containing person, military uniform

Description automatically generated](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/WhatsApp_Image_2022-07-17_at_18.25.24.jpeg) “Our discussion today focused on developing regional challenges, including Iran’s destabilizing activities via proxies and in the maritime arena. We also covered opportunities to deepen military ties and to facilitate cooperation with regional partners,” he added.

Michael Kurilla, head of the United States Central Command (right) meets with the deputy IDF chief Herzi Halevi, next to an Iron Dome air defense system, on July 17, 2022. (Israel Defense Forces)

The IDF said that during last month’s meetings between the two militaries, “the mechanisms for operational coordination between the armies, and the main points of operational, intelligence, and technological cooperation, were reviewed,” referring to the discussion as “war games.” MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-central-command-chief-arrives-in-israel-to-discuss-air-defenses/>

**IDF chief: ‘Diplomacy can fail,’ attack on Iran ‘at the center’ of IDF preparations**

***Aviv Kohavi acknowledges ‘possibility’ IDF will need to strike Iranian nuke facilities, says Israel has ‘moral obligation’ to be ready with military response***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 10:31 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/site-olympus-חילוף-מ׳-פקע״ר-DzxbG76DCMI-1280x720-33m08s.png)

IDF chief Aviv Kohavi speaks at a ceremony marking the change of the Home Front Command's chief, July 17, 2022. (Israel Defense Forces)

Army chief Aviv Kohavi on Sunday said it was Israel’s “moral obligation” to prepare a military response against Iran’s nuclear program, hours after a senior Iranian official said his country has the ability to produce a weapon.

In light of growing uncertainty regarding a return by Iran to the 2015 nuclear deal due to long-stalled negotiations with world powers, the past year has seen the Israel Defense Forces ramp up its efforts to prepare a credible military threat against Tehran’s nuclear facilities.

In a speech at a ceremony marking the change of the military’s Home Front Command chief, Kohavi said, “Preparing the home front for war is a task that must be accelerated in the coming years, especially in light of the possibility that we will be required to act against the nuclear threat.”

“The IDF continues to prepare vigorously for an attack on Iran and must prepare for every development and every scenario,” he said.

Kohavi said “preparing a military option against the Iranian nuclear program is a moral obligation and a national security order,” adding that such preparation is “at the center” of the IDF’s preparations, and includes “a variety of operational plans, the allocation of many resources, the acquisition of appropriate weapons, intelligence and training.”

Last month, dozens of Israeli Air Force fighter jets conducted air maneuvers over the Mediterranean Sea, [simulating](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-air-force-simulates-widescale-strike-on-iran-nuclear-facilities/) striking Iranian nuclear facilities.

Iran is in the throes of negotiations to save a failing 2015 agreement it signed with world powers that was supposed to prevent it from producing a nuclear weapon. The so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action offered Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear program. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-chief-israel-has-moral-obligation-to-ready-military-response-to-irans-nukes/>

**Abbas thanks Saudi royals for backing Palestinian cause at Jeddah summit with Biden**

***PA president writes to king and crown prince expressing gratitude for supporting a 2-state solution with East Jerusalem as capital of a future Palestinian state***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:36 pm*

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday conveyed his gratitude to the Saudi Arabian royal leadership for backing the Palestinian cause during their summit this weekend with the US president.  
 Abbas sent a message to King Salman of Saudi Arabia and another to his son, Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, the de facto ruler of the kingdom, the Wafa news agency reported.  
 Abbas thanked the Saudis for vocally backing a two-state solution during the Jeddah summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council on Friday, which was attended by visiting US President Joe Biden and GCC members.  
 The Palestinian leader wrote thanking them for “their support for the national rights of our people and their just cause, emphasizing the end of the Israeli occupation of our land and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital,” according to the report.  
 Abbas also lauded the Saudis on the outcome of the summit which, he said, would enhance regional security, stability and Arab economies.  
 After Biden’s meetings with both the king and the crown prince, the countries released a joint [communique](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/07/15/the-jeddah-communique-a-joint-statement-between-the-united-states-of-america-and-the-kingdom-of-saudi-arabia/) where the two sides backed the two-state solution as the only way to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. MORE -

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/abbas-thanks-saudi-royals-for-backing-palestinian-cause-at-jeddah-summit-with-biden/>

**Forest fires sweep across Europe as scorching heatwave shows no sign of abating**

***Blazes in France, Greece, Portugal and Spain destroy tens of thousands of hectares; Britain issues first-ever ‘red’ warning for extreme heat, warns of risk to life***

*By* [*Daniel Silva*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/daniel-silva/) *Today, 6:12 pm*

MADRID, Spain (AFP) — Firefighters struggled to contain wildfires sweeping across southwest Europe on Sunday as a heatwave showed no sign of abating, with Britain poised to set new temperature records this coming week.

Blazes raging in France, Greece, Portugal and Spain have destroyed thousands of hectares of land, forced hundreds from their homes and killed several emergency personnel since last week.

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| [Firefighters try to control a forest fire near Louchats in Gironde, southwestern France on July 17, 2022. (THIBAUD MORITZ / AFP)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/000_32EN94F.jpg)  Firefighters try to control a forest fire near Louchats in Gironde, southwestern France on July 17, 2022. (THIBAUD MORITZ / AFP) | A picture containing tree, outdoor, plant, forest  Description automatically generated  A firefighter tries to control a forest fire near Louchats in Gironde, southwestern France on July 17, 2022.(THIBAUD MORITZ / AFP) |

It is the second heatwave engulfing parts of southwest Europe in weeks. Scientists blame climate change and predict more frequent and intense episodes of extreme weather such as heatwaves and drought.

Firefighters in France’s southwestern Gironde region were fighting to control two forest blazes that have devoured nearly 11,000 hectares (27,000 acres) since Tuesday.

The wildfires have forced more than 14,000 people — residents and tourists combined — to decamp. Seven emergency shelters have been set up to take in evacuees.

Meteo France forecast temperatures of up to 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in parts of southern France on Sunday, with new heat records expected on Monday. “The heat is intensifying. The heatwave is spreading across the country,” the weather office said.

France placed 37 departments, mainly down its Atlantic seaboard, on orange high alert on Sunday.

Authorities in the French Alps urged climbers bound for Mont Blanc, Europe’s highest mountain, to postpone their trip due to repeated rock falls caused by “exceptional climatic conditions” and “drought.”

The call comes after a section of Italy’s biggest Alpine glacier gave way at the start of the month, killing 11 people — a disaster officials blamed on climate change.

Spanish authorities reported around 20 wildfires still raging out of control in different parts of the country from the south to Galicia in the far northwest, where blazes have destroyed around 4,500 hectares of land.

Another fire burning in the Mijas mountain range inland from the southern coastal city of Malaga has so far destroyed about 2,000 hectares of land, local officials said.

The fire forced the evacuation of just over 3,000 people but around 2,000 people have since been allowed to return to their homes.

“We didn’t stop working all night,” regional agriculture minister Carmen Crespo told Spanish public television of efforts to quench the flames.

A helicopter flying over a body of water

Description automatically generated with medium confidence Spain’s national weather office, AEMET, forecast “significantly high” temperatures for most of mainland Spain and the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean on Sunday.

A helicopter takes part in a search and rescue operation near the eastern Aegean Sea island of Samos after a firefighting helicopter crashed into the sea, Greece, July 13, 2022. (Michael Svarnias/AP)

The mercury was expected to hit 42°C (107.6°F) in the northern city of Logrono and 40°C in Madrid and the southern city of Seville.

A 60-year-old street cleaner in Madrid died on Saturday after suffering heat stroke the day before while working, local officials said.

The fight against the flames has also claimed the lives of a number of emergency personnel, including a pilot killed when his plane crashed in northern Portugal and two who died in Greece when their helicopter fell into the sea.

In Portugal, almost the entire country remained on high alert for wildfires despite a slight drop in temperatures, after hitting 47°C — a record for the month of July — on Thursday.

Only one major fire was burning on Sunday in the north.

The Lisbon government was to decide on Sunday whether to extend a week-long state of contingency.

A person holding a tree branch

Description automatically generated with low confidence

A volunteer uses a tree branch trying to prevent a forest fire from reaching homes in Casal da Quinta, outside Leiria, central Portugal, July 12, 2022. (Joao Henriques/AP)

In Greece, the civil defense service had brought a wildfire raging on the Mediterranean island of Crete since Friday under control.

In the United Kingdom, the weather office issued a first-ever “red” warning for extreme heat, cautioning there was a “risk to life.”

The Met Office said temperatures in southern England could exceed 40°C on Monday or Tuesday for the first time, leading some schools to say they would stay closed next week.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan advised people in the capital to use public transportation only if “absolutely necessary.” National train operators also warned passengers to avoid travel. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/forest-fires-sweep-across-europe-as-scorching-heatwave-shows-no-sign-of-abating/>

**Former Russian president warns of ‘Judgement Day’**

***Dmitry Medvedev has threatened the Ukrainian leadership with a massive strike should Kiev attack Crimea***

*17 Jul, 2022 16:17*

The leadership of Ukraine would meet their maker should it attack Crimea, as Russia would retaliate with a massive strike, the country’s former president has warned.

Speaking with Second World War veterans on Sunday in the city of Volgograd, Dmitry Medvedev, Russia’s president from 2008 to 2012 and currently deputy chairman of the country’s Security Council, issued a dire warning to the authorities in Kiev, who had earlier said that a strike against Crimea was on the cards.

“Some exalted bloody clowns that are periodically popping up over there with some statements, and are even trying to threaten us – I mean an attack on Crimea and so on,” should be aware that the consequences of such an action would be severe for them, the Russian official said.

According to Medvedev, *“in case something like that happens, the Day of Judgement will come to them all simultaneously – a swift and hard one.”*

The former president added that “it will be very difficult to hide” should Russia launch such a massive strike. He noted that despite these risks, the Ukrainian leadership is *“continuing to provoke the overall situation with such statements.”*

At some point the Ukrainian authorities will start to realize that Russia will accomplish all of its operational goals in Ukraine no matter what, he said, including demilitarization and denazification.

Medvedev, however, qualified his remark, by saying that the hope for such a scenario was “fairly faint because they are not acting sensibly.” He went on to claim that the government in Kiev is eager to fight Russian forces *“to the last Ukrainian,”* but this is likely to backfire and lead to the *“collapse of the existing political regime”* in the future.

The former president acknowledged that Russia itself was going through a *“very difficult”* period in its history, and expressed confidence, however, that the country would emerge stronger out of the current conflict.

“And we will achieve the set goals in the name of our country’s developme*nt and so as not to let our dear veterans down, who defended our motherland during the Great Patriotic War,”* Medvedev concluded.

Earlier on Sunday, Russian Senator Andrey Klishas echoed the former president’s statement, saying that “threats from the Ukrainian junta to attack Crimea or the Crimean Bridge only confirm that ‘denazification’ and demilitarization must be carried out *throughout the whole of Ukraine.”*

Meanwhile, MP Mikhail Sheremet, who represents the peninsula in the Russian parliament, threatened Ukraine with a retaliation so harsh that the country would never be able to recover from it.

A string of warnings and threats began pouring out of Moscow after a spokesman for Ukraine’s Directorate of Intelligence at the Ministry of Defense, Vadim Skibitskiy, said on Saturday that Kiev considers the Crimean Peninsula to be a legitimate target for long-range weapons provided by the West.

*“Today, the Crimean Peninsula has become a hub for the movement of all equipment and weapons that come from the Russian Federation to the south of our state,”* the Ukrainian official explained.

Crimea became a Russian region back in 2014 following a referendum in which the vast majority of its residents voted in favor of rejoining Russia. This vote was preceded by the Maidan coup in Kiev, with the predominantly Russian-speaking population of the peninsula refusing to recognize the new authorities as legitimate.

Ukraine, along with the EU, the US and most other countries, consider Crimea an inalienable part of Ukrainian territory, which is temporarily occupied by Russia. <https://www.rt.com/russia/559142-medvedev-crimea-strike-ukraine-judgement-day/>

**Zelensky fires head of security service and prosecutor general**

***The exact reasons for the removal of Bakanov and Venediktova from their positions have not yet been revealed***

*17 Jul, 2022 19:06*

Ukrainian Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova and the chief of the country's SBU security service Ivan Bakanov have been fired from their positions effective Sunday, President Volodymyr Zelensky announced in a pair of presidential decrees.

Bakanov was removed under Article 47 of the Disciplinary Statute of the Ukrainian military, which refers to failure in official duties *“which caused loss of life or other grave consequences or create a threat of such consequences.”* However, the specific reason for his firing was not made public, and his replacement has not yet been named.

Venediktova, who had served as Ukraine’s prosecutor general since March 2020, has been replaced by Oleksiy Symonenko. Reasons for her removal have not been made public.

Zelensky has dismissed a number of staffers recently, firing five ambassadors last week, including the ambassador to Germany Andriy Melnyk. The ambassadors to Hungary, Czech Republic, Norway, and a fifth ambassador with responsibility for India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were all let go. <https://www.rt.com/russia/559148-sbu-head-and-prosecutor-fired-ukraine/>

**Health experts quit CDC, NIH due to 'bad science'**

***Mass exodus amid low morale causing staffing shortages***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published July 17, 2022 at 11:16am*

Amid low morale fostered by "bad science," frustrated and alarmed experts with the NIH, CDC and FDA are quitting, creating serious staffing shortages, reports Johns Hopkins University professor Dr. Marty Makary.

Leadership of the agencies is being questioned, with the authorization, for example, of COVID-19 vaccines for children 4 years old and younger. Pfizer's trial data found no statistically significant evidence that the shots provide benefit for young children. Meanwhile, members of FDA vaccine panels have expressed concern about the lack of safety data for children.

Makary, [writing on the Substack page Common Sense](https://www.commonsense.news/p/us-public-health-agencies-arent-following), says that other decisions by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration that have hurt morale among employees include support for masking in schools and the closing of schools during the pandemic.

“It's like a horror movie I'm being forced to watch and I can't close my eyes,” a senior FDA official told Common Sense. “People are getting bad advice and we can’t say anything.”

An NIH scientist who spoke on condition of anonymity said there is "no leadership right now."

"Suddenly, there's an enormous number of jobs opening up at the highest level positions," the scientist said.

A CDC scientist told Common Sense, also on condition of anonymity, that the agency "failed to balance the risks of COVID with other risks that come from closing schools."

"Learning loss, mental health exacerbations were obvious early on and those worsened as the guidance insisted on keeping schools virtual," the scientist said. "CDC guidance worsened racial equity for generations to come. It failed this generation of children."

Makary, in an interview with Fox News host Tucker Carlson, said doctors working for federal agencies are "muzzled," prevented from presenting their views on various issues if they conflict with the government's narrative.

"I talked with many doctors for this piece at NIH and CDC," he said, referring to his Substack article, "who are extremely frustrated."

"They are smart people," he said, who know that the vaccines provide no benefit and that there is no health emergency among young children.

"Not only are [the agencies] bypassing the normal scientific process, but [the scientists] can't really say anything, because if they do, they know that their jobs are at risk and they will be treated very differently," said Makary, who is a professor of public health at Johns Hopkins.

One scientist told Makary that there is no transparency in how the top White House coronavirus adviser, Dr. Anthony Fauci, makes decisions. Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984, doesn't even consult with the "real experts," the scientist said.

To restore credibility, Makary said, public health officials need to display "more humility, less absolutism, more answers like, 'We don't know,' when that's the right answer, and less paternalism." <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/health-experts-quit-cdc-nih-due-bad-science/> [You should not be surprised at all. The globalist agenda is being executed by those at the top and everything else doesn’t matter. – rdb]

**Government documents confirm worry about 'gain-of-function' work at Wuhan**

***Focused on danger to people from coronavirus***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published July 17, 2022 at 12:21pm*

Government watchdog Judicial Watch has revealed documents from the National Institutes of Health that show the FBI had questions about taxpayer money going to the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China, and that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease specifically worried about the "gain of function" component of the work there.

The organization [reported it has obtained nearly 1,700 pages of records from the NIH, and one of the revelations is that FBI "inquiry" into the NIH grant to Wuhan.](https://www.judicialwatch.org/nih-fbi-inquiry-of-wuhan-grant/)

"The records also show National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) officials were concerned about 'gain-of-function' research in China’s Wuhan Institute of Virology in 2016. The Fauci agency was also concerned about EcoHealth Alliance’s lack of compliance with reporting rules and use of gain-of-function research in the NIH-funded research involving bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, China," the report said. [ One more indication that grouchi fauci lied to congress repeatedly. – rdb]

While the deadly COVID-19 virus that was unleashed on the world is suspected to have come from that lab, Chinese officials have simply refused to cooperate with investigations that could determine that.

The virus is blamed for millions of deaths around the world.

In America, there have been significant questions raised about the process that was going on at the lab before COVID-19 exploded onto mankind, including whether American taxpayers were being billed for "gain of function" research, which essentially takes a threatening virus and tries to make it more dangerous.

[WND reported](https://www.wnd.com/2021/11/fauci-changes-story-gain-function-now-says-meaningless/) last year for months, Anthony Fauci, Joe Biden's right-hand man for the COVID-19 pandemic defense program, denied that the U.S. funded "gain of function" research, specifically at the Wuhan, China, lab where the coronavirus apparently escaped.

But then he changed his story.

He said then that the term was "meaningless."

The [Washington Examiner](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/fauci-claims-gain-of-function-is-completely-meaningless-term-as-he-defends-nih-actions) reported at the time on Fauci's comments in an interview with MSNBC.

Show host Mehdi Hasan asked Fauci about the issue, and Fauci said, "The Intercept reporting is completely misleading, because ‘gain-of-function’ … is a completely meaningless term unless you put it into context, and what has happened is that years ago we paused all function on manipulating viruses, which is an absolutely essential part of virology, in order to get certain guard rules and guidelines about what constitutes research that in fact might be dangerous and need special oversight." [Chalk up one more lie for this criminal. – rdb]

The Intercept had reported the Wuhan Institute of Virology, to which American money was sent, and the nearby Wuhan University Center for Animal Experiment, along with the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance which processed funding, actually were involved in what the U.S. government called "gain-of-function research of concern."

Fauci had repeatedly and emphatically denied that the government was involved in such research.

But just last year the National Institutes of Health found EcoHealth did violate guidelines in doing risky bat coronavirus experiments in China. And emails between the alliance and the government confirmed a resumption of "gain-of-research" funding.

Fauci's explanation was that the guidelines for what actually is that research have changed, and that research that has been done with NIH funding met the requirements "at the time."

Richard Ebright, a professor of chemical biology at Rutgers University, then, however, told the Washington Examiner that Fauci wasn't truthful.

"He is lying," Ebright said. "Brazenly, and, in this interview, desperately. The term ‘gain-of-function research’ is defined in the federal policy in effect in 2014-2017, and the term ‘enhanced potential pandemic pathogens’ is defined in the federal policy in effect in 2017-present."

A layman's explanation is that research tries to find ways to make pathogens worse, so they can be studied in preparation for a fight against those infections.

Judicial Watch said it obtained records through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit.

It explains among the details found were "several indications of gain-of-function research, as well as failures to comply with reporting regulations."

Those details include emails dating back to 2016 talking about the "gain-of-function" funding pause that had occurred.

NIAID official Erik Stemmy noted, "They have proposed work for the next year of the award that may be subject to the gain-of-function funding pause."

A following email the same year said the NIH grant to Wuhan "may include gain of function research … that is subject to the U.S. government funding pause."

Tellingly, the emails discussed using "the genetic codes of some of the other viruses we found in bats and inserted spike protein genes of those viruses (the proteins that attach to cells) into the cultured viruses. By doing this experiment we showed that other viruses may also be able to infect human cells, and were able to do this safely without the need to culture large amounts of virus…. This work proves that there is a clear and present danger for future emergence of novel SARS-like viruses in people."

