**08/19/2021 NEWS AM**

**A SONG FOR PEACE**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjsBKYu0XEQ>

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| **"In the United States there is no phenomenon more threatening to popular government than the unwillingness of newspapers to give the facts to their readers." -- Nelson Antrim Crawford (1888-1963) American writer, editor, author** |

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

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

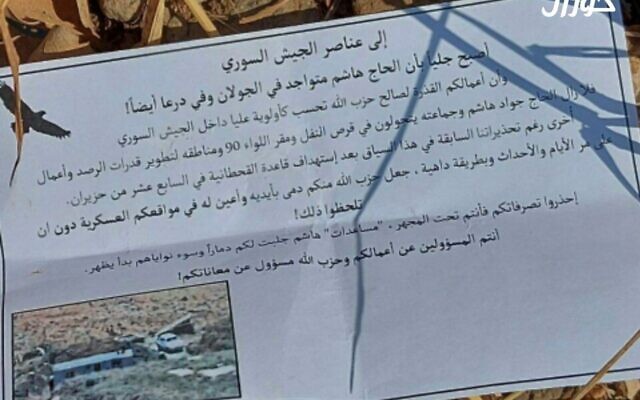
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| --- | --- |
| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around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

**Genesis 37:9And he dreamed still another dream, and told it to his brothers. And he said, Behold, I have dreamed another dream: And, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars were bowing themselves to me. 10And he told *it* to his father, and to his brothers. And his father rebuked him, and said to him, What *is* this dream which you have dreamed? Shall we indeed come to bow ourselves to the earth to you, I, your mother, and your brothers? 11And his brothers were jealous of him. But his father observed the word.**

**Israel drops threatening flyers in south Syria following nighttime strike nearby**

***In pamphlets, IDF warns Syrian troops to stop cooperating with Hezbollah and takes responsibility for a June attack on a Syrian base that it says was used by the terror group***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 6:27 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/WhatsApp-Image-2021-08-18-at-12.19.29.jpeg)

***A flier dropped on the Syrian side of the border on August 18, 2021. (Twitter)***

**The Israel Defense Forces reportedly dropped threatening pamphlets in southern Syria on Wednesday, warning Syrian soldiers to stop cooperating with Hezbollah, hours after reportedly conducting twin missile strikes on a Syrian military base and an outpost controlled by the Lebanese terror gr**oup.

**The flyers, which were written in Arabic and addressed to “Syrian [Arab] Army soldiers,” matched the style of similar leaflets that have been dropped in Syria in the past and included the silhouette of an eagle — the symbol of the IDF’s 210th “Bashan” Division, which is tasked with defending Israel’s frontier with Syria** and the Golan Heights. The IDF refused to comment on the matter.

**In the pamphlet, the Israeli military appeared to take responsibility for the shelling of a Syrian army base earlier this summer.** The Israeli military has not publicly acknowledged conducting that strike or most others that it has carried out in Syria in recent years, under its general policy of ambiguity regarding its efforts against Hezbollah in the country.

**“Despite our previous warnings about this and even after the attack on the al-Qahtaniah base on 17/06/21, Hezbollah — in a manipulative way — has turned you into a tool, into marionettes. It uses you as its eyes and it uses your bases without you even knowing,” the flyer r**eads.

**The flyer also directly names the Hezbollah official that the IDF believes is facilitating the relationship between the Iran-backed terror group and the Syrian military, Jawad Hasham, the** son of Hajj Hasham, who leads Hezbollah’s efforts along the Syrian border.

**“It is no secret that Jawad Hasham is currently in the Golan and in Daraa. Your filthy actions on behalf of Hezbollah are considered by the Syrian Army to be a top priority,” the** flyer reads.

**The pamphlet accuses the Syrian military of allowing Hezbollah to operate within the base**s and under the auspices of its 90th Brigade “in order to develop lookout capabilities and for other efforts.”

**“Be careful with your actions, you are being watched through a microscop**e. Hasham’s help has brought you destruction and his bad intentions are coming out. You are responsible for your actions, and Hezbollah is responsible for your suffering,” it says.

**According to a pro-opposition Syrian source in the Golan Heights, the office of the 90th Brigade commander, Brig. Gen. Hussein Hamoush, near the city of Khader, was one of the two targets of a missile strike on Tuesday night**, which Syria said Israel had carried out. The second target was said to be a Hezbollah outpost in the area.

**The IDF has repeatedly accused Syrian dictator Bashar Assad’s military of actively assisting Hezbolla**h and warned it against this, both through flyers dropped along the border and through overt, public appeals, in some cases naming the Syrian and Hezbollah officials involved, including officers from Syria’s 90th Brigade and 1st Division.

Israel has launched hundreds of strikes against Iran-linked targets in Syria over the years and against Syrian military installations in cases where they were being used to attack Israel or Israeli forces.

Israel fears Iranian entrenchment on its northern frontier, and it has repeatedly struck Iran-linked facilities and weapons convoys destined for Hezbollah. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-drops-threatening-flyers-in-south-syria-following-nighttime-strike-nearby/>

**Bennett and Biden meeting in Washington set for August 26**

***Prime minister to make snap 48-hour trip to US due to COVID precautions; premier says visit will focus on Iran, but White House says sides will discuss Palestinian issue too***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 9:28 pm*

**NEW YORK — Prime Minister Naftali Bennett will fly to Washington next week where he will meet with US President Joe Biden for the first time, the White House and an Israeli official said Wedn**esday.

The two will meet at the White House on August 26, the White House confirmed in a statement from Press Secretary Jen Psaki.

**Tensions with Iran will be high on the agenda for the Thursday meeting, though it will also likely be overshadowed by the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, with Biden under fire over the chaotic** US pullout and facing questions over Washington’s commitment to other allies around the globe.

Psaki said the visit would “strengthen the enduring partnership between the United States and Israel, reflect the deep ties between our governments and our people, and underscore the United States’ unwavering commitment to Israel’s security.” **[Just as an interesting thought. Why does Bennett want to waste his time meeting with a person who is obviously significantly incapacitated and who is likely to be ‘sidelined’ or replaced in the near future? He would do better to arrange an appointment and meet with the Obamanation or with Soros who seem to be pulling all the strings. – rdb]**

**“The President and Prime Minister Bennett will discuss critical issues related to regional and global security, including Iran,”** she said.

**She added that peace efforts with the Palestinians would also b**e discussed,

**Bennett’s visit is not expected to last more than 48 hours due to COVID precautions,** sources in the Prime Minister’s Office said. It will be his second foreign visit since taking office in June, following an earlier trip to Jordan to meet with King Abdullah.

Bennett will leave Israel on Tuesday, the PMO confimred.

**Just weeks ago, Bennett had urged Israelis to refrain from travel abroad in order to prevent the import of new COVID-19 variants. Both Israel and parts of the US are facing surging infection numbers**, largely blamed on the Delta variant of the virus.

**Members of Bennett’s delegation will remain together for the entire trip and will not leave their hotel except for official meetings,** according to the Walla news site.

**The PMO had initially hoped the visit would include a stop in New York for meetings with American Jewish leaders, but such plans had to be shelved as** cases continued to rise both in Israel and the US.

Asked about the trip during a Wednesday press conference, Bennett refrained from confirming that it had been set, but said his meeting with Biden would be an important one, focusing primarily on the issue of Iran.

**“We completed a process of formulating a policy… about the Iranian issue in all dimensions,” Bennet**t said.

**He touted “an approach of cooperation, an approach that will know how to block Iran’s negative regional activities of instability, harming of human rights, terror and preventing Iran from advancing toward a nuclear weapon brea**kout.”

**“Iran is at the most advanced point ever in the field of [uranium] enrichmen**t, but we know and we have a plan to deal with this and maintain the security of Israeli citizens,” Bennett added.



***Prime Minister Naftali Bennett holds a press conference at his office in Jerusalem on August 18, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)***

**Bennett’s office had been hoping the visit would take place in July after receiving an invitation already in June, but a combination of the White House’s busy schedule and the premier’s desire to wait until after the Knesset recessed this month pushed off what will be the first-ever meeting bet**ween the two leaders.

**Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu was a frequent visitor to the White House, but his public battle with former president Barack Obama and close ties with former president Donald Trump soured some in the Biden administration toward hi**m. Officials have expressed hopes that Bennett and Biden can foster a new chapter in the relationship.

**While a coalition source close to Bennett told the Times of Israel last month that the premier hoped a new ambassador to the US would be in place in time for the White House visit, that will not be the ca**se. Bennett announced former brigadier general Mike Herzog as his pick for envoy to replace former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s ambassador Gilad Erdan, but Herzog has yet to be approved by the cabinet. A spokesperson for Erdan, who agreed to step down but stay on as UN envoy, said he would continue serving as ambassador to the US next week as well.

**The visit will come as the Biden administration faces significant criticism over its ongoing pullout of US tro**ops from Afghanistan, and Israeli officials told Axios that they hope Bennett’s meeting won’t be overtaken by the news.

**The officials also expressed disappointment over Biden’s handling of the crisis, saying that “the US wants to disengage from the Middle East but finds out the Middle East is running after** it.”

[Analysts have noted](https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-us-standing-battered-by-kabul-retreat-israel-may-be-bruised-by-association/) that **some US allies may reconsider their reliance on the US in the** wake of the debacle. **[From the information I have seen in the past 24 hours it appears that the vast majority of the world’s leaders are seriously reconsidering any dealings with the USA and consider it to be completely unstable and gravely failing. – rdb]**

Bennett’s senior aides — incoming National Security Council chairman Eyal Hulata and diplomatic adviser Shimrit Meir, were in Washington earlier this month for talks with White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and other senior US officials as the sides prepared for the Biden-Bennett sit-down. **MORE-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-and-biden-meeting-in-washington-set-for-august-26/>

**Hezbollah chief: Israel should learn from Afghanistan that US is unreliable**

***‘Those watching most closely and drawing conclusions from this are the Israelis,’ Hassan Nasrallah says after Taliban takeover***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *and* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 8:33 pm*

**The leader of Lebanon’s Hezbollah terror group on Tuesday called the conduct of the United States during the Taliban’s conquest of Afghanistan “the moral downfall of Am**erica.”

**In a televised speech carried by official Hezbollah media, Hassan Nasrallah said the US pullout should cause people to rethink the potential future of US support for Israel**.

“Those watching most closely and drawing conclusions from this are the Israelis,” he said.

“In order not to have Americans fighting for other [nations], [President Joe] Biden was able to accept a historic failure. When it comes to Lebanon and those around it, what will be the case there?” Nasrallah asked rhetorically.

The Taliban retook power on Sunday after the US-backed government collapsed when Islamist militants entered the capital Kabul following a lightning conquest of Afghanistan.

**“Everybody must consider it and meditate upon it,” Nasrallah said, referring to the Taliban’s victory. “Those who most need to draw conclusions and wisdom from this are the peoples of this r**egion.”

**Nasrallah scathingly remarked that the US did not extract many Afghans who had collaborated with them from Taliban-controlled Afghan**istan.

**“They evacuated the dogs who worked in the security forces, but not those who aided the**m. They took out their equipment, but left the human beings behind… these are the Americans,” Nasrallah said.



***Taliban fighters pray while raising their flag at the Ghazni provincial governor’s house, in Ghazni, southeastern, Afghanistan, August 15, 2021. (AP Photo/Gulabuddin Amiri)***

**Iran’s Supreme National Security Council secretary Ali Shamkhani tweeted a similar message Wednesday, claiming that “the fate of the US in Vietnam and Afghanistan will be the unchangeable fate of the occupying Zionist regim**e too.”

**“The end of any occupation is a humiliating expulsion**,” he added in a post that was also published in Hebrew, albeit with several translation errors.

**Israeli opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu wrote on Facebook earlier Wednesday that US secretary of state John Kerry had sought to bring him to Afghanistan in 2013 in order to show him how the US could build an army of locals that could fight te**rror.

**“The message was clear — the ‘Afghani model’ was the model that the US wanted to implemen**t with the Palestinians,” he wrote.

**“We would get the same results [as Afghanistan] if we gave parts of our homeland to the Palestinians,” he claimed**.

**On Sunday, a senior official in Hamas, the terror group that rules the Gaza Strip, also linked the Taliban’s fight against the American-backed Afghani government and Hamas’s fight against I**srael.

“The Taliban are victorious today after being accused of backwardness and terrorism. They emerge today as a smarter and more realistic movement. They confronted America and its agents and refused to compromise with them. They were not deceived by bright headlines about ‘democracy’ and ‘elections,’” [Moussa Abu Marzouk tweeted Monday](https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-praises-taliban-for-causing-american-downfall-in-afghanistan/).

**Along with Hamas, Islamic Jihad congratulated the Taliban on their conquest of Afghanistan**, which the Palestinian terror group called “the liberation of [Afghani] land from the Western and American occupation.”

Analysts have warned the Taliban’s takeover of Afghanistan risks emboldening jihadists worldwide. **[Jihadis worldwide are all celebrating the defeat of American hegemony and its loss of a significant position in the world leadership. This is a terribly dangerous time for the people of America. There is a very large contingent of foreign related terrorist in this land. Many have come in because of terrible immigration management as we have seen from Ilhan Omar as well as many others on CAIR and a huge number of crossed illegally through the southern border. Our friend Avi Lipkin has said for years that these groups are simply waiting for the green light from their various leaderships to go into action and begin a major push in the USA. I wouldn’t be surprised if that time is very near. – rdb]**

**“The Taliban’s victory will give jihadist groups worldwide a major boost. It makes them believe that they can expel foreign powers, even major military powers like the United States,” Colin Clarke,** director of research at the New York-based Soufan Center think tank, told AFP.

**“I expect to see a major propaganda blitz culminating on the 20-year anniversary of the 9/11 atta**cks. This will improve morale for jihadis from North Africa to Southeast Asia,” he added.

**Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi, a fellow at George Washington University’s Program on Extremism, said that the example of the Taliban’s patience would convince jihadists around the world to keep fighting,** despite the existing hostility between the Afghan fundamentalists and Islamic State.

**“The Taliban’s takeover of Afghanistan is something that actually emboldens jihadist**s everywhere although the IS is not necessarily happy about it.”

“When groups see the Taliban celebrating victory, I think it convinces them that if they just keep fighting, eventually those they are fighting will collapse, whether it’s in Somalia or West Africa.

“Eventually they just hope the powers backing these governments they fight will withdraw.”

Al-Qaeda’s propaganda arm Al-Thabat has already welcomed the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, saying that “Muslims and Mujahideen in Pakistan, Kashmir, Yemen, Syria, Gaza, Somalia and Mali are celebrating the liberation of Afghanistan and the implementation of Sharia within it.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-head-israel-should-learn-from-afghanistan-that-us-is-unreliable/>

**Hezbollah says Iran fuel tanker to sail to Lebanon, dares Israel and US to act**

***Terror group’s chief Nasrallah doesn’t say how ship will deliver cargo in defiance of US sanctions***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:51 pm*

**Hezbollah terror group chief Hassan Nasrallah said Thursday a tanker would set off from Iran “within hours” to bring desperately needed fuel supplies to Lebanon, in defiance of US sanction**s.

Many questions remain about how the shipment would reach its stated destination, where acute and growing fuel shortages have forced hospitals, businesses and government offices shut amid a crippling economic crisis.

**But the move, prohibited by US sanctions on Iran’s oil industry, could drag Lebanon into the covert naval war between Tehran and Israel. Nasrallah dared Iran’s foes to stop the shipm**ent.

“The vessel, from the moment it sails in the coming hours until it enters (Mediterranean) waters, will be considered Lebanese territory,” he said during a televised speech to mark the Shiite Muslim commemoration of Ashura.

“To the Americans and Israelis, I say: it’s Lebanese territory.”

**He said a first ship would bring fuel for “hospitals, manufacturers of medicine and food, as well as bakeries and private generators.” He said more vessels would follow to address shortages that have ground Lebanon to a halt.**

Neither the Iranian nor the Lebanese governments have confirmed the terror organization’s claim. **MORE-**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-says-iran-fuel-tanker-to-sail-to-lebanon-dares-israel-and-us-to-act/> **[The realities of the incompetence of this ‘administration’ are now evident for all to see and act as they want. – rdb]**

**Bennett meets Egyptian spy chief on Gaza, is invited to visit Cairo within weeks**

***Trip would be the first by an Israeli PM in a decade; summit with Abbas Kamel not connected to Qatari funds, officials say, amid reports of looming deal with Hamas***

*By* [*Tal Schneider*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/tal-schneider/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 4:50 pm*

***[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/KBG_GPO01.jpg)***

***Prime Minister Naftali Bennett (right) meets with Abbas Kamel, the director of the Egyptian General Intelligence Directorate, in Jerusalem on August 18, 2021. (Kobi Gideon / GPO)***

**Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has invited Prime Minister Naftali Bennett to make an official visit to Egypt within the next few weeks, the premier’s office announced Wednesda**y.

**The invitation was relayed to Bennett by Egyptian General Intelligence Directorate chair Abbas Kamel,** who was visiting Jerusalem for talks with the prime minister and Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

**The meeting with the Egyptian spy chief was the first since Bennett took office in Ju**ne.

**Bennett and Sissi had previously agreed to meet when they spoke by phone shortly after Bennett’s government was sworn i**n.

**The visit would be the first public visit by an Israeli premier since 2011, when prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with president Hosni Mubarak in the Sinai resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh**. Netanyahu also reportedly paid a [secret, unofficial visit](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-had-secret-meeting-in-egypt-with-sissi-in-may-to-discuss-gaza-report/) in 2018.

**Kamel met with Bennett in Jerusalem at the Prime Minister’s Office, which said the two discussed bilateral ties between the countries and “the matter of Egyptian mediation in the security situation** vis-a-vis the Gaza Strip.”

Egypt helped broker the truce that ended the 11-day conflict in May between Israel and Hamas, the terror group that rules Gaza.

**Senior defense officials told Zman Yisrael, The Times of Israel’s Hebrew sister publication, that the meeting with Kamel was not connected to ongoing talks over allowing Qatari funds to** enter the Gaza Strip.

**After meeting with senior Israeli officials, Kamel visited the West Bank city of Ramallah f**or talks with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, according to official Palestinian media.

A statement carried by the official PA WAFA news agency said Abbas and the intelligence chief discussed “the developments in the Palestinian territories and ways to strengthen bilateral relations and achieve stability and peace in the region.”

**Kamel’s trip comes two days after two rockets were fired from Gaza toward the town of Sder**ot in a brief flare-up of violence amid a shaky calm in place since the May war. One of the missiles was intercepted by the Iron Dome defense system and the second landed inside the Strip. Israel has so far not responded to the launch.

**It also comes ahead of Bennett’s planned trip to Washingto**n, with Egypt seeking to prove to the Biden administration that it plays a key role in securing stability in the region.

Cairo has participated in efforts to secure the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas that it brokered to end the fighting in May.

Following the May conflict, Israel initially said that it would only allow basic humanitarian aid into the beleaguered enclave, unless Hamas released two Israeli civilians it has held in captivity for years, along with the remains of two IDF soldiers. It also conditioned aid to rebuilding Gaza on the matter.

**However, in recent days Jerusalem has appeared to soften its stance, gradually scaling back its blockade of Gaza and allowing more and more goods and people into and out of the Strip**, at the request of the United Nations and foreign governments.

**Israel has so far avoided responding militarily to the rockets fired from Ga**za, due to sensitive ongoing negotiations with Hamas that have the potential to reach a breakthrough, Channel 12 news reported Tuesday.

