**09/03/2021 NEWS AM**

**Discover the City of David Today**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EA9UswJXOEQ>

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| **"On account of being a democracy and run by the people, we are the only nation in the world that has to keep a government four years, no matter what it does." -- Will Rogers (1879-1935) American humorist** |

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for 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 39:1And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hand of the Ishmaelites, that had brought him down thither. 2And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. 4And Joseph found favour in his sight, and he ministered unto him. And he appointed him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. 5And it came to pass from the time that he appointed him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had, in the house and in the field.**

**Israeli airstrikes said to target Syria, explosions heard near Tel Aviv**

IDF reportedly investigating if errant Syrian air defense missile caused blast near center of Israel; no injuries or damage reported

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 2:49 am*

**Israeli planes carried out an airstrikes near Damascus early Friday, Syrian state media claimed, and sounds of explosions were heard in central Israel shortly af**ter.

**It was not immediately clear if the two events were linked, but the Israeli military** was reportedly investigating if the explosions were the result of errant air defense missiles.

**Syria reported that missiles fired from the direction of Lebanon targeted Damascus,** but claimed most were shot down by its air defenses.

**A short time later, residents near Tel Aviv reported hearing at least one bl**ast.

The **Israel Defense Forces said it was investigating the possibility that a Syria air defense missile that missed its target had landed in the area or off the coast**, Hebrew language media reported.

No sirens sounded and there were no reports of injuries or damage in Israel.

Syrian air defense missiles have in the past accidentally shot down a Russian military plane carrying and have also reached Cyprus in error.

The IDF did not comment on the alleged strikes in Syria, as per its policy.

Video published by SANA purported to show an air defense missile being fired into the air. A blast could be heard shortly after.

The Britain-based Observatory for Human Rights reported that weapons development centers near Damascus used by Iran-backed militias had been targeted in the alleged Israeli strikes.

On August 19, Syria reported alleged Israeli airstrikes from the direction of Beirut. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-airstrikes-said-to-target-syria-explosions-heard-near-tel-aviv/>

**Knesset approves key elements of state budget in first readings**

***Compromises reached on more controversial elements as coalition hopes to solidify its hold on power***

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/09/F210902OF13-e1630590861740.jpg)*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:21 pm*

***Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman, right, seen during a vote on the state budget at the assembly hall of the Knesset, on September 2, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)***

**The Knesset passed the framework for the state budget in its first reading on Thursday, as well as the accompanying Arrangements Law, marking a significant milestone for the coalition as it works to pass the budget**.

The budget is a crucial test for the new government as it seeks to solidify its hold on power.

**Understandings were reached on the controversial formation of a regulatory authority to streamline regulatory issues and bureaucratic hurdles. Meretz, a coalition member, has expressed concern that the refor**m will benefit business and industry at the cost of public health and the environment.

**The authority will now be formed as an advisory body onl**y, with any additional potential powers subject to further legislation.

**The Arrangements Law is a part of the budget that, among other things, determines how funds will be implemented.**

**Addressing lawmakers, Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman called it “the most social budget in the history of the country.”**

**By contrast, opposition lawmaker Moshe Gafni, who leads the United Torah Judaism party and is a former chair of the Knesset Finance Committee, retorted that “this is the most anti-social budget th**at has been in the Knesset in the 33 years since I have been an MK.”

**Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu participated in the proceedings from behind a glass partition in a specially set up quarantine section in the public viewing gallery of the plen**um. Netanyahu recently returned from a holiday in Hawaii and, in keeping with coronavirus guidelines, is required to isolate for a week.

Speaking from the gallery, Netanyahu called the budget “terrible.”

“It has cutbacks and raised taxes, in complete contradiction to your assurances,” he said. “You have harmed the farmers, the weaker classes, the periphery, the middle class.”

**Failure to pass the pair of budget bills in three readings in the Knesset plenum by a November 4 deadline would automatically dissolve parliament and trigger elections**.

 Knesset legal adviser Sagit Afik has published an opinion that has criticized some of the reforms in the Arrangements Bill.

Afik said that it was problematic to push through such wide-ranging reforms in the bill and not through standard legislation. She singled out the regulatory reform and parts of an agriculture reform plan.

***Opposition leader MK Benjamin Netanyahu seen in a virus quarantine section of the Knesset plenum during a vote on the state budget, on September 2, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)***

**Earlier this week, Liberman predicted both bills will have a majority backing in the Knesset, though the coalition government has only the slimmest majority** of the parliament’s 120 seats.

He rejected any possible political fighting over the Arrangements Bill, which can be more prone to partisan dispute, telling reporters that lawmakers will have to support both bills together.

“ **They are a single unit. You can’t vote for the first and oppose the second,”** he said.

Liberman [presented the plan on Monday](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liberman-rolls-out-most-social-budget-ever-predicts-swift-passage/) at a press briefing in which he said that the two-year budget would allocate NIS 432 billion ($135 billion) for 2021 and NIS 452 billion ($140 billion) for 2022.

**The two-year state budget includes** [**sweeping reforms**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/new-budget-bill-shows-despite-fragility-coalition-to-launch-sweeping-reforms/) **of the** [**kashrut establishment**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/religious-affairs-minister-seeks-to-reform-kosher-certification-irking-haredim/) **and the agriculture industry, steep taxes on** [**disposable plasticware**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/disposable-plasticware-prices-to-double-in-2022-under-new-tax-proposal/) **and sugary drinks, and considerable changes to import p**olicies.

Negotiations on the budget had continued until the last moment, with the parties resolving several disagreements.

Agreements were reached Thursday morning on two problematic issues that threatened to derail the budget.

**More -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/knesset-approves-framework-of-state-budget-in-first-reading-but-hurdles-remain/>

**No plans to limit settlement construction for now, Israeli official says**

***Biden only voiced general opposition in meeting with Bennett, so Jerusalem is still operating based on Trump-era rules, which allowed building within towns’ existing footprints***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 4:46 pm*

**NEW YORK — Despite the change of administration in Washington, Israel’s settlement building policies will remain largely unchanged, an Israeli government official told The Times of Israel on Wed**nesday.

**The official said that Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s new government will operate based on the understandings his predecessor Benjamin Netanyahu reached with former president Donald Trump**, whose administration allowed for Israel to continue building in settlements across the West Bank, so long as the construction did not expand beyond communities’ “existing footprints.”

**This agreement allowed settlement building to skyrocket during the Trump era,** with approved projects beyond the Green Line more than doubling compared to former president Barack Obama’s second term.

**“The (Trump-era) understanding may well be adapted, but as of now, it is still the only game in town,**” the official said. “President Biden only spoke generally about his opposition to settlement building, and his team has not gotten into specifics with us.”

**The official said that Bennett is aware of the issue’s sensitivity** and acted to delay the convening of the Defense Ministry body that approves settlement construction in order for it not to coincide with his visit to Washington last week.

**At the same time, he was clear in his meeting with the US president that his government would continue to allow for existing settlements to develop**, the official said, adding that Bennett had promised not to annex any West Bank territory.

The remarks appeared to diverge from comments made by a defense official in the Benny Gantz-led Defense Ministry, who told The Times of Israel ahead of the Bennett-Biden meeting that Israel would seek to prioritize construction in the so-called blocs located closer to the Green Line, which Israel wishes to maintain in any future agreement with the Palestinians.

But Bennett’s office seems to be the one with the final say when it comes to settlement policy, even though the matter is under Gantz’s purview.

While they have yet to be approved, a list of projects on the agenda for the Civil Administration’s High Planning Subcommittee includes ones in the settlements of Har Bracha and Beit El, both of which are located deep in the West Bank. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/no-plans-to-limit-settlement-construction-for-now-israeli-official-says/> **[This first approval is remarkable and extraordinarily import if their regime is to persist. – rdb]**

**Israel formally moves to US Central Command’s area of responsibility**

***The move, announced in January, is meant to improve communucation and coordination between Israel and other US allies in the region in fight against Iran***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 7:40 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/01/WhatsApp-Image-2021-01-29-at-14.12.36-1-1024x681-1.jpeg)

***(Left to right) IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi, CENTCOM Commander Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., and Defense Minister Benny Gantz in Tel Aviv, on January 29, 2021. (Ariel Hermoni/Defense Ministry)***

**The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) officially assumed responsibility for the military’s relationship with Israel on Thursday, taking over from the European Command (EUCOM), some eight months after plans for the move were announce**d.