"The incredible disclosure of an FBI inquiry shows that Fauci and others involved in this scandal were being dishonest in dismissing the seriousness of questions about their cover-up of their funding of dangerous gain-of-function research in China," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "Any FBI inquiry would be appropriate as these documents, extracted by Judicial Watch after years of stonewalling, also show that Fauci’s agency knew and should have known, going back to 2016, that it funded dangerous and prohibited gain-of-function research in China." <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/government-documents-confirm-worry-gain-function-work-wuhan/> [Folks for there to be any justice related to this genocide Fauci and friends must be indicted and prosecuted for genocide. – rdb]

**Study ties COVID booster to startling spike in excess deaths**

***Researchers examine data from one of world's most vaccinated nations***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published July 17, 2022 at 12:11pm*

A study based on weekly government data in New Zealand – one of the world's most vaccinated nations – found that the age groups most likely to have had COVID booster shots had up to 10% more excess deaths.

Excess mortality is the number of deaths from all causes above what would be typically expected in one year.

Authored by John Gibson, an economics professor at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand, the study found there were 16 excess deaths per 100,000 booster doses in the country, amounting to more than 400 excess deaths, [reported the website The Expose](https://expose-news.com/2022/07/07/study-10-rise-in-excess-mortality-after-boosters/).

Gibson said that if extrapolated, it amounted to 300,000 excess deaths worldwide.

In his paper, "The Rollout of COVID-19 Booster Vaccines is Associated with Rising Excess Mortality in New Zealand," the economist said the bottom line from his study is that the risks of the COVID vaccines outweigh any benefits.

"The ratio of vaccine risk to benefits likely has swung more towards risk than during the original randomised trials, due to dose-dependent adverse events and to fixation of immune responses on a variant no longer circulating," he wrote.

The study found that the age groups "most likely to use boosters had 7-10 percentage point rises in excess mortality rates as boosters were rolled out while the age group that is mostly too young for boosters saw no rise in excess mortality.”

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated The Expose noted that last December, New Zealand’s COVID Response minister, Chris Hipkins, reduced the interval between the second dose and the booster shot from six months to four months. That made 82% of vaccinated New Zealanders eligible for a booster by late February 2022.

A graph from Gibson's analysis shows a sustained rise in excess mortality coinciding with the booster rollout.

The increase in excess mortality over the past four months, the study found, was experienced by all ages except the 0-29 years group, who were mostly ineligible for boosters.

Gibson concluded the "age groups most likely to use boosters had 7–10 percentage point rises in excess mortality rates as boosters were rolled out while the age group that is mostly too young for boosters saw no rise in excess mortality." <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/study-ties-covid-booster-startling-spike-excess-deaths/>

**Amid increase in violence, US houses of worship bolster security measures**

**FBI hate crime statistics show that incidents in churches, synagogues, temples and mosques increased 34.8% between 2014 and 2018**

By [DEEPA BHARATH](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/deepa-bharath/) and [LUIS ANDRES HENAO](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/luis-andres-henao/) Today, 9:29 pm

LOS ANGELES, California (AP) — The Rev. Steven Marsh never thought he would see the day his church in Laguna Woods, California — a town of 16,500 populated largely by retirees — would be spending $20,000 a month for security.

Then a gunman opened fire on May 15 during a luncheon at Geneva Presbyterian Church, where Marsh is senior pastor, killing one and injuring five other members of a Taiwanese congregation that met there. Officials said the man, who was motivated by political hatred against Taiwan, chained the church’s doors shut and hid firebombs inside before shooting at the gathering of elderly church members.

Houses of worship are meant to be places of shelter, reflection and peace, where strangers are welcome. But the recent string of high-profile mass shootings in the US is a reminder that violence can happen anywhere, prompting some faith leaders to ramp up security.

At Geneva Presbyterian, armed security guards now stand watch every weekday and during Sunday services. The church also is adding more security cameras, developing an active shooter plan and applying for Department of Homeland Security funding. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-increase-in-violence-us-houses-of-worship-bolster-security-measures/>

**Commentary:**

**America’s Fight To Stay Free, Part 4**

*By* [*Roger Anghis*](https://newswithviews.com/author/roger/)*|July 16th, 2022* When our Founders established our nation they set it on a foundation of integrity and honesty. Our government today is far from what they gave us.  We have what is called the Deep State which is nothing but a bunch of power-hungry and greedy elites that believe they have the right to control everything you do. We no longer have the representative government the Founders gave us. Because we have not paid the proper attention to who we have put into office we have allowed serious lowlifes to sit in places of authority.  Patrick Henry warned us: ***Bad men cannot make good citizens. It is impossible that a nation of infidels or idolaters should be a nation of freemen. It is when a people forget God that tyrants forge their chains. A vitiated state of morals, a corrupted public conscience, is incompatible with freedom. No free government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue; and by a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles***.  
 Samuel Adams gave us a warning as well***: “The public cannot be too curious concerning the characters of public men.”*** We have not been curious enough in the last hundred years. Our freedoms have been eroded to where our First Amendment has been restricted to only what Big Tech agrees with.  Our religious freedoms are restricted to inside the walls of the church building and even in the last couple of years, we haven’t even been allowed to do that.  George Washington warned about power-hungry men: ***“Cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the Power of the People and to usurp for themselves the reins of Government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.”*** Washington also stated: ***“No compact among men … can be pronounced everlasting and inviolable, and if I may so express myself, that no wall of words, that no mound of parchment can be so formed as to stand against the sweeping torrent of boundless ambition on the one side, aided by the sapping current of corrupted morals on the other.”***  
 We will not maintain our freedoms nor the free nation the Founders gave us until we get back to what they built this nation on.  We are allowing one of the most inept world organizations, the United Nations, to control everything on the planet. Here is the Preamble of the UN’s Agenda 2030:  ***This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental***.  
 ***The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next fifteen years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet***.[1]  
 Everything in this declaration is to control agriculture, transportation, manufacturing, housing, and healthcare.  Their plan is to redistribute the wealth of rich nations and make all people equal.  That’s nothing less than communism and our elected officials have swallowed this line of BS hook line and sinker and are willing to give up the sovereignty of America to these world dictators.  Their declarations seem noble but are impossible with destroying the lives of many people. In their Declaration #3 they state: ***We resolve, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. We resolve also to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities***.[2] Without forced labor and the removal of wealth from people who have earned that wealth, this will never happen. Keep in mind this is only eight years away.  
 Under the Biden administration as under the Obama administration, we are seeing the opposition being attacked by the FBI and Department of Justice.  The people involved in the so-called insurrection of January 6th are being treated like foreign terrorists instead of American citizens. Our Constitution gives us the right to a speedy trial.  Those arrested for simply being on the grounds of the capital have been held in solitary confinement and are held with being charged with anything. This is the action of a dictatorship, not a constitutional republic.  
 **Governor** Gretchen Whitmer (D) of Michigan had the Republican candidate running against her arrested just for being on the grounds of the Capital on January 6th.  Biden has had several of Trump’s inner circle arrested in obvious attempts to intimidate his opposition.  When the leak from the Supreme Court came out and protestors surrounded the homes of the Supreme Court Justices, which is illegal, not one person was arrested except the one that announced that he wanted to kill Kavanaugh.  Even Harry Truman knew that this behavior would lead us down a path we, as a people, don’t want to go. In a special message on August 8, 1950,  to Congress on the Internal Security of the United States, he said***: “Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear.”*** Nixon did this, Bill Clinton did this, Obama did this, and now Biden is doing this.  
 There is a two-tiered justice system with Democrats not having to abide by the laws and Republicans having to obey the law to the letter. If you doubt ask yourself why is Hillary still free when she deleted 30,000 emails AFTER they were subpoenaed,  she paid for the Steel dossier illegally bringing foreign involvement into the election.  Why is Joe Biden free when he used the pay to play to protect his son from his involvement in the corrupt oil company in Ukraine.  By the way, Pelosi’s son, John Kerry’s son, and Mit Romney’s son are all involved in businesses in Ukraine. We have proof that Joe Biden was involved in shady dealings with the Communist Chinese government.  How about Obama’s involvement in the spying on the Trump campaign AND the Trump presidency.  
 They raided Roger Stone’s house with a swat team, Paul Manaforts’s house with a swat team, and Jeffery Clark’s home was hit with a pre-dawn raid:  ***The head of the Center for Renewing America, where Clark is a fellow, in a statement called the visit “a pre-dawn raid” by “more than a dozen DOJ law enforcement officials” who seized Clark’s electronic devices as he stood outside on the street in his pajamas***.[3] But no raids on Democrats no matter how their actions prove that they are traitors. We are on the path Harry Truman warned us about.  
 We can no longer let things be run as they have been for the last hundred years.  We have term limits for the president but we need it more for Congress and the Senate.  The Great Reset we need is to get back to what the Founders gave us not what the corrupt UN wants. Only the citizens of this great country can accomplish that and accomplish that we must.  
 **Footnotes:**  
 <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>  
 <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>  
 <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/06/23/federal-agents-visit-the-home-of-trump-ally-former-doj-official-jeffrey-clark.html>  
<https://newswithviews.com/americas-fight-to-stay-free-part-4/>

**The Left-Wing Circular Firing Squad**[*Derek Hunter*](https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/) *Posted: Jul 17, 2022 12:01 AM* One of the things that most bothers me about the “Never Trumpers” is their obsession with the man. I get that they don’t like him – fine, don’t have him over for dinner – but they seemingly wake up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat screaming his name. Everything, in their minds, is about him and they can’t stand it or shut up about it; it’s beyond their control. The same is true, though in a different way, of the radical left. They have this uncontrollable compulsion to be as far-left as a drum circle in San Francisco, even when it damages their cause. They can’t control what they say because they can’t control their crazy, and thank God for that.  
 The best thing we conservatives can do for our side is not silence the left, it’s amplify them. That’s why the liberal establishment hates things like the LibsOfTikToc Twitter account – it puts millions more eyes on something one of their fellow travelers themselves posted online. They wanted their circle of likeminded weirdos (or what the left has incorrectly labeled “community”) to see it and no one else, ever. It was for their eyes and ears only, the people who agree with them and are willing to play make believe as they create new genders and pronouns as if in a mad scramble to see if there is some line out there the “progressive establishment” won’t cross.   
 They find there is zero limit. If you’re willing to vote for Democrats, there is no bridge too far. Think of all the Democrats who sucked up to Ed Buck and Jeffrey Epstein long after it was known what they were.   
 Behind the scenes you kind of expect that, we’re dealing with politicians after all. But you’d think there’d be some point where, like cockroaches when the light is flipped on, they’d scramble because some part of them, probably very deep down, they recognize what they’re pushing is a type of crazy that turns off normal people; a kind of crazy that won’t sell.  
 That bit of self-awareness does not exist on the far left. They are either unwilling or incapable of dialing it back.  
 On the education front, cramming critical race theory down the throats of children is not only wildly destructive, but it’s wildly unpopular. Democrats used to deny they were doing it, remember that? It didn’t take long, however, for that to change into “You just don’t want teachers to teach about slavery, racist.” What the hell happened to “No one is using CRT in schools?”  
 It, like most everything Democrats do, was a lie.   
 Rather than recognize they were doing things against the “will of the people,” they doubled-down. The people overwhelmingly don’t want it, and the screamers of “THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE” are ignoring their will and pushing forward because that’s what fascists do.   
 “Democrats should stop hiding and start fighting Republicans on hot-button education issues like battles over teaching racial issues in school, according to polling at the heart of a new push by the American Federation of Teachers ahead of the midterm elections,” [starts a post on the liberal blog NBC News](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2022-election/teachers-union-wants-democrats-fight-back-republican-crt-attacks-rcna38001). That’s a long way from just a few months ago when they denied they were doing it. But don’t worry, you can totally trust them with your kids…  
 (Same goes for trans-story time and the concept of grooming kids into rejecting reality, but that’s for another day.)  
 Leftists can’t even control themselves enough to help other leftists lie on their behalf.  
 CNN’s Fareed Zakaria wrote an op-ed for the Washington Post hoping to help Democrats win, or at least lose less, in November because that’s what “serious journalists” do, they take sides. The headline was simple, “Forget Pronouns: Democrats need to become the party of building things.”   
 That’s objectively true, especially the first bit about pronouns. But the left is no longer about objective truths, they are only interested in their version of “my truth,” which isn’t truth at all, just opinion.   
 As if a comedy skit, leftists started whining on social media about how “un-inclusive” it was to say they should “forget pronouns.” Chasten Buttigieg, whose only accomplishment seems to be his last name, tweeted, “Addressing someone by the name/pronoun they prefer is free, easy, and kind. Using them builds community and belonging. Democrats can walk and chew gum. We can fix roads and build bridges while also making it a little easier to go about your life. That’s called freedom.”  
 Ignoring reality so some snowflake can continue to pretend they are what they are not, or they’re some kind of bird or fairy or whatever is no compassionate, it’s stupid. There isn’t a single poll showing anything close to support for everyone pretending a man is a woman so they can dominate sports, for example. We shouldn’t need Michael Jordan and other retired NBA greats to pretend to identify as women so they could dominate the WNBA (because you know, even at his age, he would). They could make that league into the NBA senior circuit if they wanted to (and they’d finally attract an audience), but they don’t, and liberals don’t want them to, because they want an avenue for women to play professional sports. Because there is a difference between men and women, real men and real women.  
 Zakaria’s piece was simply telling these people to calm down a little and pretend to be sane and rational, just through the election, because their craziness is turning off a lot of Americans. Unsurprisingly, they could not control themselves. Once the circular firing squad is formed an execution must take place.   
 After a few more tweets by other blue-checkmark nutballs, [the Post removed the “Forget pronouns” from the headline](https://www.mediaite.com/politics/the-washington-post-changed-the-headline-of-an-article-after-they-received-internet-backlash/). They had made Zakaria’s point in a way conservatives never could. Thanks for that.   
 I so love it when Frankenstein’s Monster returns to the lab where he was made to destroy, don’t you? These people unleash destruction everywhere they go, it would be wrong to deny them what they force on others. But it does show you just how deep in the left the rot goes, that even for their own electoral survival they can’t control themselves. Zakaria’s piece didn’t make it half a day.   
 These people need to be absolutely destroyed in November.  <https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/2022/07/17/the-leftwing-circular-firing-squad-n2610350>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Cyberattack targets Health Ministry’s website**

***Website of Ministry of Health attacked by hackers, making it inaccessible to users from abroad.***

[*Israel National News*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/author/Israel_National_News) *Jul 18, 2022, 9:00 AM GMT+3*

The website of the Ministry of Health was attacked by hackers on Sunday and, as a result, was not available to users from abroad, though users from Israel were able to continue to access it.

The Ministry of Health said, "About an hour ago, the website of the Ministry of Health was hacked in an unusual attack. The site is not available intermittently from abroad, but it is available to users from Israel. The issue is being handled by the ministry."

In the wake of the attack on the website, it is not possible for returnees from abroad to Israel to fill out an "entry form to Israel" as required.

The airlines have been updated about the malfunction and have been instructed to allow travelers to Israel to board a flight upon presentation of a flight ticket and without this form. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/356682>

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| Urgent Appeal from Yaffa/Lev U'Neshama  Normally, I don't send appeal emails because our supporters are generous and we manage our money carefully to enable our programs to function smoothly. However, I am compelled to contact you now because we urgently need donations to reach our goal for basic school supplies.  For the past several years, donations made to the Education Fund were used in August before school resumes. Much of the fund is used to purchase coupons at our one-and-only office supply store. The family-owned store is happy for the business and they give a generous discount to stretch our funds.    We have 82 families in our program and they are already calling us asking if they will be receiving a coupon to be redeemed at this store. Smaller families have 5 or 6 children and large families have 13 and some more. Last year we gave 150 NIS credit to each family. Not sufficient but something. This year, of course, cost of school supplies has risen and we need to give 200 NIS.    200 times 82 = 16,400 NIS. Presently I have almost 8,000 NIS. A bit short, you can see. Also, a bit short on time. It's the middle of July and we need to have funds in place within a month to allow the coupons to be completed and mailed.  The amount in dollars is approximately $2,700. Not a huge amount in the scope of things but urgently needed by the kids here. About 1/3 of the children in Tzfat come from families who are in the poverty range. But they shouldn't be deprived of basic school supplies to have a good start in school.  Additionally, I am concerned that we will need funds to provide eye exams/eyeglasses and sport shoes and this is beyond what we are extrapolating for the school supplies.    I'm sending this appeal to everyone in the hopes of reaching our goal for school supplies and have some also for the shoes and eyeglasses; $60 for eyeglasses/exam and $30 for a pair of sport shoes).    You may already be a supporter of Lev U'Neshama and give generously but perhaps you can ask family or friends to join in this effort. If you haven't donated to us before or do so periodically, now is a good time.    **Donations may be made by** going to our web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com)  Go to the "How You Can Help" page and select an option to donate. You can even use a credit card.    Or you can use PayPal (although a fee is taken). Recipient email address: mortsmo@aol.com    Or you can use Zelle from US to US bank; no fee. You need to use my email address and my English name, Sheila Smolensky, as it is on the account.    Or . . . you could send a check made payable to my son Simcha Smolensky and send it to:  Rabbi Simcha Smolensky  6933 N Kedzie Ave  Unit 116  Chicago IL 60645  (Canadian checks or money orders must be in US dollars)    If you need/want a US Tax Receipt, email me and I'll give you the information.    Hoping you and/or someone you know, can help reach the goal to help our children.    Enjoy the remainder of summer in good health,    Yaffa Smolensky  Volunteer Program Manager  Lev U'Neshama    Tzfat Israel email: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com) web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com) |

**07/17/2022 NEWS – Don’t Miss Note from Lev U’Neshama at end**

**How Israeli Education Pushes the Boundaries of Peace**

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGEcW4RJqMQ>

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| "It has been a source of great pain to me to have met with so many among [my] opponents who had not the liberality to distinguish between political and social opposition; who transferred at once to the person, the hatred they bore to his political opinions." -- Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), US Founding Father, drafted the Declaration of Independence, 3rd 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 CF – fell off ladder and bad fracture leg.**  **Pray for EL – Had stoke – doing better**  **Pray for KH – diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

Exodus 22:14And if a man borrow aught of his neighbour, and it be hurt, or die, the owner thereof not being with it, he shall surely make restitution. 15If the owner thereof be with it, he shall not make it good; if it be a hireling, he loseth his hire.

**Contradicting Biden, Saudis deny opening of airspace is step toward ties with Israel**

***Riyadh’s FM says move ‘has nothing to do’ with diplomatic relations; also states he’s not aware of any talks on Israel-integrated air defense alliance, after US hailed notion***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 8:58 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22197547574449.jpg)

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud speaks during a press conference after the end of Security and Development Summit in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Saturday, July 16, 2022. (AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia — Contradicting the departing US President Joe Biden, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said Saturday that Riyadh’s decision to open its airspace for all civilian overflights had “nothing to do with diplomatic ties with Israel” and was “not in any way precursor to any further steps” toward normalization.

Prince Faisal appeared determined to pour cold water over the declared expectations in Jerusalem and Washington that the kingdom’s decision, announced Thursday, to open its airspace to all civilian carriers — a move that will enable flights to and from Israel to China and India through far shorter and less costly routes — marked a first step toward formal relations with Israel.

“No, this has nothing to do with diplomatic ties with Israel,” the minister said in a press conference after the GCC+3 regional summit in Jeddah. “The issue of overflights is a decision we took… in the interest [of] providing connectivity between countries in the world, and we hope that it will make some travelers’ lives easier. It’s not in any way a precursor to any further steps.”

In a speech late Friday night after a pair of bilateral meetings here with Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Biden called the overflights decision by Riyadh “a big deal, not only symbolically but substantively.

“This is the first tangible step on the path of what I hope will eventually be a broader normalization of relations” between Israel and Saudi Arabia, Biden added.

On Friday morning, in a similar vein, Prime Minister Yair Lapid welcomed the move “opening Saudi airspace to Israeli airlines” as “the first official step in normalization with Saudi Arabia.”