According to the report, which did not cite a source, there is a possibility of a deal that will allow Qatari funds to enter Gaza and could include the release of the Israelis being held by Hamas.

Bennett and Gantz held meetings at the military’s Gaza Division Tuesday. According to the network, IDF intelligence officials and the Shin Bet told the pair that they believe a chance must be given for talks to succeed.

The report said that the rocket fired on Monday was launched by Islamic Jihad members. Hamas quickly arrested them and then conveyed to Israel that it was not behind the rocket fire and was not interested in an escalation of violence, it said.

Discussing Israel’s position on Gaza reconstruction, a senior Israeli official told The Times of Israel recently that while the main players in the talks mediated by Cairo may be Israel and Hamas, Jerusalem has been adamant that the negotiation table be expanded to include Ramallah.

**“We are saying that the PA needs to be part of this equation… because it is the moderate faction,” the officia**l argued. **Israel is hoping this approach will result in Ramallah being tasked with distributing Qatari humanitarian aid in Gaza,** the official said, while admitting that the matter is dependent on approval from Hamas and Qatar. **[This will be a grand failure for Israel’s leadership. Ramallah is good for corruption and only for corruption. To put them in a position of power over the money will be nothing but folly. = rdb]**

**PA minister Ahmad Majdalani said** [**earlier this month**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/pa-official-deal-reached-to-send-qatari-cash-to-gaza-but-challenges-remain/)**that officials in Doha and Ramallah agreed on a broad framework to again transfer Qatari funds to the Gaza Strip, but Palestinian banks are holding up its imple**mentation.

Since 2018, Qatar has provided over $300 million in subsidies to Gaza, which is ruled by Doha’s Hamas clients. Israel allowed the funds into the tightly blockaded coastal enclave in exchange for quiet on its southern border.

The Qatari projects funded fuel for Gaza’s only power plant and hospitals to shore up the enclave’s damaged healthcare system. They also brought in hundreds of millions in cash payments to both 100,000 poor Gazan families and to Hamas’s civil servants.

Qatar rejects frequent accusations that the money goes to terror groups in the enclave, saying Israel knows how the money is distributed. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-meets-egyptian-spy-chief-on-gaza-is-invited-to-visit-cairo-within-weeks/>

**Israel reportedly set to offer COVID boosters to all starting next month**

***Speculation from health officials comes after US announces plans to roll out booster program, citing positive results from million who have already received third dose***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 11:55 pm*

**Israel will reportedly expand its COVID vaccine booster program to all Israelis 12 years and older starting next month, significantly expanding a program that has already seen over 1 million people over the age of 50 or immunocompromised receive a third dose of the sh**ot. **[What a dreadful pity this is. Why don’t they simply distribute HCQ or Ivermectin instead of poisoning their children. If the first two shots were not effective for a significant period of time why keep jabbing people? I simply don’t believe that these people are that stupid and must chalk it up to evil and wickedness. They would all do well to listen to Dr. V. Zalenko and the groups from American’s Frontline Doctors who have an outstanding history of success MAINLY because they didn’t listen to the lies and errors from the CDC NIH and the vile Fauci. – rdb]**

**Early data from the booster shot campaign has reportedly shown promising results**, with some health officials predicting that re-upping the vaccine across the population will tamp down on a major surge in infections wracking the country. [**Total Garbage. – rdb]**

Health officials told Channel 12 news that a panel of experts and Health Ministry director Nachman Ash were likely to swiftly okay expanding the booster program to all Israelis who had been eligible for the first two doses.

They cited high levels of antibodies identified in elderly populations who have received the booster in addition to limited reported side effects.

US health authorities announced earlier Wednesday that they would begin making the booster shots available to all Americans on September 20. They cited studies showing a weakened immune response some eight months after receiving the second dose of the vaccine. **[ Not if the WHO has any say in the matter. – rdb]**

**Israel last month became the first country in the world to begin offering booster shots** to those over the age of 60 and last week expanded the eligibility to those over 50. According to Health Ministry data Wednesday, 1,166,624 Israelis have since received the third dose. **MORE-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-reportedly-set-to-offer-covid-boosters-to-all-starting-next-month/>

**Bennett pushes vaccines over lockdown as serious cases hit 5-month high**

***Prime minister says serious morbidity likely to further climb but warns lockdowns ‘destroying the future of the country, and will only be used as a ‘last line of defense’***

*By* [*Alexander Fulbright*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/alexander-fulbright/) *Today, 10:24 pm*

**Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Wednesday pushed back against the prospect of imposing another lockdown amid surging coronavirus cases, touting increased vaccination as the best path to reducing morbidi**ty.

“If Israeli citizens continue to be vaccinated on a large scale, we can overcome the Delta variant,” Bennett said during a televised press conference, referring to the highly contagious strain of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. **[Bennett like most world leaders who are multimillionaires is about as qualified to make this recommendation as a garbage collector, who would probably stop and actually try to look at facts before doing so. – rdb]**

Bennett said not only Israel but other countries across the globe were having to cope with the Delta strain which he said had created a “new situation” due to its high transmissibility. The premier spoke as serious cases continued to climb, hitting 600 for the first time since mid-March. **[How many are already JABBED, How many are really critical? Have they tried any other modalities \_ NO WAY! – rdb]**

According to the latest Health Ministry figures, there are 59,218 active COVID cases, with 991 hospitalized, 600 in serious condition and 103 on ventilators. Since midnight, there have been 4,583 more confirmed infections Wednesday, with 5.39 percent of tests coming back positive. **[Active cases mean a positive PCR test. Really sick ?? Probably the 103 on ventilators and did they have comorbidities? – rdb]**

The death toll rose to 6,723, with two fatalities since midnight. On Tuesday, 16 people died from COVID complications.

The ministry also reported that 5,866,132 people in Israel have received at least one vaccine shot, while 5,428,573 received two doses. Another 1,166,624 have received a booster shot, which Israel recently began administering to people older than 60, becoming the first country to do so. It has since expanded eligibility to those over 50 and also giving boosters to the immunocompromised.

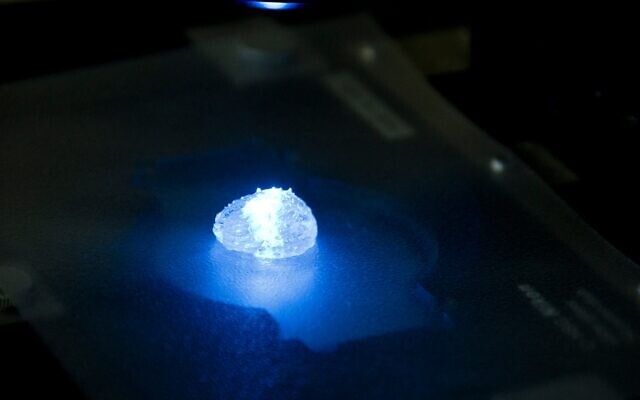
“The decision was not easy for us, but we knew it was the right way to fight the coronavirus,” Bennett said of the booster shots.

In dealing with the current wave of morbidity, Bennett said the government’s aim was to look out for both the health and livelihoods of Israelis. **MORE-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-pushes-vaccines-over-lockdown-as-serious-cases-hit-5-month-high/> **[The behavior of the Israeli government dealing with this is simply terribly sad and discouraging and actually probably bordering on criminal. Dr. Zelenko referred to the government and their ‘JABBING’ children as sacrificing their children on the altar of Molech as is listed in the scripture. I think it is simply a disgusting power and money ego trip for most of them. There are I am sure some who haven’t really looked at the background and totality of the situation who actually thing they are doing something good, but as they say ignorance is no excuse particularly today when there is an abundance of information available for those who take the time to look. . – rdb]**

**TAU researchers tout ‘breakthrough’ 3D bioprints of active tumor**

***Scientists at Tel Aviv University boast development of technology will help in finding optimal treatments for each tumor, coming up with future treatments***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 11:56 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/Image-6-.jpeg)

***Illustration for demonstration of 3D printing of a tumor in a brain microenvironment according to a computed 3D model. (Tel Aviv University)***

**Researchers at Tel Aviv University say the first 3D bioprinting of an entire active tumor marks a scientific breakthrough that will aid the battle against cancer by allowing researchers to develop bespoke cures in a simulated set**ting.

**The university announced Wednesday that the researchers created a 3D print of glioblastoma — the deadliest type of brain cancer — from human tissues that contain all components of the malignant tum**or.

**“The breakthrough will enable much faster prediction of best treatments for patients, accelerate the development of new drugs and discovery of new druggable targe**ts,” the university said in a statement.

**The 3D model of the tumor includes “a complex system of blood vessel-like tubes through which blood cells and drugs can flow, simulating a real tumor,” according to the universit**y.

The study was led by Prof. Ronit Satchi-Fainaro, who heads the university’s Cancer Research and Nanomedicine Laboratory. Numerous other researchers helped develop the 3D models, which the university said used samples taken from neurosurgery patients at Tel Aviv’s Ichilov Hospital.

**Satchi-Fainaro explained that the team decided to use 3D bioprinting after being unable to detect** [**a protein that was helping the cancer cells spread**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-scientists-stop-brain-tumors-in-mice-say-may-cure-a-deadly-cancer/) **rather than fighting them when using 2D petri dish s**amples.

“The reason is that cancer, like all tissues, behaves very differently on a plastic surface than it does in the human body,” she said.

“It’s not only the cancer cells,” Satchi-Fainaro continued. “It’s also the cells of the microenvironment in the brain… The physical and mechanical properties of the brain are different from those of other organs.”

**She and the research team thus created a 3D model to be able to develop the best form of treatment for each patie**nt.

“If we take a sample from a patient’s tissue, together with its extracellular matrix, we can 3D bioprint from this sample 100 tiny tumors and test many different drugs in various combinations to discover the optimal treatment for this specific tumor,” she said. “Alternately, we can test numerous compounds on a 3D-bioprinted tumor and decide which is most promising for further development and investment as a potential drug.”

The **3D bioprint was first used by the team to investigate the role of the P-selectin in boosting the growth of tumors in mice. Those results, published earlier this year, raised** hopes for the development of P-selectin blockers that can help inhibit cancer growth.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/04/Prof.-Ronit-Satchi-Fainaro.jpg)“We found by blocking the expression of P-selectin we stop the microglia from suppressing the immune system and supporting tumor growth in the brain. We were able to successfully test this on mice, and on tumor cells in the 3D model, with very encouraging results,” she told The Times of Israel in April.

***Prof. Ronit Satchi-Fainaro, Director of the Cancer Biology Research Center and the Head of the Cancer Research and Nanomedicine Laboratory at Tel Aviv University (courtesy of Tel Aviv University)***

**Glioblastoma only has a 40 percent survival rate after a year and 5% after five years, even with surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherap**y.

“We’re talking about one of the most aggressive cancers, which is considered stage four from diagnosis, and this is really exciting,” she said at the time. “It is paving the way for a new therapy for a disease that hasn’t had anything new in terms of treatment over the last decade.”

The team’s research on the benefits of 3D bioprints [was published Wednesday](https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/7/34/eabi9119.full) in the peer-reviewed academic journal Science Advances.

**Satchi-Fainaro noted the difficulty of discovering “novel druggable target proteins and genes in cancer cells” of a human pati**ent.

“Our innovation gives us unprecedented access, with no time limits, to 3D tumors mimicking better the clinical scenario, enabling optimal investigation,” she said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/tau-researchers-tout-breakthrough-3d-bioprints-of-active-tumor/> **[This is a remarkable discovery. One of my earlier experiences in medicine was with glioblastoma patients. – rdb]**

**Arab man seriously injured in stabbing by Jewish mob in Jerusalem**

***Police said to investigate possible terror motive; assault mirrors another knife attack in the same area in May***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:44 amUpdated at 11:29 am*

**An Arab man was stabbed and seriously injured late Wednesday night by a group of Jewish men near Jerusalem’s Mahane Yehuda market, according to Hebrew media rep**orts.

**The man, who was said to be 19, was hospitalized at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in the capital with serious injuries, medics said. The hospital later said he was in moderate and stab**le condition.

According to the Walla news site, the man was waiting for a ride home from work when he was set upon by a group of Jewish Israeli men.

“Six guys who were looking for a fight passed by. A fight broke out and they stabbed him all over his body,” an eyewitness told Walla. “He started running until he collapsed.”

Police arrived at the scene on Agrippas Street and were investigating a terror motive, the report said.

The information was not immediately confirmed by police early Thursday and no arrests were immediately reported. **MORE-** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/arab-man-seriously-injured-in-stabbing-by-jewish-mob-in-jerusalem/>

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| **Dr. Kory Ivermectin - User-Created Clip  February 3, 2021 U.S. Senate Hearing on COVID-19**  [**https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4942982/user-clip-dr-kory-ivermectin**](https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4942982/user-clip-dr-kory-ivermectin)  **This was in February and the NIH continues to have a half-witted equivocal statement that it can’t say it is effective or not. This is criminal behavior by the NIH and our government healthcare system. The information presented by Dr. Kory is correct. I have used it with great effectiveness as well as HCQ. This is something much more than “scientific cautiousness” it is willful evil negligence and essentially criminal because it is leading to the death of many people worldwide. RDB** |

**WHO: Third COVID-19 vaccine unnecessary**

***The comments came just before the US said it planned to make the booster shots widely available to all Americans starting on Sept. 20 as infections from the Delta variant rise.***

*By REUTERS   AUGUST 18, 2021 18:06*

**Current data does not indicate that COVID-19 booster shots are needed, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday, adding that the most vulnerable people worldwide should be fully vaccinated before high-income countries deploy a top**-up.

**The comments came just before the US government said it planned to make the booster shots widely available to all Americans starting on Sept. 20 as infections from the Delta** variant of the coronavirus rise.

WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan, asked about the need for boosters to increase protection against the disease, told a Geneva news conference: "We believe clearly that the data today does not indicate that boosters are needed."

Further research was needed, she added.

WHO senior adviser Bruce Aylward, referring to booster shots being administered in high-income countries, told reporters: "There is enough vaccine around the world, but it is not going to the right places in the right order."

Two doses should be given to the most vulnerable worldwide before boosters are administered to those fully-vaccinated, he said, adding: "We are a long, long way from that." <https://www.jpost.com/health-science/who-third-covid-19-vaccine-unnecessary-677074>

**Study warns COVID booster shots are not 'the solution' to Delta**

***Israeli results find the vaccinated infected just about as often as unvaccinated***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published August 18, 2021 at 7:42pm*

**COVID-19 surged, infected millions, killed a large number, and then started waning. Then it surged and waned around the globe. And now it's a variant, Delta, that is surging all** over.  
 Some **health officials are saying that, in addition to everyone needing to take the experimental vaccines, those who already are vaccinated now might need a booster** shot.  
 Mandates haven't developed there yet, and there have been opinions on both sides **of that issue regarding Delta, which appears to be able to infect the vaccinated and unvaccinated a**like.  
 But **now a report in** [**ScienceMag**](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/08/grim-warning-israel-vaccination-blunts-does-not-defeat-delta) **quotes Dvir Aran, a biomedical data scientist in Israel, who said that those who have access to vaccines, "Do not think that the boosters are the solution**."  
 **Uri Shalit, a bioinformatician at the Israel Institute of Technology, also known as Technion, said the problem from Delta is vastly different from the first surges in COVID-19 infect**ions.  
 "**There are so many breakthrough infections that they dominate and most of the hospitalized patients are actually vaccinated," Shalit confirmed**.  
 According to the report, **Israel has about the highest level of vaccination for COVID-19 in the world, with 78% of those 12 and older fully vaccinated, the vast majority with the Pfizer v**accine.  
 "Yet **the country is now logging one of the world’s highest infection rates**, with nearly 650 new cases daily per million people. More than half are in fully vaccinated people, underscoring the extraordinary transmissibility of the Delta variant and stoking concerns that the benefits of vaccination ebb over time," the report revealed.

Israeli Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz explained, as his nation became the first to offer a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine, that he has a warning to the world:  
 **Even the best vaccinated nations in the world can face a Delta surge**.  
 Ran Balicer, chief innovation officer at Callit Health Services, Israel's biggest HMO, said, "If it can happen here, it can probably happen everywhere."  
 Israel throughout COVID had led with vaccinations.  
 "I watch [details from Israel] very, very closely because it is some of the absolutely best data coming out anywhere in the world," explained David O’Connor, of the University of Wisconsin.  
 Its **vaccine rates always have been high, and its medical industry has provided a trove of metrics on coronavirus**.  
 But **now, with Delta, the immunity may be waning**.  
 A report from **MHS found that protection from COVID-19 infection during June and July dropped in proportion to how long ago the patient was vaccinated**.  
 "People vaccinated in January had a 2.26 times greater risk for a breakthrough infection than those vaccinated in April," the report said.  
 As **of now, about three-fifths of all hospitalized COVID patients are patients who previously were vaccinated**.  
 While new cases there were scarcely registering at the start of summer, Israel now has the highest level in months.  
 And a further warning from the results is that "breakthrough" cases are not even rare.  
 As of the middle of August, 514 Israelis were hospitalized with severe or critical COVID-19, a 31% increase from just 4 days earlier. Of the 514, 59% were fully vaccinated. Of the vaccinated, 87% were 60 or older, the report revealed.  
 Shalit explained, "**One of the big stories from Israel [is]: 'Vaccines work, but not well enough**.'"

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/study-warns-covid-booster-shots-not-solution-delta/>

**Threat to students for no vaccine proof: No Wi-Fi access and thousands in fines**

**'A weekly charge, costing up to $2,275 for the semester'**

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published August 18, 2021 at 4:32pm*

**Ancient civilizations frequently had their levels of citizenship that ranged from slave, through freedman to nobles. Some contemporary nations still have castes, including one for untouchables.**

The **newest version of that division of people into different classes has been announced at Quinnipiac University, where students who fail to provide proof of COVID vaccinations will be deprived of Wi-Fi access**.

**And fined sums potentially reaching into the thousan**ds.

[**Broadcast outlet WHDH**](https://whdh.com/news/quinnipiac-university-to-issue-fines-impose-wi-fi-restrictions-on-students-who-fail-to-show-proof-of-vaccination/) **reported the Connecticut school, in an email, warned 600 students who have failed to meet the university's demand to share a copy of their COVID-19 vaccination re**cord.

**The school claimed the health records demand is to "protect the health of our entire university comm**unity."

The vaccines currently available in the United States all are experimental, and while they have had a significant impact on the number of original COVID case being reported, a new Delta variant of the coronavirus seems to be able to infect the vaccinated and unvaccinated just about alike.

**But the report said the school informed students who fail to provide their papers "will face a weekly charge, costing up to $2,275 for the semester**. The fee starts at $100 per week for the first two weeks of the semester and increases by $25 every two weeks up to a maximum of $200 per week."

**Unvaccinated students also were told they'll have weekly, on-campus testing.**

**Further, the school threatened that access to the Quinnipiac network and Wi-Fi system will be revoked if a student has not fulfilled the vaccination requirement by Sept. 14**, the report said.

The [Daily Wire](https://www.dailywire.com/news/quinnipiac-university-announces-wifi-restrictions-for-unvaccinated-students) noted that the penalties "presumably" are for students who have not acquired a medical or religious exemption to the demand they take experimental vaccines.

**The report noted, "Many universities have opted to institute vaccine mandates for students who wish to return to campus learning, including large public universities such as Indiana University, Rutgers University, and Michigan State Univers**ity."