**“The realignment, announced by the [US] Defense Department in January, strengthens the strategic US-Israeli defense relationship and offers opportunities to deepen operational collaboration between the Israel Defense Forces and CENTCOM’s many partners in the region,” CENTCOM said in a** statement.

**For decades, the State of Israel has been kept in the area of responsibility of EUCOM in order to prevent possible tensions between CENTCOM and the Arab and Muslim nations u**nder its purview, many of whom did not maintain formal ties with the Jewish state. The US Central Command’s area of responsibility stretches across the Middle East to Central Asia, including the Persian Gulf region, as well as Afghanistan and Pakistan.

*** IAF and AFCENT F-15 and F-16 jets are seen over southern Israel during the ‘Desert Eagle’ drill, on August 10, 2021. (Israel Defense Forces)***

**The previous arrangement allowed Israel to work closely with European members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in European Command, but initially limited interaction between the Israeli military and Arab armies in Central Com**mand.

**In recent years, however, CENTCOM’s allies have increasingly developed relations with Israel**, some informally, so these issues have largely faded. Though partially a symbolic move, including Israel in CENTCOM is expected to improve the direct communications between the Israel Defense Forces and American troops in the region and, through the US, other militaries in the region. The move does not portend changes in the basing of US forces in the Middle East or Europe.

**“CENTCOM will now work to implement the U.S. Government commitment to a holistic approach to regional security and cooperation with our partner**s. The US Government’s unwavering commitment to Israel’s security remains enduring and ironclad,” CENTCOM said.

**In times of emergency, Israel has in the past received air defense assistance from the EUCOM** — notably in 1991, during the First Gulf War, when Iraq fired dozens of Scud missiles at Israel — and the potential for future deployments of this type has remained, with the IDF and EUCOM regularly conducting air defense drills together, as recently as this year.

Though Israel was formally moved to CENTCOM’s area of responsibility on Thursday, it was not immediately clear if this would include air defense deployments. The Pentagon did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The decision to move Israel to CENTCOM was made by former US president Donald Trump shortly before the end of his term, following lobbying from several pro-Israel groups in Washington and growing ties between the IDF and CENTCOM. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-formally-moves-to-us-central-commands-area-of-responsibility/>

**Bennett to take action on China investments after Biden meeting - source**

***Among the possibilities Bennett has considered is moving the committee overseeing major foreign investments from the Finance Ministry to the National Security Council.***

*By* [*LAHAV HARKOV*](https://www.jpost.com/author/lahav-harkov)*, REUTERS   SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 21:28*

**Prime Minister** [**Naftali Bennett**](https://www.jpost.com/tags/naftali-bennett) **and his staff returned from the US this week with an understanding of how the Biden administration expects Israel to act when it comes to investments from China, a senior government source said this week, and that the prime minister plans to take action. The source would not specify what that** action will be.

**Among the possibilities Bennett has considered is moving the committee overseeing major foreign investments from the** [**Finance Ministry**](https://www.jpost.com/tags/finance-ministry) **to the National Security Council, which is directly under his au**thority.

**Meanwhile, the government has delayed a tender to build part of the Tel Aviv Light Rail because a Chinese company submitted a bid, making the situation diplomatica**lly sensitive.

**The current and previous administrations in Washington have expressed concern over the extent of Chinese investments in major infrastructure in Israe**l, as well as in hi-tech, including artificial intelligence. Though Israel established a committee to review foreign investments, under pressure from the Trump administration, the panel is voluntary and has a very narrow scope. The Trump administration called for Israel to establish a more robust oversight process for such investments.

**One of the American investments that raised concerns in recent years was the Haifa Bay Port, which opened on Wednesday and is operated by the Shanghai International Port Group**.

 **While the Biden administration has been rallying international allies against Chinese hacking, human rights violations and other malign behavior, a senior diplomatic source in Bennett’s delega**tion to Washington also said – hours after the prime minister’s meeting with US President Joe Biden on Friday – that the Americans did not make specific demands of Israel vis-à-vis China.

In addition, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said on Wednesday that “on China, there is no concrete demand coming from the Americans.”

***Prime Minister Naftali Bennett chats with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid at the weekly cabinet meeting, August 2021 (credit: RONEN ZVULUN/REUTERS)***

**In a briefing to the foreign press at the Foreign Ministry, Lapid said that Israel understands that “the kind of tension there is between the US and the new administration versus China** is going to dictate a lot of the international maneuvering in the coming future, but no one has asked us to change anything.”

**Israel and China have strong bilateral relations, mostly in the business sphere, Lapid sai**d, with China taking a special interest in Israeli technological developments. At the same time, he added, Israel conducts a constant dialogue with China to try to encourage it to stop voting against Israel in international organizations.

**“We have never tried to hide the fact that our greatest ally is one and only one, the US,” Lapid said.** “We share the same values.... [Former US secretary of state] Henry Kissinger wrote a lot about the fact that policies are made in the balance between realism and idealism. We’re playing a long-term game with this one. It’s important to maintain relations with China, but we are listening to the Americans when they talk about it.”

**The 5.5 billion shekel ($1.7b.) Bay Port at Haifa, which will be operated by Shanghai International Port Group (SIPG), will bring much needed competition to a sector plagued by delays and boost the country’s standing as a regional trade hu**b.

The port will enable larger classes of cargo ships carrying 18,000 containers or more to dock in Israel.

**The country is selling its state-owned ports and building new private docks in an effort to bring down costs and cut above-average wait times for vessels to unload. About 99% of all goods move in and out of Israel over** sea, and an upgrade is needed to maintain economic growth.

Warming ties with neighboring Arab countries are also creating new trade opportunities for Israel, and Haifa is well placed to become a regional hub.

“I’m sure we can leverage this opportunity not just for local prosperity, but for realizing opportunities and making a real contribution to our neighbors in the Middle East,” Transportation Minister Merav Michaeli said in a statement, after the port was inaugurated in a low-key ceremony on Wednesday.

**Another new port on the Mediterranean coast is due to open in Ashdod by the end of the year, to be operated Swiss-based Terminal Investment Limited**.

Another new port on the Mediterranean coast is due to open in Ashdod by the end of the year, to be operated Swiss-based Terminal Investment Limited. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/bennett-to-take-action-on-china-investments-after-biden-meeting-source-678553> [**Closely monitoring the Chinese involvement in Israel and most other countries is a critical military and economic issue. China is on the move and expects to supersede the USA in both military and economic sectors and one must always remember that when they have control they can always totally close or block a segment at any time. With their military backing it becomes a very tense situation Trust them – no way.-rdb]**

**Israel inaugurates Chinese-run Haifa port terminal, in likely boost for economy**

***$1.7b terminal operated by state-owned Shanghai firm to handle large vessels of some 18,000 containers; Transportation Minister Michaeli says it will accelerate trade, lower prices***

*By* [*Ricky Ben-David*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ricky-ben-david/) *Today, 1:28 pm*

**Israel on Wednesday officially inaugurated a new port terminal in Haifa Bay, the first of two recently built private port terminals that are expected to fuel competition, decrease import costs, and present a boon for the Israeli economy. Almost all of Israel’s international trade is handled via maritime rou**tes and the Haifa port is the busiest shipping hub in the country, managing [approximately half](https://www.haifaport.co.il/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/booklet-en.pdf) of all freight.

**China’s state-owned Shanghai International Port Group (SIPG) won the tender in 2015 to operate the commercial shipping facility for 25 years, an arrangement that stoked controversy in Israel and abro**ad. The project’s proximity to Israel’s submarines, among other issues, raised security concerns, especially after reports revealed that neither the cabinet nor the National Security Council had any input on the deal. The project also [raised the ire of the US](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-warns-chinese-investments-in-israeli-tech-could-pose-a-security-threat/), which sometimes docks military vessels in Haifa.