“I thank the Saudi leadership for the opening of Saudi airspace. This is only the first step,” Lapid added.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Saudi foreign minister’s remarks.

Riyadh made the announcement on opened airspace a day before Biden unveiled the planned withdrawal of an observer force securing a pair of Red Sea Islands in what will allow their transfer from Egypt to Saudi Arabia. The withdrawal was brokered by the US, and required Israeli authorization because the presence of the observer force along with an assurance for freedom of transport around the islands for the Jewish state were part of Jerusalem’s conditions to relinquish them to Egypt as part of their 1979 peace treaty.

Accordingly, the Biden administration pushed Riyadh to take what it framed as steps toward normalization with Israel. The first of these was allowing Israeli overflights and the second was allowing direct flights between Israel and Saudi Arabia for Muslim pilgrims. The latter demand has not yet been finalized, with the White House being forced to temper its Friday announcement on the island transfer by saying it “welcomed related steps under discussion to include direct flights from Israel to Jeddah for next year’s Hajj on approved carriers.”

Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir also sought to dampen speculation regarding Saudi-Israel normalization, [telling](https://www.timesofisrael.com/saudi-official-peace-with-israel-strategic-option-but-not-before-2-state-solution/) CNN in a Thursday interview that while such a step was “possible” and a “strategic option,” a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians was a “requirement” before Riyadh would formalize ties with Jerusalem. [Is this the club that the EU and Arab nations will use to coerce Israel (and liberal Lapid) to divide the land????? – rdb]

Also during his Saturday press conference, Prince Faisal insisted that he was not aware of any talks at the Jeddah summit on including Israel in an integrated Middle East air defense network — an initiative that Washington and Jerusalem have both discussed openly in recent months.

“There was no discussion about a GCC-Israeli defense alliance or anything of the sort. At least I’m not aware of such discussions,” the foreign minister said. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/contradicting-biden-saudis-deny-opening-of-airspace-is-step-toward-ties-with-israel/> [So who are you going to believe on this one. – rdb]

**Saudi minister: Peace with Israel ‘strategic option’ but not before 2-state solution**

***After Biden hails Saudi okay to Israeli overflights as first step to normalization, Riyadh’s foreign affairs minister says Palestinian statehood must come first***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 12:16 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22196619686642.jpg)

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman looks at his notes as he meets with US President Joe Biden at the Al Salman Royal Palace, Friday, July 15, 2022, in Jeddah. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia — A senior Saudi minister described normalizing ties with Israel as a “strategic option,” while clarifying that a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians was a “requirement” before Riyadh would formalize ties with Jerusalem.

The remarks by Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir during an interview with CNN late Friday came after Riyadh announced that it would be opening its airspace to all civilian airliners in a move seen aimed at allowing Israeli overflights.

US President Joe Biden, who met with Saudi leaders on Friday while in Jeddah for a regional conference, called the decision the “first tangible step” toward normalized ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

But al-Jubeir poured cold water on the idea, insisting that the Gulf kingdom’s position on ties with the Jewish state have not changed.

“We have said that Saudi Arabia supports the Arab Peace Initiative. In fact, we offered it, and we have made it clear that peace comes at the end of this process, not at the beginning of it,” the senior diplomat said.

The 2002 proposal offers Israel full normalized relations with all 22 members of the Arab League if Israel agrees to a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders and with a just resolution for Palestinian refugees.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22053645819404.jpg)

File: Saudi Arabia’s Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel bin Ahmed al-Jubeir. (AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco)

The plan was never welcomed by Israel, which now argues that the Abraham Accords, which saw Israel normalize ties with the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco, prove that the two-decade-old proposal is no longer relevant.

وزير الدولة السعودي للشؤون الخارجية عادل الجبير لسي ان ان: لا سلام مع اسرائيل بدون عملية سلام مع الفلسطينيين. [pic.twitter.com/zWvy32cjqn](https://t.co/zWvy32cjqn)

— ZaidBenjamin زيد بنيامين (@ZaidBenjamin5) [July 16, 2022](https://twitter.com/ZaidBenjamin5/status/1548180319177547776?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas reiterated his own support for the Arab Peace Initiative during a Friday press conference with Biden in what also was seen as a rejection of US plans to advance Israel’s integration in the region without waiting for progress on the Palestinian track.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters on Air Force One en route to Jeddah that Biden “made the case” to Abbas for why Israel’s integration in the region can “reinforce progress on the Palestinian track.”

Nonetheless, the US insists that its efforts to expand the Abraham Accords will not replace its efforts to promote a two-state solution in what is seen as a swipe at the Trump administration’s strategy for advancing normalization, which moved the matter forward as a means for bypassing the Palestinians.

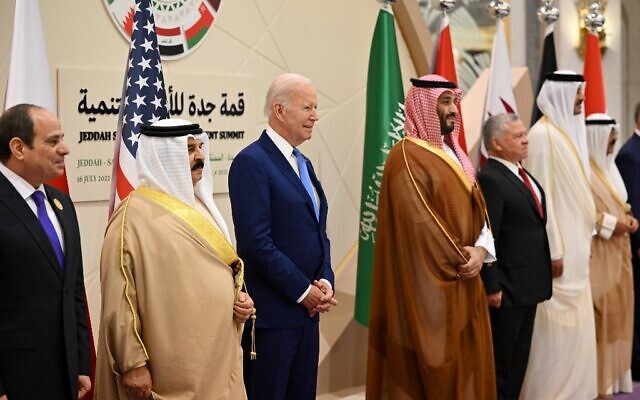
While Bahrain was widely understood to have agreed to normalize ties with Israel in 2020 after receiving Riyadh’s blessing, al-Jubeir said Friday that the countries that signed the Abraham Accords made their own “sovereign decisions.”

“We hope that those decisions will have a positive impact on Israeli domestic politics,” he added, falling in line with a common talking point by supporters of the accords, who argue that member countries will be able to leverage their new ties to push Jerusalem on the Palestinian issue. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/saudi-official-peace-with-israel-strategic-option-but-not-before-2-state-solution/> [ It seems that the “Bi-Dum" re-opened a huge can of worms that could well incite a return to politics of 10 years ago. – rdb]

**After Biden raises Khashoggi murder, MBS retorts with question on Abu Akleh killing**

***Official says Saudi crown prince asks president what he is doing to ensure justice, in apparent effort to suggest hypocrisy in US human rights criticism***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 4:42 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/000_32EK6QW.jpg)

(L to R) Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi; Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman al-Khalifa; US President Joe Biden; Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman; Jordan's King Abdullah II; Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani; and Kuwait's Crown Prince Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah pose together for the family photo during the Jeddah Security and Development Summit (GCC+3) at a hotel in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coastal city of Jeddah on July 16, 2022. (MANDEL NGAN / POOL / AFP)

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman raised the killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in his conversation with US President Joe Biden Friday, an official familiar with the matter told The Times of Israel.

The official characterized bin Salman’s comment as a retort to Biden after the latter opened their meeting by confronting him about the murder of Washington Post reporter Jamal Khashoggi.

The crown prince highlighted the fact that Abu Akleh was a US citizen and asked Biden what he was doing to ensure justice after her killing during clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen in Jenin on May 11, the official said Saturday, confirming an Al Arabiya report.

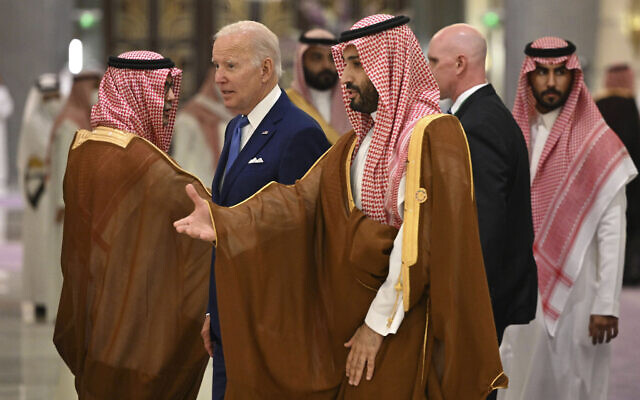
The official said Abu Akleh was one of several examples, along with the torture of prisoners by US troops in Iraq’s Abu Ghraib prison, that the crown prince raised in an attempt to call out the ostensible hypocrisy in Biden’s position on human rights issues in Saudi Arabia.

A second source — a senior US official — acknowledged that the two leaders’ discussion at the beginning of the meeting was “frosty,” but said they then moved on and the meeting was productive. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-biden-raises-khashoggi-killing-mbs-retorts-with-question-on-abu-akleh-death/> [Folks you should never think that the Islamic groups are stupid. They aren’t at all. When you look at many of the leaders they are head and shoulders ahead of some of the dolts that are in DC including most of the “Bi-Dum’s” staff. Don’t try to play one up man ship with them because they are every bit as devious as anyone else could be. – rdb]

**Heading home, Biden vows US ‘won’t walk away’ from Mideast, doesn’t mention Israel**

***Departing Saudi Arabia, US president promises not to create a vacuum in region for Russia, China and Iran to fill; Arab leaders urge resolution of Israeli-Palestinian conflict***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *and* [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) *Today, 3:57 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22197399456503.jpg)

US President Joe Biden, center left, and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, center, arrive for the family photo during the GCC+3 (Gulf Cooperation Council) meeting at a hotel in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coastal city of Jeddah, Saturday, July 16, 2022. (Mandel Ngan/Pool Photo via AP)

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia — US President Joe Biden, speaking at a summit of Arab leaders, said Saturday that the United States “will not walk away” from the Middle East as he tries to ensure stability in a volatile corner of the globe and boost the worldwide flow of oil to reverse rising gas prices. “The United States is going to remain an active, engaged partner in the Middle East.”

His remarks, delivered at the Gulf Cooperation Council as he closed out the final leg of a four-day trip, come as the region braces for a potential confrontation with Iran.

“We will not walk away and leave a vacuum to be filled by China, Russia or Iran,” Biden said. “We will seek to build on this moment with active, principled, American leadership.” [NEVER hold your breath and expect this to be true because you will turn dark blue. In a pinch the current leaders would and will leave everyone in the lurch. – rdb]

Biden later departed the country en route to Washington after wrapping up a four day Middle East tour in Israel, the West Bank and Saudi Arabia. He was seen off at the coastal city airport by Prince Khaled al-Faisal, the governor of Mecca province.

Although US forces continue to target terrorists in the region and remain deployed at bases throughout the Middle East, Biden suggested at the conference that he was turning the page after the country’s invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. [Obviously the “Bi-Dum" ‘turned a page’ on Afghanistan as he armed them to the hilt. – rdb]

“Today, I’m proud to be able to say that the eras of land wars in the region, wars that involved huge numbers of American forces, is not underway,” he said.

Biden said the US “will build political, economic, and security connections between US partners wherever possible, while respecting each country’s sovereignty and independent choices. Integration, interconnection — these are the underlying themes of our meeting today.”

While he raised the notion of integration, the president did not mention Israel by name, even though he had said incorporating Israel into the region would be a central goal of his visit to Saudi Arabia. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/at-arab-summit-biden-vows-us-will-not-walk-away-from-middle-east/>

**Iraqi PM says he is ready for regional dialogue, but refuses to comment on Israel**

***‘Iraq contributed to the Saudi-Iranian rapprochement, and several sessions held were successful and fruitful,’ al-Kadhimi says prior to Jeddah summit with Biden***

*By* [*Qassim Abdul-Zahra*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/qassim-abdul-zahra/) *Today, 5:47 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22197333667481-e1657978493897.jpg)

Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi talks during a meeting with US President Joe Biden, July 16, 2022, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Iraq’s caretaker prime minister, whose country is mired in political crisis, has said it is in Iraq’s interest to keep pushing for a rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia to ease regional tensions, but refused to comment on potential ties with Israel.

Speaking to The Associated Press Friday evening, Mustafa al-Kadhimi said Iraq intended to keep up its role hosting talks between the two Mideast neighbors whose rivalry has often played out in Iraq, leading to perpetual paralysis.

“Iraq contributed to the Saudi-Iranian rapprochement, and several sessions held were successful and fruitful, and a great rapprochement took place,” he said. He added Iraqi will continue to encourage dialogue between the two sides.

Asked about normalization of ties between Israel and Gulf Arab states, al-Kadhimi said that did not involve Iraq nor would he express an opinion.

“Iraq believes in the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of countries and the non-interference of others in its affairs,” he said. Each country has its own policy, he said, adding that Saturday’s summit in Jeddah was not concerned with this issue.

Al-Kadhimi spoke to the AP on the flight to the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where US President Joe Biden met with heads of state from six Arab Gulf countries, plus Egypt, Jordan and Iraq.

A picture containing indoor, ceiling, people, decorated

Description automatically generated

US President Joe Biden attends the Gulf Cooperation Council, July 16, 2022, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci) **[I would call the location of that meeting as opulent. Obviously our oil money has provided these folks with a great living. – rdb]**

At a bilateral meeting with Biden Saturday, al-Kadhimi spoke about the “strategic, friendly relationship” between the US and Iraq, and he thanked the US for providing support to combat terrorist groups.

Biden said he wanted to support Iraq’s democracy.

“I want the press and you to know we want to be helpful as we can in doing that,” he said.

The US and Iraq also renewed their commitment to a bilateral strategic agreement overseeing security, economy and aid, according to a joint statement issued after their meeting. This also includes continued military assistance and training in the fight against the Islamic State. Biden also commended al-Kadhimi for his diplomatic efforts to broker talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Iraq has the deepest and strongest links to Iran of all the Arab countries. Its presence at the meeting reflects Saudi efforts — supported by the US — to bring Iraq closer to Arab positions and the so-called Arab fold. Iraq has hosted around five rounds of direct talks between Saudi and Iranian officials since Biden took office, though the talks have produced few results.

“We have seen positive reactions to the role played by Iraq by the Iranian and Saudi sides and also at the level of regional and international leaders,” al-Kadhimi said.

Iraq has been without a government since national elections were held in October. Powerful Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who won the most seats, withdrew from the government formation last month, following eight months of stalemate and jockeying with rival Iran-backed Shiite factions. In line with his orders, the members of his parliamentary bloc resigned.

If the political crisis extends to August, it will be the longest that Iraq has gone without a government since elections. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iraqi-pm-says-he-is-ready-for-regional-dialogue-but-refuses-to-comment-on-israel/>

**After Gaza rockets, Israel freezes move to allow in 1,500 more workers**

***COGAT says Hamas bears responsibility; Israel reportedly believes Hamas will not escalate; planned expansion of permits was part of gestures amid Biden visit***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 10:08 pm*

Israel on Saturday said it was freezing a planned expansion of work permits for Gazan Palestinians by 1,500 (to a total of 15,500), after terrorists in the coastal enclave launched four rockets at southern Israel overnight.  
 Israel’s military liaison to the Palestinians, widely known by its acronym COGAT, had announced the additional 1,500 permits on Tuesday, as part of a series of [gestures](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-announces-series-of-gestures-to-palestinians-a-day-before-bidens-visit/) ahead of US President Joe Biden’s visit to the region.  
 But following the [rocket attacks](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-said-to-strike-in-gaza-in-response-to-rocket-attack-2-more-rockets-fired/) in the pre-dawn hours of Saturday, Defense Minister Benny Gantz decided to freeze the move, COGAT said in a statement.  
 The announcement came following a [fresh security assessment](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/defense-chiefs-huddle-after-overnight-rocket-fire-from-gaza/) held by Gantz and top defense officials, including military chief Lt. Gen. Aviv Kohavi, head of Military Intelligence Maj. Gen. Aharon Haliva, and the military liaison to the Palestinians Maj. Gen. Ghassan Alian.  
 “The Hamas terror group bears responsibility for everything that is done in and emanates from the Gaza Strip toward the State of Israel, and it will bear the consequences,” the statement said.

There has been no claim by any of the Gaza-based terror groups for Saturday’s rocket fire.

Footage shows the two rockets launched from the Gaza Strip toward Ashkelon. (Video: Dadi Fold) [pic.twitter.com/nXqgq9APXL](https://t.co/nXqgq9APXL)

— Emanuel (Mannie) Fabian (@manniefabian) [July 15, 2022](https://twitter.com/manniefabian/status/1548081185405825025?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

In the first rocket attack, two rockets were launched from the Strip at the coastal city of Ashkelon. One was intercepted by the Iron Dome defense system, and the second landed in an open area, causing no damage.

In response, the Israel Defense Forces said it targeted a Hamas underground facility used for the production of rocket materials in the central Gaza Strip.

Concurrently, two more rockets were fired toward Israel and warning sirens were activated in the Lakhish Regional Council to the northeast of the Strip. Both rockets hit open areas, according to the IDF.

In response to the additional rocket fire, the military struck another Hamas site, which it said was used as a weapon production facility.

The IDF said the first site was “one of the largest and most important sites in the Strip for the production of base materials for rockets by terror groups,” asserting that the attack would significantly set back rocket-making.  
 The attack was especially significant, according to an unsourced Channel 12 news report, which said that Hamas does not currently have a large number of operational rocket production sites and those that are operational are under strain due to Hamas’s difficulty to smuggle heavy machinery into Gaza and its reliance on independent production.  
 The report added that the decision to carry out the strikes on the facility was made knowing that the price could be significant escalation, with the rocket attacks seen as an opportunity to take the facility out of action.  
 However, security officials have estimated that the attack will not lead to an escalation and Hamas has indicated that it is not interested in further escalating the situation, according to Channel 12. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-gaza-rockets-israel-freezes-move-to-allow-in-1500-more-workers/>

**House Republicans introduce resolution against US consulate for Palestinians**

***According to the resolution text, the Biden administration’s plan to open a United States consulate in Jerusalem for outreach to Palestinians “could be viewed as a challenge to Israel’s sovereignty."***

*By* [*OMRI NAHMIAS*](https://www.jpost.com/author/omri-nahmias) *Published: JULY 16, 2022 19:44 Updated: JULY 16, 2022 20:17*

New York Rep. Lee Zeldin has introduced a concurrent resolution joined by 22 of his fellow House Republicans opposing President Joe Biden’s proposal to [reopen a US consulate in Jerusalem](https://www.jpost.com/israeli-news/article-711768) for the Palestinians.

[US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan](https://www.jpost.com/israeli-news/article-711994) said on Wednesday that it is the administration’s position that it would like a consulate in east Jerusalem. “Obviously, that requires engagement with the Israeli government – it requires engagement with the Palestinian leadership as well,” he said.

The administration’s proposal “would violate the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 and reward the Palestinian Authority, despite its continuing efforts to serve as an obstacle to peace in the region,” Zeldin said in a statement on Thursday.

“The Palestinian Authority has made it abundantly clear that its push for separate diplomatic outreach from the United States is for the purpose of dividing Jerusalem, which the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 was crafted to specifically prevent. The law states that Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of Israel and remain undivided,” he said.

“The Biden Administration’s proposal is a [unilateral concession to the Palestinian Authority](https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/article-712034) in exchange for no concessions in return, which has been proven to be a failed policy time and again,” the NY representative said. “Congress has a duty to make it clear to the administration that its attempts to circumvent the law will not be ignored or tolerated.”

According to the resolution’s text, the Biden administration’s plan to open an American consulate in Jerusalem for outreach to Palestinians “could be viewed as a challenge to Israel’s sovereignty over Jerusalem and Jerusalem’s status as an undivided city.”

The statement emphasized that a plan to challenge that status of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty “has received bipartisan criticism among members of the Government of the United States and the Government of Israel. The Palestinian Authority has stated that the purpose of opening a United States consulate in Jerusalem for outreach to Palestinians is to divide the city; and the opening and maintenance of a new and unnecessary consulate in Jerusalem would require a substantial expenditure of American taxpayer funds.” <https://www.jpost.com/american-politics/article-712291>

**Weak euro could strengthen Israeli economy, experts say**

***Euro and U.S. dollar reach parity for the first time in 20 years amid European energy crisis and economic uncertainty, but what does the Israeli market stand to gain from all of this?***

*The Media Line | Published: 07.16.22, 23:33*

The exchange rate between the euro and the U.S. dollar has reached parity for the first time in 20 years and the shift could prove to be beneficial for Israel’s economy, according to economists.