But there are other schools, such as the University of Michigan, are pursuing requirements for students and faculty to wear face masks, in addition to being vaccinated. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/threat-students-no-vaccine-proof-no-wi-fi-access-thousands-fines/> **[Sorry folks but the US government needs to suspend ALL FUNDS to schools who do this. Someone in congress needs to start pushing some bills to do so. This is absolute coercion of an experimental drug which is a breach of the Nuremburg rules. If they schools are so ignorant as to not understand that they have no business operating at all. – rdb]**

**Prof granted vaccine exemption after 'natural immunity' lawsuit**

***'I speak for tens of millions of Americans in the same circumstances'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published August 18, 2021 at 7:11pm*

**After filing a lawsuit arguing he obtained "natural immunity" from COVID-19 after being infected with the novel coronavirus, George Mason University granted a professor a medical exemption from its COVID-19 vaccine manda**te.

Lawyers for Todd Zywicki, a law professor at the Fairfax, Virginia, university, announced the agreement Tuesday, [the Washington Post reported](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/aug/17/george-mason-law-prof-granted-vaccine-mandate-exem/).

"**I am gratified that George Mason has given me a medical exemption to allow me to fulfill my duties this fall semester in light of unprecedented circumstances," Zywicki said**.

"I speak for tens of millions of Americans in the same circumstances I am in, and I call on leaders across the country to develop humane and science-based approaches as opposed to one-size-fits-all policies."

**Zywicki filed affidavits from his doctor stating he has natural immunity from the virus after having fully recovered from COVID-19. And the lawsuit argued there is substantial scientific evidence indicating natural immunity from the virus is stronger than immunity through various vaccin**es.

A spokesman **for George Mason University declined comment on any medical accommodation, citing "state policy regarding personnel information and confidentiality of health** information."

But no accommodation will be given based on natural immunity to COVID, the spokesman said, arguing it conflicts with CDC guidance.

"His litigation had no impact on the consideration of his request for a medical exemption from the vaccination requirement," the spokesman said. "Mason encourages everyone, including those who previously had COVID-19, to get vaccinated, and will continue to take the steps necessary to protect the Mason community from COVID."

***'Robust and durable protection'***

Zywicki, who has been at George Mason for 24 years, explained his case in an [op-ed published Aug. 6 by the Wall Street Journal](https://www.wsj.com/articles/vaccine-mandate-natural-immunity-lawsuit-covid-19-coronavirus-11628281507?mod=article_inline).

He said he contracted and recovered from COVID-19 in the spring of 2020, which later was confirmed through a positive antibody test. And multiple positive antibody tests "have since confirmed that I continue to have a robust level of immune protection."

**The university's "coercive mandate," he wrote, "violates my constitutional right to bodily integrity for no compelling reaso**n."

The university requires students to be vaccinated by Aug. 1 and faculty and staff by Aug.15. Those who do not comply must show a medical or religious exemption.

In his op-ed, Zywicki cited clinical studies from [Israel](https://www.wnd.com/2021/07/britain-40-new-covid-cases-fully-vaccinated-people/), [the Cleveland Clinic](https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/4922097/), England and elsewhere that have demonstrated that natural immunity to SARS-CoV-2 "provides robust and durable protection against reinfection comparable to or better than that provided by the most effective vaccines."

He argued further that it "isn’t merely unnecessary for me to get the shot."

**"It’s potentially dangerous. Covid-recovered individuals have been mostly excluded from the vaccine clinical trials, rendering any claims about the purported safety for this group largely speculativ**e," he wrote.

Last week, the Times noted, the CDC highlighted a new study indicating unvaccinated people were twice as likely to get reinfected with COVID-19.

But many a recent Israeli study cited by Zywicki showed natural immunity is 6.7 times greater than for vaccinated people. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/prof-granted-vaccine-exemption-natural-immunity-lawsuit/>

**‘First come, first serve’: Americans warned of limited flights out of Kabul, US embassy ‘cannot ensure safe passage’ to airport**

*18 Aug, 2021 20:00 / Updated 1 hour ago*

**Americans attempting to leave Afghanistan are getting some conflicting information from their embassy staff in Kabul: come to the airport but not until emailed to do so, flights are first-come-first-served, safety not guarante**ed.

US citizens, legal permanent residents and their children *“should consider travelling to Hamid Karzai International Airport,”* the US Embassy in Afghanistan – currently operating out of makeshift offices at the airport – said in a [security alert posted](https://af.usembassy.gov/security-alert-u-s-embassy-kabul-august-18-2021/) on its website on Wednesday. **The embassy provided instructions as to how to get to the airport, but noted that the access point “may change frequently” and said it would “provide updates as necessary***.”*

**The US government “cannot ensure safe passage” to the airport**, the embassy then noted in big bold letters.

*“Please be advised that a significant number of individuals have registered and space on these flights is available on a first come, first serve basis,”* the alert added. *“You may be required to wait at the airport for a significant amount of time until space is available.”*

**Americans seeking to leave were told to fill out forms “as soon as possible” but “only once,” even if they previously submitted their information to the embassy,** as the form *“is the only way to communicate interest in flight options.”*

*“Do not call the US Embassy in Kabul for details or updates about the flight,”* the note added. *“Do not travel to the airport until you have been informed by email that departure options exist.”* How exactly people are supposed to rely on emails in a war zone, or whether emails could keep pace with the rapidly changing situation on the ground, went unexplained.

**Those fortunate enough to send in the required paperwork, get emails, make it to the airport somehow, and get a seat on a plane, can only bring “one piece of hand luggage” per perso**n, *“if space is available.”* There is no room for pets, the embassy said.

With the complete collapse of the US-backed Afghan government on Sunday, which seems to have caught Washington off guard, the Taliban now controls almost all of Afghanistan. There are several thousand US troops at the Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA) in Kabul, which is surrounded by the Taliban.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin admitted to reporters at the Pentagon on Wednesday that the priority for the troops is to defend the airport, adding that allowing thousands of civilians to breach the perimeter would put those forces at risk.

*“We don’t have the capability to go out and collect large numbers of people,”* he told reporters, rejecting the idea of sending troops to gather Americans into convoys that could then make their way to the airport. The Taliban has been letting through the people who have the right documents, Austin added.

Up to 10,000 Americans may still be in the country, waiting to be evacuated along with many more Afghans seeking to flee. Hundreds of Afghans mobbed US C-17 transport planes bringing troops in over the weekend. One flight departed with [640 people crammed inside](https://www.rt.com/usa/532243-pentagon-kabul-airport-evacuation/). Others clung onto the outside of the planes, dying when they got trapped in the landing gear or plummeting to the ground below. <https://www.rt.com/news/532442-americans-afghanistan-evacuation-flights-embassy/> **[The entire Biden group needs to be incarcerated for being traitors of the American people. – rdb]**

**Putin discusses situation in Afghanistan with presidents of Iran and Tajikistan**

*18 Aug, 2021 19:12*

**Russian President Vladimir Putin has spoken to the presidents of Iran and Tajikistan by phone. The leaders discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan, which has fallen into the hands of the Taliban i**n a sweeping takeover.

**The situation in Afghanistan has been a “major focus” of the talks between Putin and Iran’s president Ebrahim Rai**si, the Kremlin said in a statement on Wednesday following the phone conversation between the two presidents. Both Russia and Iran expressed their readiness to contribute to peace and stability in Afghanistan, the statement added.

**Putin congratulated Raisi, who recently won the presidential elections in Iran, on his success. The two also discussed some major bilateral business projects and the fight** against Covid-19.

**The Russian president’s conversation with Tajikistan’s leader, Emomali Rahmon, was also largely focused on the developments in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeove**r. The two leaders said it was important to focus on providing security for civilians and maintaining stability in the region. The two leaders agreed that the relevant agencies of both nations should maintain regular contacts as the situation unfolds.

**There have been concerns that a burgeoning conflict in Afghanistan could destabilize the wider region**. Last week, the armed forces of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Russia held massive drills on the former Soviet republics’ border with Afghanistan as they practiced targeting enemy combatants and securing the border.

**The swift capture of Kabul by the Taliban also sparked an exodus of senior government figures and foreign diplomatic personnel over the weekend. At the same time, hundreds of Afghan military personnel sought to cross into Uzbekistan onboard dozens of planes and helicopters that were forcibly landed by the Uzbek forces**.

**Afghanistan’s ousted president, Ashraf Ghani, was among those who fled the country. According to the Russian embassy in Kabul, he arrived at the airport with loads of cash and valua**bles.

Eventually, the exiled leader, whose whereabouts were unknown for several days, turned up in the UAE on Wednesday, where he was welcomed on *“humanitarian grounds.”*

The Afghan embassy in Tajikistan has demanded that Interpol arrest Ghani as it accused him of *“stealing”* the Afghan treasury. However, in his first public speech since fleeing the country, the ousted former leader claimed he did not take the money with him. <https://www.rt.com/russia/532440-putin-discuss-afghanistan-iran-tajikistan/>

**So much for 'Taliban 2.0': Fighters shoot dead journalist as he raises Afghan flag in defiance at Jalalabad protest as Kabul 'car thief' is tarred and locals claim woman was shot dead for not wearing a burqa in rural province**

* ***The Taliban's 'Angels of Salvation' are going door-to-door to round up suspected looters amid chaos in Kabul***
* ***Footage shows alleged thieves being dragged out of their homes at gunpoint and being shamed in the street***
* ***Robbers have their faces tarred and are strapped up to the backs of trucks to be paraded through the city***
* ***Journalist Zahidullah Nazirzada was reportedly shot dead today raising the Afghan national flag in Jalalabad***
* ***A young woman was shot dead by Taliban in north of the country for reportedly refusing to wear a hijab***
* ***Harrowing image shows her parents crouching next to her body as she lies in a pool of blood last week***
* ***The jihadists have been dubbed 'Taliban 2.0' for their media charm offensive and claims that they are modern***
* ***But damning evidence proves they still cling to their barbaric world view as they bar refugees from fleeing***
* ***There was a stampede at the airport on Tuesday as fighters marched around with guns firing warning shots***
* ***Video showed despairing women at the gates of the airport pleading with US troops to let them through***
* ***A 21-year-old ex-teacher who fled to Kabul earlier this year said she was now afraid to leave the house***
* ***An ex-interpreter watched as the Taliban raided his home via an app as he remains holed up in a safehouse***
* ***One man said he saw his neighbour being dragged out of his house, the Taliban said he would hang tomorrow***
* ***WARNING GRAPHIC CONTENT:***

By [Ross Ibbetson](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/search.html?s=&authornamef=Ross+Ibbetson) and [Rob Crilly, Senior U.S. Political Reporter For Dailymail.Com](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/search.html?s=&authornamef=Rob+Crilly,+Senior+U.S.+Political+Reporter+For+Dailymail.Com) Published: 03:51 EDT, 18 August 2021 | Updated: 12:53 EDT, 18 August 2021

**The Taliban's new 'moderate' facade has already crumbled with images emerging today of alleged thieves being tarred and strapped to trucks, and reports of a journalist shot dead for raising a flag and of a woman killed for refusing to wear a burq**a.

**The terror group's 'Angels of Salvation' are going from door-to-door and dragging political opponents from their homes at gunpoint. One suspect's neighbour reported that the Taliban said he would be hanged to**morrow.

A journalist who raised the Afghan national flag in defiance at a protest in the northern city of Jalalabad on Wednesday was shot dead by the jihadists, along with two other protesters.

According to local reports. Zahidullah Nazirzada had joined defiant crowds in raising the tricolour, now outlawed and replaced by the Taliban's white banner.

**Footage from Kabul showed a car thief on Tuesday with his face covered in tar, tied to the back of a truc**k and his hands behind his back as people gathered around to gawp. A traffic cop stood nearby apparently powerless.

**A young woman was shot dead for allegedly refusing to wear a burqa by marauding jihadists** when they captured the northern town of Taloqan in Takhar province last week, according to a post widely shared on social media.

**She is seen lying in a pool of blood as her distraught parents crouch beside her body** in the image which was shared by the Afghan Ambassador to Poland, Tahir Qadry, who denounced the 'butchering of civilians.'

Other footage shows Taliban fighters outside Kabul airport on Tuesday wielding AK-47s and rocket launchers, marching towards the terrified crowds and firing warning shots into the air.

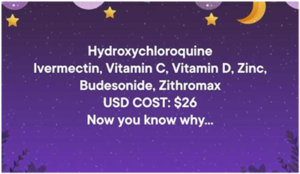
**The jihadists have been dubbed 'Taliban 2.0' for their media charm offensive in trying to persuade the world that they have moderated compared to the Taliban of 20 ye**ars ago.

But these barbaric atrocities tell a different story:

* Suspected political enemies are being dragged from their houses and are to be hung, according to sources
* Ex-interpreter saw his house being raided via an app on his phone as he remains holed up in a safehouse
* Journalists and student activists have been hauled out of their homes in the middle of the night
* Kabul's first female mayor Zarifa Ghafari said: 'I'm just sitting here waiting for them to come, there is no help'
* 21-year-old former teacher says she is a 'prisoner in her own home' as the Taliban fighters raid nearby houses
* In Kabul's Pol-e-Charki prison, the militants murdered former ISIS chief Ziaul Haq, fuelling fears of civil war
* A mother-of-four was beaten to death in front of her daughter before a grenade was hurled into their home
* A bloodied child, who appeared to have been killed, was seen being carried outside the airport on Tuesday
* Taliban are causing stampedes outside the airport as they fire guns into the air and beat would-be refugees
* Women reached their arms through railings outside airport crying to the US troops: 'The Taliban are coming'
* Teenage boys cowering with their younger siblings and mothers are separated by fighters and beaten
* Two killed and at least 10 injured when Taliban opened fire on protest over removal of the national flag
* Journalist Zahidullah Nazirzada was reportedly shot dead while raising the Afghan national flag in Jalalabad

**MUCH MUCH MORE-** <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9904067/Life-moderate-Taliban-Fighters-tar-car-thief-tie-truck.html> **[Very graphic difficult pictures. – rdb]**