**The new Haifa terminal, built by two Israeli companies, will allow large shipping vessels of about 400 meters long carrying some 18,000 containers each to dock in Israel**, the Transportation Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday, and will provide unloading and loading services, shortening their times.

Israel has been able to handle smaller vessels carrying several thousand containers, and has been experiencing severe traffic jams at seaports, [driving up](https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-stranded-containers-jammed-ports-presage-price-rises-in-israel-1001367536) prices for goods — everything from household products, raw materials, and automotive parts.

The delays cost the Israeli economy approximately NIS 700 million ($218 million) every month, according to a Channel 13 report two weeks ago.

**The Haifa Bay terminal had been under construction for six years, at an investment of $1.7 billion (NIS 5.5 billion) that includes advanced infrastructure and technologies, Yitzhak Blumentha**l, CEO of the government-owned Israel Ports Company, has said. In a statement on Wednesday, he called the opening of the new terminal “one of the most important infrastructure projects for Israel’s future.”

**“It is a modern technological port, the opening of which will revolutionize the economy, and impact us all, from industrialists to consumers, as it will lower the cost of living,” Blumenthal** said.

**The opening of the private terminal will drive competition among Israel’s three international seapo**rts — Haifa, Ashdod, and Eilat — which will vie to “improve and streamline the level of port service in Israel, help to meet the economy’s needs, ensure Israel’s readiness to cater to large ships, and allow Israel to prepare for the shifts that are taking place in the maritime trade industry,” he added.

**Transportation Minister Merav Michaeli said Israel was “now embarking on a new adventure – delivering on the promise of the Bay Port, and soon the South Port [in Ashdod], to accelerate Israel’s economic developm**ent, increase export and trade, bridge social gaps, and lower prices.”



***Transportation Minister Merav Michaeli speaks via video at an event on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, inaugurating new port terminal in Haifa. (Ra’anan Cohen)***

**A year after Israel normalized ties with the UAE and Bahrain, opening up trade between Israel and the Gulf, Michaeli said the terminal was an opportunity to “strengthen our regional capabilities in maritime trad**e” and leverage it “not only for local prosperity, but for the realization of opportunities and a genuine contribution to our neighbors in the Middle East.”

**The transportation minister painted a picture in which the port will “soon serve not only in economic development and employment, but become cleaner, as a place of leisure, culture, and entertainment that brings pride and** pleasure to all residents of Haifa and surrounding area, as commonly seen in leading port cities worldwide.”

SIPG Israel CEO Miao Qiang said the opening of the Bay Port “will bring great promise to the Israeli economy” and “position Israel as a leading port state for the entire region.”

***Chinese-built infrastructure and investments in Israel***

 **Chinese companies are handling major infrastructure and transportation projects in Israel, including winning the tenders to build and operate a private terminal in** [**Ashdod**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/china-firm-to-build-new-ashdod-union-buster-port/)**, along with operating the one launched Wednesday in Haifa. Chinese firms are also building a** [**key section**](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-06/11/c_1310001524.htm#:~:text=In%20April%202019%2C%20the%20CRRC,start%20operating%20in%20November%202022.) **of the Tel Aviv light rail system, and** bidding to build additional lines.

***Chinese workers attend the opening ceremony of the construction works for the new Tel Aviv Light Rail on February 19, 2017. (Flash90)***

**Dan Catarivas, the director-general of Foreign Trade and International Relations at the Manufacturers’ Association of Israel, told The Times of Israel in a phone interview that Chinese companies are operating large infrastructure projects** [**all over the world,**](https://www.inss.org.il/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/systemfiles/SystemFiles/adkan19-1ENG_3_Eran.pdf) **especially maritime projects**, and he expects to see more such companies bidding for additional ventures in Israel as well.

In the face of US misgivings, Catarivas said Israeli governments have managed in recent years to navigate the geopolitical waters “quite well.”

“Israel is a small country that is very dependent on trade. The US is its most important ally but it also needs to look out for its own interests. There is a fundamental understanding that the US-China rivalry is here to stay and will accompany us for many years,” said Catarivas, who also served as the first economic counselor of Israel in Beijing over 30 years ago.

**Amid a US-China trade war that has** [**ebbed and flowed**](https://www.reuters.com/world/exclusive-pentagon-holds-talks-with-chinese-military-first-time-under-biden-2021-08-28/) **in recent years under both the Trump and Biden administration**s, Israel and China have seen warming relations and more interest in Israeli innovations, especially in medical tech, robotics, food tech, and artificial intelligence.

But US pressure has had an impact. It was cited as one of the reasons Chinese investments have “waned” after reaching a peak in 2018, according to a [report](https://www.inss.org.il/publication/chinese-investments/) by the Institute for National Security Studies earlier this year. Other reasons include: a change in priorities in the Asian giant, and new restrictions on taking capital out of China; the spread of the pandemic; and a change in the investment climate in Israel with regard to Chinese companies due to US pressure. Chinese investments in Israel account for less than 10% of foreign capital investments in Israel, “way behind investments originating in the United States and Europe,” the report said. **More -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-inaugurates-new-haifa-port-terminal-in-expected-boost-for-economy/>

**Urging action, president laments deadly organized crime as ‘civilian terrorism’**

***Noting murders in the Arab Israeli community in particular, Herzog says situation is a ‘national emergency’ that threatens every citizen in the country***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:05 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/09/IMG-20210902-WA0002.jpg)

***President Isaac Herzog address the opening of the Tenth Annual Conference of the Israel Bar Association in Tel Aviv, September 2, 2021. (Amos Ben Gershom/GPO.)***

**President Isaac Herzog said Thursday that deadly violence from the criminal underworld is a national emergency and form of “terrorism” that threatens the entire country and requires immediate action.**

**Addressing the opening of the 10th Annual Conference of the Israel Bar Association at the Dan Intercontinental Hotel in Tel Aviv, Herzog noted, in particular, the wave of killings in the Arab Israeli community.**

**“I have been following in astonishment, apprehension, and horror for a long time, especially in recent weeks and days, the terrible wave of murders befalling our country in general and Arab society in particular,**” the president said, noting that there had been over 100 murders in the country since last September.  
 “I sense that our tendency to use terms that downplay the situation, such as ‘crime families,’ ‘inter-clan conflicts,’ and even ‘family honor killings’ — to describe murders that have nothing to do with honor, nor with family — make it difficult for us to wage this war,” he said. “And I therefore wish to emphasize: This situation is neither esoteric nor peripheral. This is civilian terrorism, for all intents and purposes.  
 “**This terrorism is a threat to all of us**. There is no such thing as a governance vacuum, or a sovereignty vacuum. Wherever we do not have a presence, as a state, as governing authorities — crime will take over,” he said. “This is a national emergency. We cannot continue living like this.”  
 Among those also attending the conference were Supreme Court President Esther Hayut, Israel Police Commissioner Yaakov Shabtai, Justice Minister Gideon Sa’ar, Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit and the head of the Israel Bar Association, Avi Himi.  
 On **Tuesday police unveiled a new undercover unit tasked with addressing violent crime in the Arab Israeli community. The Sinai** Unit will consist of 45 undercover officers, who will target hotspots and organized crime in Arab communities throughout the country.  
 Police chief Shabtai had pushed to enlist the Shin Bet security agency in the effort to combat crime in Arab Israeli communities but received pushback from the attorney general as well as the Shin Bet itself, which argued that such a task is not within its mandate.  
 Just hours before the unveiling of the Sinai Unit, 57-year-old Muhammed Faiz Dhiab was shot dead by unknown gunmen in his home in the northern city of Haifa.  
 Among other incidents, last month Education Minister Yifat Shasha-Biton’s adviser on Arab affairs, Sahar Ismail, was [shot dead just outside his home](https://www.timesofisrael.com/education-ministers-aide-for-arab-society-a-new-hope-member-shot-dead-at-home/) in the town of Rameh.  
 At least 80 Arabs have been murdered in community violence this year.  
 Arab Israelis blame police, whom they say have failed to crack down on powerful criminal organizations and largely ignore the violence, which includes family feuds, mafia turf wars and violence against women.  
 Shabtai on Sunday called an emergency meeting on the violence after four Arab Israelis were killed in apparent homicides over the weekend.  
 According to a 2020 Knesset report, some 400,000 illegal weapons are circulating in Israel, the vast majority in Arab communities.  
 Last **month, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that violence and crime in Arab Israeli communities was a “national calamity,” as** he met with senior government and police officials to formulate a national plan to tackle the issue. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/urging-action-president-laments-deadly-organized-crime-as-civilian-terrorism/> **[ One would like to think that Israel as a “Jewish country” with biblical values would not have such problems but like every other country Israel has a substantial non Jewish population as well as a large secular Jewish population and has just as many crime problems as most other countries – rdb]**