On Tuesday, the value of one euro became nearly equal to $1, a significant shift in the euro’s value that could signal that Europe is heading for a recession amid Russia’s ongoing war on Ukraine. The value of the euro has dropped dramatically since early February when it reached about $1.13.

As a result, Europeans will have to pay more for imported goods and services, but exports will likely increase as the price for European goods becomes cheaper in international markets.

The weakness of the euro could not only help boost European companies’ sales in the coming months but could also benefit the Israeli market, according to Dr. Gilead Fortuna, who heads the Center for Industrial Excellence at Israel’s Samuel Neaman Institute.  
 “The euro weakening actually helps the Israeli market overall,” Fortuna, who has also served in senior management positions in leading Israeli firms, said. “It’s true that certain sectors will be harmed but that’s irrelevant.”  
 According to Bank of Israel data for 2020 and 2021, half of all imports to Israel came from Europe while Israeli exports to the continent were relatively low. The reverse was true for the United States; exports from Israel to the United States were very high and imports were low.  
 “In 2021, Israel imported 297 billion shekels worth of goods, 151 billion shekels which came from Europe,” Fortuna explained. “In terms of exports, Israel only exported 65 billion shekels to Europe out of a total of 194 billion shekels and our exports to the United States were much higher.”  
 “In recent years our exports to Europe had begun to weaken but now they’re already starting to rise again,” he continued. “On first glance, it appears that this weakened euro is not harmful to Israel, on the contrary. It will positively impact the Israeli economy.”  
 Although there is not a single factor that can explain the weakening of the euro, Russia’s war with Ukraine and the ongoing European energy supply crisis have contributed to the shift, Fortuna said. Russia also has threatened to reduce gas flow to Europe in response to sanctions and just this week temporarily suspended gas deliveries via Europe’s biggest gas import pipeline, the Nord Stream 1.  
 Fortuna also believes that China’s growing economic strength has negatively impacted European markets.  
 Dr. Alex Coman, an economic specialist at the Adelson School of Entrepreneurship at Reichman University in Herzliya, believes that the weakened euro is a symptom of a wider problem in the bloc.  
 “Europe has no energy; they had to send Russia a turbine to get gas so they’ve really been humiliated beyond belief,” Coman said. MORE - <https://www.ynetnews.com/business/article/rybxbt3i5> [This may sound good however a if the European economy is in trouble you can bank on the fact that the problem will spread to the rest of the world and the US because our systems are so closely linked. This isn’t particularly good news. – rdb]

**Russians visited Iran twice in June to assess combat drones for Ukraine, US says**

***Two delegations recently received a showcase of Iranian attack-capable UAVs, as Moscow looks to bolster its arsenal for the war, White House says***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 5:53 pm*

WASHINGTON — Russian officials have recently visited Iran twice to assess combat drones, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said Saturday, as Moscow looks to bolster its arsenal for the war in Ukraine.  
 Iran’s military hosted two showcases for Russian delegations at the Kashan airfield, on June 8 and again on July 5, Sullivan said in a statement.  
 Satellite imagery released by the White House shows Shahed-191 and Shahed-129 drones at or flying near the site.  
 The White House said earlier this week that it believes Moscow is looking to acquire hundreds of the drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) — and that Tehran is set to train Russian forces to use them as soon as this month.  
 “We assess an official Russian delegation recently received a showcase of Iranian attack-capable UAVs,” Sullivan said Saturday.  
 “We are releasing these images captured in June showing Iranian UAVs that the Russian government delegation saw that day. This suggests ongoing Russian interest in acquiring Iranian attack-capable UAVs.  
 “To our knowledge, this is the first time a Russian delegation has visited this airfield for such a showcase,” Sullivan added.

A Russian delegation has visited an airfield in Kashan, central Iran, at least twice in the last month to examine weapons-capable drones, according to national security adviser [@JakeSullivan46](https://twitter.com/JakeSullivan46?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) and satellite imagery obtained exclusively by [@CNN](https://twitter.com/CNN?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw). [pic.twitter.com/lCFVB26bU3](https://t.co/lCFVB26bU3)

— Iran International English (@IranIntl\_En) [July 16, 2022](https://twitter.com/IranIntl_En/status/1548222279988850690?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

John Kirby, a spokesman for the national security council, told CNN this week that the drones can be used both for reconnaissance and to deliver munitions.   
 “It was important to make it clear to the world that we know that Russia needs these additional capabilities,” Kirby said Tuesday. “They are expanding their resources at an accelerated rate.”  
 The US and allies have recently provided longer-range precision weapons to Ukrainian forces, like the Himars precision-guided missiles, boosting their capability to strike Russian targets and repel Moscow’s intensifying attacks in the east. [The US had repeatedly stoked the flames of this war and continues to do so. Russia has made it clear why they are acting in Ukraine (a reverse of the Cuban missile crisis) and the more these people continue the closer the world comes to a WWIII which could well be nuclear. – rdb]  
 Iran said Tuesday that “no special development” had taken place in technological cooperation with Russia following the invasion of Ukraine in February.  
 Drones have played a crucial role on both sides of the war in Ukraine, for everything from firing missiles from a distance, to dropping small bombs on targets, to conducting reconnaissance.  
 Ukraine’s forces have had particular success in using Turkish-made Bayraktar armed combat UAVs, and the US and other allies have supplied Kyiv with many types of smaller drones. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/russians-visited-iran-twice-in-june-to-assess-combat-drones-for-ukraine-us-says/> [ Please note this is what was recorded today on a Greek site that monitors the situation (translated by google translate):

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| **B.Putin's order to the Russian Army: "Crush the Ukrainians on all fronts" - Seversk was painted in blood - BMPT Terminator in the battle**  Sail for Dnieper by the Russian Army 16/07/2022 - 21:44  An order to speed up military operations and crush the Ukrainian Army on all fronts so that it does not "raise its head" was given by the President of Russia, B. Putin, to the Russian Minister of Defense, Sergei Shoigu, with the latter hastily going over and inspecting the forces involved in the war in Donbass.  The order confirms what has become clear over the past 48 hours: Russia is now relentlessly bombing targets and areas in Ukraine without regard for cost and loss of life. And this is due to the use of MLRS HIMARS by Kyiv and the bombings it carried out in Kherson, Donetsk and Lugansk.  The purpose of B.Putin's order is to prevent Kyiv from launching mass rocket and artillery attacks on civilian infrastructure and settlement residents in the Donbass and other regions.  The issue now is that in order to effectively secure the Donbas regions, the Russian Army must expel the Ukrainians at a distance of at least 300 km, which is the maximum range of the HIMARS, i.e. reach the Dnieper...  Read also  Russian bombings without mercy: Massacre of mercenaries in Kharkiv - The Ukrainian Ministry of Defense apologized: "There is no Army of 1 million."  "Accelerate business"  Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu inspected the forces of the Southern and Central Military Commands participating in the war in Ukraine and conveyed Putin's order to accelerate military operations in all regions.  "At the command post, General Sergei Shoigu heard reports from the Commander of the Southern Group, General Sergei Surovykin, the Commander of the Central Forces, General Alexander Lapin and other commanders on the current situation, the nature of the enemy's actions and the progress of of the Russian Armed Forces in the execution of combat missions".  "At the end of the hearing, the head of the Russian military department gave the necessary instructions to further increase the actions of the groups in all operational areas in order to exclude the possibility of the Kiev regime launching massive missile and artillery attacks on civilian infrastructure and residents of settlements in Donbass and other regions," the Russian Defense Ministry noted. .  "In pursuance of the decree of the President of Russia, the Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation, General of the Army Sergei Shoigu, awarded the Gold Star of the Hero of the Russian Federation to Colonel Alexander Lapin and Major General Esedulla Abachev for their courage and heroism," informed the Russian Ministry of Defense.  The southern group is led by the Commander-in-Chief of the Aerospace Forces Sergei Surovikin, the Center group is led by the commander of the troops of the Central Military District Alexander Lapin.  Watch video of today's battles in Seversk. BTR-80 accepts three ATGM anti-tank missiles  Video Player  Video Player  Change of strategy at Seversk – Arrival of BMPT Terminator  The Russian army broke through the defense of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Seversk region and controls 60% of the city.  But for some reason the Russian administration decided not to continue the operation inside the city and especially not to have battles in the central districts of Seversk..  A while ago it became known that an order was given to set up a new ambush on the Ukrainian forces and surround them in the outskirts of the city that are not yet under Russian control.  For this reason new artillery reinforcements are brought in and the city is pounded from the outskirts with MLRS BM-21 Grad and Uragan. Apparently the Russians spotted strong Ukrainian fortifications and layered defenses and ambushes inside the city. That is why they urgently transport BMPT "Terminator".  At least one BMPT “Terminator” specially designed to support armored and other combat vehicles in urban areas was recently spotted on the outskirts of Seversk.  The "Terminator" is equipped with four 9M120 ATAKA-T anti-tank missiles with a maximum range of 6 km, two remote-controlled 30 mm 2A42 machine guns with 850 rounds, two AG-17D or AGS-30 30 mm grenade launchers with 600 rounds and a coaxial machine gun 7.62mm PKTM with 2000 rounds.  In terms of protection, it has "Relikt" active armor on the front and sides, which is considered superior to the "Kontakt-5" active armor used on older models of Russian tanks. It also carries smoke launchers on both sides for protection against infrared aiming weapons.  Watch video from Seversk – The arrival of the Terminator and the hammer  <https://warnews247.gr/ektakto-diatagi-v-poutin-ston-rosiko-strato-syntripste-tous-oukranous-se-ola-ta-metopa-vaftike-sto-aima-to-seversk-sti-machi-kai-bmpt-terminator/> |

I am not able to corroborate any of this but I have seen this or similar reports on two different sites – rdb]

**Iran imposes sanctions on 61 Americans as nuclear talks hit impasse**

***In January Iran imposed sanctions on 51 Americans, and it blacklisted 24 more Americans in April in its latest sanctions moves.***

*By REUTERS Published: JULY 16, 2022 18:50*

Iran said on Saturday it had imposed sanctions on 61 more Americans, including former secretary of state Mike Pompeo, for backing an Iranian dissident group, as months of talks to revive a 2015 [nuclear deal](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-712271) are at an impasse.

Others blacklisted by Iran's Foreign Ministry for voicing support for the exiled dissident group Mujahideen-e-Khalq (MEK) included former President Donald Trump's attorney Rudy Giuliani and former White House national security adviser John Bolton, Iranian state media reported.

The sanctions, issued against dozens of Americans in the past on various grounds, let Iranian authorities seize any assets they hold in Iran, but the apparent absence of such assets means the steps will likely be symbolic.

Giuliani, Pompeo and Bolton have been widely reported to have taken part in MEK events and voiced support for the group.

In January [Iran](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east-news/iran-news/article-712219) imposed sanctions on 51 Americans, and it blacklisted 24 more Americans in April in its latest sanctions moves.

***Nuclear pact***

Iran's indirect talks with [the United States](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east-news/iran-news/article-712047) on reviving the 2015 nuclear pact began in November in Vienna and continued in Qatar in June. But the negotiations have faced a months-long impasse.

In 2018, then-US President Trump abandoned the deal, calling it too soft on Iran, and reimposed harsh US sanctions, spurring Tehran to breach nuclear limits in the pact. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east-news/iran-news/article-712289>

**US approves arms deal with Taiwan**

***The State Department has cleared the way for a sale of $108 million worth of tank parts and other military gear to Taipei***

*16 Jul, 2022 18:17*

US President Joe Biden’s administration has green-lighted a new arms sale to Taiwan, including armored vehicle parts and technical assistance, potentially ratcheting up tensions with China over the breakaway republic.

The US State Department approved the transaction, which is valued at up to $108 million, at Taiwan’s request, the Pentagon revealed on Friday. The blanket order will include parts for tanks and other combat vehicles, as well as technical and logistical support services provided by the US government and its contractors.

“We express sincere gratitude to the State Department for giving clearance for the order,” Taiwan’s defense ministry said. It added that the deal is based on a federal law obligating Washington to help Taipei defend itself, as well as the *“Six Assurances”* principles, under which the US pledged to make arms sales to Taiwan without consulting China. The principles also include commitments not to formally recognize Chinese sovereignty over Taiwan and to refrain from pressuring Taipei into negotiations with Beijing.

We express sincere gratitude to [@StateDept](https://twitter.com/StateDept?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) to approve the [#FMS](https://twitter.com/hashtag/FMS?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) which is on the procedure of notifying [@congressdotgov](https://twitter.com/congressdotgov?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw). The [#FMS](https://twitter.com/hashtag/FMS?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) is based on the [#TaiwanRelationsAct](https://twitter.com/hashtag/TaiwanRelationsAct?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) and [#SixAssurances](https://twitter.com/hashtag/SixAssurances?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) that strengthen our defense capabilities and maintain regional peace and stability. <https://t.co/RoM27yIstg>

— 國防部 Ministry of National Defense, R.O.C. 🇹🇼 (@MoNDefense) [July 16, 2022](https://twitter.com/MoNDefense/status/1548101773470371840?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The latest arms deal will enhance the Taiwanese military’s interoperability with American forces and other allies, according to the US Defense Security Cooperation Agency. *“The proposed sale will contribute to the sustainment of the recipient’s vehicles, small arms, combat weapon systems, and logistical support items, enhancing its ability to meet current and future threats,”* the agency said.

Taiwanese officials have warned of an “expanding military threat” from China, which has left open the possibility of reunification by force. Beijing considers Taiwan a breakaway province and part of China’s sovereign territory.

*“*We can’t leave Taiwan independent,” Chinese ambassador to France Lu Shaye said in an interview last month. *“We’ll retake Taiwan by all means, including military ones. If we can’t reunify the country by peaceful means, what else are we left to do?”* He also accused the US of stirring tensions around Taiwan, just as he said it did around Ukraine, provoking a military conflict with Russia.

Taiwan and Ukraine have apparently become competing priorities for the US. In May, Taiwanese defense officials were forced to seek other options after the Pentagon delayed delivery of $750 million in howitzer systems by three years amid surging weapons shipments to Kiev.

The US has long urged Taiwan to modernize its defenses under a *“porcupine”* strategy designed to make the island tougher for China to swallow. However, reacting to the latest arms sale on Friday, US-Taiwan Business Council President Rupert Hammond-Chambers argued that Biden’s administration apparently no longer sees force modernization as a priority. <https://www.rt.com/news/559112-us-approvs-taiwan-arms-sale/> [The US is becoming so thinly stretched that it will soon become totally indefensible and be lost in the battles. - rdb

**Senate bill would limit power to challenge Electoral College vote**

***Bipartisan coalition says they want to stop candidates from stealing elections***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published July 16, 2022 at 5:44pm*

In a purported effort to stop candidates from stealing elections, a bipartisan group of U.S. senators is "very close" to issuing legislation that would drastically limit the ability of Congress to challenge the Electoral College vote in case of alleged fraud.

[NBC News reported](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/senators-are-close-releasing-bill-stop-candidates-stealing-elections-rcna38199) the bill would reform the Electoral Count Act with the intent of "clarifying the role of the vice president and Congress in confirming the winner of a presidential election in the wake of Jan. 6."

The working group of senators hopes to release text as early as next week.

"We're very close. We've got a few technical issues that we need to iron out, and I'm very hopeful that we'll have a bill early next week — or bills," Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, told reporters Wednesday. "That’s one of the issues that we’re deciding: whether it’s better to introduce more than one bill or one bill."

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., support the bipartisan talks, which are described as an attempt to close loopholes in election law.

Members of the House select committee investigating Jan. 6 have contended President Trump sought to exploit loopholes to maintain power after the November 2020 election.

The senators want to make clear the vice president cannot unilaterally reject electors, NBC reported. And, among other provisions, they want to raise the threshold for members of Congress to object. Currently, only one member of the House and Senate needs to submit an objection to force debate and a vote on whether to continue counting the votes or deal with the objection. MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/senate-bill-limit-power-challenge-electoral-college-vote/>

**Documents show Bill Gates has given $319 million to media outlets to promote his global agenda**

[*Alan MacLeod*](https://thegrayzone.com/author/alan-macleod/)*·November 21, 2021*

***A look at the database of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation reveals how the oligarch influencing the global pandemic response has bankrolled hundreds of media outlets to the tune of at least $319 million.***

*This article was originally published by* [*Mint Press News.*](https://www.mintpressnews.com/)

*Read The Grayzone’s investigation into Bill Gates’ global public health empire and propaganda machine* [*here*](https://thegrayzone.com/2020/07/08/bill-gates-global-health-policy/)*.*

Up until his recent messy divorce, Bill Gates enjoyed something of a free pass in corporate media. Generally presented as a kindly nerd who wants to save the world, the Microsoft co-founder was even un-ironically christened “Saint Bill” by [*The Guardian*](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2003/sep/25/microsoft.society).

While other billionaires’ media empires are relatively well known, the extent to which Gates’s cash underwrites the modern media landscape is not. After sorting through over 30,000 individual grants, *MintPress* can reveal that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) has made over $300 million worth of donations to fund media projects.

Recipients of this cash include many of America’s most important news outlets, including *CNN*, *NBC, NPR*, *PBS* and *The Atlantic*. Gates also sponsors a myriad of influential foreign organizations, including the *BBC*, *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* in the United Kingdom; prominent European newspapers such as *Le Monde* (France), *Der Spiegel*(Germany) and *El País* (Spain); as well as big global broadcasters like *Al-Jazeera*.

The Gates Foundation money going towards media programs has been split up into a number of sections, presented in descending numerical order, and includes a link to the relevant grant on the organization’s website.