**Commentary:**

**Mengele, Fauci, Zyklon B and the Poisonous Clot Shot***By* [*Kelleigh Nelson*](https://newswithviews.com/author/kelleigh/)*|August 18th, 2021  
 Fear is often “false evidence appearing real.”  —Nick Vujicic, a man born without limbs*  
 *A government is like fire, a handy servant, but a dangerous master.  —George Washington*  
 *If we do a really great job on new vaccines and… reproductive health services, (i.e., abortion) we could lower the world population by perhaps 10% or 15%.  —Bill Gates*  
 *The United Nation’s goal is to reduce population selectively by encouraging abortion, forced sterilization, and control of human reproduction, and regards two-thirds of the human population as baggage, with 350,000 people to be eliminated per day.  —Jacques Cousteau, UNESCO Courier, Nov. 1991*  
 *A total world population of 250-300 million people, a 95% decline from present levels, would be ideal.  —Ted Turner, former husband of American traitor Jane Fonda*  
 Is the power of humanity greater than the authoritarian evil thrust upon us for nearly two years?  This country had a watershed event in 1860 that destroyed states’ rights and gave us an all-powerful centralized federal government.  Revisionist history and propaganda are spoon fed to our children via government education and mainstream media camouflaged with a façade of truth, but concealing a core of subversion, fraud and devilish deceit.  
**Marxist Slavery**  
 Total slavery is planned for all people…red and yellow, black and white, worldwide, many are living under massive government surveillance now, including Americans. Fear has controlled populations with masks, lockdowns, experimental jabs and totalitarian dictatorial powers deciding the very future of humanity.  Marxism is here although today’s youth unwittingly embrace it.  
 Simply put, if you’re an American, freedom is fleeing.  Fascism is the collusion between government and corporations.  Communism is the control of production which means future shortages of toilet paper and empty grocery shelves much like those in Marxist-run Venezuela and Cuba. Communist refugees who would cry with joy when seeing loaded shelves in American groceries, will soon recognize what they left has also immigrated.  
 “When you see that in order to produce, you need to obtain permission from men who produce nothing – When you see that money is flowing to those who deal, not in goods, but in favors – When you see that men get richer by graft and by pull than by work, and your laws don’t protect you against them, but protect them against you – When you see corruption being rewarded and honesty becoming a self-sacrifice – You may know that your society is doomed.” Ayn Rand, Atlas Shrugged 1957  
 And we, the masses, are those who will lose our property, our livelihoods, and ultimately be starved to death by demonic masters. Over 40% of the middle class lost their businesses and incomes in 2020, and this was only the beginning of middle class elimination.  
 Who will state the truth?  True leaders are silent. Few radio or TV hosts ever speak the entire truth of what we’re facing…talk is cheap…we need action.  The meetings, the councils, the videos, and the articles continue exposing the rot, but no one has drawn the sword of righteousness to expose the demonic entities who wish our demise.  No one tells the core of the evil which has overtaken America. It’s Fascism and communism combined.  
 Smaller European nations are in revolt, and are being crucified for speaking truth.  Where are Americans?  Where is truth?  Where is the spirit of liberty, that liberty our founders fought for during the Revolutionary War…that liberty that loosed the chains of control?  Where are we?  Is anyone awake?  
 Many believe Covid started the downward spiral of America’s freedoms, but America’s demise started nearly two centuries ago and demonic doctrine has slowly inculcated every facet of our society from the founding of this nation.  Marxist doctrine has been minutely and secretly inserted into our nation’s laws by representatives who give no credence to our founders written desires for free men to elect servants of the people. They disobey their oaths of office from the minute they’re sworn into office on the Bible, and now sworn in on the shariah encoded Koran.  
 Evil slithers into every entity, companies, institutions, associations, governments and  pulpits to destroy freedom, liberty and life, evidenced by all the woke corporations and organizations. Baby boomers have seen it all and their ancestors, the greatest generation, are all but gone.  Now we fight for our lives and the lives of our descendants against the purposeful agenda of depopulation via medical nihilism and malfeasance.  
 **Debunking the Fraudulent Medical Consensus**  
 The Nazis had a saying, “fürihre Sicherheit.”  It means, “for their safety” or “for your safety.”  How many times have we heard that masks, social distancing, and lockdowns are “for your safety?” The mRNA “vaccines” by Pfizer and Moderna are the new Zyklon-B of Nazi Germany’s extermination camps, but this time it comes in a needle, a needle that rapes you of your life.  Interesting that Pfizer apparently [doesn’t mandate the jab for their own employees](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/08/12/report-confidential-documents-reveal-pfizer-does-not-mandate-vaccines-for-employees/).  
 And the repeated and disgusting slogan, “We’re in this together.”  Like hell we are!  How many politicians died of Covid?  How many of the elite lost their livelihoods?  How many suicides?  And how many gave up ever trying again?  
 Anthony Fauci is today’s Dr. Joseph Mengele along with his assistant Bill Gates and friends. He is the master of confusion and that is part of the PSYOPS.  Thirteen million were murdered by the National Socialists of Germany, millions upon millions more will die from the experimental injection of death. Today’s genocide is worldwide and a massive extermination of humanity.  I.G. Farben created Zyklon-B for Nazi Germany, used to gas millions to death. Now Fauci, Gates and the rest of the medical hierarchy are thrilled with their new “investigational” jabs.  
Letting thousands die, first by the lies spread against cheap and safe decades-old lifesaving medications, hydroxychloroquine and Ivermectin, and then by killing off and maiming hundreds of thousands more with their “warp speed” messenger RNA vaccines. It’s not enough that seven million babies have been murdered in their mother’s wombs, the holocaust continues against all humanity.  
 The many physicians, scientists and attorneys who are speaking the truth face censorship, character assassination, loss of grants, board positions and licenses. This is part and parcel of the evil overriding the truth in our nation.  Our first amendment is blasphemed and destroyed by the totalitarians who’ve controlled our livelihoods for nearly two years, and those who continue to wield their authoritarian power  
**Medical Heroes**  
 Imagine a vaccine so safe that the government has to coerce you to take it… for a virus that 99.75% recover from but is so deadly that you have to be tested to find out if you have it. A genuine pandemic doesn’t require 24/7 advertising to remind you that it exists. Real pandemics don’t need marketing campaigns and endless propaganda, but psychological operations do!  Yes, it’s a PSYOP!  
 Dr. Vladimir Zelenko is interviewed on this [website](https://www.israpundit.org/zelenko-trumps-doctor-tells-israel-they-genocided-the-jews-just-sacrificed-their-kids-to-moloch/) by Israel’s Avi Abelow.  Scroll to the second video and listen to this marvelous physician.  
 **Dr. Zelenko** tells us, “No one needs this vaccine, this is the big lie.  If this vaccine is so effective, and you already have two shots, why are the two countries with the most vaccinated in the world, Israel and St. Ellis, the ones with the most outbreaks of the virus?  The recovery risk in younger people in 99.998%.  So, anyone who has allowed their children to get ‘vaccinated’ is guilty of child abuse and potentially murder.  Israel’s leader, Bennett said that the ‘vaccine’ was going to expire and he had 25,000 children jabbed in one day, and that is the epitome of evil. My feeling is that the current Israeli government is a reincarnation of Joseph Mengele, and actually even worse.”  
 “If you have a demographic that has a nearly 100% recovery with no treatment, why would I put an experimental death liquid into them?  According to Dr. Michael Yeadon, director of vaccine development for Pfizer, he says for every one child who would die from Covid, which is one in a million, 50 will die from the ‘vaccine.’  Someone who has had Covid, has now recovered and has antibodies, they are a million times more effective in protecting you than artificially produced ‘vaccine’ induced antibodies.  As for the high-risk group, if you treat people early, with the onset of symptoms within the first few days, you can reduce their death and hospitalization rate by 85%.”  
 But the FDA, CDC, and NIH promoted the false Lancet report on Hydroxychlorquine and Ivermectin.  Thousands of our beloved parents and grandparents could have been saved, but were allowed to die and die alone.  
**Dr. Ryan Cole’s** [17-minute speech](https://houstonenergyindustrynews.com/2021/07/31/aflds-white-coat-summit-ii-ryan-cole-speaks-on-post-investigational-vaccine-deaths/) at the White Coat Summit is a must listen.  He’s a Mayo Clinic certified anatomic and clinical pathologist and more.  He asks, “If we have billions to advertise a clot shot to children who don’t need it, Dr. Fauci, where’s the funding for science?” He goes on to explain that the spike protein is the toxin and asks why we are injecting into the body that which is the toxin that will cause the same illnesses and disease and death in humans that it caused in animals.  He shows countless slides of cells before and after the clot shot and tells us this is a poisonous attack on our population and it needs to stop now!  He warns that those who recovered from Covid and then received the jab are in serious trouble.  
 Another doctor stepped up to tell an Indiana school board how absolutely ignorant they were by demanding school children wear masks.  
**Dr. Daniel Stock** gave a [six-minute speech](https://americasfrontlinedoctors.org/frontlinenews/watch-dr-daniel-stock-schools-indiana-school-board-on-mask-mandates-and-covid-protocols/) to the Mt. Vernon, Indiana school board, telling the truth about mask mandates and what is being done to our children.  
**Health Care Workers**  
 **Miguel Escobar** spoke to the Edinburg, Texas school board meeting.  He is a Physician Assistant and has worked in healthcare for over 15 years.  He spends only 13 minutes explaining the facts to the board.  We cannot see them, but we do see the people behind him on their cell phones when this man expounds on what is really happening.  Please watch the [video](https://rumble.com/vkqlo5-what-do-you-know-about-coivd-07-27-2021.html).  I applaud him!  
 **Abrien Aguirre,** aboard-certified occupational therapist in Hawaii tells what is happening in nursing facilities.  He has worked in three Covid facilities in Oahu.  He was interviewed at an outside protest at the Hawaii State Capitol in Honolulu by a group known as “Hawaii Free Speech News.”  His elderly patients are dying at rates much higher after the jab than with Covid. Yes, bumping off the pensioners saves money for the state.  The ten-minute video can be seen [here](https://vaccineimpact.com/2021/board-certified-occupational-therapist-whistleblower-more-patients-are-dying-from-the-vaccine-than-from-covid/).  
 **Attorney Reiner Fuellmich**  
 In this 10-minute [video](https://www.bitchute.com/embed/bDdNvahoANMj/), attorney Reiner Fuellmich tells us the World Health Organization (WHO) has now declared that the Covid virus is no more dangerous than the common flu.  This is a far cry from their early 2020 forecast by WHO and Dr. Fauci of two million dead Americans. When this news was delivered to President Trump, Fauci urged the shutdown of our massive economy ultimately destroying 40% of small businesses resulting in suicides, drug overdoses, abuse and bankruptcy.  
 The Dresden PCR test which was declared by the WHO under control of Bill Gates and the Chinese as the gold standard in detecting infections is an outrageous fraud.  The PCR test set at 45 cycles was set to show 100% false positives as Corona cases.  These false tests were the basis for a public health concern that shut down economies worldwide.  The acronym for Public Health Emergency of International Concern is PHEIC, pronounced FAKE.  
 Reiner Fuellmich goes on to explain that this PHEIC was needed by the global alliance of pharmaceutical and tech industries in order to achieve the goal of so-called “vaccinations.”  This was their true stated intention from the beginning.  The entire distancing, masking and lockdowns were illusionary in order to insure panic for their psychological operations. Fuellmich states that despite the lies of the globalists and the difficulty in reporting to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS), it is estimated that 500,000 Americans have already died of the Covid jabs…and more are coming their way.  
**Targeting the Standalones**  
 The Chinese and Russians are not giving their own people these inoculations.  Our military has been forced into these jabs and as of a month ago, only 20 died in all of 2020 from C-19, but now 80 have heart problems from the jab.  Wonder why? To weaken us for a takeover.  
 A phenomenon called “othering” is used in propaganda and brainwashing. Othering is when a person determines that another person is unworthy, threatening, or all-around inadequate and hardly even the same species.  This is what is now happening throughout America and the world regarding those of us who choose not to accept the party line that the jabs are good for all humanity.  Many Americans have seen the deaths and adverse effects of the clot shot and believe the needle rape is another Zyklon B toxicant to destroy not only the elderly, but a large majority of the world’s population.  
 Juliette Kayyem [writes in the regressive Atlantic](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/08/unvaccinated-flight-vaccine-tsa-mandate/619643/) that only vaccinated people should be allowed on domestic flights.  Yeah…spread the enhanced virus all over the place, the un-jabbed don’t want anything to do with the jabbed!  Last September’s Atlantic Festival featured [top speakers Fauci, Hillary and Staci Abrams](https://www.theatlantic.com/press-releases/archive/2020/08/atlantic-festival-announces-speakers-opens-registration/615721/).  
 Don Lemon says [the un-jabbed should not be able to go to the grocery](https://youtu.be/EhlGC4EZ4Is).  He’s spewing his invectives to a nation who believes it’s fine to starve people to death when they refuse a dangerous medical experiment. They believe in medical and personal privacy.  Maxine Waters taught her fellow comrades that it’s okay to get in people’s faces, to scream at them, to disrupt their dining, to make their public lives miserable.  Common decency and courtesy are verboten in today’s society.  
 Andy Slavitt, a former medical advisor for President Biden, believes that anyone unvaccinated should be required to be tested daily at their own expense until they finally give in.  
 Democrats believe Medicare (despite the fact you’ve paid into it all your life), Medicaid and health insurance [should be denied to the un-jabbed](https://www.newstarget.com/2021-08-10-democrats-drop-medicare-medicaid-unless-injected-vaccine.html).  
 Others [want to add](https://twitter.com/MarlonH23627179/status/1421475866836619269) employment, suspension of gun and driving licenses, access to loans. Sporting events, dining out, and concerts should also require proof of vaccine. It will not be popular, but it is the only way to get people vaccinated.  
 Others want the un-jabbed to have all health care suspended.  
 Candidate Steve Cox, an independent running to represent California’s 39th Congressional District said, “We should be [allowed to shoot anyone who doesn’t take COVID seriously enough](https://www.westernjournal.com/us-house-candidate-allowed-shoot-anyone-doesnt-take-covid-seriously-enough/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=conservative-brief-WJ&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=western-journal&ats_es=532adac2eab02d0effbfbb407b0d456f).”  Leftists like Cox are common in today’s media rhetoric.  
**Conclusion**  
 This is the America we’re living in today. It’s reminiscent of history that today’s children have no knowledge of, and they’ll [murder billions of us](https://www.activistpost.com/2021/08/shocking-and-dehumanizing-discrimination-against-the-unvaccinated-is-about-to-make-life-very-difficult.html) and use the excuse that the un-inoculated did it when we know the perpetrators are the satanic entities that hate life, liberty and freedom. <https://newswithviews.com/mengele-fauci-zyklon-b-and-the-poisonous-clot-shot/>

**Why 2020 was Unique** [*Byron York*](https://townhall.com/columnists/byronyork/) *Posted: Aug 18, 2021 12:01 AM* There's a fascinating question in a new Fox News poll that suggests the political dynamics at work in 2022 and 2024 will be far different from 2020. If that is the case, it is good news for Republicans.  
 Here is the question: "If you could send just one of the following two messages to the federal government right now, would it be 'lend me a hand,' or would it be 'leave me alone'?" Fox has asked the question in eight different polls since 2011, but 2020 stands out.  
 In most years, a majority of respondents told pollsters the message they would send to the federal government was "leave me alone." In 2014, for example, 59% said "leave me alone." In 2016, it was 54%. In 2012, it was 53%. At the same time, during those years, much smaller numbers of respondents -- 32%, 39% and 37%, respectively -- said the message they would send the government would be "lend me a hand."  
 In other words, majorities did not feel the need for an especially activist federal government. No, they were not saying they did not want existing government programs like Social Security or clean air standards. But they were saying they did not want broad new expansions of the government into everyday life.  
 That changed dramatically in August 2020, at the height of the COVID pandemic. At that time, a solid majority, 57%, said their message to the government was "lend me a hand." Just 36% said "leave me alone."  
 The reasons were obvious. The public wanted a vaccine. Those who were unemployed through no fault of their own needed money. The same for small business owners trying to survive. Of course they wanted the government to lend a hand.  
 But by the time of the new poll, in early August 2021, with the nation -- even with the Delta variant -- pulling out of the worst effects of the pandemic, the "lend me a hand" number had fallen to 44%. That, by the way, is precisely what it was in 2011, when the nation was pulling out of the Great Recession. Barring some unexpected calamity, the "lend me a hand" number will likely fall further.  
 So what does that mean? In the 2020 Democratic presidential primary contest, all the candidates, including "centrist" Joe Biden, proposed far-reaching, hugely expensive expansions of the federal government. The campaign became a bidding war over who could come up with the biggest, costliest policies to address the pandemic, climate change, health care, the cost of college and more. It was a progressive's dream.  
 In that activist moment, Biden won the Democratic nomination and then the general election. His victory in the Electoral College was quite narrow, as was the Democrats' win to keep control of the House. The Senate ended up 50-50, with Democrats having to rely on Vice President Kamala Harris to break ties. But even with the slimmest margins of control, President Biden, under pressure from the progressive wing of his party, has pushed ahead with programs proposed during the worst days of the pandemic. After all, they were things that progressives had wanted all along and believed the virus crisis gave them an opportunity to enact.  
 They have succeeded. First, Biden signed a $1.9 trillion "COVID relief" bill, passed on a partisan basis, that spent far more money than was needed. Recently, the Senate passed a $1.1 trillion bipartisan "infrastructure" bill that also spends far more money than is needed. And now the Senate is taking up a $3.5 trillion "human infrastructure" bill that incorporates many of the Democrats' campaign promises for sky-high social spending.  
 It's unlikely Democrats will be able to pass all $3.5 trillion. But they will probably get a lot of it. And don't believe those threats from Nancy Pelosi that she will block the $1.1 trillion bipartisan bill if she doesn't get everything she wants in the bigger bill. At some point, House Democrats will pass the bipartisan bill and send it to the president. Why would they throw away $1.1 trillion in spending that has already made it through the Senate? The answer is, they won't.  
 Put it all together with the $1.9 trillion signed in March, and by the end of the year Democrats will likely have pushed through between $5 trillion and $6 trillion in new spending, by far surpassing spending levels on anything since World War II. And it was all because of their ability to take advantage of that brief "lend me a hand" moment in 2020.  
 But times are changing. If there is no unforeseen crisis, voters are moving back to their more traditional hesitance when it comes to huge new spending proposals. In next year's midterm elections, and in the presidential election in 2024, it's likely the Democrats' activist moment will have passed.  
 *This content originally appeared on the Washington Examiner at washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/byron-yorks-daily-memo-why-2020-was-unique* <https://townhall.com/columnists/byronyork/2021/08/18/why-2020-was-unique-n2594314>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Israel downgrades terror threat level in Sinai after 20 years**

***National Security Council lowers terror level threat in southern Sinai to level 3, but says a high risk remains in northern Sinai.***

*Ido Ben Porat , Aug 19 , 2021 12:12 AM*

**The National Security Council announced on Wednesday evening that the level of the threat of terrorism on the shores of the Sinai Peninsula and Sharm el-Sheikh has been downgraded from level 1 to level 3**.

In northern Sinai, however, a high level of risk remains - level 1.

The issue arose during a meeting between Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Egyptian Intelligence Minister Abbas Kamel, in which Bennett updated the latter on the decision.

**The National Security Council noted that the COVID-19 guidelines remain in place** and it is recommended to avoid leaving Israel unless it is necessary.

**For the past two decades, the terror alert in southern Sinai has been at its highes**t, but many Israelis have chosen to vacation there nonetheless.

The travel warning that was posted on the website of the National Security Council said, "In view of ISIS Sinai district’s activity in the northern part of Sinai, there is a fear that the organization's activists will try to harm various targets, including tourism destinations in southern Sinai that many Israelis visit. It should be recalled that the organization's leadership has threatened Israel and Israelis several times in the past."

**Meanwhile, Defense Minister Benny Gantz also met on Wednesday with Kamel.** The two discussed the need to strengthen regional stability, the common war on terror and the importance of safeguarding common security interests.

Gantz thanked Kamel and thanked Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi for Egypt's positive activity in the region, and stressed the importance Israel sees in achieving long-term quiet in southern Israel and promoting a solution to the issue of prisoners and missing persons held in the Gaza Strip. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312021>

**Poll: New Hope erased**

***Channel 20 poll predicts 54 seats for parties in pro-Netanyahu bloc. The Likud has 32 seats, and Yesh Atid has 18 seats.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Aug 19 , 2021 2:15 AM*

**A Channel 20 poll, conducted by the Maagar Mohot research institute led by Professor Yitzhak Katz, shows that if elections to the Knesset were to be held today, the Likud party would win 32 seats, an increase of two seats** from what the party received in the last election.

**The poll also shows that Gideon Sa'ar's New Hope party does not pass the electoral thresh**old.

**Yesh Atid would win 18 seats according to the poll, followed by Blue and White with 11 seats and Shas with 8 seats. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's Yamina party would win 7 seats,** according to the poll, the same number it won in the last election.

**Yisrael Beytenu and Bezalel Smotrich's Religious Zionist Party would win 7 seats ea**ch.

Meretz wins 6 seats in the poll. The Arab parties, Mansour Abbas' Ra’am and Ayman Odeh's Joint List, each win 5 seats.

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312023>

**Trump: Afghanistan 'most embarrassing moment in our country's history'**

***Former President Trump calls withdrawal from Afghanistan a "defeat" and says that other countries are laughing at the United States.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Aug 18 , 2021 9:50 PM*

**Former President Donald Trump told Fox News that the American withdrawal from Afghanistan under President Joe Biden is “a mess like nobody’s ever seen before. This is the most embarrassing moment in our country’s history**.”

During an interview on “Morning With Maria,” Trump called what is happening a “defeat” and said that other countries were laughing at the United States.

**“It’s a military defeat. It’s a psychological defeat. Russia and China, North Korea, everybody – they are all watching this disaster and they’re laughing at us,** and they’re having a good time. Everyone is laughing. It’s not funny for us but it’s funny for them.”

**Trump said that all the non-military personnel should have been evacuated first, rather than the chaotic manner in which the US left the country**.

“You **don’t take the military out first. You take the military out last**. This is like the captain jumping off the ship as the ship is sinking and he just says ‘I’m getting out of here. Just forget the passengers,'” Trump said. “You’ve got to get your people… out first. Then you take your equipment out. And after you take your equipment out you bomb the hell out of the forts, so nobody else can use them. I was going to do that.”

**He added that under his plan, US military planes would have destroyed all the evacuated American bases in two hours. He lamented that the bases were now under control of the Taliban**.

“The people have to come out of the country first, then you have to get all of your equipment. We have billions of dollars of equipment. Brand new Blackhawk helicopters, they have everything,” Trump said.

He made the comparison with the situation former President Jimmy Carter faced in 1979 during the Iran Hostage Crisis.

“Jimmy Carter with his hostages - he lost because of it. Jimmy Carter with his hostages is a peanut compared to what’s happening here. They have 40,000 people, not to mention all the other Afghans who we were supposed to help, and you know our country can’t take in hundreds of thousands of people.” <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312014>

**Trump claims booster shot is a “money making operation for Pfizer”**

***Former president questions the need for a booster, alleging financial motives may be behind push for a third shot.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Aug 18 , 2021 10:15 PM*

**Former President Donald Trump during an interview with Fox host Maria Bartiromo said that the COVID booster shot “sounds like a money making operation for Pfizer**.”

“Think of the dollars involved. An extra shot. That’s tens of billions of dollars. How good a business is that,” said Trump. “If you’re a businessman and you say, ‘Let’s give them another shot**.’ That’s another 10 billion dollars of money coming in.”**

Trump added that “the whole thing is crazy.”