**Israeli soldier who collapsed during fitness training wakes up in hospital**

***Corporal Ahmad Sawaed, an accomplished athlete and Muslim who volunteered to serve in the IDF, fainted after suffering an apparent cardiac arrest during a physical on a military base***

*Ilana Curiel, Yoav Zitun | Published: 09.02.21, 20:17*

**An Israeli soldier who collapsed during a fitness training earlier this month opened his eyes on Thursday at a hospital where he was being treated.**

**Corporal Ahmad Sawaed was rushed to Be'er Sheva's Soroka Medical Center after he fell and lost consciousness during a physical at the Kzi'ot Military Base in the Negev.**

***Corporal Ahmad Sawaed***

According to a preliminary investigation into the incident, the fighter was exercising on the parallel bars when he suddenly fell to the ground and fainted.

 **The military originally thought this occurred due to a heat stroke, but it is now estimated that the soldier collapsed due to cardiac arr**est.

**Sawaed, an accomplished cyclist, is a Muslim from the northern village of Shefa-'Amr who volunteered to serve in the IDF**.

His parents, Majed and Sahaam, never left his bedside for a moment, urging him to "wake up."

After regaining conciseness, his mother said that she believes he will recover soon.

"He is very strong, I believe he will get out of this," she said. His father said that many high-ranking military officers came to visit him and ask how he was doing.

"He is a strong boy," he said. "There is a reason he wanted to become a commander, he wanted to keep going forward."

**Majed said that Ahmad seems to recognize them, but is still unable to talk.**

**"I keep telling him to wake up so we can go to the beach like we always do," he said.** [**https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h1sumlrzk**](https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h1sumlrzk)

**Study: COVID recovery gave Israelis longer-lasting Delta defense than vaccines**

***The variant was 27 times more likely to break through Pfizer protection from January-February and cause symptoms than it was to penetrate natural immunity from the same period***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 8:50 pm*

Natural immunity from contracting coronavirus provided Israelis with longer-lasting protection against the Delta variant than two shots of the Pfizer vaccine given early this year, new Israeli research suggests.

**The study by Maccabi Healthcare Service looked at individuals who had either gotten two shots of the vaccine by the end of February or tested positive for COVID-19 by** that time.

**It compared 46,035 Maccabi members who caught the coronavirus at some point during the pandemic and the same number of double-vaccinated peopl**e.

**People who had two vaccine shots had a six-fold higher chance of getting infected with Delta than patients who hadn’t been vaccinated but previously contracted the coronavi**rus, according to the research.

The study, [published online](https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.08.24.21262415v1.full.pdf) but not yet peer reviewed, is the largest of its kind. It doesn’t take booster shots — now widely given in Israel — into account, but given that most of the world is still giving a two-dose regimen, has international relevance.

But experts are stressing that the results shouldn’t be interpreted as discouragement from vaccinating. Immunologist Prof. Cyrille Cohen of Bar Ilan University, who was not involved in the study, told The Times of Israel: “Certain people who are not inclined to get vaccinated might be mistaken and think that this means you’d better get sick a priori and not get a vaccine. Such a thinking is medically wrong, and the results of the study do not mean that people should expose themselves on purpose and get sick. [**This fellows logic makes NO SENSE at all. Of the mortality rate is low for the disease and the immunity is better you are much better off getting the disease and being treated early by one of the MANY modalities that are available rather than taking a JAB that works poorly and has a high incidence of complications. This dude is flat out lying. – rdb]**

“As with other disease, it is much safer to get the vaccine and prevent COVID-19, a disease that puts one at risk of hospitalization, death and long-running after-effects.” [**Another lie! rdb**

In the two groups, there were 748 cases of SARS-CoV-2 breakthrough infections, 640 of which were in the vaccinated group and 108 in the previously infected group, which was relying on natural immunity alone.

**The vaccine-dependent people had a seven-fold higher chance of symptomatic infection, and a 6.7-fold higher chance of being hospitalized**.

In addition, a sample of 16,215 who were infected during Israel’s third wave in January-February 2021 was compared to an equal number of people vaccinated during that period. The contrast for these two groups was even starker: It showed that Delta had a 27-fold higher chance of breaking through vaccine protection from January and February and causing symptoms than breaking through natural immunity acquired in the same period and causing symptoms.  
 The study also found that when recovered patients boosted their natural protection with a single vaccine shot — as recommended by Israeli health officials — their protection reached new highs, and they had approximately half the infection risk of other recovered patients.  
 “Individuals who were previously infected with SARS-CoV-2 and given a single dose of the vaccine gained additional protection against the Delta variant,” the study suggested.  
 “The long-term protection provided by a third dose, recently administered in Israel, is still unknown.”  
 The authors, led by Dr. Sivan Gazit, deputy head of Maccabi’s research arm, noted that their study is significant for taking a wide time-frame and using a large data sample. They wrote: “Our large cohort, enabled by Israel’s rapid rollout of the mass-vaccination campaign, allowed us to investigate the risk for additional infection — either a breakthrough infection in vaccinated individuals or reinfection in previously infected ones — over a longer period than thus far described.”  
 Cohen said of the study: “The data presented is important and can draw a kind of immune hierarchy. From the most protected to the less, there are vaccinated convalescent, convalescent, then vaccinated and then preople who choose not to vaccinate, who are the most vulnerable.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/study-covid-recovery-gave-israelis-longer-lasting-delta-defense-than-vaccines/>

**Israeli officials cautioned Biden against heavy criticism of Egypt, Saudi Arabia**

***Jerusalem fears that singling out Sissi and MBS on human rights violations risks sending their countries into arms of Iran, China and Russia***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 11:13 am*

**NEW YORK — Israeli officials have cautioned their counterparts in the Biden administration against being overly critical of the Saudi and Egyptian governments, due to concerns that that such criticism might lead Riyadh and Cairo to turn to countries like Iran, China and Russia for support,** a source familiar with the matter told The Times of Israel on Wednesday.**[After the fiasco of Afghanistan these groups will automatically start looking at Russia and China because they know with “bi-dum” there can be no trust – rdb]**

Biden entered office vowing to place a premium on human rights in the crafting of his foreign policy, warning that countries such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt would need to reform if they wanted to maintain their longstanding relationships with the US.

**But that approach has worried Jerusalem, which believes it could alienate Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman and Egypt’s President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, leading them to look elsewhere for support and alli**ances — namely from Iran, but also from US adversaries China and Russia. Those concerns have been passed along to administration officials on multiple occasions, said the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

**However, the matter was not raised during the meeting between Biden and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett last week, The Times of Israel has lear**ned.

The source expressed satisfaction that while the Biden administration has maintained its rhetoric in favor of upholding human rights abroad, it has “thus far avoided upending US relations with [Cairo and Riyadh] entirely.”

Israel views Saudi Arabia and Egypt as part of a more moderate axis of Arab countries in the region with which it seeks to cooperate against Iran, and has been reported in the past to lobby the US in support of economic aid for both countries.

Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1979, ending decades of conflict and establishing full diplomatic relations. In recent years, the two countries have cooperated closely on security, mostly surrounding the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula.

Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, has drawn closer to Israel amid both countries’ efforts to thwart Iran’s regional aspirations; however, it has so far resisted establishing diplomatic ties with the Jewish state. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-officials-cautioned-biden-against-heavy-criticism-of-egypt-saudi-arabia/>

**Palestinian president says he's ready for confidence-building with Israel**

***Meeting with Egypt's al-Sisi and Jordan's Abdullah in Cairo, the three leaders pledge 'to work together on vision to activate efforts aimed at resuming negotiations, and work to revive the peace process'***

*Reuters | Published: 09.02.21, 19:11*

**Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Thursday he was ready to take confidence-building measures and restore calm in the Palestinian territories, though Israel's actions had made a two-state solution imp**ossible.  
 **Abbas spoke as he met Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah in Cairo, days after he held talks with Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz** in a rare high-level meeting.  
 **Egypt played a leading role in brokering the ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian Islamist faction Hamas** after 11 days of conflict in May in the Gaza Strip, and has since been trying to help reinforce the truce amid occasional renewed flare-ups of violence and to facilitate reconstruction in Gaza.  
 In Cairo, the three leaders pledged "to work together to refine a vision to activate efforts aimed at resuming negotiations, and work with brothers and partners to revive the peace process", according to a statement released by Egypt's presidency.  
 Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians collapsed in 2014 and analysts say there is little prospect of reviving them, partly due to divisions between Abbas' Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip. The PA seeks an independent state in Gaza and the West Bank.  
 In an address at the Cairo talks, Abbas said that although an escalation of Israeli "violations" had made a two-state solution in line with international law unattainable, the PA was committed to peaceful methods.  
 "We renew our readiness to work in this stage to prepare the atmosphere by the application of confidence-building steps that include achieving comprehensive calm in Palestinian lands," he said, according to a text published by the state-run Palestinian news agency Wafa.  
 After Abbas met with Gantz, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett quickly played down the idea of any move towards peace negotiations, though Israel also agreed to lend the Palestinian Authority $150 million.  
 Foreign Minister Yair Lapid cast doubt on Wednesday on the prospects for a two-state solution, saying such a move could destabilize the cross-partisan coalition. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/skh2horwk>

**Despite Biden ‘success’ claims, US officials ‘horrified’ at abandoned Americans**

***‘We have failed that no-fail mission,’ administration official says as evacuation ends; Afghans left behind also feel betrayed by US and allies***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *Today, 5:38 am*

**Despite US President Joe Biden calling the American evacuation from Kabul an “**[**extraordinary success**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-forcefully-defends-decision-to-end-forever-war-and-forever-exit/)**,” officials in his administration were appalled that US forces left with several hundred Americans still in Afghanista**n, now under Taliban rule.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/09/000_9LY3J4.jpg) “**I am absolutely appalled and literally horrified** we left Americans there,” one administration official told the [Politico news site.](https://www.politico.com/news/2021/08/31/biden-blame-afghanistan-508204)  
 Biden on Tuesday appeared to say that those who remained did so out of their own free will and could leave in the future.  
 “The bottom line: 90 percent of Americans in Afghanistan who wanted to leave were able to leave. For those remaining Americans, there is no deadline. We remain committed to get them out, if they want to come out,” Biden said.  
 He contended 100 to 200 Americans are still there and have “some intention to leave,” adding: “Most of those who remain are dual citizens, longtime residents, but earlier decided to stay because of their family roots in Afghanistan.”  
 White House press secretary Jen Psaki said afterward that Biden was telling those people that if they decide in two weeks that they want to go, “we will get you out.”  
 **But other officials painted a different picture**.  
 “It **was a hostage rescue of thousands of Americans in the guise of a NEO [noncombatant evacuation operations], and we have failed that no-fail mission,” the official told Politico**.  
 Another **White House official said that the mission isn’t accomplished if they left Americans behind**.  
 And **military officers appeared to contradict Biden’s assessment** of the desire to leave of those left behind.  
 Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of US Central Command, said Monday that [Americans tried to get to the Kabul airport for the final evacuations but couldn’t](https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/2759183/pentagon-press-secretary-john-f-kirby-and-general-kenneth-f-mckenzie-jr-hold-a/). No Americans were on the last five jets to leave.  
 “We **maintained the ability to bring them in up until immediately before departure, but we were not able to bring any Americans out,” he said. “That activity ended probably about 12 hours before our exit**, although we continue the outreach and would have been prepared to bring them on until the very last minute. But none of them made it to the airport, and were able to be — and were able to be accommodated.”  
 US **officials estimated up to 200 Americans were left behind**, along with unknown numbers of Afghans and others who were trying frantically to leave. By then, more than 100,000 people, mostly Afghans, had been flown to safety in the multinational evacuations.  
 As the last US soldiers left after the 20-year-long American deployment there, Afghans are making desperate appeals to the West not to forget those left behind, fearing for their lives from the Taliban.  
***Afghans left behind*** Freshta, an artist and mother of two young children, is one of those who has gone into hiding, one of the desperate voices coming out of Afghanistan in the wake of the US withdrawal.  
 Freshta — whose name has been changed for security reasons — was one of those who was not able to join the evacuations organized by foreign countries via Kabul airport.  
 Taliban fighters gather along a street during a rally in Kabul on August 31, 2021 as they celebrate after the US pulled all its troops out of the country. (Hoshang Hashimi / AFP)

***Burqa clad Afghan women walk near the premises of Wazir Akbar Khan hospital in Kabul on September 1, 2021. (Photo by Aamir QURESHI / AFP)*** Two days before an attack at Kabul airport killed more than 100 people, the 33-year-old artist and painter had tried to get on a flight organized by France.  
 But after a long wait with her five-month-old baby and five-year-old daughter, “stressed” by the chaos around the airport and frightened by shots fired by Taliban soldiers, she had to turn back.  
 Now Freshta is in hiding at home in Kabul, in despair at the turn of events.  
 “In 20 years, we tried a lot to make our country to be a nation, to progress,” she tells AFP by phone. “Our message: Please think about those innocent people who don’t have any way out of Afghanistan.”  
 Freshta called on the outside world “not to be silent about our situation.”  
 Hers is one of a number of cases being supported by a coalition of artists and cultural figures based in France.  
 If other countries “recognize the Taliban regime our situation in the future will get worse. They should listen to our voice,” she said.  
 Now she is simply “waiting” to see what the future holds while asking relatives to shop for her and limiting her movements to a bare minimum. Even then she makes sure she is fully veiled.  
 “It’s dangerous for me because I did a lot as an artist,” she said.  
 **The Taliban’s attempt to reassure Afghans opposed to their ideology cuts no ice with Freshta**.

“We **cannot trust the Taliban**,” she insisted. “Their actions and speech are totally different.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/despite-biden-success-claims-us-officials-horrified-at-abandoned-americans/>

**Tajikistan sounds alarm over impending Afghan refugee crisis, warns of stream of desperate people after fall of Kabul to Taliban**

*2 Sep, 2021 17:29 By* ***Rachel Lloyd***

**The government of Tajikistan has called on the international community for help managing a sharp spike in the number of people seeking asylum from neighboring Afghanistan, after US forces pulled out of the Central Asian** nation.

**Speaking on Thursday, Tajikistan’s minister of internal affairs, Ramazon Rahimov, explained that the country was running out of resources to help displaced people crossing the border.** *“Tajikistan does not have the capacity to accommodate a large number of refugees and asylum seekers,”* he said.

In July, the deputy head of the Tajikistan Emergency Situations Committee, Emomali Ibrokhimzoda, pledged that the nation was ready to take in 100,000 asylum seekers and would be working with international organizations to help prepare. Since then, the government has put aside approximately 70 hectares of land along the Afghan border for displaced people.

**However, the country now says it does not have the ability to support the large number of people on its own, and Rahimov has called out to the international commun**ity. *“Not a single international organization in 20 years has provided us with practical help in creating infrastructure to take in refugees and asylum seekers,”* he said. The nation, which is the poorest in Central Asia, is now trying to appeal for assistance from the world to alleviate the problem.

Regional leaders have remained cautious of the situation, over fears of potential security threats from Afghanistan in the form of Islamist militants and terrorists disguised as refugees. Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have already closed their borders to citizens of the Taliban-controlled country.

**Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin has emphasized that the security of his country and surrounding ones comes first. When the West proposed placing those fleeing from the Taliban in Central Asian countries before they obtained visas, he slammed the idea, asking how safety could be guarante**ed.

Tajikistan and Afghanistan share a 1,344 km border. According to the State Committee for National Security of Tajikistan, the situation is currently calm and controlled since the Taliban came to power.