**Awards Directly to Media Outlets:**

<https://thegrayzone.com/2021/11/21/bill-gates-million-media-outlets-global-agenda/> [This article is a year old and fairly long but gives unbelievable insights into the effort and expense Gates and the globalists will go to in order to control the narrative and push the global agenda. It is truly stunning. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**The Man Who Saved Your Economy**[*Calvin Beisner*](https://townhall.com/columnists/calvinbeisner/) *Posted: Jul 16, 2022 12:01 AM* Yesterday one man-Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV)-saved the American economy from a body blow.  
 That's not how President Joe Biden, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), longtime climate crusader Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Green activists, and the mainstream media see it. But it's true.  
 After months of negotiations, Manchin concluded that he could not support a budget reconciliation bill, a scaled-down version of last year's "Build Back Better" plan, that included climate and "clean energy" provisions. By doing so, he broke ranks, as he has done many times in the past, with President Biden and the rest of Democratic Party leadership. The 50/50 split between Republicans and Democrats in the Senate makes it so that if just one Democrat peals off, as Manchin did, a partisan bill cannot pass.  
 Bloomberg News[reported](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-07-15/manchin-says-no-to-new-tax-hikes-climate-spending-in-biden-plan) that the Democrats' plan included "hundreds of billions in spending on measures designed to fight climate change, including tax breaks for renewable energy, electric vehicles and other clean power sources."  
 **Second Time Around**  
 But just as, in 2010, when the Democrats held the White House and both houses of Congress, they couldn't get the Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade bill through Congress, so this time they failed, too.  
That's good news for Americans, but it grieves and angers leading Democrats.  
 Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA), who has fought for years for legislation to curb climate change, [responded](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/15/climate/manchin-climate-change-democrats.html), "Rage keeps me from tears."  
 John Podesta, former senior advisor to President Barack Obama and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and founder of the far-Left Center for American Progress, said, "It seems odd that Manchin would choose as his legacy to be the one man who single-handedly doomed humanity."  
 Not that the actual scientific reports from the United Nations' Intergovernmental on Climate Change support the idea that humanity is doomed by whatever climate change the Biden plan would have prevented had it passed-or indeed any climate change. Its reports actually forecast that humanity will be much better off at the end of this century regardless which of all the possible climate-change paths we follow. Why? Because the direct benefits of fossil fuels, cement making, and livestock farming-the primary sources of carbon dioxide emissions-far outweigh the costs of any climate-related changes they might, or might not, bring with them.  
 Manchin's firm stance yesterday is in keeping with his past actions. Earlier he killed a plan to force power plants to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Next, he stopped a plan touted to make electric vehicles more affordable. Then he refused to support incentives for wind and solar power. Finally, last year he squelched the $150 billion "Clean Electricity Performance Program," which would have paid companies using more than 4 percent "clean" (aka, non-fossil fuel) energy and fined companies that didn't.  
 Despite how angry it makes his Democratic colleagues, Manchin's action yesterday should be viewed by sane Americans as icing on the cake.  
 When Biden ran for President in 2020, his climate action plan promised to "decarbonize the power sector by 2035 and halve emissions by 2030," culminating in net-zero CO2 emissions by 2050. The costs of such an ambitious program would have mounted to trillions of dollars every year.  
 **What's the Use of Climate Policy?**  
 What most people don't realize is that achieving those goals would have reduced global average temperature in the year 2100 by no more than a tiny fraction of 1°C, an amount that can't even be measured with confidence and would have no impact on ecosystems or human wellbeing.  
 The fact that global warming science says that the warming would be mostly toward the poles, in winter, and at night, i.e., raising the coldest temperatures but with little effect on higher temperatures, means the actual impacts of the warming itself could be more beneficial than harmful. Add to that the fact that increased atmospheric carbon dioxide makes all plants grow better, raising crop yields, making food more affordable, and curbing species loss, and there's little real rationale for any policies to reduce emissions.  
 Whitehouse, whom E&E Daily calls "perhaps the Senate's top climate hawk," responded to Manchin's defeat of the climate and energy portions of the reconciliation bill, "Free at last. Let's roll. Do it all and start it now. With legislative climate options now closed, it's now time for executive Beast Mode."  
 **SCOTUS Bars the Door**  
 But Whitehouse and other climate hawks are bound to be disappointed on that front, too. The Supreme Court [ruled on](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/20-1530_n758.pdf) June 30 in West Virginia v. EPA that the Clean Air Act, the only legislation on which the federal Environmental Protection Agency could pretend to build its regulations of carbon dioxide emissions actually doesn't empower such regulations.  
 Any new, similar actions the Administration might in what Whitehouse curiously called "executive Beast Mode" would likely face the same fate. By its ruling, the Supreme Court essentially said, "Any rules to combat climate change are going to have to come from the people's elected representatives, not from unaccountable, deep state-embedded bureaucrats."  
 That's good news for people who believe in government by consent of the governed, but it's bad news for Greens and Democrats.  
 "With Republicans favored to take back at least one chamber in this year's midterms, it could mean climate advocates will have to wait years to advance the kind of large-scale, emissions-slashing policies that were being negotiated as part of the reconciliation package," [opined E&E News](https://www.eenews.net/articles/fury-from-dems-greens-after-manchin-blocks-climate-bill/). The article went on to call it "a massive setback for Democrats politically and a blow to the nation's climate goals."  
**Reality Bites**  
 Rising inflation-the Consumer Price Index in June being 9.1 percent higher than a year before-driven in large part by skyrocketing gasoline, diesel, and natural gas prices clearly played a part in the Democrats' failure to pass their climate legislation. Americans are reeling from the blows of higher prices not only for energy but also for food and pretty much everything else.  
 Biden has blamed the rising fuel prices on Russia's war against Ukraine. But while that has been a contributor over the past five months, much of the increase occurred before Russia attacked. That earlier rise and the inability of America's oil and gas sectors to push prices back down by increasing production are due almost wholly to climate-related Democratic policies preventing exploration, drilling, mining, transporting, and refining.  
Among other reasons Manchin offers for opposing the plan is his concern about its emphasis on accelerating the replacement of internal-combustion vehicles with electric vehicles (EV). That's a problem, he says, because the United States depends heavily on other nations, especially China, for lithium, cobalt, and other minerals critical to the production of EV batteries.  
 Manchin spokesman Sam Runyon explained in a prepared statement, "Political headlines are of no value to the millions of Americans struggling to afford groceries and gas as inflation soars to 9.1 percent. Senator Manchin believes it's time for leaders to put political agendas aside, reevaluate and adjust to the economic realities the country faces to avoid taking steps that add fuel to the inflation fire." <https://townhall.com/columnists/calvinbeisner/2022/07/16/the-man-who-saved-your-economy-n2610338>

**Mother of all Famines on the Horizon as World Food Production Falters From the Green New Fraud**

*By* [*Sidney Secular*](https://newswithviews.com/author/sidney/)*|July 16th, 2022* World food production is projected to decline precipitously in 2022. The wheat harvest alone is expected to drop by 10 million metric tons from last year while other grains and food staples are in similar dire straits. A record 45 million people are on the brink of starvation and a further 800 million lack a reliable source of daily food. Farmers in the world’s leading farm belts outside of Russia and the Ukraine as well as the US, Canada, Europe and India are being forced to protest simply for the right to produce this much needed food. Earlier in 2022 there were reports that American farmers would be offered subsidies if they destroyed their crops and farmers in the Netherlands are now blocking streets in protest over the situation as have farmers in Germany for the past 3 years.  
 The food crisis is the direct result of the “Green agenda” in which productive investment in water, power, and other infrastructures essential to agriculture are blocked by governments acting on the part of the mega food cartels, Goldman Sachs, hedge fund managers, and the billionaire royal-elitist class. The plutocrats are fronted by the World Wildlife Fund and other major environmental groups to which money is funneled by deep pocket leftists and foundations. “Carbon-concerned” cultivation and climate change clamor are causing money to flow into Green finance swindles while farmers and ranchers are ruined! Of course, the result is that people are now or will be starving by the millions in a government policy akin to Stalin’s genocide in the Ukraine in which statistics say over *nine million* starved in what the Ukrainians called *the Holodomore* (the Hunger). As happened then, this matter is being blacked out by the blackguards of the mainstream media in the US and around the world, the same liars who messed up the minds of the masses with the concocted COVID coverage.  
 The control over food production and the attempted control of humanity *in toto* began with the 1992 Rio Earth Summit which introduced the institutional version of the ongoing green fraud. This was followed by the reinforcement and implementation of resolutions coming under the aegis of the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994 and the World Trade Organization in 1995 and was further facilitated by the 2008 repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933. The latter event was a major factor in the meltdown of the housing market that year as the result of unscrupulous lending practices. People were being quietly induced to return to urban areas as they sought to escape from the foreclosures forced upon them. The said 1992 Rio Earth Summit unleashed the global warming/climate change bugaboo and its accompanying campaign for the maintenance of biological diversity and population limitation.  
 From that time, the New World Eco-order has dominated the international dialog calling for the restriction of human activity ostensibly to prevent the emission of too much greenhouse gases supposedly in the fear that the Earth’s climate will skyrocket!  These “environmental” folks have also called for severely restricting the areas of the planet occupied by humans lest the “wilderness” and its animal and plant species go extinct. The “stack and pack” campaign that sought to further concentrate people within cities resulted in ever increasing urban sprawl without concern or restriction even of the ecological kind. Of course, the sprawl itself was the result of increases in population almost entirely due to the unrestricted inflow of refugees and immigrants from the third world who were needed, we were assured, to increase our “diversity.” Parenthetically, the increase certainly didn’t arise from native citizen birth rates as every Western country including the US did not present with even a replacement population birthrate much less an increase.  
 Unfortunately for the nations of the West, far from these Third World “blessings” being appreciative of their welcome, they were demanding of the rights of citizens including welfare and other government goodies. On the other hand, these “imports” could do no wrong according to our government and were to be coddled and appeased lest they have reason to complain about anything. In this as in all other stupid leftist policies, liberals have been permitted to “have it both ways” while American citizens are permitted to notice or say nothing about the destruction of our culture and the nullification of our laws. The simple fact is that as long as a policy “feels good” to our leftist leaders and their minions, the rest of us are “left” to accept whatever consequences ensue.  
 International conferences to promote the aforesaid goals have been held regularly over the years. These include the noteworthy “COP26” “climate summit” conference in Scotland in November 2021, the 15th biodiversity summit in China held in October 2015 (COP15), and the COP21 conference held in Paris also in 2015 in which dozens of nations agreed to provide “Nationally Determined Contributions” or plans to reduce those nations’ output of “greenhouse” gases. The predictable results of these confabs are now seen in worsening electricity and fuel crises resulting from the takedown of coal and nuclear power generating stations as well as the buildup of unreliable wind and solar power and the deregulation of energy prices. More Texas-type freezes such as occurred in January 2021 can be expected to topple power grids dependent upon unreliable solar and wind sources.  
 Of course, these policies affect more than the electrical power used in homes and businesses. Two of our leading grain states – Iowa for corn and Kansas for wheat – depend heavily upon unreliable solar and wind for half of their electricity. European agriculture has also been hit hard. Farmers can’t afford or obtain reliable fuel for their machinery or for drying crops and other necessary agricultural functions. Also, with the rising price of fuel, large numbers of high-yield Dutch greenhouses can’t afford electricity. In what is rapidly becoming a world-wide disaster, rising fuel prices have crippled nitrogen fertilizer production. It’s feedstock is natural gas whose price has soared and whose supply is uncertain. Farmers can neither afford nor obtain if they were able to afford, the fertilizer essential for good yields of corn and wheat. The EU is actually decreasing their food output *on purpose!* In May 2020, the EU enacted the “Farm to Fork” Green Deal calling for the reduction of land use for agriculture by 10%; fertilizer use by 20%; and the use of pesticides by 50% even though these measures would eliminate the food needed by an estimated 185 million people. One has to wonder if the “kill rate” of COVID “vaccines” is not what is driving the use of such policies! After all, if enough people die by “healthcare” the food output reduction becomes far less a threat! In another idiocy, the British government has declared that the main function of farmers will now be enhancing the environment [!] while the production of food will become a secondary “benefit.” Of course, rewards and punishments will be utilized to force the implementation of these new policies. It is at times like this that the old Greek saying demands a restatement: “Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad!”  
 Illegitimate “President” Biden, immediately upon taking office issued Executive Order 14008, in which Section 216 requires that by 2030, 30% of US lands and waters must be removed from any human use! At present, some 13% of US lands and waters are under some form of government limitation. Agriculture is directly threatened as can be seen by the state of New Mexico setting aside 30% of its land for removal from human use. In Montana, a billionaire is promoting the “American Serengeti” whereby the new “American Prairie Reserve” would bring back bison and ban cattle and sheep grazing in an area the size of Lebanon. In the US, 85% of all meatpacking is controlled by just a few transnational entities– Cargill, Tysons, Smithfield [a company that has been purchased by China!], Marfrig and JBS. A pilot program is in place called the Ranch Systems and Viability Planning Project (RSVP) which will dictate a program for cattlemen to sharply reduce carbon emissions by removing the cattle that produce it. Meanwhile, Bill Gates is promoting a program for all “rich countries” to move to 100% synthetic beef! Many carbon curbing programs are also being initiated. Cargill is in charge of a program called “Regenerative Agriculture” to capture carbon in the soils of six states. Farmers will be surveilled remotely for compliance through the program that is known as “Regrow.”  
 “Biofuels” are a longstanding swindle begun by G.W. Bush and promoted by every president since. Now 40% of the US corn crop which itself constitutes one-third of the world’s corn harvest, goes into ethanol production. It is a major diversion of agricultural capacity to an unworthy effort to make energy “vegan.” So much soy oil is going for biodiesel that bakers and food processors are appealing for government intervention because of the shortage of vegetable oils with the resultant soaring prices of those oils. Internationally, edible oil prices have gone up 60% in one year. The British Crown think tank Chatham House bluntly states that depopulation is the goal to save the planet and asserts that food production is harmful since it degrades or destroys natural habitat and contributes to species extinction. Of course, *OUR* extinction apparently is less problematic than that of the buffalo or the butterfly.  
 The methodology of these “well meaning” bio-fascists is to change dietary patterns to reduce the demand for certain foodstuffs, including meat! If the US switched from beef to beans (or bugs!), the claim is that such a program would free up former cropland for other uses such as eco-system restoration. But taking out the “inputs” to farming will make farming unfeasible – with all that means to human survival. The dietary preferences of most cultures of the world relate to one or another of the top grains, e.g., corn (tortillas), wheat (bread or pasta), rice (alone or as noodles), etc. The majority of humanity’s caloric intake comes from grains. Outside of China, India and Russia, there is essentially no attempt being made to guarantee an adequate food supply. Instead, with the blessing of world governments, the transnational food cartels will get to decide who can – and cannot – afford to eat. All of Sub-Saharan Africa depends on imports for 40% of its people’s grain consumption. Under the emerging circumstances, a future of major famine looms there. Remember, this area of Africa is the only area of the world with an exploding population! You can bet they will be swarming across the borders of their more fortunate neighbors soon!  We are looking at a stark dark and savage future ahead for all mankind if this wickedness is not stopped <https://newswithviews.com/mother-of-all-famines-on-the-horizon-as-world-food-production-falters-from-the-green-new-fraud/>

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| **THE SHORASHIM BIBLICAL GIFT CATALOG 005**  [**http://mad.ly/7f9f64?pact=20013931524&fe=1**](http://mad.ly/7f9f64?pact=20013931524&fe=1)  **Support Shorashim!** |

**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Shas forces United Torah Judaism to announce support for Netanyahu**

***'Happy there has been a clear announcement by MK Moshe Gafni that UTJ will go with the Likud & MK Netanyahu,' Shas chair MK Aryeh Deri says.***

*Itzik Brandwein Jul 17, 2022, 6:01 AM GMT+3*

MK Moshe Gafni, who heads Ashkenazic-haredi United Torah Judaism, and MK Aryeh Deri, who heads Sephardic-haredi Shas, disagreed just minutes before sundown on Friday.

The two parties generally work hand-in-hand in the Knesset; if one party joins a coalition, the other party joins as well, and they sit in the opposition together also.

Speaking on *Channel 12 News*, Deri claimed that Gafni is trying to woo Prime Minister Yair Lapid of Yesh Atid, and Defense Minister Benny Gantz of Blue and White.

Gafni's office responded, "There is no wooing by Gafni of Lapid and Gantz. We will go with the Likud and with [MK Benjamin] Netanyahu. Deri's hints on the matter have no basis in reality."

Minutes after Gafni's announcement, Deri's office said, "Shas chief Aryeh Deri did not say even a single hint that Gafni will [form a government](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/355546) with Gantz and Lapid. The opposite is true: Shas chief Deri, in all of his recent interviews, was forced to answer questions by journalists regarding the actions and statements of Moshe Gafni."

"Following this, Deri clarified that Shas and the haredim will only support Netanyahu for prime minister. We are happy that finally there has been a clear announcement by Gafni that they will go with the Likud and Netanyahu."

The spat began after [Deri told *Channel 12*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/356602), "We need to put things in their place. I am not Gafni's spokesman, but he also is not the spokesman of all of haredi Judaism. UTJ is made of two parties, and Gafni represents only one part."

When asked if there would be a government headed by Gantz, Deri said, "No. Lapid is the head of the largest party, he is the prime minister. Gantz and [Justice Minister Gideon] Sa'ar (New Hope) cannot make a change - for that they would need to bring in the Likud and the haredim. Why should they let Gantz be prime minister? Why should the Likud, the largest party, not form the government?" <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/356612>

**Muslims expected to increase presence on Temple Mount**

***Sheikh calls on Muslims to flock to Temple Mount ahead of Jewish fast day, claiming 'extremists' are planning 'break-ins.'***

*Dalit Halevi, Chana Roberts Jul 17, 2022, 7:23 AM GMT+3*

Sheikh Ikharma Sabari, who heads the Supreme Muslim Council of "Palestine" and gives sermons at Al Aqsa Mosque, has warned that "those extremists loyal to the Temple Mount" intend to "break into Al Aqsa Mosque" on Sunday.

Sunday marks the 17th day of the Jewish month of Tamuz, which is one of four fast days commemorating the destruction of the Holy Temples, which were built on the Temple Mount before Islam was founded.

Speaking with *Falastin al-Youm*, a news site identified with the Islamic Jihad terror group, Sabari said that the planned "break-in" to the mosque is intended to desecrate the space which is holy to Muslims, and that it is just part of the efforts to "Judaize" the Temple Mount, including by means of archaeological digging.

In reality, the Arabs have been [digging illegally](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/142187) on the Temple Mount [for decades](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/123539), working [to destroy](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/124246) all remaining evidence of an ancient Jewish presence [at the site.](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/193992)

According to Sabari, the silence by the international Arab community regarding what is happening on the Temple Mount "encourages" the "extremists" to declare boldly the time of the "break-in" to Al Aqsa, with the knowledge that no one will act to protect the place, which was the first direction of prayer for Islam.

He added that the repeated "break-ins" to Al Aqsa's property encourages the immigration of Jews to "Palestine."".

Along with his repetition of the message claiming that Al Aqsa is "in danger," Sabari called on Muslims to visit the Al Aqsa in order to protect it from Jews' visits to the site. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/356615>

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| Urgent Appeal from Yaffa/Lev U'Neshama  Normally, I don't send appeal emails because our supporters are generous and we manage our money carefully to enable our programs to function smoothly. However, I am compelled to contact you now because we urgently need donations to reach our goal for basic school supplies.  For the past several years, donations made to the Education Fund were used in August before school resumes. Much of the fund is used to purchase coupons at our one-and-only office supply store. The family-owned store is happy for the business and they give a generous discount to stretch our funds.    We have 82 families in our program and they are already calling us asking if they will be receiving a coupon to be redeemed at this store. Smaller families have 5 or 6 children and large families have 13 and some more. Last year we gave 150 NIS credit to each family. Not sufficient but something. This year, of course, cost of school supplies has risen and we need to give 200 NIS.    200 times 82 = 16,400 NIS. Presently I have almost 8,000 NIS. A bit short, you can see. Also, a bit short on time. It's the middle of July and we need to have funds in place within a month to allow the coupons to be completed and mailed.  The amount in dollars is approximately $2,700. Not a huge amount in the scope of things but urgently needed by the kids here. About 1/3 of the children in Tzfat come from families who are in the poverty range. But they shouldn't be deprived of basic school supplies to have a good start in school.  Additionally, I am concerned that we will need funds to provide eye exams/eyeglasses and sport shoes and this is beyond what we are extrapolating for the school supplies.    I'm sending this appeal to everyone in the hopes of reaching our goal for school supplies and have some also for the shoes and eyeglasses; $60 for eyeglasses/exam and $30 for a pair of sport shoes).    You may already be a supporter of Lev U'Neshama and give generously but perhaps you can ask family or friends to join in this effort. If you haven't donated to us before or do so periodically, now is a good time.    **Donations may be made by** going to our web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com)  Go to the "How You Can Help" page and select an option to donate. You can even use a credit card.    Or you can use PayPal (although a fee is taken). Recipient email address: mortsmo@aol.com    Or you can use Zelle from US to US bank; no fee. You need to use my email address and my English name, Sheila Smolensky, as it is on the account.    Or . . . you could send a check made payable to my son Simcha Smolensky and send it to:  Rabbi Simcha Smolensky  6933 N Kedzie Ave  Unit 116  Chicago IL 60645  (Canadian checks or money orders must be in US dollars)    If you need/want a US Tax Receipt, email me and I'll give you the information.    Hoping you and/or someone you know, can help reach the goal to help our children.    Enjoy the remainder of summer in good health,    Yaffa Smolensky  Volunteer Program Manager  Lev U'Neshama    Tzfat Israel email: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com) web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com) |

**07/16/2022 NEWS – Don’t Miss Note from Lev U’Neshama at end**

**How Israel Became the Global Leader in Tech: Why Israel Matters**

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrQMY0Tf-Jk>

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| "The First Amendment was designed to protect offensive speech, because nobody ever tries to ban the other kind." -- Mike Godwin staff counsel, Electronic Freedom Foundation |

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

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

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

Exodus 22:10If a man deliver unto his neighbour an ass, or an ox, or a sheep, or any beast, to keep, and it die, or be hurt, or driven away, no man seeing it; 11the oath of the LORD shall be between them both, to see whether he have not put his hand unto his neighbour's goods; and the owner thereof shall accept it, and he shall not make restitution. 12But if it be stolen from him, he shall make restitution unto the owner thereof. 13If it be torn in pieces, let him bring it for witness; he shall not make good that which was torn.