“You wouldn’t think you would need a booster. You know when these first came out they were good for life. Then they were good for a year or two. And I could see the writing on the wall. I could see the dollar signs in the eyes of that guy that runs Pfizer, you know the guy that announced right after the election that he had the vaccine.” <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312017>

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| Dear Readers,  We are back from a wonderful “mental health break”. Following the news closely can spoil one’s outlook and we just took an excellent vacation to visit some relatives in Kalispell and Billings MT. Their company was wonderful and the scenery was spectacular. We also visited Forsyth, a town in which I lived for a while as a youth and also visited the Northern Cheyenne Indian town of Busby where my wife’s grandparents and parents had served as missionaries for many years. There were great memories and much enjoyment.  We then went to Woodland Park Colorado for a great family reunion and wedding. It was wonderful to see everyone and enjoy their company and view the tremendous vistas which The Creator has made in this country. When you see the gorgeous mountains and green valleys with the beautiful streams rushing down them it is impossible to consider this as simply a ‘happenstance’ of geology and not by divine planning.  Perhaps the only real disappointment was to hear the incessant repeating of untruths at the airport and on the airplanes.  “Wearing a face covering is a Federal Law and you could be denied further travel if you don’t comply.”  Text, letter  Description automatically generated The infernal mask is a “recommendation” by the CDC which the DOT picked up as an oppressive “RULE” and the pitiful mentally impaired occupier of the Whitehouse made an executive order, not a law. To the best of my knowledge laws are only passed by the legislative branch of the government and not by unelected bureaucrats in DC even if they are under the tutelage of the executive branch. What was really the coup de tete was the napkin served with a drink:  So for every sip and every bite it seems you are to quickly ‘sneak it in’ and then quickly replace your face muzzle on so as not to be noticeable that it was down. What is even more pathetic is that this charade is totally worthless.  Then these controlling nuts keep telling you that we will load and unload to keep social distancing? Social distancing when you have someone in front of you or behind you that is about 20 inches from your face or someone beside you even closer.  It is such a farce.  The good thing was our friends and relatives had the common sense to know that this is a mind game from our illustrious leaders who want to play their control games.  Hope all are doing well and we will be back at reporting the news now until the time of the great redemption which must be coming very soon.  Ron Beals |

**Beautiful Mountains Back Home (Original)**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhjcl5mE4Gk**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhjcl5mE4Gk)

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| **"How you can win the population for war:**  **At first, the statesman will invent cheap lying, that impute the guilt of the attacked nation, and each person will be happy over this deceit, that calm the conscience. It will study it detailed and refuse to test arguments of the other opinion. So he will convince step for step even therefrom that the war is just and thank God, that he, after this process of grotesque even deceit, can sleep better." -- Mark Twain [Samuel Langhorne Clemens] (1835-1910) American author and humorist** |

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

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

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

**Genesis 37:5And Joseph dreamed a dream, and told *it* to his brothers. And they increased to hate him still more. 6And he said to them, Now hear this dream which I have dreamed: 7And, behold! We *were* binding sheaves in the middle of the field. And, behold, my sheaf rose up and also stood up. And, behold, your sheaves came around and bowed themselves to my sheaf. 8And his brothers said to him, Shall you indeed reign over us, or shall you really rule over us? And they hated him still more because of his dreams, and because of his words.**

**Syrian media reports IDF strike in Quneitra border region**

***Syrian state TV says two missiles were fired toward an area west of Hader; footage from Israeli side shows a large explosion***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 11:29 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/r4I_8qeH65WpTiVa.jpg)

An explosion is seen in Syria after a projectile hit, near the border with Israel, on August 17, 2021. (Video screenshot/Twitter)

Syrian media reported on Tuesday evening of an Israeli missile strike on an area in the Syrian side of the Golan Heights.

The state-run SANA news agency reported that “initial information indicates an Israeli missile attack west of the town of Hader in the northern Quneitra countryside,” adding that two missiles were fired in the strike.

Footage taken from the Israeli side of the fence shows an object flying through the air before it exploded.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a pro-opposition group of unclear funding that has activists on the ground in Syria, said that the Israeli strikes on Tuesday targeted areas where Iran-backed fighters are based.

Another independent pro-opposition Syrian source in the Golan Heights claimed two separate sites were hit: one belonging to the Hezbollah terror group, and the other being the office of the Syrian First Division’s 90th Brigade commander Brig. Gen. Hussein Hamoush.

Hamoush has been previously named by the Israel Defense Forces, in leaflets dropped in the area, as cooperating with Hezbollah, with Syrian troops warned not to corporate with the Iran-backed militias in the area.

Syria’s state media did not confirm the pro-opposition reports, and they could not be independently verified.

Israel’s military does not comment on reports of specific strikes in Syria, save for those that are in retaliation for attacks from the country.

Israel has launched hundreds of strikes against Iran-linked military targets in Syria over the years, but rarely acknowledges or discusses such operations.

Israel fears Iranian entrenchment on its northern frontier, and it has repeatedly struck Iran-linked facilities and weapons convoys destined for Hezbollah. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/syrian-media-reports-idf-strike-in-quneitra-border-region/>

**Residents return to homes as Jerusalem area fire brought under control**

***Harp maker finds that his gallery, with 40 years of work, has gone up in flames; Prime Minister’s Office reportedly agrees to provide compensation for those who suffered damage***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:37 pm*

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| An Israel Air Force Lockheed C-130 Super Hercules helps to extinguish a large fire which broke out in the Jerusalem mountains, August 17, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)  An Israel Air Force Lockheed C-130 Super Hercules helps to extinguish a large fire which broke out in the Jerusalem mountains, August 17, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90) | View of the damage caused to a house in Moshav Giv'at Ye'arim, following a major fire which broke out yesterday, on August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)  View of the damage caused to a house in Moshav Giv'at Ye'arim, following a major fire which broke out yesterday, on August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90) |
| A firefighting plane try to extinguish a fire which broke out in the Jerusalem mountains, August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)  A firefighting plane try to extinguish a fire which broke out in the Jerusalem mountains, August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90) | A first responder looks out over burnt trees following a major fire which broke out in the Jerusalem hills, on August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)  A first responder looks out over burnt trees following a major fire which broke out in the Jerusalem hills, on August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90) |

Residents of several towns and communities near Jerusalem, whose properties and surroundings were devastated by Israel’s largest forest fire in over a decade, began returning to their homes on Tuesday to assess the damage left behind.

Their return came as emergency services said they had gained full control of the flames following a three-day battle. Over 2,000 people had been evacuated from their homes since Sunday, when the fire started.

The Fire and Rescue Service said that during a 52-hour battle forces confronted seven hotspots and that 1,500 firefighters comprising 200 units had participated in the efforts. The Palestinian Authority also [sent four firefighting teams](https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-firefighters-help-israel-battle-jerusalem-area-blazes/) to assist the Israelis.

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| View of the damage caused to Metzuda Winery following a major fire which broke out in Moshav Giv'at Ye'arim, outside Jerusalem, August 17, 2021. (Sindel/Flash90)  View of the damage caused to Metzuda Winery following a major fire which broke out in Moshav Giv'at Ye'arim, outside Jerusalem, August 17, 2021. (Sindel/Flash90) | View of the damage caused to Metzuda Winery following a major fire which broke out in Moshav Giv'at Ye'arim, outside Jerusalem, August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)  View of the damage caused to Metzuda Winery following a major fire which broke out in Moshav Giv'at Ye'arim, outside Jerusalem, August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90) |
| A firefighting plane try to extinguish a fire which broke out in the Jerusalem mountains, August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)  A firefighting plane try to extinguish a fire which broke out in the Jerusalem mountains, August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90) | View of the damage caused to a house in Moshav Giv'at Ye'arim, following a major fire which broke out yesterday, August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)  View of the damage caused to a house in Moshav Giv'at Ye'arim, following a major fire which broke out yesterday, August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90) |



***View of the damage caused to a house in Moshav Giv'at Ye'arim, following a major fire which broke out yesterday, August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)***

They were aided by 20 firefighting aircraft. And on Tuesday evening, these were joined for the first time by and air force Shimshon (Super Hercules) transport plane especially kitted out to drop fire retardant on the blaze.

In total, planes dropped some 190,000 liters of retardant along with over half a million liters of foam.

The fire service said that the addition of the Shimshon, each of which can carry several tons of retardant, was a major boost for the country’s firefighting capabilities.

“The use of the Hercules planes will in the future enable better handling of largescale fires, at all hours of the day as necessary,” a firefighting official told Channel 12 news.

The enormous wildfire consumed some 25,000 dunams (6,200 acres) of forest outside Jerusalem since Sunday — surpassing the scale of a December 2010 forest fire in the north that burned 24,000 dunams and claimed the lives of 44 people.

Fire and Rescue Services Jerusalem District Commander Nissim Twito declined to say if the fire was caused deliberately or by negligence, telling the Kan public broadcaster that efforts so far had been focused on putting out the fire rather than determining the cause.

A few houses were destroyed by the blaze that devastated the woodlands near Jerusalem. Some residents lost their homes, others their life’s work.

Micha Harari, a resident of Ramat Raziel, found that his harp workshop and gallery, housing instruments he had made by hand over the past 40 years, had been reduced to ashes.

“Everything was burned, the gallery, the work complex. Nothing was left,” he told Channel 12 news.

Harari recounted fleeing for his life when the flames first roared toward the community.

“When the fire sparked, I was in my work complex, which is 150 meters (492 feet) from the house,” he said. “I saw the flames begin to approach. My wife and I fled immediately. We didn’t even have time to pack a bag, take any more clothes or food. We had to leave as quickly as possible.”

He posted images to his Facebook page of the approaching flames and the devastation they left behind. His wife’s natural medicine clinic was also totally destroyed.

“When I saw my life’s work burned to the ground, I was crushed,” he said. “Everything has completely disappeared, nothing remains.”

Harari told the station that his insurance company had refused to insure the work complex because of its close proximity to the forest and the fire risk.

“Even before the disaster, they understood the danger that can happen here,” he said. [I have met Harari and his wife Shoshana. He has been producing the Davidic harp which is like those used in the Temple. – rdb]

Some local residents were critical of the state’s initial response to the fire, claiming that planes should have been part of the effort from the start.

“We saw the fire in Beit Meir and it started moving toward us. Had planes gone up at that moment, it would have been over in the blink of an eye, with no damage,” Eli Ben Zaken, a winery owner from Ramat Raziel, told Walla news.

“I came home and the fire had already neared us. We were lucky the fire passed us from both sides, but didn’t pass here. There is no direct damage, but the smoke is devastating for wine. We have 60 tons we can’t use. The damage is immense,” he said.

The Prime Minister’s Office and the Mateh Yehuda Regional Council agreed on providing assistance to residents whose property was damaged in the fire, the Walla news website reported. The council was assured that a budget will be provided for rehabilitation and that residents will be compensated for the damage.

While other communities were left to the mercy of the flames and the efforts of firefighters, Kibbutz Tzova took the fight to the fire by activating a special defensive water system that doused the surrounding woods to prevent flames from reaching residents’ homes, which were untouched by the conflagration.

Following a massive forest fire in the 1990s that threatened to spread to the kibbutz, administrators decided to lay down a perimeter track with a pipeline running along it that can be used to soak nearby bushland as protection against forest fires.

Community members told the Walla website the system was used and likely prevented the flames from spreading to homes. Tzova was one of the communities evacuated due to the danger of the fire.

Kibbutz secretary Eitan Lavanah told the website that the system has been used several times as a precaution in the years since it was installed.

“The idea, from our point of view, is to take a step forward in everything and to not leave things to luck,” he said.

 He said the flames had come within meters of the kibbutz on Monday, but acknowledged he couldn’t say if the hosing down by the pipeline was what stopped them from reaching residential buildings.

He said the dousing system was still being used Tuesday. “From the morning we are soaking the ground to prevent embers from catching alight,” he said.

It was the first time that residents have been evacuated from the kibbutz due to a fire, Lavanah noted.

View of burnt trees following a major fire which broke out in the Jerusalem mountains, August 17, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

“It had tremendous significance and people were amazed,” he said. “We had the least damage in the area. As far as we are concerned the whole incident was handled in an amazing way.”

Kibbutz member Avi, identified only by his first name, was more confident that the pipeline saved the community, telling Walla that the water was turned on before the flames arrived.

“And it worked great,” he said. “In addition to the wind direction which was very lucky for us.”

Other communities are now looking at installing a similar system, the report said.

Avi said seeing the blackened landscape after the fire is “a nightmare.”

“The mountains of Jerusalem will be changed forever, it will take many years for the vegetation here to develop,” he said. “It is black for the heart, not just the eyes,” he said.

Officials predicted a rehabilitation process that may take decades.

Firefighters believed they had managed to contain the blaze on Sunday night, but strong morning winds and low humidity on Monday sent the flames roaring back and speeding toward villages and towns throughout the hills on Jerusalem’s southwest outskirts, triggering the evacuation of some 2,000 local residents and prompting the government to seek international aid. By Tuesday, fire chiefs said that the assistance was no longer needed.

Many dozens of firefighting teams and planes took part in the efforts, with several additional aircraft used on Tuesday.

Israel has been sweltering under yet another heatwave with low humidity, providing ideal conditions for the flames to spread.

The blaze is now one of the biggest in the country’s history, surpassing what had thus far been the largest in the Jerusalem area, in 1995. It has scorched vast green forest areas that include beloved hiking paths and national parks, including the Sataf site and Har Hatayasim. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/nothing-was-left-residents-return-to-communities-hit-by-jerusalem-fire/> [The location of this fire is near Highway 1 which goes to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv. It is near the west suburbs of the City. – rdb]

**TV: Israel not responding to Gaza rocket due to progress in talks with Hamas**

***Reported deal could see Qatar funds enter Strip, return of abducted Israels, Channel 12 says; earlier, PM Bennett vowed to respond ‘on our terms’***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 5:52 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/ראש-הממשלה-נפתלי-בנט-קיים-הערכת-מצב-באוגדת-עזה-קרדיט-קובי-גדעון-לעמ-17....jpeg)

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett pays a visit to IDF soldiers stationed near Gaza, on August 17, 2021. (Kobi Gideon/GPO)

Israel has so far avoided responding militarily to a rocket fired from Gaza on Monday, due to sensitive ongoing negotiations with Hamas that have the potential to reach a breakthrough, Channel 12 news reported on Tuesday.

According to the report, which did not cite a source, there is a possibility of a deal that will allow Qatari funds to enter Gaza and could include the release of Israelis being held by Hamas.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Defense Minister Benny Gantz held meetings at the Israel Defense Forces Gaza Division earlier in the day. According to the network, IDF intelligence officials and the Shin Bet told the pair that they believe a chance must be given for talks to succeed.

The report said that the rocket fired on the previous day was launched by Islamic Jihad members. Hamas quickly arrested them and then conveyed to Israel that it was not behind the rocket fire and was not interested in an escalation, it said.

Bennett and Gantz are aware of the potential public criticism for their failure to respond, but believe the potential for a deal justifies the matter. However, if the talks collapse, Israel will once again respond harshly to attacks.

During the tour of the Gaza Division, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that Israel will respond on its own terms to the rocket launched at Sderot.

“We will operate at a time, place, and under conditions that suit us and not anyone else,” Bennett declared during the visit, alongside Defense Minister Benny Gantz and IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi.

The prime minister said the Hamas terror group is ultimately the one responsible for any rocket fire out of Gaza, “not rebels and not anyone else — just Hamas.”

On Monday afternoon, Palestinian terrorists fired two rockets from the Gaza Strip toward Sderot, in what appeared to be the first such attack since May’s 11-day war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, the military said.

The Iron Dome missile defense system intercepted one of the rockets — signaling it was headed toward a populated area — while the second fell short and landed inside the Gaza Strip.

Some residents of the area have criticized the government for not immediately responding to the rocket fire, in an apparent change in policy.

Following the attack, Sha’ar Hanegev Mayor Ofir Liebstein called on the government to respond to the rocket launch, saying it was particularly heinous considering it took place in the middle of the day.

“This is the first launch since Operation Guardian of the Walls, which ended some two months ago. Until now, the operation had proven itself, and I hope and expect that the State of Israel will be able to retain the deterrence that was put in place after the operation,” Liebstein said in a statement on Monday.

But no immediate response came.



Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Defense Minister Benny Gantz and IDF chief Aviv Kochavi tour the IDF Gaza Divison, on August 17, 2021. (Kobi Gideon/GPO)

“We asserted after Operation Guardian of the Walls that the way things have been in the past is not how they will be [henceforth], and that is how we will act,” Gantz said during the visit, using the military’s name for May’s war.

“We will reserve the right to act powerfully, at the place and time we choose, and we will do it properly,” he added, echoing Bennett’s statement.

Israel in recent months has been regularly responding with airstrikes against Hamas positions in Gaza, after balloons carrying incendiary devices sparked fires in southern Israel. Bennett has repeatedly said that he will not allow such incidents to occur without a response.

“Israel is interested in calm and has no interest in harming Gaza residents, but violence… will be met with a strong response,” Bennett told the cabinet following such incidents in early July.

Following a week with no incendiary balloon attacks, Israel began this week to allow the entry of merchants and businessmen from the Gaza Strip through the Erez crossing for the first time in some 18 months. Entry had stopped due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition, Israel said that it would allow further imports and exports through the Kerem Shalom Crossing starting this week.

Following the May conflict, Israel initially said that it would only allow basic humanitarian aid into the beleaguered enclave, unless the Gaza-ruling Hamas terror group released two Israeli civilians it has held in captivity for years, along with the remains of two IDF soldiers. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/day-after-rocket-attack-on-south-pm-bennett-vows-to-respond-on-our-terms/>

**New caps on gatherings take effect amid sky-high COVID infections**

***Private events limited to 100 outdoors, 50 indoors; Green Pass system extended to children 3 and up; masks required in all indoor spaces***

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/F210817MA09.jpg)*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:24 am*

Israelis wear protective face masks in Dizengoff Center, Tel Aviv, on August 17, 2021. (Miriam Alster/FLASH90)

Israel on Wednesday reimposed caps on gatherings and reintroduced rules requiring social distancing in businesses, amid soaring COVID-19 infection rates around the country.

The restrictions are aimed at slowing down a recent resurgence of coronavirus infections that has taken the daily caseload to highs not seen for half a year, after the country had reduced the spread to barely a dozen new cases a day, on average.

The new rules came into effect two weeks before the school year is scheduled to begin and less than three weeks before the start of the Jewish High Holidays. The government is determined to avoid ordering what would be the country’s fourth lockdown since the coronavirus pandemic started, and is pushing vaccinations, along with some restrictions, as a way to confront a tide of infections expected before morbidity drops again.

Under the new orders, private gatherings are capped at 100 people outdoors and 50 people indoors, while at event venues, the cap is 500 outdoors and 400 indoors. Additionally, no event can surpass 75 percent of a venue’s full capacity. Mass events where there are no marked seats are capped at 1,000 people indoors and 5,000 people outdoors.

Face masks are mandatory in all closed spaces, apart from one’s place of residence, as well as in outdoor gatherings of at least 100 people. Masks were already mandatory in public indoor spaces.

Malls and other businesses were ordered to enforce social distancing and limit the number of shoppers allowed indoors.

Also entering effect Wednesday is the expansion of the Green Pass system, which grants access to venues or events to those carrying documentation showing that they are vaccinated, recovered, or took a negative PCR test in the previous 72 hours.

Starting Wednesday, the Green Pass, already in place for events attended by more than 100 people, will also apply to sports and culture events, conferences, exhibitions, hotels, gyms, pools, event halls and venues, festivals, restaurants, bars, cafes, dining rooms, museums, libraries, tourist attractions, and universities and higher education colleges.

In talks overnight Tuesday-Wednesday, the government decided to remove national parks from the list of venues that only the vaccinated, recovered, or those with a recent negative test result may enter, according to the Walla news site. Both indoor and outdoor dining at restaurants, however, will operate under the Green Pass system.