Around 15,000 men, women, and children have been granted asylum by Tajikistan over the past two decades. There are currently 80 families on neutral territory seeking entry into the country. <https://www.rt.com/russia/533777-tajikistan-alarm-afghan-refugee-crisis/>

**‘War zone’: Sweden rocked by two overnight explosions, and politician points to gang-crime**

*2 Sep, 2021 12:45*

**A Swedish MP has said his country is starting to look like a war zone after a city and town saw explosions during the night, with one death reported, amid a gang-crime epidemic in the once-peaceful nati**on.

**In the early hours of Thursday morning, police in Sweden were called to a residential estate in the town of Varnamo where a man was found severely injured after a reported explosion. He was taken to hospital where he died from his injuries. The explosive charge was so powerful that it was heard in large parts of the town**, police told reporters.

**The Swedish daily newspaper Aftonbladet, citing police sources, said the deceased man had accidentally blown himself up. It is believed he was carrying a bomb and intended to threaten or scare “w***itnesses.”*

The individual in question had connections to a motorbike gang, Johan Borg, operational coordinator for the Varnamo police, told reporters at a press conference on Thursday. Other emergency service personnel were also called to the scene of the explosion.

En liten fridfull stad för en del år sedan… vad har hänt? Man död efter explosion i centrala Värnamo <https://t.co/fNJVC3OCCE>[pic.twitter.com/XRFS7LjoyH](https://t.co/XRFS7LjoyH)

— Anders Gerdmar (@agerdmar) [September 2, 2021](https://twitter.com/agerdmar/status/1433309912025767939?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Meanwhile, the city of Helsingborg was also shaken by an explosion in the early hours on Thursday morning, although the events are not thought to be linked. A property had its windows and doors blown out and considerable damage was caused to a house opposit**e.

Bomb experts were called to the scene, but it is understood that there aren’t any suspects so far. Residents told local media that there was a strong smell of gunpowder following the explosion. The explosions come amid escalating gang-violence and an epidemic of crime.

**Swedish MP Johan Forssell** [**said**](https://twitter.com/JohanForssell/status/1433291517846822912) **on Twitter that Sweden was resembling a “war zone,” adding that the country needs to get rid of criminal gangs and restore** security.

The overnight events come after Stockholm politician Irene Svenonius wrote to the government on Monday demanding crisis talks about Sweden’s dire gang-crime issues. She said that more than 70 shootings have taken place in the Stockholm region during the first seven months of the year, adding that 16 people have been killed and innocent children have been injured by stray bullets.

She claimed that the Swedish capital is no longer recognizable. Svenonius also made a number of demands of the government, including ensuring that migrants in Sweden are taught the language and have a chance to succeed. <https://www.rt.com/news/533741-sweden-crime-gangs-bomb/>

**New Covid variant, known as ‘Mu’, under close WHO scrutiny due to concerns over its vaccine resistance**

*1 Sep, 2021 11:21*

**The World Health Organization (WHO) has reclassified the ‘Mu’ Covid strain, also known as B.1.621, as a “variant of interest,” amid concerns that its mutations indicate a potential risk of resista**nce to existing vaccines.

The WHO announced the classification in the organization’s weekly pandemic bulletin on Tuesday, several months after the Mu strain was first identified in Colombia.

**“The Mu variant has a constellation of mutations that indicate potential properties of immune esca***pe,”* the WHO said, adding that *“preliminary data showed it has the same behaviour as the Beta variant.”***[This is exactly what we were told to happen if you proceed with a massive Jab campaign during a pandemic. It promotes the development of multiple variants. This was a prediction by the man who developed the technology. Cure STUPID NO way and with fauci and friends are stupid or vile evil critters – rdb]**

The decision to monitor the Mu strain comes amid concern from the WHO about the potential risk of resistance to vaccines posed by new mutations, as case numbers begin to rise globally in countries that have relaxed Covid restrictions.

Since first emerging in Colombia back in January, the Mu variant has spread to other South American nations and some parts of Europe. Despite adding it to its monitoring list, the WHO says the Mu strain only has a 0.1% global prevalence among sequenced cases.added to the list since June, when the Lambda mutation – first detected in Peru – was included among those being monitored by the WHO.

Currently, the WHO has identified four strains as *“variants of concern,”* including Alpha, which has spread to 193 countries, and Delta, which has fueled a rise in cases across the globe. Five strains, now including Mu, are being monitored as *“variants of interest.”* [*https://www.rt.com/news/533619-covid-variant-mu-who-scrutiny/*](https://www.rt.com/news/533619-covid-variant-mu-who-scrutiny/)

**He authorized Moderna's vaccine 6 months ago. Now, ex-FDA chief Hahn joins biotech's backer**

*by* [*Kyle LaHucik*](https://www.fiercebiotech.com/author/kyle-lahucik) *| Jun 14, 2021 7:51pm*

**Money and high-profile names, they’re a double threat. Flagship Pioneering, the venture firm behind Moderna, snagged both during a busy Mond**ay.

**After raising $2.2 billion in an extension to its seventh fund Monday morning, Flagship followed up in the afternoon by confirming that ex-FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, M.D., will join the biotech incubator in a chief medical officer ro**le.

**CAR-T therapies have shown tremendous clinical potential, yet their manufacturing remains challenging. Dr. Qasim Rafiq of UCL shares strategies for accelerating CAR-T expansion and optimizing cell product quality as well as his perspective on the future of CAR-T manu**facturing.

Hahn led the FDA through the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and made statements that irked scientists, including his comments on convalescent plasma while standing by former President Donald Trump’s side. He faced pressure from all sides: including reported calls from Trump himself to authorize a COVID-19 vaccine or go, and from the public, industry and others urging him to take his time and get it right.

***Stephen Hahn, M.D. (FDA****)*

**But now, Hahn will head for another high pressure environment: biotech investing. He is now joining Flagship, the venture fund that birthed Moderna, the very company that earned Hahn's nod six months** ago.

**Under Hahn's watch, the FDA granted emergency use authorization to the company's COVID-19 vaccine just behind a similar OK for Pfizer and BioNTech's jab. Tens of millions of Americans have now received a Moderna sh**ot. **[HUMMMM? You don’t think there might be a bit of a conflict of interest here HUMMMM? If they become any more brazen it will be simply too overwhelming – rdb]**

Hahn will help lead Flagship’s nascent Preemptive Medicine and Health Security business. Flagship founder and CEO Noubar Afeyan, Ph.D., is also chairman of Moderna.

With today’s funding, Flagship has a stockpile of cash to support the program, which Hahn begins leading on Wednesday. Hahn said funding and new ideas in preemptive medicine have “never been more heightened,” according to a [statement](https://www.flagshippioneering.com/press/dr-stephen-hahn-24th-us-fda-commissioner-and-former-chief-medical-executive-at-md-anderson-joins-flagship-pioneering-as-chief-medical-officer-of-flagships-preemptive-medicine-and-health-security-initiative). Prior to the FDA, Hahn was chief medical executive at MD Anderson Cancer Center.  
 “We are delighted that Flagship will benefit from Steve’s clinical and administrative leadership in helping us dimension and pursue our growing number of explorations and companies in this emerging field,” Afeyan said in the statement.  
 **Hahn is not the only former FDA higher-up to land in the private sector in recent weeks. Two weeks ago, ex-FDA deputy Amy Abernethy, M.D., Ph.D., joined Alphabet’s life sciences unit Verily as president of clinical research. Abernethy suddenly departed the FDA recently after having been a contender for the agency’s top spot, a role for which Fierce Pharma voters deemed her to be the** [**No. 1. choice**](https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/pick-commish-fierce-pharma-voters-select-amy-abernethy-for-next-fda-chief)**.**  
 Hahn also **follows the precedent of Scott Gottlieb, M.D., who ran the FDA from May 2017 to April 2019. Less than three months after leaving, he joined the board of Pfizer after partnering with VC firm New Enterprise Associates and think tank American Enterprise Institute, all of which went against Trump's pl**edge to “drain the swamp."  
 The appointment also comes a week after Hahn's former place of employment gave conditional approval to Biogen’s controversial Alzheimer’s disease drug Aduhelm. Doug Cole, managing partner at Flagship, [told Fierce Biotech](https://www.fiercebiotech.com/biotech/investor-interest-alzheimer-s-changed-dime-following-fda-s-decision-biogen-s-aducanumab) last week that the approval would be a sign of encouragement for people “who may have been waiting for some indication that there was a path to products” in the Alzheimer’s space. Flagship-backed Denali Therapeutics is also working on Alzheimer’s treatments. <https://www.fiercebiotech.com/biotech/six-months-after-granting-moderna-covid-19-eua-ex-fda-commish-joins-biotech-s-founding> [**Do you note a pattern here??? Yesterday I posted an article on follow the money – well here is why. Evil crooked criminals are in high positions in this deep state bureaucracy in DC - rdb**