**2 rockets fired from Gaza hours after Biden announces steps toward Saudi-Israel ties**

***One projectile intercepted as sirens sound in Ashkelon, 2nd hits open area; none hurt; attack comes shortly after US president leaves Israel for Jeddah***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *16 July 2022, 1:43 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/vlcsnap-2022-07-16-01h22m17s384-e1657924876206.jpg)

An Iron Dome interceptor missile is seen over the southern city of Ashkelon, July 16, 2022. (Screenshot: Twitter)

Two rockets were launched at Israel from the Gaza Strip after midnight on Saturday, the military said.

According to the Israel Defense Forces, one of the rockets was intercepted by the Iron Dome defense system, while the other landed in an open area, causing no damage.

There was no immediate claim by any of the Gaza-based terror groups for Saturday’s rocket fire.

Incoming rocket sirens sounded in the southern coastal city of Ashkelon, sending local residents rushing to shelters.

The Magen David Adom ambulance service said there were no reports of physical injuries following the rocket attack, but two people were treated for anxiety.

Authorities did not announce any change in instructions for residents.

Footage posted to social media purported to show the moment one of the rockets was intercepted by the Iron Dome.

אזעקה באשקלון, צבע אדום בעוטף עזה. בשמי אשקלון נשמע קול יירוט[@Itsik\_zuarets](https://twitter.com/Itsik_zuarets?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)   
(צילום: אדי ישראל) [pic.twitter.com/MSJ5b63mdf](https://t.co/MSJ5b63mdf)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [July 15, 2022](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1548064194087464961?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The rocket fire came hours after US President Joe Biden departed the country, and shortly after the American leader, now in Saudi Arabia, announced an agreement that includes steps by Riyadh toward [normalizing ties with Israel](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-to-remove-red-sea-island-observer-force-advancing-steps-toward-saudi-israel-ties/).

The deal will see the transfer of a pair of Red Sea islands from Egypt to Saudia Arabia, and Riyadh allowing Israeli airlines to fly over its territory on their way to the far east. It is also expected to include the Saudis allowing direct flights from Israel for Muslim pilgrims.

In 2020, the Gaza-ruling Hamas terror group launched a salvo of rockets at the south as Israel was signing peace deals with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Biden departed from Israel earlier Friday, after a two-day trip that included meetings with Israeli leaders and a visit to East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

More footage of the apparent interception over Ashkelon. [pic.twitter.com/b4DQWiMOfC](https://t.co/b4DQWiMOfC)

— Emanuel (Mannie) Fabian (@manniefabian) [July 15, 2022](https://twitter.com/manniefabian/status/1548066784120410119?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

In the past, Israel has responded with airstrikes against Hamas sites regardless of the group launching the attack. More rarely, it has directed its response at Islamic Jihad, if the terror group claimed responsibility.

The last time rockets were fired from the coastal enclave toward Israel was on June 18. That attack was thought to have been fired by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in response to the deaths of three Palestinians killed in a gunfight with Israeli troops a day earlier. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/2-rockets-fired-from-gaza-hours-after-biden-announces-steps-toward-saudi-israel-ties/> [They are mad at Saudi for agreeing to a deal concerning Israel so lets bomb Israel. Really brilliant logical thinking. It is like that of a 2 year old. – rdb]

**US to remove Red Sea island observer force, advancing steps toward Saudi-Israel ties**

***Island transfer from Egypt paves way for normalization with Jerusalem, in Biden foreign policy win hours after he landed in Jeddah for controversial courting of oil-rich kingdom***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 11:03 pmUpdated at 11:16 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/000_32EH3ZW.jpg)

US President Joe Biden (C-L) takes part in a working session with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (C-R) at the Al Salam Royal Palace in the Saudi coastal city of Jeddah, on July 15, 2022. (Mandel NGAN / AFP)

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia — US President Joe Biden on Friday announced the planned withdrawal of a multinational observer force that has secured a pair of Red Sea islands for over forty years, which will allow their transfer from Egypt to Saudi Arabia in a US-brokered agreement that includes steps by Riyadh toward normalizing ties with Israel.

Biden said US troops have served on Tiran Island since 1978, and will leave by the end of the year.

“We’ve concluded a historic deal to transform a flashpoint at the heart of the Middle East wars into an area of peace,” Biden said. “International peacekeepers, including US troops. will leave Tiran Island in the Red Sea where they’ve been for over 40 years since the Camp David Accords.”

“Five American soldiers died on the strategically located islands in 2020 and its important to remember them today,” Biden said.

“Now as a result of this breakthrough, this island will be open to tourism and economic development while retaining all necessary security arrangements and the present freedom of navigation of all parties, including Israel,” he said.

The White House said “Saudi Arabia has agreed to preserve and continue all existing commitments and procedures in the area,” in an apparent reference to Israel’s role in the agreement. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-to-remove-red-sea-island-observer-force-advancing-steps-toward-saudi-israel-ties/> [HUMMM? And they will say “peace, peace” and then….. – rdb]

**Biden lands in Jeddah, set to announce more Saudi steps toward Israel normalization**

***US president heads straight to royal palace for meetings with king and crown prince who hours earlier opened airspace to Israeli flights in ‘big first step’ to normal ties***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 7:20 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22196597737533-1-e1657904037786.jpg)

In this photo released by Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, right, greets President Joe Biden, with a fist bump after his arrival in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Friday, July 15, 2022. (Saudi Press Agency via AP)

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia — US President Joe Biden landed in Saudi Arabia Friday evening on what was the first flight by an American leader from Israel to Jeddah for a two-day trip during which efforts to integrate Israel further into the region will feature prominently.

Upon walking off of Air Force One, Biden was greeted by Makkah Province Governor Khalid Al Faisal along with Saudi Ambassador to the US Reema Bandar Al Saud. He boarded his motorcade shortly thereafter and headed to the Al Salam Royal Palace for a meeting with King Salman followed by a bilateral with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman and other ministers.

In a highly anticipated interaction, Biden fist-bumped the crown prince who greeted him outside the palace. The president greeted Israeli leaders the same way upon deplaning in Tel Aviv in what was seen as part of the White House’s COVID precautions, but then speculated as part of Biden’s effort to avoid having to shake hands with the Saudi leader who the CIA found was responsible for ordering the murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018.

In a press gaggle aboard Air Force One en route to Jeddah, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan indicated that there would be additional announcements vis-à-vis Israeli-Saudi ties during the visit, which came hours after Riyadh announced that it would open its airspace to all civilian airliners, including Israeli ones.

A picture containing sky, person, outdoor, people

Description automatically generated “We will have things to say on issues related to promoting peace in the region,” Sullivan told reporters.

However, he declined to say whether direct flights between Israel and Saudi Arabia for Muslim pilgrims will be announced on the president’s trip, saying he would leave it up to Riyadh to reveal as it is the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

President Joe Biden arrives at King Abdulaziz International Airport, Friday, July 15, 2022, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

The national security adviser joked with reporters that they need not get ahead of themselves, as the Saudi agreement on Thursday to allow Israeli flights to use its airspace is “cool” in its own right.

Sullivan said that the Thursday announcement from Riyadh was the first step toward normalization with Israel, “but it’s a big step.”

The opening of its airspace and allowing direct flights for Muslim pilgrims are the pair of steps Riyadh is readying to take in exchange as part of a broader agreement brokered by the US that will see control over a pair of Red Sea islands transferred from Egypt to Saudi Arabia, a Middle East diplomat told The Times of Israel on Thursday.

Tiran and Sanafir were previously held by Israel, which agreed to transfer them to Egypt as part of their 1979 peace treaty while allowing a multinational observer force to remain and ensuring Jerusalem’s freedom of transport around the islands.

Accordingly, Israel’s sign-off was needed for the Egyptian-to-Saudi island transfer to go through, and the Biden administration leveraged the green light needed to push Riyadh to take steps toward normalization with the Jewish state.

The US had been seeking to finalize the agreement in time for Biden’s arrival, but US officials indicated they would not make an announcement until after the president’s meetings with Saudi officials. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-lands-in-jeddah-slated-to-announce-saudi-steps-toward-israel-normalization/> [So sleepy Joe, did you get the oil??? Or did he tell you to take a walk and use your own. – rdb]

**In West Bank alongside Abbas, Biden endorses two states but says ‘ground isn’t ripe’**

***US president says Palestinians need ‘political horizon,’ tells PA to combat corruption; Abbas slams Israeli ‘apartheid,’ wants PLO off US terror list: ‘We are not terrorists’***

*By* [*Jeremy Sharon*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jeremy-sharon/)*,* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *and* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 3:50 pmUpdated at 4:55 pm*

US President Joe Biden acknowledged Friday that an independent state for Palestinians “can seem so far away” as he confronted hopelessness about the stagnant peace process during a visit to the West Bank. For the first time as president, he called for a two-state solution along the 1967 lines with agreed land swaps, but also said the ground was not ripe for restarting Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Biden made his remarks during a joint appearance in Bethlehem with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

“The Palestinian people are hurting now,” he said. “You can just feel it. Your grief and frustration. In the United States, we can feel it.”

He added that it was important for the Palestinians to have “a political horizon they can see.”

Biden refrained, however, from recognizing East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state, despite reportedly being urged to do so by the Palestinians.

Two men shaking hands

Description automatically generated with medium confidence He also called for the Palestinian Authority to reform the way it governs and combat corruption.

US President Joe Biden (L) is received by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in Bethlehem, July 15, 2022. (MANDEL NGAN / AFP)

The speech was noticeably short on any firm commitment to advance the Palestinians’ political demands for an end to settlement expansion and the swift establishment of a Palestinian state.

Although he announced [$316 million in financial assistance](https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-to-announce-eased-access-for-palestinians-at-allenby-crossing-more-measures/) for the Palestinians during his visit, there was no announcement of a clear path to getting peace talks back on track.

“Even if the ground is not ripe at this moment to restart negotiations, the United States and my administration will not give up on bringing the Palestinians and the Israelis, both sides, closer together,” he said.

“The Palestinian people deserve a state of their own that’s independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous,” said Biden, in a noticeable change from the Trump peace proposal which offered Palestinians only a semi-contiguous state while allowing Israel to hold onto all its settlements.

“Two states along the 1967 lines, with mutually agreed-to swaps, remain the best way to achieve an equal measure of security, prosperity, freedom and democracy for the Palestinians as well as Israelis,” he said. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-west-bank-biden-endorses-two-states-but-says-ground-is-not-ripe/> [Is anyone going to supervise or monitor the way the money is used????? I doubt it because they don’t usually have any accountability built into their programs so that some of the money can come back home to those promoting the ‘donation’. – rdb]

**At East Jerusalem hospital, Biden pledges $100 million for Palestinian health care**

***The US president stops at Augusta Victoria before traveling to meet Palestinian leader Abbas in Bethlehem; will take off for Saudi Arabia in the afternoon***

*By* [*Jeremy Sharon*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jeremy-sharon/) *and* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 12:08 pm =*

US President Joe Biden on Friday announced an infusion of American assistance for six East Jerusalem hospitals that he said serve as “the backbone” of health care for Palestinians.

During a visit to Augusta Victoria Hospital on the third day of his trip to the region, Biden said that Palestinians and Israelis “deserve equal measures of freedom, security, prosperity and dignity, and access to health care when you need it is essential to living a life of dignity for all of us.”

Biden, in his speech, praised nurses and other health care workers for providing care and hope to the sick, and announced a commitment of $100 million by the US to Palestinian hospitals in East Jerusalem.

He began very personal remarks by asking, “Are there any nurses in the room?” and went on, amid laughter: “Because if not, I’m going home… If there are any angels in heaven – no, no, no, I mean this sincerely, from the bottom of my heart…

“My wife and daughter were killed and my boys were trapped in a vehicle for three hours when a tractor-trailer hit them; the doctor saved their lives, but the nurses made them want to live, cared for them every day,” he went on. He added: “I don’t think you nurses are nearly appreciated enough.”

He also discussed his own health problems, and the death of his son Beau.

Returning to more formal remarks, Biden promised, “The US will continue to work with the Palestinian leadership and the government of Israel and all our international partners to ensure that East Jerusalem’s hospital network remains sustainable and available, and is able to provide high-quality care the Palestinian people deserve,” he said.

The six East Jerusalem hospitals, emblematic of the Palestinian presence in the city, have faced a funding crisis in recent years, as the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority has struggled to pay for advanced treatment for Palestinians. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/at-east-jerusalem-hospital-biden-pledges-100-million-for-palestinian-healthcare/>

**Kohavi to visit unnamed Arab nation next week in 1st formal trip there by IDF chief**

***Destination barred from publication until Kohavi lands on Monday; nation said to be one with official relations with Israel, including in military matters***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 10:02 pm*

Israel Defense Forces chief Lt. Gen. Aviv Kohavi is slated to travel to an Arab country next week on a first-ever official trip.

The military censor said Friday that the trip could be reported, albeit with restrictions.

The name of the country is to remain barred from publication until Kohavi lands in the Arab nation, on Monday.

Israel has been holding official relations with the country recently, including in military-related matters, according to Hebrew-language military correspondents, who are regularly briefed off the record by senior Israeli officials.

The three-day trip will be the first time an Israeli military chief officially visits the country, the reports said.

Earlier this year, Kohavi traveled to [Bahrain](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-army-chief-in-bahrain-for-first-official-visit/) on a first official trip. Also during that visit, Kohavi reportedly met with his [Qatari](https://www.timesofisrael.com/kohavi-met-qatari-military-chief-in-bahrain-to-discuss-military-cooperation-report/) counterpart, despite limited relations between the countries.

Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Morocco normalized relations with Israel in 2020.

In March, senior Israeli military officials wrapped up a first official trip to [Morocco](https://www.timesofisrael.com/top-idf-brass-meet-morocco-army-chief-in-rabat-agree-on-military-cooperation/), where the sides signed an accord that aimed to have the two militaries collaborate. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/kohavi-to-visit-unnamed-arab-nation-next-week-in-1st-formal-trip-there-by-idf-chief/>

**After terror wave, Haredi men take up arms to protect their communities**

***Series of attacks on Haredi communities in recent months lead to birth of Project Shield, which would train Haredi IDF veterans to protect their homes and neighborhoods in times of crisis***

*Kobi Nachshoni | Published: 07.15.22, 18:55*

 Following the terror wave that swept through Israel between March and May, the Netzah Yehuda Association — which helps and accommodates Haredi soldiers during their military service in the IDF — announced the establishment of an armed national community watch, dubbed Project Shield, with the aim of providing security services and immediate response during emergencies and terror attacks.

Volunteer squads would consist of IDF veterans, mainly from the 97th Netzah Yehuda Battalion — the IDF's first Haredi combat battalion, and part of the Kfir Brigade.

Netzah Yehuda Battalion veterans (Photo: Rafi Kotz)

In recent months, eight Israelis were killed in terror attacks in Bnei Brak and Elad — both Haredi cities. It seems Palestinian terrorists have identified Haredi communities as a weak spot due to the sector's low participation in the military and gun ownership.

Just last week, a [Haredi from Bnei Brak was stabbed](https://www.ynetnews.com/article/syw3j87jq) just outside the city with police suspecting the attack had a nationalistic motive.

Project Shield was founded in cooperation with the Public Security Ministry, the Israel Police, local authorities, and not less importantly, with the blessing of local Rabbis. As part of the project, veterans of Haredi IDF combat units will be trained to respond to terror attacks and other emergencies in the Haredi community.

With the launch of the program at the beginning of the week, it was announced that a pilot would first be launched in Jerusalem, and if deemed successful, it would later be expanded to other cities as well.



(Photo: Rafi Kotz)

Units would provide security services to synagogues on Saturdays and Jewish holidays and would have a direct communications channel with law enforcement and local authorities to reduce response times.

Project Shield volunteers will be able to obtain a firearm license through a fast-track process, receive specialized training, and qualify for a police IDF that would provide them with legal protection and insurance coverage if needed as well as other benefits.

Some 200 volunteers arrived at the project's inaugural event and will begin their service immediately while 1,500 others have also signed up. In addition, 100 more Haredi men have asked to join the police force on a full-time basis following recent events.

"I saw that the Haredi sector doesn't carry guns in large part," said Dubi Lichter from Beit Shemesh who was discharged from the military a year ago after serving in Netzah Yehuda. MORE -

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/b1otsmoj9> [This is excellent. There are many Haredi who have served in units and have suffered significant persecution from their community and for the Rabbis to get behind this program is excellent. It might just open a host of doors for these folks. – rdb]

**Iran announces naval division of armed drones capable of ‘regrettable response’**

***Iranian state TV says unit consists of ships and submarine units carrying drones for ‘combat, detection and destruction’; announcement made during Biden’s Mideast trip***

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/07/AP22196443426073.jpg)*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:47 pm*

In this image released on, July 15, 2022 by the Iranian Army, a drone is launched from an Iranian warship during a drill in the Indian Ocean (Iranian Army via AP)

T EHRAN — Iran’s navy on Friday unveiled its first division of ships and submarines capable of carrying armed drones, as US President Joe Biden tours the Middle East.

The United States and Israel have previously accused the Islamic Republic of using drones and missiles to attack US forces and Israel-linked ships in the Gulf.

“The first drone-carrier division of the Iranian navy consisting of ships and submarine units carrying all types of drone for combat, detection and destruction has been unveiled,” state television said.  
 “All types of the latest advanced drones produced by the military and the defense ministry have flown over the Indian Ocean’s waters to demonstrate their capabilities,” it added, showing images of drones taking off from a naval vessel.  
 The announcement comes as Biden undertakes his first presidential visit to Israel, where he and Prime Minister Yair Lapid on Thursday [signed a security pact](https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-and-lapids-jerusalem-strategic-partnership-joint-declaration/) reinforcing their common front against Iran.  
 Biden’s trip also included a [presentation of Israel’s “Iron Beam”](https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-views-defense-tech-at-airport-including-iron-dome-new-laser-based-iron-beam/) air defense system, which uses lasers to intercept drones and missiles.  
 “As we are aware of the aggressive attitude in the (United States’) system of domination, it is necessary to increase our defensive capabilities day-by-day,” Iranian army commander Abdolrahim Mousavi said on television.

“If the enemies make a mistake, (these drones) will present them with a regrettable response,” he warned during the unveiling. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-announces-naval-division-of-armed-drones-capable-of-regrettable-response/>

**Russia in 'World War' With Western Nations, Putin Ally Says**

By Isabel van Brugen Newsweek  1 day ago

Russia is in a "world war" with Western nations amid Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said on Wednesday.

"We should understand that amid the world war, all the talks that it's is a regional or a local war must be dropped," Vucic, an ally of Putin, told independent Serbian TV channel Pink in an interview.

"The entire Western world is fighting against Russia via Ukrainians. It is a global conflict," he said, according to Russia's state-run news agency TASS.

Serbia, which has strong ties with Russia politically, economically, and culturally, has so far refused to side with the West in imposing sanctions over Putin's war against Ukraine, which began in late February. The country is almost entirely dependent on Russian gas.

However, in March Serbia did vote in favor of a UN resolution demanding that Russia end the invasion and pull its troops out of Ukraine.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic (R) said Wednesday that Russia is in a “world war” with Western nations amid Russian President Vladimir Putin’s (L) invasion of Ukraine. MAXIM SHIPENKOV/POOL/AFP/Getty Images

During a press conference last month, Vucic also claimed that many European Union states are in "a direct war" with Russia, according to the Russian state-owned television network RT.