Green Pass rules will be in effect for anyone aged 3 and up. The state will subsidize COVID-19 tests for children aged 3-11, who are ineligible for the vaccine, while those who are older — and therefore entitled to be vaccinated — will need to pay for the tests out of pocket. MORE-<https://www.timesofisrael.com/new-caps-on-gatherings-enter-effect-amid-sky-high-covid-infections/>

**Meeting to approve rare West Bank Palestinian construction delayed**

***Defense Ministry blames meeting’s postponement on ‘labor dispute’; plans to advance 2,200 new settlement homes also apparently put off***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 8:50 pm*

Despite an announcement last week of rare plans to approve more than 800 housing units in West Bank Palestinian towns, a Tuesday meeting to finalize the move has been delayed to an unknown date.  
 The Defense Ministry’s Civil Administration — which regulates West Bank construction in areas where Israel has civilian control — was also set to discuss advancing 2,200 units in settlements in the coming days. Those plans would presumably be delayed as well. The Civil Administration declined to comment on specifics.  
 It was unclear when either of the construction plans — in Israeli settlements or Palestinian towns — would be authorized. But the proposal to approve Palestinian construction had ignited sharp opposition among Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s constituency on the Israeli settler right.  
 A spokesperson for the Civil Administration said the delay was due to a “labor dispute” by civilians working in the ministry’s Higher Planning Committee. The committee is responsible for overseeing construction in the West Bank’s Area C, which comprises about 60 percent of the West Bank.  
 The committee members decided to sanction their employer as they bargained for better employment terms, leading to the delay, the Civil Administration spokesperson said.  
 Israel rarely approves Palestinian construction in Area C. Most Palestinian towns in the zone are unrecognized. Between 2016 and 2018, Israel rejected around 98% of Palestinian applications for permits, according to Defense Ministry figures.  
 Palestinians living in Area C regularly build homes and other structures illegally, saying they have no other choice. Israeli authorities routinely conduct demolition operations to crack down on the practice.

In 2019, the Israeli government approved a record 700 building permits for Palestinians, in what was widely seen as an attempt both to stave off international criticism and to prevent High Court involvement in providing Palestinians with judicial relief against demolitions.  
 However, an investigation by The Times of Israel last year found that very few of those planned permits had actually been issued.  
 Bennett was subjected to harsh criticism from his national-religious voters for the plans to approve the Palestinian construction alongside new settlement housing. West Bank settler leaders attacked the proposal as giving too much ground to Area C’s Palestinian residents.  
 “This is part of the neglect that began with the last government and enables Palestinians to effortlessly take over land in Judea and Samaria,” said hard-right Binyamin Regional Council head Yisrael Gantz, referring to the West Bank by its Biblical name.  
 Bennett is expected to fly to Washington later this month and meet with United States President Joe Biden, who has been publicly critical of settlement construction.  
 Left-wing Israeli politicians, meanwhile, praised the approval for Palestinian construction and attacked the choice to advance settlement expansion.  
 “This is a dangerous step that will likely entrench the conflict and place obstacles before the possibility of achieving a sustainable final-status agreement with the Palestinians,” several parliamentarians in the left-wing Meretz party wrote in a letter to Defense Minister Benny Gantz following last week’s announcement.  
 Much of the international community sees settlement construction as violating international laws of occupation, as well as threatening the possibility of a future two-state solution. Israel argues that it does not occupy the West Bank — contending that the territory is instead disputed — rendering those laws irrelevant.  
 Many of the 2,200 settlement units planned will be spread out in the various settlement blocs, which are likely to remain in Israel under any two-state agreement.  
 But some of the construction could lie in more tenuous territory. Some 377 units are planned in Kedumim, a settlement that lies deep in the northern West Bank, albeit west of Israel’s security fence. Another 258 units will be advanced in Har Bracha, another settlement deep in the central West Bank, according to the Samaria Regional Council. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/meeting-to-approve-rare-west-bank-palestinian-construction-delayed/>

**Iran ups uranium enrichment to 60 percent, UN watchdog confirms**

***IAEA says Tehran boosting its nuclear capabilities at the Natanz plant, as talks with world powers stall***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 12:22 am*

VIENNA — Iran has established a process to accelerate production of highly enriched uranium, the UN nuclear watchdog said Tuesday, with talks to save the 2015 nuclear deal at a standstill.

International Atomic Energy Agency director Rafael Grossi informed IAEA member states that Tehran was boosting such capacity at its Natanz enrichment plant.

The agency verified on Saturday that “Iran had configured a new operational mode for the production of UF6 enriched up to 60 percent U-235,” Grossi said in a statement to AFP.

This involved using two centrifuge cascades compared to one previously, he added.

The move takes Iran closer to the 90 percent purity level needed for use in a nuclear weapon.

Tehran had started in mid-April to enrich uranium to 60 percent.

The Islamic Republic has gradually rolled back its nuclear commitments since 2018, when then-US president Donald Trump withdrew from a multilateral nuclear deal and began imposing sanctions.

The 2015 deal known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, gave Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear program.

Under the accord, Iran had committed to keep enrichment to 3.67 percent, though it had stepped this up to 20 percent in January.

Trump’s successor Joe Biden said he hopes to revive the nuclear deal and indirect talks in Vienna, through European intermediaries, started in the Austrian capital in April.

But the talks broke up on June 20 without any discernible progress.

The EU said earlier this month that Iran is ready to resume talks under new president Ebrahim Raisi, and meetings could take place in Vienna from early September.

Meanwhile the United States on Monday urged Iran to return to the negotiations, voicing alarm over Iranian production of uranium metal reported by the UN nuclear watchdog.

According to the report presented by Grossi, Iran has made 200 grams of the metal, after having announced such a project in July for research purposes.

The State Department said Washington believed Tehran “has no credible need to produce uranium metal.”

Under the 2015 deal, Iran promised not to produce the metal, which can be used to build a nuclear bomb. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-ups-uranium-enrichment-to-60-percent-un-watchdog-confirms/>

**Striking photo shows 640 desperate people fleeing Kabul crammed in US army plane**

***Hundreds of panicked Afghans pulled themselves up through the C-17’s half-open ramp, and ‘the crew made the decision to go’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) *Today, 1:42 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/plane-2.jpg)

***Some 640 passengers crammed into Reach 871, a US Air Force C-17 that flew from Kabul Airport to Qatar on August 15. (Courtesy: Defense One)***

A US Air Force cargo plane carried a staggering 640 passengers to safety from amid the chaos at Kabul airport on Sunday, a photograph obtained by the [Defense One](https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2021/08/panic-kabul-airport-imperils-evacuation-flights-least-two-afghans-dead/184558/) website shows.

The plane had reportedly been intended to evacuate US embassy personnel fleeing the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

But hundreds of “panicked Afghans who had been cleared to evacuate pulled themselves onto the C-17’s half-open ramp,” according to a US defense official quoted by Defense One.

Rather than attempting to force them off, “the crew made the decision to go,” the official said. “Approximately 640 Afghan civilians disembarked the aircraft when it arrived at its destination.”

The Afghans on the C-17, which used the callsign Reach 871, were flown from Kabul to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

They were seated on the floor of the vast hold in a procedure called “floor loading,” the website said, whereby “passengers hang onto cargo straps run from wall to wall serving as makeshift seatbelts.”

The 640 figure is among the largest number of passengers ever carried on the C-17 Globemaster III, a military transport aircraft that has been operated by the US and its allies for some 30 years, and which is [reportedly](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9899249/PICTURED-640-Afghan-refugees-ran-evacuation-jet-Kabul.html) designed to carry some 150 soldiers in comfort and 171,000 pounds of cargo. Defense One said other planes that took off from Kabul on Sunday may have had even larger numbers on board.

(In Israel’s 36-hour Operation Solomon airlift of over 14,000 Ethiopian Jews from Addis Ababa in 1991, one El Al 747 carried a [world-record](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Solomon#World_record) 1,000-plus passengers. The Guinness Book of Records put the figure at 1,088, including two babies born en route to Ben Gurion Airport.)

US President Joe Biden on Monday [defended](https://www.timesofisrael.com/defiant-biden-blames-afghan-debacle-on-leaders-who-fled-army-that-didnt-fight/) his decision to withdraw US forces from Afghanistan but acknowledged that the Afghan government’s collapse was quicker than anticipated.

Biden described the images coming out of Afghanistan — especially at Kabul airport where huge crowds of Afghans descended in hopes of fleeing the country, and several were killed — as “gut-wrenching.”

But the president blamed Afghanistan’s political leaders and its military for the rapid Taliban takeover. “Afghanistan political leaders gave up and fled the country,” he said, while the military, trained by the US for 20 years and provided with equipment worth billions, laid down its arms.

US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield urged that “all Afghan nationals and international citizens who wish to depart must be allowed to do so safely,” adding that the US promised “to be generous in resettling Afghans.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/striking-photo-shows-640-desperate-people-fleeing-kabul-crammed-in-us-army-plane/>

**‘We warned them for months’: Pentagon ire mounts over Biden Afghanistan pullout**

***‘The process could have been handled so differently,’ senior officer says of State Department’s costly delay in setting up ad hoc structure to withdraw US allies to safety***

*By* [*Sylvie LANTEAUME*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/sylvie-lanteaume/) *Today, 6:52 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/AP21228785581452.jpg)

***Pentagon spokesman John Kirby listens to a question during a media briefing at the Pentagon on August 16, 2021, in Washington. Garry Reid, with the Department of Defense crisis action group for Afghanistan, listens at left. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)***

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The mood was somber Monday in the corridors of the Pentagon, where US military personnel watched helplessly as chaos erupted at Kabul airport and privately criticized the slow pace of Joe Biden’s administration in evacuating US-allied Afghans who fear Taliban retribution.

Some criticized the State Department, which has sole authority to grant visas to former interpreters and other US military support staff and their families, for waiting more than two months to begin the process for Afghans in fear of their lives.

Videos posted on social networks showed scenes of panic and fear in Kabul, including crowds running next to a US military transport plane as it taxies to take off, with some trying to desperately cling to its sides.

“We warned them for months, for months” that the situation was urgent, said one military official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

“I am not angry, I am frustrated,” another officer remarked. “The process could have been handled so differently.”

Biden decided in mid-April that all US troops must be out of Afghanistan by September 11, though he later moved that date up to August 21.

Taliban fighters stand guard along a roadside near the Zanbaq Square in Kabul on August 16, 2021, after a stunningly swift end to Afghanistan’s 20-year war, as thousands of people mobbed the city’s airport trying to flee the group’s feared hardline brand of Islamist rule. (Wakil Kohsar / AFP)

The State Department however waited months to set up an ad hoc structure to get US allies to safety.

Another Pentagon official interviewed by AFP said that diplomats had tried to speed up the visa process — but the process was too long and complicated under the circumstances.

The Biden administration assumed that the US embassy in Kabul would remain open and that the Afghan government would retain control of the country for months after the US withdrawal, he said.

***It’s ‘personal’***

As soon as Biden announced the withdrawal, the Pentagon said it was making preparations for a mass evacuation.

But by mid-June the administration still did not consider an evacuation necessary and favored the granting of special visas — a process that can take up to two years.

It was only at the end of June that the White House raised the possibility of evacuating the Afghan interpreters before the end of the military withdrawal, and asked for the Pentagon’s help.

A crisis cell was then set up to organize the reception of Afghan refugees on US bases as they waited for their visas to be issued.

Asked during a press briefing on Monday about the delay of more than two months between the announcement of the withdrawal and the creation of the crisis cell, its director Garry Reid stressed that the Pentagon could only act in “support of the State Department.”

 State Department spokesman Ned Price said that, when the administration realized that the situation was “quickly evolving,” it launched what Operation Allied Refuge, which he described as “a gargantuan US effort not only to process, adjudicate and to grant visas to so-called Special Immigrants but to actually bring them to the United States with a massive airlift operation.”

He said 2,000 Afghans have been brought to the US through the airlift so far.

The action group, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said, got stood up in July.

“But you can go back to the spring and hear the Secretary (of Defense Lloyd Austin) himself talk about interpreters and translators and the sacred obligation that we know that we have to them,” said Pentagon spokesman John Kirby.

Taliban fighters stand guard in front of the Hamid Karzai International Airport, in Kabul, Afghanistan August 16, 2021. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

“Everything that you’re seeing in the last 48-72 hours is personal for everybody here at the Pentagon,” Kirby added of the images coming out of Afghanistan.

“Many of us have spent time in Afghanistan over the years and feel a deep sense of connection to the current events,” General Hank Taylor, the US military’s chief of logistics, told the same news briefing.

But, he added, “we are focused on the safest evacuation of Americans and Afghans.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/we-warned-them-for-months-ire-mounts-at-pentagon-over-bidens-afghan-pullout/> [The first priority is to remove the Americans. Everything else should be secondary. Carlson has an excellent report by a former US military person who served in Afghan and their translater was responsible for an IED which injurued and killed some of his troops. EVERYONE of them needs to be thoroughly vetted to be sure they are appropriate for the USA. – rdb]

**Obama freed Taliban-takeover mastermind from Guantanamo**

***Swapped for American deserter Bowe Bergdahl***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published August 17, 2021 at 3:48pm*

[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Khairkhwa.jpg)

***Taliban leader Khairullah Khairkhwa (Video screenshot)***

One of the five Taliban leaders released by President Obama in 2014 in exchange for U.S. Army deserter Bowe Bergdahl is the mastermind of the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan. Khairullah Khairkhwa was part of the official Taliban delegation that negotiated with the Biden administration the final terms of the U.S. withdrawal, clearing the path for the Taliban to retake Afghanistan, [reports investigative reporter Paul Sperry for the New York Post](https://nypost.com/2021/08/16/taliban-leader-was-freed-from-guantanamo-in-2014-swap-by-obama/).

U.S. intelligence officials regarded the Taliban Five as the "hardest of the hardcore" and urged Obama to reconsider his decision to release them from the Guantanamo Bay prison. Sperry noted that Obama assured Americans the jihadist leaders would be transferred to Qatar and prevented from causing any trouble.

"In fact, they were left free to engineer Sunday's sacking of Kabul," Sperry writes.

After the release of the Taliban Five, the Obama-Biden administration then turned a blind eye to intelligence reports and the pledge of the commanders to return to fight Americans in Afghanistan. Using Qatar as a base, they made contacts with active Taliban militants in Afghanistan.

At the peace summit with the U.S., Khairkhwa declared the Taliban's prime objective, to establish Islamic law in Afghanistan.

"I started jihad to remove foreign forces from my country and establish an Islamic government, and jihad will continue until we reach that goal through a political agreement," Khairkhwa said.

Sperry pointed out that earlier this year, Khairkhwa promised not to retaliate against any Afghans who worked with the U.S. military or the American-backed government in Kabul.

But reports from Kandahar and Kabul indicate Taliban are going door to door with a "kill list" in hand.

Khairkhwa, Sperry reported, previously served as the Taliban's interior minister in Afghanistan, overseeing enforcement of Islamic-law punishments such as beheadings and stonings.

As the Taliban moved into Kabul this week, [Jihad Watch director Robert Spencer pointed out](https://www.jihadwatch.org/2021/08/taliban-commander-vows-jihad-against-the-whole-world) the American government and the media's "spectacular misunderstanding of the conflict."

Taliban commander Muhammed Arif Mustafa, in an interview with CNN, spelled out the ultimate objective.

"It’s our belief that one day, mujahedin will have victory, and Islamic law will come not to just Afghanistan, but all over the world. We are not in a hurry. We believe it will come one day. Jihad will not end until the last day," he said.

A CNN journalist described the remarks as "a chilling admission from a group that claims it wants peace."

"The Taliban does indeed want peace," Spencer commented. "It wants the peace that will follow the world’s submission to the hegemony of Islamic law." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/obama-freed-taliban-takeover-mastermind-guantanamo/> [This sounds almost like a subset of the ISIS group with their lust for rigid Islamic law. Once again you see that the Obamanation did another disservice to the USA just as he has done repeatedly. The turkey is a trader. - rdb

**White House admits ‘FAIR AMOUNT’ of US weapons fell into Taliban hands**

*17 Aug, 2021 20:03*

President Joe Biden’s national security adviser Jake Sullivan had to admit that a lot of US weapons intended for the Afghan army are now in the hands of the Taliban, brushing off questions of how the US intends to deal with it.

*“We don’t have a complete picture obviously of where every article of defense materials has gone, but certainly a fair amount of it has fallen into the hands of the Taliban,”* Sullivan said on Tuesday, briefing reporters at the White House as press secretary Jen Psaki looked on.

***Obviously, we don't have a sense that they are going to readily hand it over to us at the airport.***

Sullivan was also running damage control for the White House on Monday, hours before Biden was brought back to Washington from Camp David to change the narrative about the US withdrawal.

Addressing questions about the scenes of helicopters evacuating US embassy personnel in Kabul, in echoes of Saigon 1975, Sullivan argued that *“the helicopter has been our mode of transport from the embassy for twenty years.”*

The US has spent over $80 billion over the past 20 years, arming and equipping the Afghan National Army, the fighting force loyal to the US-backed government in Kabul. The US also paid their salaries, allegedly leading to local commanders reporting *“ghost soldiers”* that didn’t really exist in order to line their pockets.

While Biden and his generals insisted that the ANA was a capable fighting force that could hold off the Taliban, it ended up surrendering without a fight over the past weekend, catching the Pentagon and the White House by complete surprise.

Major General Hank Taylor, an operations chief at the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had no answers for reporters who asked at the Pentagon briefing on Monday about the captured weapons. Asked whether the US was doing anything to prevent weapons and equipment from falling into Taliban hands, Taylor said he didn’t have information about such steps.

*“I don’t have the answer to that question,”* Taylor responded, to the question whether the US was doing anything to destroy the abandoned equipment, including bombing the ANA bases. Taylor and other Pentagon officials actually denied any such US airstrikes have taken place. <https://www.rt.com/usa/532343-white-house-taliban-weapons-sullivan/>

**Trillions of dollars, over 170,000 lives: The cost of the Afghan war**

***American’s longest conflict was never formally declared a war and was paid for with borrowed money; amid the carnage, infant mortality dropped and literacy climbed***

*By* [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 2:53 pm*

At just short of 20 years, the now-ending US combat mission in Afghanistan was America’s longest war.

Ordinary Americans tended to forget about it, and it received measurably less oversight from Congress than the Vietnam War did. But its death toll is in the many tens of thousands. And because the US borrowed most of the money to pay for it, generations of Americans will be burdened by the cost of paying it off.

Here’s a look at the US-led war in Afghanistan, by the numbers, as the Taliban in a lightning offensive take over much of the country before the United States’ August 31 deadline for ending its combat role and as the US speeds up American and Afghan evacuations.

Much of the data below is from Linda Bilmes of Harvard University’s Kennedy School and from the Brown University Costs of War project. Because the United States between 2003 and 2011 fought the Afghanistan and Iraq wars simultaneously, and many American troops served tours in both wars, some figures as noted cover both post-9/11 US wars.

Numbers show that more Afghan security forces died than Taliban or other opposition fighters, and over 1.5 times as many US contractors died as did service personnel.

Hundreds of aid workers and dozens of journalists were also killed.

Meanwhile, infant mortality plummeted and literacy among girls shot up.

In Washington, the cost of the war, which was never formally declared, was barely mentioned. The price, trillions of dollars, will be covered by generations to come.

Advertisement

**The longest war**

Percentage of US population born since the 2001 attacks plotted by al-Qaeda leaders who were sheltering in Afghanistan: Roughly one out of every four.

**The human cost**

* American service members killed in Afghanistan through April: 2,448.
* US contractors: 3,846.
* Afghan national military and police: 66,000.
* Other allied service members, including from other NATO member states: 1,144.
* Afghan civilians: 47,245.
* Taliban and other opposition fighters: 51,191.
* Aid workers: 444.
* Journalists: 72.

In total, 172,390 people are estimated to have died as a result of the fighting.