**Archbishop: 'Luciferian' globalists exploiting COVID for 'Great Reset'**

***'There are two sides, the side of God and the side of Satan'***

[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/klaus-schwab-world-economic-forum-wef-davos.jpg)*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published September 1, 2021 at 8:29pm*   
 ***Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman, World Economic Forum (Wikimedia Commons)***  
 **Roman Catholic Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, a former papal ambassador to the United States, continued his criticism of the globalist "Great Reset," warning in a new speech that corrupt civil and church authorities have joined forces to exploit the coronavirus pandemic in their quest to bolster global sovereignty**.  
 He made it clear whose side he believes the authorities are on.  
 "Everything that we know, discover, and understand about the global conspiracy currently unfolding shows us a tremendous reality that is also at the same time sharp and clearly defined: there are two sides, the side of God and the side of Satan, the side of the children of Light and the side of the children of darkness," he said a [speech delivered Aug. 28 in Italian and translated to English and published by LifeSiteNews](https://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/vigano-considerations-on-the-great-reset-and-the-new-world-order/).  
[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Archbishop_Carlo_Maria_Vigano.jpg)  
 ***Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò***  
 **Viganò said it must be "understood that the corrupt part of the civil authority – the deep state – and the corrupt part of ecclesiastical authority – the deep church – are two sides of the same coin, both instrumental to the establishment of the New World Order."  
 He recalled the teaching of Jesus recorded in Matthew 6:24 that it's impossible to serve two masters.  
 And further, Jesus said in Matthew 12:30, "Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters**."  
 **Vigano said that in the "alliance between civil and religious power," there is a spiritual dimension that must be understood in "the context of the war that Lucifer, ever since his fall, has waged against** God."  
[](https://www.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/schwab-great-reset.jpg) Bottom of Form

That **war is coming to a conclusion he said, which is "why the forces of darkness are so wild at present, so impatient to cancel the name of Our Lord from** the earth."  
 In **April,** [**Vigano charged that the Vatican betrayed its mission**](https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/4909909/) **with its hosting of a health conference featuring pro-abortion figures such as Chelsea Clinton, population control advocate Jane Goodall, a New Age activist, Dr. Anthony Fauci and developers of vaccines using fetal cells.** In January, [Viganò declared in an interview](https://www.wnd.com/2021/01/4882053/) that practicing Catholic Joe Biden's ties to China and his globalist policies would make him an "irreparable disaster" as president.  
 Last October, [Vigano wrote an open letter to then-President Trump warning the president is "the final garrison" against the "Great Reset,"](https://www.wnd.com/2020/10/4865936/) a plan by the World Economic Forum to use the coronavirus pandemic as an opportunity to advance globalism.   
  
**No denying it**  
 **In his speech Saturday, he described the Great Reset as a "criminal plan, conceived for decades and aimed at establishing a universal dictatorship in which a minority of immeasurably rich and powerful people intends to enslave and subjugate the whole of humanity to the globalist ideology**."  
 "The accusation of 'conspiracy theory' could perhaps have made sense when the conspiracy was not yet evident, but today denying what the elite has planned since the 1950s is unjustifiable," he said.  
 Vigano **criticized the "suspension of citizens' rights" through "lockdowns, curfews, closures of commercial activities (and) limitations of public services and classes" that have not achieved the results promised by health authorities**.  
 He **pointed to a recent Oxford University study published in The Lancet finding that the viral load of the delta variant in fully vaccinated people is 251 times greater than the first strains of the virus**. The CDC has now conceded that the fully vaccinated can become infected and spread the virus.  
 **Science has been turned into "scientism," the archbishop said, arguing that the art of medicine is not a science but the application of scientific principles to various** cases.  
 The "religion of science" that has manifested during the COVID-19 pandemic "has cloaked itself in a dogmatism bordering on superstition," he said.  
 "The ministers of this cult have constituted themselves as a caste of untouchables, exempt from any criticism even when their claims are denied by the evidence of the facts," Vigano said.  
 "**The principles of medicine, considered universally valid until February 2020, have given way to improvisation, to the point of being advised to vaccinate at the height of the pandemic, the obligation of masks being imposed although they are useless, the arbitrary mandating of bizarre distances, the prohibition of treatments with effective drugs and the imposition of experimental gene therapies in violation of normal safety protocols," the archbishop said, according to the English translat**ion.  
 Along with the new "COVID priests" he said are "heretics" who "reject the new pandemic religion and want to remain faithful to the Hippocratic Oath."  
 "Not **infrequently, the aura of infallibility that surrounds virologists and other more or less titled scientists does not seem to be questioned due to their conflicts of interest or by the substantial financial benefits** received by pharmaceutical companies, which under normal conditions would be scandalous and criminal," he said. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/09/archbishop-luciferian-globalists-exploiting-covid-great-reset/>

**[Me thinks the archbishop is absolutely correct – rdb]**

**Who’s Really Being Hospitalized?**

***Breakthrough cases reach majority levels in some jurisdictions but numbers elude CDC***

***BY***[***Jennifer Margulis, EPOCH TIMES***](https://www.theepochtimes.com/author-jennifer-margulis)*August 30, 2021*

“I’m not going to arm wrestle with the administration about where to put you,” Dr. C., a highly skilled gastroenterologist, said gently to my friend who was in bed in a triage room in the ER. “We just want to get you into a bed so we can figure out what’s wrong and get you treated.”

We were at our small town’s hospital. No one was sure why, but my friend had not been able to keep anything more than a handful of raspberries down since a complicated surgery for a chronic health condition three weeks before. Dehydrated and unable to eat, my friend had been violently vomiting after taking just a sip of water or sucking on an ice chip, and had lost nearly twenty-five pounds.  
 I was by my husband’s side when he had a gallbladder attack so severe that it left his hands shaking. I’ve had three unmedicated [childbirths](https://www.theepochtimes.com/home-birth-may-start-babies-off-with-health-promoting-microbes_3010755.html) and attended many more, both as a journalist and a patient advocate. Still, I’ve never seen a human in so much pain.

***Diagnosed with a Pancreas Disorder, Admitted as a COVID Patient***

**After a battery of testing, my friend was diagnosed with pancreatitis. But it was easier for the hospital bureaucracy to register the admission as a COVID cas**e.

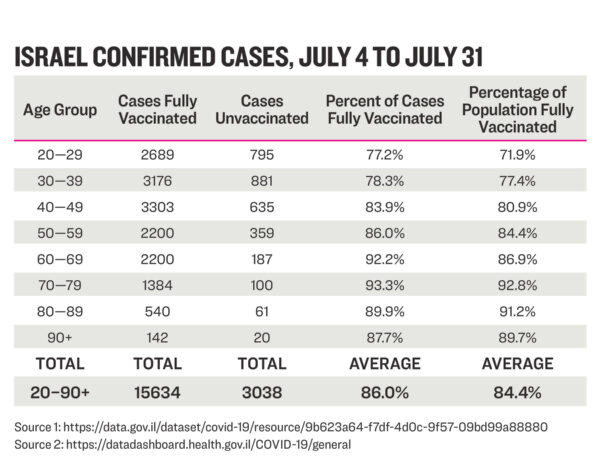
**Let me explain. This patient had none of the classic symptoms of COVID: No shortness of breath, no fever, no chills, no congestion, no loss of sense of smell or taste, no neurological issues. The only COVID symptoms my friend had were nausea and fatigue, which could also be explained by the surgery. However, nearly three weeks earlier, a COVID test had come back posit**ive.