The Serbian president said the country, which is a candidate for EU membership, is now in a difficult position due to the pressure to join the West in slapping sanctions on Moscow. Vucic said he is aware of "how angry many of them [EU members] are" over the issue.

"Many EU countries are in a direct war against Russia. They send howitzers, planes, S-300s to Ukraine, and how do you think they will treat us? They are not in our shoes as we are not in theirs, and that is why our position is extremely difficult. Will it be easier? Well, it won't," Vucic said.

Last month, a Russian state TV host and guests also alluded to the Ukraine conflict being a world war, saying that World War III has started, and that Ukraine could be just the beginning of a potentially larger conflict with the West  
 "Russia's special operation in Ukraine has ended in a sense that a real war had started: WWIII," host Olga Skabeeva said, according to a segment shared by The Daily Beast's Julia Davis on June 1.  
 "We're forced to conduct the demilitarization not only of Ukraine but of the entire NATO alliance."  
 Alexei Fenenko, associate professor of world politics at Moscow State University, said he believed a larger conflict with the West was possible in the future.  
 "For us, the war in Ukraine is a rehearsal," he said. "Rehearsal for a possible bigger conflict in the future. We'll test and compare NATO weapons to our own. We'll find out on the battlefield, how much stronger our weapons are than theirs. This may be a learning experience for our future conflict, it's a scary experiment."  
 And on May 24, Billionaire financier George Soros said Putin's invasion of Ukraine may have been the start of World War III.  
 "The invasion may have been the beginning of the third world war and our civilization may not survive it," Soros, 91, said, according to his office. "The best and perhaps only way to preserve our civilization is to defeat Putin as soon as possible. That's the bottom line."  
 *Newsweek* reached out to Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for comment. <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2667074429240/russia-in-world-war-with-western-nations-putin-ally-says> [This was from yesterday but is most disconcerting. Those following the news should be aware of the fact that we are sitting on top of a powder keg and a potential nuclear war. Mainstream and most news outlets aren’t really covering it. There are a number of web sites and groups in foreign countries that are reporting on it but it isn’t easy to verify them. If I see it in two or three sites I must assume there is some truth in it. – RDB]

**New Russian space boss unveiled**

***Yury Borisov has been chosen to head Roscosmos***

***15 Jul, 2022 13:36***



FILE PHOTO. Yury Borisov (R) reports to President Vladimir Putin. © Sputnik / Mikhail Klimentyev

The top Russian official responsible for the defense industry has been reassigned to head up the space agency Roscosmos. This move was part of a reshuffle ordered by President Vladimir Putin on Friday.

Yury Borisov, who previously held the office of deputy chair of the Russian government and supervised defense contracts and research, was given the space job previously held by Dmitry Rogozin.

Although it was not immediately clear what the former Roscosmos head would do next, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he would get a new assignment in the future.

Rogozin, formerly an MP, Russia’s envoy to NATO and a deputy prime minister, was tasked to take the helm at Roscosmos in May 2018. While leading the space agency, he preserved his combative style of communication.

In 2014, he suggested that NASA would have to use trampolines for manned space missions, due to freshly imposed American sanctions against Russia. The remark came during a period when the US relied on Russia to deliver and recover crew members of the International Space Station. Lately, he has been involved in a series of public spats with SpaceX CEO Elon Musk.

Roscosmos marked Rogozin’s departure with a two-minute [video](https://t.me/roscosmos_gk/5794) highlighting the achievements of his four-year tenure. Those included a record-long string of over 80 successful space launches and the testing of the Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile, Russia’s new nuclear weapons delivery system.

Borisov is a career military officer who specializes in air defense systems and electronics. Between 2012 and 2018, he served as deputy defense minister responsible for modernization of the military, in particular the acquisition of modern weapon systems. He was promoted to deputy chair of the government to replace the outgoing Rogozin.

Another order issued by Putin on Friday was to raise the rank of the office of Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov, who will now be deputy prime minister while keeping his ministerial portfolio.

Manturov, a key person in the Russian government’s effort to mitigate the damage caused by Western trade restrictions, has been charged with finding or creating alternative sources for crucial materials and parts required by the Russian economy. <https://www.rt.com/russia/559053-russian-space-agency-reshuffle/> [Russia have more irons in the fire than this from what I am seeing in other articles. There was to be a Duma meeting today as well – rdb]

**Ukraine gets its first US-made M270 missile system**

***The delivery of rocket launchers was announced by Ukraine’s defense minister***

*15 Jul, 2022 19:40*

Kiev has received its first M270 MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System), Ukrainian Defense Minister Alexey Reznikov announced on Friday. The system will be “good company” for US-supplied М142 HIMARS launchers, the minister said in a Twitter post.

While Reznikov did not elaborate on who exactly supplied the US-made system, as he extended his gratitude generally to Ukraine’s “partners,” Britain had previously pledged to deliver at least three systems like this to Kiev’s forces.

The US-made M270 MLRS system is, effectively, an older cousin of М142 launchers, which had previously been supplied to the Ukrainian military by Washington. While the tracked system is less mobile than truck-based HIMARS, M270 packs twice the punch, featuring 12 tubes to launch 227 mm missiles against six.

It was not immediately clear whether the new M270 launchers had already gotten to the frontline or not. The M270 HIMARS system was deployed by Kiev to the battlefield in late June. While Ukrainian officials insist the systems have been used to target *“warehouses with weapons and stocks of fuel and lubricants”* used by the Russian military, Moscow and Donbass authorities accused Kiev of using the weapons to shell civilian areas.  
 Speaking at a media briefing on Thursday, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that Kiev forces had been using “US-supplied multiple-launch rocket systems HIMARS on all fronts” as of late. The military *“has apparently been ordered by Kiev to use the said launchers against civilians without any hesitation,”* she claimed, while accusing Washington of sharing intelligence on targets with Ukraine.  
 Moscow has repeatedly warned the West against “pumping” Ukraine with weapons, insisting that such aid would only prolong the conflict and inflict further damage on the Ukrainian people rather than change its ultimate outcome.  
 Russia sent troops into Ukraine on February 24, citing Kiev’s failure to implement the Minsk agreements, designed to give the regions of Donetsk and Lugansk special status within the Ukrainian state. The protocols, brokered by Germany and France, were first signed in 2014. Former Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko has since admitted that Kiev’s main goal was to use the ceasefire to buy time and *“create powerful armed forces.”*  
 In February 2022, the Kremlin recognized the Donbass republics as independent states and demanded that Ukraine officially declare itself a neutral country that will never join any Western military bloc. Kiev insists the Russian offensive was completely unprovoked. <https://www.rt.com/russia/559069-ukraine-mlrs-systems-delivered/>

**Study: Feds pushing of Paxlovid could accelerate COVID mutations**

***Biden's FDA circumventing doctors to prescribe ineffective drug***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published July 14, 2022 at 6:59pm*

The Pfizer drug that caused a rebound of symptoms when quadruple-vaccinated Dr. Anthony Fauci contracted COVID-19 could help accelerate mutations in SARS-CoV-2 following the FDA's expansion of emergency use authorization, according to a preprint study.

[Virology researchers at Austria's Medical University of Innsbruck found in an analysis of the Pfizer trial](https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.07.02.495455v1.full.pdf) little difference in the number of hospitalizations or deaths between placebo and Paxlovid recipients, [Just the News reported](https://justthenews.com/government/federal-agencies/study-finds-covid-already-mutating-around-paxlovid-fda-circumvents).

Johns Hopkins medical professor Marty Makary said the study clearly showed that Paxlovid "overuse in low-risk people can breed resistance and spawn new virus mutations," calling it "risky business."  
 The FDA, nevertheless, has authorized state-licensed pharmacists to circumvent doctors by directly prescribing it.  
 Philadelphia cardiologist Dr. Anish Koka [wrote in his newsletter this week](https://anishkoka.substack.com/p/pharmacists-can-now-prescribe-paxlovid) that seven months after its approval, "Apparently, someone in government decided that there wasn't enough Paxlovid being prescribed."  
 The physician said he has "struggled with quite a few Paxlovid requests recently," mostly from "young vaccinated patients." The patients, he said, feel pressured to take the treatment, and they "just want some reassurance from a professional that it's OK to not take a drug."  
 Koka said he received a "panicked call" from an emergency room when a vaccinated and boosted elderly patient developed fevers and chills after completing a round of Paxlovid he had prescribed.  
 The doctor now regrets that he was exposing his patient "to the adverse events of a drug with little to no benefit," when "doing nothing" seems to work better "the vast majority of the time."  
 Vice President Kamala Harris took the drug for her asymptomatic COVID infection this spring. Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, [said last month he experienced a rebound of COVID symptoms after he was treated with the drug](https://www.wnd.com/2022/06/fauci-says-got-sicker-taking-pfizer-drug-covid/).  
 In May, the Centers for Disease Control issued a formal warning that a course of Paxlovid could produce a rebound of COVID-19.  
 Just the News asked the FDA how the expanded EUA may affect mutations, particularly when the people most interested in taking the drug already are vaccinated and boosted.  
 FDA press officer Chanapa Tantibanchachai pointed to a Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Review memo that argues expansion provides "more timely treatment" for eligible patients now that there is "ample supply" of the drug.  
 The study, however, shows it was "inevitable" that resistance would emerge, according to respiratory specialist Peter Wark of Australia's University of Newcastle and Hunter Medical Research Institute.  
 University of California San Francisco epidemiologist Vinay Prasad tweeted that Pfizer "will make $20 billion+ from this drug, and they still have not provided a positive randomized trial in vaccinated people."  
 "Healthy 20-year-olds with no comorbidities and three vaccines are taking this product," he said.  
 Prasad sees political motivations behind the push for Paxlovid.  
 "The worry of course is that need to be seen as offering something for political rather than medical reasons," he wrote. "They need to limit cases right at the moment of the midterm elections.  
 "The other concern is that clearly Pfizer has excess product, and this move will help them unload that supply. Are they merely working in Pfizer's best interest?" <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/study-feds-pushing-paxlovid-accelerate-covid-mutations/> [Keep it simple Use the old standard worming drugs that are cheap and effective and realize that this entire affair is a gigantic Ponzi scheme by our government and Big Pharm and the globalist and the ultimate goal is to decrease the world population while making enormous amounts of money. Criminals!– rdb]

**Paul Pelosi sinks $5 million in chip company ahead of congressional vote of subsidy**

***'Optics' of transaction described as 'horrible'***

By [WND News Services](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) Published July 15, 2022 at 4:29pm

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s husband Paul bought up to $5 million in stock of a company that makes computer chips ahead of a vote on a bill next week that would hand billions in subsidies to boost chip manufacturing, a financial disclosure shows.

Paul Pelosi purchased 20,000 shares of Nvidia, one of [the](https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/drivers/feature-single-chip/) world’s largest semiconductor companies, on June 17, [according](https://disclosures-clerk.house.gov/public_disc/ptr-pdfs/2022/20021374.pdf) to the speaker’s disclosure report released Thursday. Now, senators will convene as early as Tuesday to vote on a bipartisan competiton bill, which allocates $52 billion to boost domestic semiconductor manufacturing and gives tax credits for production, Reuters [reported](https://www.reuters.com/technology/us-senate-eyes-vote-soon-tuesday-china-chip-competition-bill-source-2022-07-14/) Thursday.

“It certainly raises the specter that Paul Pelosi could have access to some insider legislative information,” Craig Holman, a government affairs lobbyist for the left-wing think tank Public Citizen, told the Daily Caller News Foundation. “This is the reason why there is a stock trading app that exclusively monitors Paul’s trading activity and then its followers do likewise.”

Nvidia is a multinational corporation that designs and manufactures graphics processors and other technology, and is heavily reliant on semiconductors. The House [passed](https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2022-02-04/house-to-vote-on-bill-to-boost-us-computer-chip-production) a bill in February that included $52 billion in domestic subsidies for the semiconductor industry, and chip companies, including Nvidia, [demanded](https://www.semiconductors.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/June-15-2022_CEO-letter-on-competitiveness-bill.pdf) Congress in June move forward on finalizing semiconductor subsidies for domestic manufacturing.

“The conference is stuck. And so it seems to me there are a couple of ways out of this, potentially,” [said](https://rollcall.com/2022/07/12/senate-gop-pitches-options-for-stalled-competition-bill/) Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell Tuesday, noting that the bill would have a better likelihood of passing without the $52 billion funding for semiconductor manufacturing.

Republican South Carolina Rep. Ralph Norman told the DCNF the “optics” of Pelosi’s stock disclosure “are horrible.”

“Obviously Speaker Pelosi would be aware of the timing of this legislation over in the Senate,” said Norman. “On the heels of that vote, for anyone in her orbit to purchase seven-figures worth of stock of an U.S.-based chip manufacturer just reeks of impropriety.”

Paul Pelosi, who was [charged](https://dailycaller.com/2022/06/24/nancy-pelosi-husband-dui/) with two alcohol misdemeanors in June after getting in a driving collision that led to his arrest, also disclosed that he sold up to $250,000 worth of Apple stock and up to $5 million worth of Visa stock. The speaker’s husband is an [avid](https://www.businessinsider.com/nancy-pelosi-stock-trades-paul-pelosi-nvidia-visa-apple-2022-7) stock trader and [purchased](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D83UkhubJUA9uY-81HJ0O8rW10vmpXoy/view) more than $6 million [worth](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D83UkhubJUA9uY-81HJ0O8rW10vmpXoy/view) of Nvidia call options in 2021, filings show.

Pelosi’s office did not respond to a request for comment. <https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/paul-pelosi-sinks-5-million-chip-company-ahead-congressional-vote-subsidy/> [There is nothing more corrupt than a politician in the US. – rdb]

**Trump voters favor secession for their state – poll**

***Backers of the former president believe they’d be “better off” if GOP-led states split from the US, a Yahoo/YouGov survey has shown***

*15 Jul, 2022 23:06*

Many residents of Republican-controlled states who voted for then-President Donald Trump in 2020 believe they would be “better off” if their state seceded from the US, a new poll has revealed.

About 33% of Trump voters in so-called red states say they’d personally fare better if their state “became an independent country,” according to a [Yahoo/YouGov poll](https://docs.cdn.yougov.com/88epwk41w9/20220708_yahoo_toplines.pdf) released on Friday. That compared with 29% who believe they’d be “worse off” after secession. The remaining 38% are either unsure or see themselves faring *“about the same”* in a newly independent state.

The margin was similar when Americans were asked how their state as a whole would fare after secession, with 35% of Trump voters speculating that it would be better off versus 30% saying that it would be worse off.

The poll marks the latest illustration of increasing political polarization and cultural division in American life. Half of Americans believe there will be another US civil war in their lifetime and that the country will cease to be a democracy at some point, an earlier [Yahoo/YouGov poll](https://docs.cdn.yougov.com/ntlij6kffz/20220610_yahoo_toplines.pdf) showed in June.

The divide grew even deeper with last month’s US Supreme Court ruling that abortion isn’t a protected constitutional right, leaving the hotly contested issue for state lawmakers to decide. About half of states have either banned abortion already or are expected to place new restrictions on the procedure within the next several weeks.

About 92% of red-state Trump voters trust their state government more than the federal government to do *“what’s best,”* the latest poll found. Eight in 10 blue-state residents who voted for President Joe Biden in 2020 trust their state government more than Washington.

Just 15% of overall respondents believe the US is *“generally headed in the right direction,”* compared with 72% who say it’s *“off on the wrong track,”* the poll showed. Only 27% trust that Biden is *“up to the challenges facing the US,”* versus 56% who say he isn’t.

Americans also have a grim outlook of the future, with 46% saying the next generation will be *“worse off”* and only 25% saying it will be *“better off.”* Similarly, 37% of voters believe America’s best days are *“behind us,”* compared with 31% who say those days are *“still to come.”*

Neither Trump nor Biden is viewed as the solution. Only 28% of respondents say Trump should run for president again in 2024, while 18% say Biden should seek re-election. <https://www.rt.com/news/559080-trump-voters-favor-secession-poll/>

**CDC Directs LGBT Children to Secretive Chats About Sex Changes, Activism, the Occult**

*Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox/Getty, @qchatspace/Instagram*

[*Spencer Lindquist*](https://www.breitbart.com/author/slindquist/) 14 Jul 20223,099The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is promoting to youth an online chat space that discusses sex, polyamorous relationships, the occult, sex change operations, and activism, and is specifically designed to be quickly hidden while being used. It also mixes LGBT adults and children and is run in part by Planned Parenthood.

Called [Q Chat Space](https://www.qchatspace.org/), the platform is advertised on the CDC’s LGBT Health Youth Resources [page](https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm), archived [here](https://archive.ph/i6bkT). The chat service, which describes itself as “a community for LGBTQ+ teens,” is available for those ages 13-19, can be hidden from parents, and focuses on a number of mature themes.  MORE - <https://www.breitbart.com/social-justice/2022/07/14/cdc-directs-lgbt-children-secretive-chat-sex-changes-activism-occult/> [This is beyond despicable and the entire CDC organization needs to be purged. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**How Can Western Civilization Survive with Reviled Institutions?**