**Afghanistan after nearly 20 years of US occupation**

* Percentage drop in infant mortality rate since US, Afghan and other allied forces overthrew the Taliban government, which had sought to restrict women and girls to the home: about 50.
* Percentage of Afghan teenage girls able to read today: 37. MORE-

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/trillions-of-dollars-over-170000-lives-the-cost-of-the-afghan-war/>

**The plunger-in-chief: Biden's approval dives to minus 18**

***By a two-to-one margin, Americans see nation going in 'wrong direction'***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published August 17, 2021 at 2:49pm*

Americans' approval of the job being done by President Biden this week plunged to a minus 18, with only 27% strongly approving while 45% strongly disapprove.

The numbers crunched by Rasmussen Reports showed that only 45% of Likely U.S. Voters approve of his performance. Fifty-four percent don't.

The results give Biden a Presidential Approval Index rating of -18, the report said.

The results come from telephone surveys of 500 likely voters per night, and are reported on a three-day rolling average basis.

The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 1,500 Likely Voters is +/- 2.5 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence.

Paul Bedard in his [Washington Secrets](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/washington-secrets/dive-bidens-approval-hits-lowest-point-yet-2-1-wrong-direction) pointed out it was Biden's "lowest point yet."

He also noted a separate John Zogby Strategies survey showed Biden with a 52% approval, but Rasmussen's survey included "a bad sign for the White House: that 45% of likely voters said that they 'strongly disapprove' of Biden, equal to his total approval, which includes 27% who strongly approve of Biden."

Party differences were stark with 77% of Democrats approving of Biden and 72% of Republicans disapproving.

But by a two-to-one margin, Americans see the nation going the "wrong direction" under Biden. It was 63% who report that view, to only 33% who claim it's going in the right direction.

Bedard noted the "few days of terrible news about Biden's handling of the fall of Afghanistan, more reports of building inflation, and spiking crime." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/plunger-chief-bidens-approval-dives-minus-18/> [there is now a huge cry from a large number of people to invoke Amendment 25 on Biden after this indicating that he is incompetent to serve. That is probably true but what are the alternatives. Does anyone really want Harris bumped up to the top spot? It is obvious from watching her over the past months that he is an empty headed incompetent. The next alternative is to but the aging dowager witch Pelosi into the position which would be even worse. – rdb]

**Like the Berlin Wall or the Twin Towers: footage of fleeing Afghans abandoned by US marks the end of an era for American supremacy**

*17 Aug, 2021 14:01*

*By* ***Fyodor Lukyanov****, the editor-in-chief of Russia in Global Affairs, chair of the Presidium of the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, and research director of the Valdai International Discussion Club.*

US President Joe Biden’s speech on his country’s withdrawal from Afghanistan is a turning point in American foreign policy. As the last troops pull out, leaving a shattered nation behind, Washington seems to have few regrets.

*“I know my decision will be criticized. But I would rather take all that criticism than pass this decision on to another president of the United States,”* Biden explained. In essence, he was arguing that his three predecessors didn’t have the guts to make the right decision, taking a swipe not only at Donald Trump, whom he mentioned my name, but also at George W. Bush and even his former boss, Barack Obama.

According to the president, the US was never in the business of nation-building in Afghanistan. Its objectives, he claims, were more immediate: to boost security and eliminate those who were responsible for the terrorist attacks on America. Apparently, these objectives have been reached. Questionable as that might be, the claim Washington had no nation-building ambitions is simply not true. However, the fact Biden is now fiercely denying the premise on which his country entered Afghanistan 20 years ago says a lot. MUCH MORE-<https://www.rt.com/russia/532288-afghanistan-end-era-american-supremacy/> [This is a crucial point. I was listening to an Israeli Christian commentator who often has interesting insights on world situations and his primary assessment was that now that the US has literally abandoned the government of Afghanistan with whom it had an agreement, most of the world’s leaders will now have no confidence in trying to arrange or enter into any form of coalition with the USA. This will leave Russia and China as the dominant world powers since the USA is by most of the ME leaders considered weak and unreliable. That has tremendous significance for the rest of the world. Since Afghanistan fell will China now decide to go ahead and take on Taiwan? China has alliances already with Iran and a relationship with North Korea. They a nuclear nations and could well decide to pursue their world dominance agenda. He perceives a dramatic shift in world powers. – rdb][

**‘Deny and accuse somebody else’: FBI instructed informant in Michigan governor ‘kidnap’ plot to slander another man, report says**

*17 Aug, 2021 22:50*

A text from an FBI agent instructed an informant in the alleged militia plot to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer to delete messages and shift blame onto another man, casting further doubt on the already doubtful case.

Five people are currently awaiting trial on federal charges that the "Wolverine Watchmen" militia they supposedly belonged to wanted to kidnap the Democrat governor. The FBI [announced](https://www.rt.com/usa/502979-michigan-governor-whitmer-kidnap-plot/) the plot and arrested them in October 2020, shortly before the US election.

In a court filing last week the attorney for one of them sought text messages from FBI special agents Henrik Impola and Jayson Chambers, citing an exchange with one of the informants, identified only as *“Dan.”* A screenshot of it appeared online on Tuesday.

“Be sure to delete these,” the agent – allegedly Impola – tells ‘Dan,’ and later instructs him to deflect accusations of being an FBI informant. “Best thing to do is deny and accuse somebody else,” the agent texted, naming a man who wasn’t charged in the plot.

The text messages were cited in a filing by Michael Hills, an attorney representing one of the five defendants, Brandon Caserta. The FBI instructing their paid informant *“to lie and paint an innocent citizen as an undercover federal agent”* to an alleged domestic terrorist militia leader *“casts a dark shadow over the credibility of this investigation,”* Hills wrote in a court filing, as quoted by the local outlet MLive on Sunday.

‘Dan’ was *“at the center of all activity”* and recruited other individuals to join the alleged conspiracy, so the defense is demanding his text messages for purposes of arguing entrapment and as *“evidence of government methods and tactics,”* Hills wrote.

His colleague Christopher Gibbons, who represents Adam Fox, another defendant in the case, wrote that FBI informants *“were originators of the criminal design in this case, to the extent that a ‘design’ ever existed.”*

Last month, BuzzFeed published a lengthy investigative report – citing court filings, transcripts and interviews – showing that informants played a *“far larger”* role in the alleged plot than was previously known. The FBI relied on a dozen Confidential Human Sources (CHS) or Undercover Employees (UCE), almost as many as the actual members of the ‘Wolverines.’

Eight alleged militiamen have been charged under Michigan terrorism statutes, while six were slapped with federal charges. One, Ty Garbin, has since pleaded guilty to the kidnap conspiracy and is awaiting sentencing. Caserta, Fox, Barry Croft, Daniel Harris and Kaleb Franks are being held in jail ahead of the October 12 trial in Grand Rapids.

Assistant US Attorney Nils Kessler, who is prosecuting the case, has argued that the defendants were *“predisposed to join the kidnapping and explosive conspiracies, and therefore will not be able to prove entrapment.”*

The unraveling *“plot”* has prompted some critics – such as conservative lawyer and filmmaker Mike Cernovich – to accuse the FBI of engaging in a *“disinformation campaign directly attacking democracy.”* [*https://www.rt.com/usa/532350-fbi-informant-text-michigan-whitmer/*](https://www.rt.com/usa/532350-fbi-informant-text-michigan-whitmer/)[The FBI and other “intelligence agencies” have become nothing more than an operative group of the globalist left wing Marxist groups in DC. They all need to go and go NOW. – rdb]

**Whistleblower: I've seen more people die from COVID-19 vaccine than virus**

**'None of that is being talked about on the news. It doesn't fit their narrative'**

By [WND Staff](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) Published August 17, 2021 at 7:59pm

A board certified occupational therapist in Hawaii said he has seen more people die from COVID vaccinations than from COVID itself.

"I've seen 32 elderly people pass away immediately after taking the Moderna vaccine. None of that is being talked about on the news. It doesn't fit their narrative," [Abrien Aguirre told Hawaii Free Speech News](https://freepressinternational.org/articles/hawaii-whistleblower-more-patients-dying-from-vaccine-than-covid), a citizen-journalist video channel.



***Abrien Aguirre (Video screenshot)***

"I've seen more patients die from the vaccine than from COVID," he said.

Aguirre said he works for Oahu's largest skilled nursing facility and has worked in three separate COVID units with geriatric patients.

"The people moved to the COVID unit, didn’t have COVID. They tested positive with the PCR test, but most of them were asymptomatic and only suffering from their pre-existing conditions," he said.

People with other terminal conditions were listed as COVID deaths, Aguirre said.

*See the interview:*

A billing department in a nursing facility had therapists change its medical diagnosis codes from conditions such as pulmonary disorder to COVID to get higher reimbursements, he said.

In some instances, said Aguirre, people that hadn't even tested positive were listed as having COVID-19.

"It’s just fraud on every level," he said.

Aguirre said he has reached out to various officials but has not received any responses.

"My advice to people: If your elderly are sick, your grandmother, your great grandmother, your mom, don’t send them to a skilled nursing facility," he said.

"They’re not going to receive adequate care. Treatment is going to be withheld from them," Aguirre continued. "They’re going to be forced to wear a mask all day, and social distance. They’re going to become depressed and want to commit suicide. Because that is what I am seeing in our facilities." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/whistleblower-seen-people-die-covid-vaccine-virus/>

**Revolver Exclusive: Navy Commander Warns of National Security Threat from Mandatory Vaccination**

*August 15, 2021 (2d ago)*

An officer with the U.S. Navy is warning of a full-blown “national security threat” if the military moves ahead with its planned universal COVID-19 vaccination mandate, in a paper obtained exclusively by Revolver News*.*

In [a memorandum](https://media.defense.gov/2021/Aug/09/2002826254/-1/-1/0/MESSAGE-TO-THE-FORCE-MEMO-VACCINE.PDF) released on Monday, Biden Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin announced his intention to require a COVID-19 vaccination for all servicemembers by mid-September, or immediately should any COVID vaccines clear FDA approval (the vaccines are currently only authorized for emergency use). Servicemen who refuse to submit to the vaccine will [potentially face court martials,](https://taskandpurpose.com/news/military-troops-refuse-mandatory-covid-vaccines/) prison time, and even less-than-honorable discharge from the service.

If that plan goes ahead, though, CDR J.H. Furman warns the results could conceivably be catastrophic.

“The forced vaccination of all military personnel with the present COVID-19 vaccines may compromise U.S. national security due to the unknown extent of serious vaccine complications,”writes Furman. “Further study is needed before committing the Total Force to one irreversible experimental group. Initial reports leave more concern for the COVID-19 vaccinations than the virus itself for the (at present) exceptionally healthy military population.” MORE-<https://www.revolver.news/2021/08/navy-commander-warns-national-security-threat-from-mandatory-vaccination/> [This is a very long article/interview with a video that is fairly long but it brings to the fore a most important issue. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**The Afghan Army Didn't Surrender: It Rejoined Its Tribes**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*August 16, 2021*](https://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/08/the-afghan-army-didnt-surrender-it.html)

The media is filled with absolutely worthless analyses of why the Afghan army surrendered.

Some commentators blame the United States for not providing logistics. Others claimed that we undermined its non-existent morale. There's hand-wringing over the 300,000 Afghan soldiers who wouldn't fight. And the $90 billion that we squandered on building up the army that wouldn't fight.

These analyses are just as dumb as the ones that accompanied the collapse of the Iraqi Army in the face of ISIS.

The Afghan army, like its Iraqi counterpart, was a wholly artificial western institution. When faced with a tribal crisis, its members revert to their first duty, which is going to the defense of their tribe.

The Afghan army didn't "surrender".

Its Pashtun members surrendered to the Taliban who are fellow Pashtuns. Hazaras fled to Iran and took our equipment with them for the benefit of Hezbollah, the Houthis, and any other Shiite terrorists. The Uzbeks fled to Uzbekistan.

There's no Afghanistan. It's a collection of tribes whose members are loyal to their own.

The only group invested in Afghanistan, aside from the State Department, are the Pashtuns.

But the Taliban are a much more effective Pashtun bid for taking over the country than the pathetic shambles of a free and democratic Afghanistan.

And for those tribes and subtribes who want to resist the Taliban, they'll do so because they oppose that particular tribe by siding with their tribe and the warlords leading the fight. They won't do so while wearing army uniforms or toting around a lot of our equipment which we thought was absolutely vital to a modern armed force, which the locals aren't culturally compatible with, but is not especially useful for raiding tactics, which the locals are quite good at.

The Afghan army didn't surrender. Much of it never existed. The parts that did exist rejoined their tribes and are waiting for the next move which will come as the Taliban overextends itself and gets too deep in bed with the Chinese.

Our inability to understand this was the problem all along.

We insisted on building up an imaginary military for an imaginary nation. The whole farce collapsed the moment we decamped because there was no longer anything holding it together.

The people we wrongly call the Afghans reverted to who they had been all along before we demanded that they adopt the same political trappings in which we dress our political system.

Our system works well enough for us, or at least, as Churchill put it, less badly than any other system.

But the Afghans are not Americans. They're not in it for democracy or human rights. What they want is to gain power through their tribe, their subtribe, their family, and their chosen bosses.

That's what the war was about for 75% of them. It's what the endless war will be about going forward.

Afghanistan is in a perpetual state of tribal warfare. We never understood that and to the extent that we did, we tried to apply solutions that the locals didn't want and weren't especially interested in.

Now that we're gone, the forever war will continue without our overlay of myths and illusions.

Or at least fewer of them.

The warlords who turn to us for money and guns will talk about human rights. If we're smart, we'll ask them instead how many Taliban they've killed today.

That's how we did things after 9/11. If we had kept on doing things that way, maybe the rest of the world wouldn't be laughing at us. <https://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/08/the-afghan-army-didnt-surrender-it.html>

**Did GloboCorp Assassinate 3 National Presidents to Further the COVID Narrative & Import Vaccines?***By* [*Steven Yates*](https://newswithviews.com/author/steveny/)*|August 17th, 2021  
 “In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way.”* *Attributed to —*Franklin Delano Roosevelt.  
 The countries: Burundi, Tanzania, and Haiti. All troubled places, long plagued with poverty and bouts of instability. The names, respectively: President Pierre Nkurunziza, President John Magufuli, and President Jovenel Moïse.  
 The official dates I have for their deaths: June 8, 2020, for President Nkurunziza; March 18, 2021, for President Magufuli; and July 7, 2021, for President Moïse.  
 President Nkurunziza, 55, had ruled in Burundi since 2005 following a bloody 12-year civil war in which 300,000 had died. On June 6, 2020, a Saturday, he was reportedly feeling unwell and was admitted to a hospital in the town of Karuzi. Sunday he was reportedly improved, but then went into steep decline the following morning. “His” government reported his death two days later as caused by cardiac arrest. That became the official story. He had been due to step down from “his” country’s presidency in a few weeks.  
 In Tanzania, President Magufuli, 61, had disappeared from public view for over two weeks prior to reports of his death. His country’s official story is again that he died from a “heart condition.” [Rumors abounded](https://www.faceofmalawi.com/2021/03/18/govt-is-lying-about-magufulis-cause-of-death-tanzania-opposition-leader-tundu-lissu/) that Covid was what killed him.  
 President Moïse, 53, was killed by a team of heavily-armed assassins. While the first two events passed without much notice outside their own countries, Moïse’s assassination made international headlines.  
 What do all three have in common? They were all “Covid deniers,” in the Establishment’s parlance. That is, they all rejected the official coronavirus / Covid narrative.  
 Nkurunziza had refused to impose lockdowns in Burundi, holding sports events (he was a football fan) and allowing political activity. Face masks were rare. Resisting pressures from outside the country, less than one month previous he had gone as far as having four WHO “experts” expelled, accusing them of manipulating the Covid scare. The idea of a vaccine for Covid was just beginning to be bandied about. Nkurunziza rejected vaccines as unnecessary.  
 Burundi had reported [only 83 cases of Covid and just one death from the disease](https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-burundi-president-pierre-nkurunziza-dies-suddenly-after-reports-of/) at the time of Nkurunziza’s death. According to the Establishment, the controlled media there was purposefully underreporting cases and maintains that the real cause of his death was Covid. Nkurunziza’s wife allegedly tested positive for coronavirus ten days before and flown to Kenya for treatment.  
 Nkurunziza’s successor Evariste Ndayishimiye, did a complete 180-degree turn and called Covid the country’s “worst enemy.”  
 Magufuli, who had a PhD in chemistry,similarly rejected the approved narrative. He also refused to lock down his country. He did not close churches, instead calling on Tanzanians to pray to God instead of giving in to fear. What might have gotten him on GloboCorp’s radar, though, was declaring PCR tests to be fraudulent. He claimed he’d sent samples with human names attached to them to have them tested. Four tests came back positive and the fifth “inconclusive.” Magufuli then announced that the samples had come from a goat, a quail, jack fruit, papaya, and motor oil. He pronounced the fraud exposed, banned PCR testing, and demanded an investigation into what was behind its origin and distribution. He maintained that a supposed spike in coronavirus cases in Tanzania was fraudulent because it presumed the reliability of these tests.  
 As for vaccines, [what Magufuli said](https://malawi24.com/2021/01/28/magufuli-claims-vaccines-are-dangerous/):  
 *“The ministry of health should be careful, they should not hurry to try these vaccines without doing research, not every vaccine is important to us, we should be careful. We should not be used as ‘guinea pigs’ . . .Vaccinations are dangerous. If the white man was able to come up with vaccinations, he should have found a vaccination for Aids, cancer and TB by now.”*  
 Thus he resisted importing Big Pharma’s experimental vaccines into Tanzania. In many African countries, malaria is a major threat. Hydroxychloroquine was cheap, readily available, and in wide use as an antimalarial agent. According to Magufuli, this explained the relative absence of Covid from Tanzania.  
 According to the Establishment, of course, the absence of cases was again no more than an absence of reporting.  
 Haiti, finally, was on track to receive Covid vaccines through the COVAX charity program run through the WHO, but Moïse was refusing to cooperate. He singled out the AstraZeneca shot as particularly dangerous, as it had caused fatalities from blood clots in Europe. Haiti thus became the only Western nation that had not made the jabs available.  
 Moïse was killed by a hit squad on July 7. It is clear that non-Haitians were involved, including possibly Americans. Those investigating the assassination received further death threats.  
 What matters for us is that Haiti immediately opened up to receiving the jabs. Despite the country having been placed in a state of siege, one week after the assassination the first shipment arrived, and the mass vaccination of Haiti’s population began.  
 *The question before us:* when three presidents in three countries all die under less-than-clear circumstances, and the only thing the three share is that the reject the approved narratives of coronavirus / Covid / experimental mRNA vaccines, is it unreasonable to suspect foul play?  
 Or to be more direct about it, had these three men become a sufficient pain in GloboCorp’s *derriere* that it was believed necessary to take them out? Note that although only one was clearly assassinated, [there are chemical agents that can cause infarction](https://www.quora.com/What-is-a-poison-that-causes-heart-attacks-and-that-cannot-be-detected-in-blood-tests?share=1), or simulate it, and then disappear completely if a coroner doesn’t know exactly what to look for(see also [this](https://rense.com/general67/govb.htm).) People *can* die from heart attacks at 61, or 55, or even younger. But I turned up nothing to indicate that either Nkurunziza or Magufuli had reported previous heart problems.  
 Add to this the fact that all three nations now have “reasonable leadership” that has embraced the approved narrative and brought the vaccines into the country.  
 Do the math, people!  
 The “fact-checkers” have been at work (e.g., [here](https://www.reuters.com/article/factcheck-vaccine-haiti-idUSL1N2OQ14Y) and [here](https://www.factcheck.org/2021/07/scicheck-baseless-conspiracy-theory-follow-deaths-of-haitian-president-other-national-leaders/)), and you’ll note that all they do is use the same brain-paralyzing buzzwords (“baseless conspiracy theory”) and recite the official narrative. That’s all “fact-checkers” ever do. One has to wonder where corporate media finds these people (and what it pays them).  
 Can we prove, absolutely, that *all three* died because they rejected the approved coronavirus narrative and Covid vaccines? Of course we can’t *prove* such a thing with the certainty of deductive logic! But (1) we are not dealing with people likely to leave paper trails.(2) All we have to go on with Nkurunziza and Magufuli regarding the causes of their deaths, therefore, are what “their” governments released—governments that *quickly* embraced the approved narrative. And (3) given that the three have nothing else in common (except for their being black, which probably isn’t relevant here), surely that they are the *only* three national leaders who all questioned importing Covid vaccines into their countries and then died in office or were openly killed is stretching the law of averages a bit.  
 Incidentally, [in a recent column](https://www.lewrockwell.com/2021/07/chuck-baldwin/three-presidents-reject-covid-vaccines-three-presidents-die/) Chuck Baldwin cites figures on alleged Covid cases in New Jersey (which had the jab) versus Haiti (which on July 7 did not). Quoting [JD Rucker](https://noqreport.com/2021/07/13/mounting-evidence-shows-haitian-president-moise-was-assassinated-before-blowing-whistle-on-vaccines):  
 *“Haiti is the only nation in the western hemisphere that does not have Covid-19 injections available to the people. Considering the extreme poverty, cramped conditions, horrible healthcare infrastructure, and a population that is extremely vaccine hesitant, one might think the nation would be a cesspool of Covid-19 cases. It is not. In fact, scientists had been studying the people in the nation to determine why they seem to be so resistant before being recalled for unknown reasons.*  
 *“To put it into perspective, let’s compare Haiti to New Jersey. They have a similar population density with Haiti having 11.5 million people across 10,714 square miles and New Jersey having 9.2 million people across 8,721 square miles. Haiti has had 19,295 Covid-19 cases. New Jersey has had 1,026,286. Some of this can be attributed to Haiti’s poor medical infrastructure reducing the amount of Covid tests, but lack of tests cannot account for dramatically lower deaths. They’ve had 482 compared to New Jersey’s 26,509 Covid deaths.*  
 *“Let’s break down those numbers. Despite similar population density, higher total population, and worse healthcare available, Haiti has had 1.8% of the Covid cases that New Jersey has had.* ***Put another way, the citizens of New Jersey with a high vaccination rate are*53-times more likely to contract Covid-19*than Haitians who do not have access to a vaccine.***  
 *“Moïse knew this. It’s one of the reasons he rejected free vaccines in May and June. But you won’t hear about that. Not anymore. The official storyline about Haiti’s vaccine hesitancy has suddenly changed following Moïse’s assassination. Now, the health officials in the country are claiming they didn’t reject ALL vaccines, just the AstraZeneca vaccines because of the higher risks they supposedly have. Of course, this narrative didn’t materialize until AFTER Moïse was murdered.*  
 *“With Moïse out of the way, the doors are opening wide for the nation that doesn’t need nor want the vaccines to suddenly have them available. As if on cue, the Biden regime has offered to send millions of vaccines to the nation very soon.*  
 So did GloboCorp actually assassinate three national presidents to get what it wants: vaxxed populations in all nations, no exceptions?  
 For what? Depopulation? I don’t know (see below). But there are people with a lot of power who have *openly* described humanity as a “cancer of the planet” and possibly not hesitate to reduce populations the world over in ways extremely difficult to trace back to them in any definitive way.  
**Is This Year One? Further Notes.**  
 My two-part article on “Is This Year One?” (here and here) received more than the usual reader response — pro and con.  
 First: infamous Princeton-based “bioethicist” Peter Singer has come out and [openly defended](https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/why-covid-vaccine-should-be-compulsory-by-peter-singer-2021-08?utm_source=Project+Syndicate+Newsletter&utm_campaign=f52eed65e0-sunday_newsletter_08_08_2021) what I called*Stage 4 vaccine compliance*: governments legally mandate the jabs, in effect criminalizing the noncompliant. Singer argues from an analogy between a Covid vaccination law and laws requiring drivers to wear seat belts. Since I could rattle off close to a dozen *dis*analogies between these two off the top of my head, Singer’s article further illustrates the collapse of academic philosophy in our era — possibly of academia generally. (For details see [here](https://lostgenerationphilosopher.com/2021/08/10/peter-singer-on-making-covid-vaccines-legally-mandatory/).)  
 A couple of readers misread my Stage 5 as prophesying Vaccine Apocalypse. I do not make predictions, I only sketch possible scenarios based on what we know, which often isn’t as much as we think. Perhaps I should have these published with a disclaimer, since although I have a public health education masters degree I am not a medical doctor nor an epidemiologist. But then again, neither is Bill Gates!  
 Nor am I a theologian. These days I try to avoid eschatology (“end times” studies) as I weary of explaining to my fellow Christians that they have *misread* Biblical passages like 1 Thess. 4:16-17 and Matt. 24 (especially verses 40-44 which states *explicitly* that no one knows God’s timetable).  
 A book I’ve found useful is [Gary DeMar’s *Myths, Lies and Half-Truths: How Misreading the Bible Neutralizes Christians*](https://www.amazon.com/Myths-Lies-Half-Truths-Misreading-Neutralizes/dp/0915815451/ref=sr_1_7?crid=2WSWL75WS9NMO&dchild=1&keywords=gary+demar&qid=1628623028&s=books&sprefix=Gary+DeMar%2Caps%2C363&sr=1-7) (2nd Ed, 2010).  
 I mention this for those who took me to task for not saying these vaccines contain Mark of the Beast technology.  
 I don’t know that they do, and I don’t know that they do not.  
 What we do know is that they contain a technology that has never been used in a vaccine before, anywhere. They do not contain the virus. What they contain is an instruction to your body to manufacture spike proteins that “train” your body to reject the virus. According to the approved narrative, the spike proteins are harmless. But numerous independent authors, some with extensive medical training, believe otherwise. That is part of the ongoing debate.  
 The jabs will affect different people differently, as would any such bodily intrusion. I do not think we can know in advance what will happen. For *me*, this is good enough. A technology that is *still*, in essence, an *experiment*, is being *forced* on a somewhat reluctant public *without full FDA approval*. To my mind, this is enough for refuseniks to stand on.  
 The FDA, mind you, is caught in the middle. There are probably decent folks in the FDA who want to do the right thing, hopefully not limited to the people who sweep the floors and empty the waste cans at the end of the day (but who knows?). Doubtless the agency is under tremendous pressure. The source of the pressure is something they’ve not seen before. If those with real power will kill national leaders, what do you think they will do to anonymous bureaucrats who drag their feet too long?  
 I explicitly stated that I hope and pray that the ghastly scenario I described in “Year One” never happens (linked to a longer version), as it would entail the complete breakdown of civilization as we know it. Whatever is supposedly happening to the climate would be the *least* of our worries!  
 Another reader chastised me for thinking the top super-elites of GloboCorp would hole up in gated communities, when some are *visibly*buying land in foreign countries (super-elitist Google founder and ex-CEO Larry Page [just bought himself a New Zealand residency](https://apnews.com/article/technology-lifestyle-travel-new-zealand-immigration-b7184a3296dea7c8c276232d615da0ac?fbclid=IwAR3qKP86nAn1r2WmeYQcUrBmGOzmXxqji3cOCu2WOPkjuhI39mHv8Wbd9ag), for example) and have underground bunkers to go to some of which could sustain a substantial population for an extended period of time (see [here](https://edition.cnn.com/style/article/doomsday-luxury-bunkers/index.html), [here](https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/Billionaire-bunkers-Where-the-elite-may-ride-out-15156717.php), [here](https://www.jetsetmag.com/real-estate/billionaire-bunkers-the-elite-do-survivalism-in-style/), [here](https://www.prepperfortress.com/elite-underground-bunkers-many-super-wealthy-preparing-bug-locations-worlds-largest-underground-city/), [here](https://thefreethoughtproject.com/super-rich-fleeing-underground-bunkers/), elsewhere).  
 Here I plead guilty and apologize for the brain f\*\*t, for I’ve known of such things for years.Many of these projects long predate the plandemic, but would still stave off what would ensue on the ground, *should* we peasants begin dying from vaccine-induced immune system collapse or from the effects of the infrastructural collapse this would precipitate. If they are hiding underground or in other hard-to-access places, this would make confronting them vastly harder than I envisioned.  
 Which is why it might be a good idea to turn back this tide *now*!  
 What I fear is that once full FDA approval comes (and it *will* come), [we’ll see an onslaught](https://www.theepochtimes.com/fauci-expects-flood-of-covid-vaccine-mandates-after-fda-approval_3938900.html) of vaccine passports, mandates, and restrictions: whatever it takes, until those who refuse are unable to leave their homes. Or are even rounded up and put in camps, because come to think of it, in the present environment of combined corporate and governmental encirclement everywhere you turn, there is nothing sacrosanct about your home!  
 Steven Yates’s new book *What Should Philosophy Do? A Theory* has been published (available [here](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1725263750?pf_rd_r=SDG1T51HP5WN1EXDJ9Z6&pf_rd_p=6fc81c8c-2a38-41c6-a68a-f78c79e7253f&pd_rd_r=08beac2b-f97d-4a2a-b1e3-d015565ad7f0&pd_rd_w=Ao6TE&pd_rd_wg=5kZCe&ref_=pd_gw_unk) and [here](https://wipfandstock.com/9781725263758/what-should-philosophy-do/)). <https://newswithviews.com/did-globocorp-assassinate-3-national-presidents-to-further-the-covid-narrative-import-vaccines/>

**Nazi Vaxxers – The New Segregationists***By* [*Lex Greene*](https://newswithviews.com/author/lex/)*|August 17th, 2021* Face it – only in a Nazi-run concentration country does anyone on earth have any legal authority whatsoever to inject anyone with anything against their will. Anywhere freedom and liberty reign, the people have freedom of personal choice without fear of coercion, retribution, persecution, or segregation. Only a Nazi would work so hard to divide a nation by every means possible.  
 ***“Where the people fear the government, you have tyranny. Where the government fears the people, you have liberty.”*** –Thomas Jefferson  
 **There are a few other facts Americans must face today.**   
 No one has yet isolated the COVID19 virus as a “novel virus”  
 No current test can separate COVID19 from Influenza A or B  
 The so-called tests often read (false) POSITIVE, right out of the package  
 There are no “vaccines” for any “corona virus” (aka common cold and flu)  
 None of Fauci’s “vaccines” are vaccines  
 These are lab created genetic experiments, just like the Wuhan Lab virus  
 Masks in use are NOT designed to or capable of stopping the spread of any virus  
 No one has authority to prevent your “pursuit of happiness”  
 No one has any authority to strip you of Life or Health  
 No one has any authority to deprive you of individual liberty  
 More people have died from the VAX than the so-called virus  
 The [CDC has lied about all of it](https://www.scribd.com/document/518792673/CDC-Has-Been-Cookin-the-Books) for over 19-months now  
 It’s against the Constitution, U.S. Law, and the Nuremberg Code to do what they have done  
 Everyone involved, everyone, should face trial for “crimes against humanity”  
 I’m not saying illness doesn’t exist, we all know it does. I’m not saying that no one has died as a result of contracting a number of different flu and cold viruses. **I’m saying that the same percentage of Americans die every year, from exactly the same causes, approximately 0.9% of the population. I’m saying that before the lethal “vaccines,” there is NO unusual increase in annual death rate in 2020 or 2021 (during this so-called pandemic) and if you don’t believe me, research that for yourself!**  
 [**WE HAVE ALL BEEN LIED TO BY ALL OF THE SO-CALLED “EXPERTS”**](https://rumble.com/vkopys-a-pathologist-summary-of-what-these-jabs-do-to-the-brain-and-other-organs.html) and it’s about to cost us our Life, Liberty, Happiness, future, and posterity, if we don’t wake up and take swift appropriate **ACTION, RIGHT NOW!**  
 We have been lied to by the mad scientists (Fauci, Gates, Soros), the cowardly politicians (both political parties), the global Marxist owned media (all mainstream mediums), many conned or cowardly doctors and nurses, many of them are more worried about their paycheck than the health of their patients. We have been lied to by pretty much everyone in a position of power. We all sense it…most of us know it.  
 If you don’t have the Right to say NO to forced or coerced DNA altering injections, then you have no Rights at all! We are ALL in this together!  
 **THIS IS LIFE AND DEATH – FREEDOM OR FASCISM!**  
 Over the past hundred years, Americans have been slow boiled at a rate most never bothered to notice, through bad public education, Marxist college campuses, fake news, criminal career politicians, corrupt courts and even One World Order churches. Almost everything the American people have experienced for many years now, has been a blatant lie.  
 Some are feeling the boil now, but many still can’t tell they are well beyond a simmer. Some are starting to jump out of that pot and fight back, while others are determined to look the other way, as they are quickly brought to a fatal rolling boil.  
 **In recent weeks, even mad Dr. Fauci has been forced to concede the following;**  
 Yes, COVID19 came from the Wuhan Lab  
 Yes, his enterprises HAVE funded “gain of function” experiments  
 Yes, the masks don’t work  
 Yes, the “vaccines” are not really vaccines  
 Yes, social distancing has done nothing to stop the spread  
 Yes, the government cannot “force” any of these measures on anyone  
 Yes, people are dying in mass from the “vaccines”  
 Yes, the “vaccines” do NOT prevent infection, spread or death  
 Yes, he does believe mother earth needs less people  
 Yes, he WILL continue to destroy us – if we let him!  
 Why do you think [Biden’s Department of Homeland Security](https://www.dhs.gov/ntas/advisory/national-terrorism-advisory-system-bulletin-august-13-2021) is totally ignoring the death and destruction all across the country committed by Marxist democrats in ANTIFA and BLM, while targeting all patriotic Americans who stand opposed to the massive FRAUD behind COVID19 and the 2020 Elections?  
 It’s because they KNOW they are anti-American frauds and the also KNOW that the American people are figuring this out and beginning to rise against them! They can only hide their crimes, deaths, and destruction so long. Sooner or later, their fatal Marxist (Nazi) agenda was going to cause so much chaos and damage that they would no longer be able to hide it or keep a lid on public reaction. They will attempt to blame Trump. But it won’t work. Too many know!  
 Their agenda is based entirely in Global Marxism and their tactics are based entirely in Hitler’s NAZI-ISM. That’s why America and free people all over the world feel like they are living in pre-World War Germany.  
 **THERE IS ONLY ONE PEACEFUL SOLUTION NOW**  
 Protests, petitions, emails, letters, social media whining, even meetings with criminal cowards in government and lawsuits filed in corrupt courts, are USELESS. Who cares about passing new laws when no one has adhered to previous laws or even the Constitution and Bill of Rights for decades? Those who think they will “lock and load” to solve this, will face the US Military. Where there are no consequences, there can be no justice and where there is no justice, there can be no freedom.  
 Thousands are walking off their jobs in all professions all across the country, just to avoid “mandates” that NO ONE has any right or legal authority to issue, much less enforce. Until now, they have been doing it alone or in small groups. THAT MUST CHANGE IMMEDIATELY!  
 **A NATIONWIDE STRIKE is the ONLY peaceful option now!** Before Biden and his unlawful Marxist cabal can lock us all down again, we must LOCK THEM ALL DOWN first! Enough of playing defense. We must take the offense here and quickly.  
 If you live in a State where your Governor and State Legislatures are actively STOPPING all mandates at your border, protecting their own citizens, work with them to make sure they stand that ground and complete that mission.  
 If you live in a State run by Marxist democrats, Dr. Fauci, Bill Gates and George Soros, you have a very different problem on your hands. You will be the first to be masked, vaxxed and locked down. You may have waited too long to leave. Get out of the major cities and find others of like-mind so that you can try to defend each other. Get as self-sufficient as possible, as fast as possible. If you have a second home elsewhere, go there.  
 Whether you are a union employee or a non-union employee, every decent honest American must be prepared to sit at home and NOT go to work in a nationwide strike for as long as it takes for OUR MANDATES to take effect.  
 Americans MUST do this in mass and together, which means a time to begin the strike must be set a week or two out so that everyone can prepare.  
 STOP the “lock and load” chatter. Anyone who thinks we can win this violently in the streets is overlooking the reality that our Military and Law Enforcement has been compromised as well. A reported 70% of the military have been vaxxed, which means a best, only 30% might protect us from the Nazi mandates.  
 Donald J. Trump is the ONLY person in the USA today capable of leading America out of this darkness, no matter what you think of him. There is no one else. But I have no clue what he’s ready to do, if anything at all. So, we cannot wait or count on him. We can hope he will step up to lead, once we lead.  
 We must be prepared to STRIKE until our mandates, will end theirs.  
 If you think we have any other choice, you’re wrong. We are rapidly losing our country, our freedom, liberty and for many, our lives and the future for our children and grandchildren.  
 We don’t have any choice. We must STOP THEIR MANDATES peacefully, before they shut us all down again and finish off what little is left of our country and way of life.  
 If we fail, it will not be because of the depth of commitment in our enemies. It will be due to the lack of commitment and courage in Americans. A majority of Americans will never get what’s happening here in time. We must work with the totally awake. *(not to be confused with the Marxist woke)* [*https://newswithviews.com/nazi-vaxxers-the-new-segregationists/*](https://newswithviews.com/nazi-vaxxers-the-new-segregationists/)

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Khamenei names new chief for Iranian navy**

***Iran’s Supreme Leader appoints Adm. Shahram Irani as the new navy chief under the country’s army.***

*Elad Benari , Aug 18 , 2021 2:02 AM*

Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on Tuesday appointed a new chief for the country’s navy, The Associated Press reported, citing state media. According to the report, Khamenei appointed Adm. Shahram Irani as the new navy chief under the country’s army.

Adm. Irani was working as a senior army officer so far. He became successor of Adm. Hossein Khanzadi, who held the post since 2017.

In his decree, Khamenei urged Adm. Irani to improve the navy. No reason was given for the replacement, according to *AP*.

The Iranian navy is mainly in charge of operation in Sea of Oman and beyond in international waters, while the Revolutionary Guard oversees a separate navy in the Persian Gulf.

In the last few years there have been [several close encounters](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/226248) between Iranian and American vessels in the Persian Gulf. The Revolutionary Guard typically patrols the shallower waters of the Persian Gulf and its narrow mouth, the Strait of Hormuz.

One such incident in May of 2020 included [a tense encounter](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/278732) between US and Iranian ships in the Persian Gulf.

The US military said at the time that 11 Revolutionary Guards naval vessels from the Guards navy came close to US Navy and coast guard ships in the Gulf, calling the moves “dangerous and provocative”.

Iran’s Revolutionary Guard [acknowledged that the incident had taken place](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/278883), but also claimed that it was American forces who sparked the incident.

In April of 2020, [a spokesman for the Iranian Armed Forces said](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/279438) that the Islamic Republic will respond “severely” if US vessels violate its territorial waters. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/311938>

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