***by*** [***J.B. Shurk***](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/J.B.+Shurk)***July 15, 2022 at 5:00 am***Western authorities cannot expect to maintain long-term legitimacy if their populations judge governing institutions as irredeemably marred by corruption and political leaders as indifferent, if not downright hostile, to ordinary citizens' wants and needs.  
 Across the West, there is a sharp divergence between the needs of normal citizens and the worldview articulated and pushed by their "representatives" in government. Faith in the institutions staffed by those "representatives" is [plummeting](https://www.statista.com/statistics/207579/public-approval-rating-of-the-us-congress/). Shouldn't this disconnect be setting off alarm bells from D.C. to Brussels? Are we not approaching a Rubicon where the West's future survival is at stake?  
 With regard to nearly every contentious issue, the fissure separating the expressed preferences of ordinary citizens and those of their governments is expanding.  
 Last month the European Parliament voted overwhelmingly to renew the EU Digital COVID-19 Certificate infrastructure for another year, despite near unanimous [rejection](https://brownstone.org/articles/eu-renews-digital-covid-pass-despite-99-negative-public-feedback/) from European citizens responding to a months-long public consultation on the use of mandatory digital health passports.  
 For decades, both [European](https://www.euractiv.com/section/social-europe-jobs/news/europeans-overwhelmingly-against-immigration-poll/) and [American](https://news.yahoo.com/harvard-poll-80-see-border-123800465.html) citizens have expressed overwhelming opposition to illegal immigration, yet leaders have done little on either side of the Atlantic to stem the persistent problem. As inflation and social unrest rise in Europe, nearly [60% of EU citizens](https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/majority-europeans-unwilling-pay-price-defend-democracy-ukraine) are "not ready" to defend Ukraine's sovereignty against Russia's invasion if doing so necessarily triggers higher fuel and food costs. Still, Germany and France have [warned](https://www.zerohedge.com/energy/french-german-leaders-warn-populations-prepare-total-cut-russian-gas-social-unrest-looms) their populations to "prepare for a total cut-off of Russian gas."  
 Likewise, the World Economic Forum just released a [position paper](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/07/colour-of-democracy-clean-energy-transition/) arguing that "protecting democracy" requires Westerners to endure much [higher gas and oil prices](https://www.breitbart.com/environment/2022/07/11/world-economic-forum-says-democracy-is-dying-ditch-fossil-fuels-and-save-it/). Without bountiful supplies of hydrocarbon energy, however, some analysts argue that [global famine](https://dailycaller.com/2022/07/08/un-issues-dire-warning-global-food-security/) and Western [economic collapse](https://peakprosperity.com/why-economic-collapse-is-inevitable/) become inevitable.  
 A Monmouth University poll released on July 5 reveals that [57% of Americans](https://www.theepochtimes.com/most-americans-say-federal-government-actions-are-hurting-them-poll_4579809.html) believe that U.S. federal government actions over the last six months have directly hurt their families. In that same poll, Monmouth compiles the 22 most important [priorities](https://theconservativetreehouse.com/blog/2022/07/05/monmouth-poll-compiles-top-22-priorities-of-american-people-ukraine-v-russia-does-not-appear-on-list/) of the American people. Neither Russia's war in Ukraine nor Congress's January 6 Committee hearings appear anywhere on the list; instead, the top four issues all deal with skyrocketing inflation and economic uncertainty. That said, the U.S. House recently [passed](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2543/text) the "Federal Reserve Racial and Economic Equity Act" that would require the Federal Reserve to [pursue](https://www.conservativedailynews.com/2022/07/the-left-wants-to-inject-wokeness-into-another-key-institution/) "woke" socialism over financial growth, and President Joe Biden and a willing Congress have already [spent more](https://www.westernjournal.com/us-money-committed-ukraine-already-exceeded-cost-first-5-years-afghan-war/) on the Ukraine conflict than the U.S. did during the first five years of war in Afghanistan. Recent polling shows a whopping [78% of American voters](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2022/06/29/poll-78-believe-nation-on-wrong-track-up-27-points-under-biden/) judge the United States to be on the wrong track today, jumping 27 points since Biden assumed office. And nearly [40% of Americans](https://www.wnd.com/2022/07/biden-number-americans-say-government-not-sound-surges/) now believe the U.S. government is "not sound at all."  
 Institutional confidence is cratering.  
 A new Gallup poll documents a precipitous drop in Americans' confidence across 16 major institutions, including [historic lows](https://theconservativetreehouse.com/blog/2022/07/05/gallup-american-confidence-in-office-of-president-drops-dramatically-in-last-year-leads-confidence-drop-amid-all-u-s-institutions/) for confidence in newspapers, the criminal justice system, big business, police, and all three branches of the federal government. The survey's [results](https://news.gallup.com/poll/394283/confidence-institutions-down-average-new-low.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_content=morelink&utm_campaign=syndication) represent the [lowest](https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/stacey-lennox/2022/07/06/institutional-confidence-among-americans-plummets-to-all-time-low-n1610644) overall institutional confidence ever recorded in its decades-long survey history, and not a single institution reflected an increase in confidence over last year's measures. Only 7% of Americans have a "Great deal / Quite a lot" of confidence in Congress, while only 11% feel similarly about television news.  
 Only adding to Westerners' perception of widespread institutional corruption, an [investigation](https://www.bmj.com/content/377/bmj.o1538) by the *British Medical Journal* recently documented pervasive [conflicts of interest](https://www.theepochtimes.com/institutional-corruption-big-pharma-money-permeating-global-drug-regulators_4569624.html) within Western drug and health regulatory agencies whose budgets are funded primarily by monetary gifts from major pharmaceutical companies, the very industry players whose products the government agencies are [charged with regulating](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2022/07/cant-make-pfizer-asks-court-dismiss-whistleblower-lawsuit-us-government-aware-vaccine-fraud/).  
 Westerners increasingly do not trust their governments or their major news media to report accurate and reliable information. They increasingly view government actors as perpetuating two standards of justice and economic security — one for those at the very top of society's pyramid of wealth and power, and one for everyone else. And as British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's early forced retirement shows, public tolerance for turning a blind eye to the propagation of this dual and conflicting set of realities is rapidly waning.  
 Surely this situation is untenable. Surely Western authorities cannot expect to maintain long-term legitimacy if their populations judge governing institutions as irredeemably marred by corruption and political leaders as indifferent, if not downright hostile, to ordinary citizens' wants and needs. It has become fashionable for Western politicians to divide up the global chessboard between virtuous "democracies" struggling for world peace and threatening "dictatorships" causing hardship and chaos. Whatever the West's "democracies" are today, however, they are not bastions for representing honestly their peoples' most dire concerns, nor are they above doling out to their citizenries hefty portions of hardship and chaos.  
 Institutions can be broadly categorized as those that are created and maintained through human cooperation and consent and those that require force and coercion to endure. In a "democratic" society, cooperation and consent are the principal building blocks, as well as tools, for fashioning strong institutions capable of surviving unknown threats and unexpected emergencies. Representative governments are formed reflecting the democratic votes of citizens and the public's general will.  
 When representative bodies create laws that reflect the public's preferences, citizens generally respect the criminal codes and regulations that restrict their freedoms. When the news media are judged to produce truthful information, they are relied upon as a worthy check against unjust government power. When people who represent a minority viewpoint in society are nonetheless permitted to express their thoughts, seek change, and accrue power, then a multitude of groups with conflicting points of view can coexist without factionalism necessarily leading to political violence.  
 Voluntary cooperation creates remarkably powerful institutions because individual citizens have a personal stake in their continued existence. Discrete blocks of humanity are hermetically cemented together, so that civilization can rise to towering heights.  
 What happens when consent is replaced by government force and coercion? Laws lose legitimacy. News sources are reduced to pure propaganda. Political disagreement turns to bloodshed and murder. It is as if society's cement has instead been replaced by strongmen trying to squeeze humanity's discrete blocks together with sheer muscle, straining and sweating under the pressure of keeping everything being held up from collapsing on those doing the heavy lifting.  
 The Soviet Union may have lasted 70 years, but its institutions were built with disintegrating bricks and soupy mortar and held together by a series of obstinate strongmen. That was the most important lesson of its collapse.  
 For civilizations to prosper, the people must never be ignored. For Western leaders to have missed that monumental lesson, or even worse, for them to ignore that enduring truth today, they put nothing less than the future of Western Civilization at risk. <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/18711/reviled-institutions>

**Rep. Rashida Tlaib’s Favorite BDS Group Mourns an ISIS Terrorist**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*July 14, 2022*](http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2022/07/rep-rashida-tlaibs-favorite-bds-group.html)

When Baraa Lahlouh, an Islamic terrorist, was recently buried, he was draped in what the Agence France-Presse (AFP) misleadingly described as "a flag showing the seal believed to have been used by Islam’s Prophet Mohamed".  
 The wire service neglected to mention that it was more specifically [the ISIS flag](https://www.camera.org/article/isis-flag-in-jenin-induces-afp-ap-amnesia/).

The Associated Press, as documented [by CAMERA](https://www.camera.org/article/isis-flag-in-jenin-induces-afp-ap-amnesia/), distributed photos of the burial while neglecting to describe the ISIS flag. Along with burying a terrorist, they buried the lede.  
 The growing presence of ISIS in Israel and its overlap with the established Islamic terrorist groups like the PLO and Hamas has forced the media into new extremes of evasiveness.  
 Former PLO official Hanan Ashrawi accused Israel of an "extrajudicial assassination".  
 The PLO's Foreign Ministry responded to the shooting of the ISIS terrorist by calling it a "hideous crime" It falsely accused Israel of "war crimes" against "defenseless Palestinian citizens."  
 WAFA, the PLO's news agency, charged Israel with "cold-blooded murder" in which, according to the terrorist outlet, the ISIS terrorist and his comrades were "ambushed and shot dead in cold blood".  
 The PLO’s support for ISIS terrorism against Israeli Jews is nothing new.  
 In March, an ISIS terrorist carried out an attack at a shopping mall in Beersheva that killed four Israelis including a rabbi who ran a soup kitchen and who left behind four children.  
 Mohammad Ghaleb Abu al-Qi’an, the Islamic terrorist, had previously tried to join ISIS.  
 Al-Hayat al-Jadeeda, the PLO's official paper, praised [the](https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/two-deadly-isis-inspired-terrorist-attacks-carried-out-in-southern-and-central-israel/) ISIS terrorist as a "martyr" and PA TV featured [a poster](https://www.timesofisrael.com/beersheba-attackers-clan-decries-his-terrorist-act-hometown-vows-introspection/) of the ISIS terrorist as a “martyr”. Hamas celebrated the attack as a "heroic operation" and an Al Jazeera personality, an arm of the Qatari regime which backs Hamas, posted a message, “Four [dead]. Blessed are your hands".  
 That same month, two Islamic terrorists opened fire at a bus stop, one of whom had previously tried to join ISIS. They released [a video](https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/two-deadly-isis-inspired-terrorist-attacks-carried-out-in-southern-and-central-israel/) featuring an ISIS flag and pledging allegiance to the ISIS caliph.  
 After the attack, ISIS issued an official statement [boasting](https://aijac.org.au/fresh-air/al-jazeera-employees-openly-barrack-for-the-terrorists-attacking-israelis-civilians/) of, “12 infidel Jewish forces killed and wounded in a sacrifice attack carried out by soldiers of the Caliphate in northern Palestine.”  
 Hamas praised the "valor and courage" of the attack. Another Al Jazeera personality, Ahmed Mansour, [celebrated](https://aijac.org.au/fresh-air/al-jazeera-employees-openly-barrack-for-the-terrorists-attacking-israelis-civilians/) the ISIS attack for having “killed and wounded many occupation soldiers [and] was a painful blow in the heart of Israel and of its Arab Zionist allies."  
 The Palestinian Authority made no official statement, but is likely to make payments to the families of the terrorists under the ‘Pay-to-Slay’ program. That program was at the center of the debate over continuing foreign aid by the United States to the PLO and its Ramallah regime.  
 Even as ISIS is becoming part of this terrorist landscape in Israel, Biden is preparing to visit the terrorist-occupied territories inside Israel to meet with PLO dictator Mahmoud Abbas and assorted terrorist leaders.  
 The administration is already undermining israel by running a shadow consulate to the terrorists.  
 It has also poured hundreds of millions into PLO territories with official numbers topping $500 million. The unofficial numbers are likely to go well beyond that half a billion dollars.  
 And, [as noted by](https://www.newsweek.com/biden-undermining-law-throwing-israel-under-bus-opinion-1715063) Mark Goldfeder of the National Jewish Advocacy Center, the shadow consulate is "designed to help facilitate that aid... also illegal under the 2018 Taylor Force Act" which bans "any assistance that directly benefits the PA unless and until the PA stops paying terrorists to kill American and Israeli citizens". And the PA/PLO won’t stop doing that.  
 The growing presence of ISIS in Israel benefits from the ‘Pay-to-Slay’ program funding attacks against Israel as well as the larger infrastructure of terrorist media and organizations maintained by the PLO. And, much as the Biden administration continues to funnel [nearly $1 billion](https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/2022/04/biden-sends-nearly-1-billion-afghanistan-taliban-daniel-greenfield/) in “aid money” into Afghanistan despite the Taliban takeover, the same is true of terrorism in Israel.  
 Unlike the PLO, Hamas, and the Taliban, ISIS remains so horrifyingly unacceptable that the Biden administration and the media can only handle its existence by entirely ignoring it.  
 The whitewashing of Baraa Lahlouh’s burial in an ISIS flag by evasively describing it as the seal of Mohammed has become typical. Pro-terrorist sites like Electronic Intifada denounced the death of the ISIS terrorist as an "extrajudicial execution". And they were not alone in spewing anti-Israel hate while refusing to even mention the ISIS elephant in the terrorist room.  
 The Institute for Middle East Understanding (IMEU) [mourned](https://twitter.com/theIMEU/status/1537854890617122818?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1537854890617122818%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Felectronicintifada.net%2Fblogs%2Fmaureen-clare-murphy%2Fisrael-executes-three-palestinians-jenin) the ISIS terrorist and his comrades, “Laith, Baraa, and Yusuf“ as "young men with entire lives ahead of them.”  
 “They should be here today, but due to Israel’s relentless and deadly violence against Palestinians, their loved ones will never see or hold them again," IMEU complained.  
 The organization is a 501c3 non-profit. Propagandizing on behalf of a terrorist buried in an ISIS flag would seem to run counter to the non-profit regulations that never seem to be enforced against the enemies of this country, only against its patriots and its defenders.  
 IMEU has been funded in the past by [the Soros](https://www.nationalreview.com/2017/07/new-york-times-israel-george-soros-criticized/) network, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the [Tides Foundation](https://www.thej.ca/2021/07/28/the-antisemitic-tides-foundation-is-far-worse-than-previously-reported/), and the Foundation for Middle East Peace. Leading leftist funders are now kissing cousins with apologists for ISIS terrorists. And it does not just stop there.  
 IMEU was just cited by Rep. Rashida Tlaib in her Nakba resolution attacking Israel's existence.  
 Tlaib has a longstanding relationship with IMEU with both the BDS group and the anti-Israel politician promoting each other. And, in the process, Islamic terrorism, including ISIS.

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<http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2022/07/rep-rashida-tlaibs-favorite-bds-group.html>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Aryeh Deri: Gantz as PM? That's not even on the table**

***Shas chairman downplays Gafni's comments on Lapid: He does not represent all the haredim, only one part of United Torah Judaism.***

[*Israel National News*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/author/Israel_National_News) *Jul 16, 2022, 7:49 AM GMT+3*

Shas chairman Aryeh Deri on Friday ruled out the possibility that Shas would support a government in which Benny Gantz serves as Prime Minister, saying that such an option is not even on the table.

"This is not even a hypothetical possibility, it does not exist at all. Let's put it this way: This is the first time we are headed towards a pretty clear election – either Netanyahu or a government led by [Yair] Lapid with the Joint List, Ra'am and all the partners of the center-left - there is no other option," Deri told *Channel 12 News* in an interview.

“Gantz and [Gideon] Sa'ar cannot make a change, they will have to bring in the Likud and the haredim for that. Why should they let Gantz be Prime Minister? Why should the Likud, the largest party, not form the government?" he said.

Deri was also asked about the assertions by Degel HaTorah chairman Moshe Gafni that he would not rule out being part of a coalition headed by Lapid.

"I am not the spokesman for Gafni, but he is also not the spokesman for all of haredi Judaism. Shas has 9 seats, United Torah Judaism consists of two parties and Gafni represents only one of those parties. These elections are between two options - the realistic one, that we will win 61 seats and then we will form a government headed by Netanyahu and then we will expand it to more parties. The second possibility is that Lapid will win 61 seats, and then his camp, that of Gantz, [Avigdor] Liberman, Labor, Meretz, Ra'am and the Joint List will be together. That’s how he will achieve 61 - with Balad and with the entire Joint List. If that happens, Lapid will form a government with them within a week or two - there is nothing else in between," he argued.

Deri also blasted Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman after he blamed the previous government, of which Deri was a member, for the rise in the cost of living.

"I hope he was not serious and is trying to justify himself. In our time in the government, of which I was a member, we did everything. For five years we did not raise bread prices – to take advantage of Biden's visit, which everyone is busy with, and raise the prices of bread and claim they went up by 20%, when in fact the price of went up by 36%, is he really blaming us?" he charged.

"Bread with a bit of cheese and margarine is the appetizer, main course and dessert of many families. The prices of fuel have gone up, the prices of electricity have gone up, what will he say - that it’s because of the situation in the world? That is true, some of it is due to the situation in Ukraine, but there is over 45 billion shekels in budget surplus - from the income of who? Not of the lottery! Of the citizens of Israel who pay taxes," continued Deri.

"We left him one of the best economies in the world, so what are they doing with that money? Why do it? Liberman is at fault – he’s doing this to get revenge on the haredim. He raised taxes on paper plates. I have known him for decades, I never heard him talk about the environment before. All of a sudden Liberman is worried about obesity – all he does is raise taxes, raise prices," he said.

Deri rejected the argument that prices went up during Netanyahu’s tenure as well, saying, "In the last year, every time a product became more expensive, they would say, 'Where have you been for 12 years?' Stop this nonsense! You had a year, you had the option to do things, you did nothing - you just put fuel on this fire instead of dealing with it." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/356602>

**Terror victims activist: 'President Biden, I want to show you the facts'**

***Meir Indor, Chair of the Almagor terror victims association, responds to Biden's Bethlehem speech during visit with PA Chair Mahmoud Abbas.***

[*Israel National News*](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/author/Israel_National_News) *Jul 16, 2022, 5:31 AM GMT+3*

Lt. Col. res. Meir Indor, Chair of the Almagor terror victims association, denounced US President Joe Biden's speech in Bethlehem today during his meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas.

In response, Indor said: “We, the terror victims in Israel, are against the statement President Biden brought to [Abbas] in Bethlehem, a big present, a statement about the two-state solution, which means to upgrade the Palestinian Authority to a state."

“Before you're going to do it, Mr. President… I want to show you the facts. Those are the faces of 1,400 people people [pointing to poster behind him with faces of terror victims], innocent people, citizens who were murdered by the Palestinian groups under the Palestinian Authority,” he said. “Not only under their responsibility but supported by them, by propaganda on TV, by teaching in schools the Palestinian Authority against the Jews, by sponsoring terrorists.”

He added: "Not only that, part of the [security units] in the Palestinian Authority took part in the Intifada, like the police who shot Israeli soldiers, like the police who were shooting at settlements that are near Tel Aviv. We will not make that mistake again.”

Indor displayed a poster that explains that since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority there have been “200 percent more terror victims.”

“The experiment failed,” the sign says.

“We are not stupid. Yes, we were naive but we're not going to give them that present because it will bring our next generation more casualties and more people will be killed and we paid enough in the Holocaust,” he said. “This state that we're building here is in order to protect the Jews and not to bring them to an area which they have to be afraid to go to the coffee shop or in the market. President Biden, I hope that the American nation will not go with that and will support the Jewish nation.” <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/356596>

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| Urgent Appeal from Yaffa/Lev U'Neshama  Normally, I don't send appeal emails because our supporters are generous and we manage our money carefully to enable our programs to function smoothly. However, I am compelled to contact you now because we urgently need donations to reach our goal for basic school supplies.  For the past several years, donations made to the Education Fund were used in August before school resumes. Much of the fund is used to purchase coupons at our one-and-only office supply store. The family-owned store is happy for the business and they give a generous discount to stretch our funds.    We have 82 families in our program and they are already calling us asking if they will be receiving a coupon to be redeemed at this store. Smaller families have 5 or 6 children and large families have 13 and some more. Last year we gave 150 NIS credit to each family. Not sufficient but something. This year, of course, cost of school supplies has risen and we need to give 200 NIS.    200 times 82 = 16,400 NIS. Presently I have almost 8,000 NIS. A bit short, you can see. Also, a bit short on time. It's the middle of July and we need to have funds in place within a month to allow the coupons to be completed and mailed.  The amount in dollars is approximately $2,700. Not a huge amount in the scope of things but urgently needed by the kids here. About 1/3 of the children in Tzfat come from families who are in the poverty range. But they shouldn't be deprived of basic school supplies to have a good start in school.  Additionally, I am concerned that we will need funds to provide eye exams/eyeglasses and sport shoes and this is beyond what we are extrapolating for the school supplies.    I'm sending this appeal to everyone in the hopes of reaching our goal for school supplies and have some also for the shoes and eyeglasses; $60 for eyeglasses/exam and $30 for a pair of sport shoes).    You may already be a supporter of Lev U'Neshama and give generously but perhaps you can ask family or friends to join in this effort. If you haven't donated to us before or do so periodically, now is a good time.    **Donations may be made by** going to our web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com)  Go to the "How You Can Help" page and select an option to donate. You can even use a credit card.    Or you can use PayPal (although a fee is taken). Recipient email address: mortsmo@aol.com    Or you can use Zelle from US to US bank; no fee. You need to use my email address and my English name, Sheila Smolensky, as it is on the account.    Or . . . you could send a check made payable to my son Simcha Smolensky and send it to:  Rabbi Simcha Smolensky  6933 N Kedzie Ave  Unit 116  Chicago IL 60645  (Canadian checks or money orders must be in US dollars)    If you need/want a US Tax Receipt, email me and I'll give you the information.    Hoping you and/or someone you know, can help reach the goal to help our children.    Enjoy the remainder of summer in good health,    Yaffa Smolensky  Volunteer Program Manager  Lev U'Neshama    Tzfat Israel email: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com) web site: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com) |