**The mainstream media is reporting that severe COVID cases are mainly among unvaccinated peop**le. An[Associated Press headline](https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-health-941fcf43d9731c76c16e7354f5d5e187) from June 29 reads: “Nearly all COVID deaths in US are now among unvaccinated.” Another, from the same date: “Vast majority of ICU patients with COVID-19 are unvaccinated,[ABC News](https://abcnews.go.com/US/vast-majority-icu-patients-covid-19-unvaccinated-abc/story?id=79128401) survey finds.”

**Is that what’s really going on? It’s certainly not the case in Israel, the first country to fully vaccinate a majority of its citizens against the virus. Now it has one of the highest daily infection rates and the majority of people catching the virus (77 percent to 83 percent, depending on age) are already vaccinated**, according to data collected by the Israeli government.

After carefully reviewing the available data, including the safety and[efficacy](https://www.theepochtimes.com/fauci-suggests-he-doesnt-trust-major-new-covid-19-vaccine-study_3949753.html) profiles of the mRNA vaccines, my friend had taken a cautious approach. Though a medical doctor who gives vaccines in the office every day, my friend opted to wait and see.[According to WebMD](https://www.webmd.com/vaccines/covid-19-vaccine/news/20210628/huge-number-of-hospital-workers), **a “huge number” of frontline hospital workers have also chosen not to get the vaccine. Indeed, various news reports, from**[**California**](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-12-31/healthcare-workers-refuse-covid-19-vaccine-access)**to**[**New York**](https://www.newsday.com/news/region-state/nursing-homes-vaccine-covid-19-1.50110346)**, confirm that up to 40 percent of health care workers have decided the risks of the vaccin**es do not outweigh the benefits.

After admission, I spoke to the nurse on the COVID ward. She was suited up in a plastic yellow disposable gown, teal gloves, and two masks underneath a recirculating personal respiratory system that buzzed so loudly she could barely hear. The nurse told me that she had gotten both vaccines but she was feeling worried: **“Two thirds of my patients are fully vaccinated,” she said.**

[](https://img.theepochtimes.com/assets/uploads/2021/08/01/Israel-confirmed-cases-table.jpg)

**Data Limitations**

**How can there be such a disconnect between what the COVID ward nurse told me and the mainstream media reports? For one thing, it is very hard to get any kind of accuracy when it comes to actual numbers. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have publicly acknowledged that they do not have accurate** data.

As[reported by the Associated Press](https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-health-941fcf43d9731c76c16e7354f5d5e187), “**The CDC itself has not estimated what percentage of hospitalizations and deaths are in fully vaccinated people, citing limitations in the data**.”

At the same time, data collection is done on a state by state basis. In most states, a person is only considered fully vaccinated fourteen days after they have had the full series of the vaccine.

This means that anyone coming into an American hospital who has only had one dose, or who has had both vaccines but had the second one less than two weeks prior, will likely be counted as “unvaccinated.”

**So when the South Carolina’s Department of Health and Environmental Control released a**[**report about COVID severity**](https://scdhec.gov/news-releases/dhec-analysis-more-90-percent-covid-19-cases-deaths-june-were-among-unvaccinated)**on July 23, 2021, they reported higher morbidity and mortality rates in the “not fully vaccinated.” Are these people who have had one vaccine and gotten sick, two vaccines and gotten sick, or no vaccines at all? Without more details, it is impossible to know what is really g**oing on.

“We don’t have accurate numbers,” insists Dr. James Neuenschwander, an expert on vaccine safety based in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**But what we do know, Neuenschwander says, is that the vaccines are not as effective as public health officials told us they would be. “**This is a product that’s not doing what it’s supposed to do. It’s supposed to stop transmission of this virus and it’s not doing that.”

**Overcounting COVID**

**Then there is the problem of attributing severe illness and deaths from other causes to COVID, like in my friend’s case. Health authorities around the world have been doing this since the beginning of the COVID crisis**. For example, a young man in Orange County, Florida who died in a motorcycle crash last summer was originally considered a COVID death by state health officials (after Fox News[investigation](https://www.fox35orlando.com/news/fox-35-investigates-questions-raised-after-fatal-motorcycle-crash-listed-as-covid-19-death) the classification was changed.) And a middle-aged construction worker fell off a ladder in Croatia and was also counted as a[death from COVID](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2665910720300888#bib0015) (whether having COVID played a role in his death is still unclear.)

**To muddy the waters further, even people who test negative for COVID are sometimes counted as COVID dea**ths.

Consider the case of 26-year-old Matthew Irvin, a father of three from Yamhill County, Oregon. As reported by[KGW8 News](https://www.kgw.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/family-of-oregons-youngest-covid-19-victim-wants-answers-after-he-tested-negative/283-f5be7be0-ca03-4d02-bb75-8dee0ff4235e), Irvin went to the ER with stomach pain, nausea, and diarrhea on July 5, 2020. But instead of admitting him to the hospital, the doctors sent him home.

**Five days later, on July 10, 2020, Irvin died. Though his COVID test came back negative two days after his death and his family told reporters and public health officials that no one Irvin had been around had any COVID symptoms, the medical examiner allegedly told the family that an autopsy was not necessary, listing his death as a coronavirus ca**se. It took the Oregon Health Authority[two and a half months](https://www.facebook.com/keprtv/posts/the-oregon-health-authority-confirmed-on-wednesday-that-matthew-irvin-26-did-not/10158512402576183/) to correct the mistake.

In an even more striking example of overcounting COVID deaths, a nursing home in New Jersey that only has 90 beds was[wrongly reported](https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86967) as having 753 deaths from COVID. According to a spokesman, they had fewer than twenty deaths. In other words, **the number of deaths was over-reported by 3,700 percent**.

**Who’s Suffering from Severe COVID, Vaccinated or Unvaccinated?**

**In countries with the highest numbers of vaccinated individuals, we are also seeing high numbers of infections. Iceland has one of the most vaccinated populations in the world (over 82 percent) and is reporting that 77 percent of new COVID cases are in fully vaccinated Icelanders**, according to Ásthildur Knútsdóttir, Director General of the Ministry of Health.

**According to news reports, over 85 percent of the Israeli adult population has been vaccinated. But a July report from Israel’s Ministry of Health found that Pfizer’s vaccine is**[**only 39 percent effective**](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/23/delta-variant-pfizer-covid-vaccine-39percent-effective-in-israel-prevents-severe-illness.html)**. Though Israeli health officials are telling the public that the cases are more mild in vaccinated individuals,** this upsurge in COVID cases and deaths is leading Israel’s prime minister to issue new restrictions.

**Dr. Peter McCullough, an academic internist and cardiologist in practice in Dallas, Texas, says that a large number of people in the hospitals right now have, indeed, been fully vaccinated**. “Fully vaccinated people are being hospitalized, and … 19 percent of them have died,” McCullough says. “This is not a crisis of the unvaccinated. That’s just a talking point. The vaccinated are participating in this.”

Other physicians are seeing the same thing. “In my practice multiple patients who are fully vaccinated have been admitted to local hospitals,” says Dr. Jeffrey I. Barke, a board-certified primary care physician based in Newport Beach, California. **Barke believes part of the problem is exaggeration of the efficacy**: “If the vaccine works so well, why are we now pushing a booster?”

*Jennifer Margulis, Ph.D., is an award-winning journalist and author of Your Baby, Your Way: Taking Charge of Your Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Parenting Decisions for a Happier, Healthier Family. A Fulbright awardee and mother of four, she has worked on a child survival campaign in West Africa, advocated for an end to child slavery in Pakistan on prime-time TV in France, and taught post-colonial literature to non-traditional students in inner-city Atlanta. Learn more about her at JenniferMargulis.net*< <https://www.israpundit.org/whos-really-being-hospitalized/> **[What we are seeing and have seen for almost 2 years now is a deep state controlled medical oversight group that is blatantly lying and distorting all the statistics. They are being aided by corporate medical business associations and hospitals who are assisting because of huge revenues and a corporate media which is an extension of the Marxist groups pulling all the strings. The head of the snake is the WEC and WHO and all their affiliates such as Gates, Soros and Schwab as well and the mega media corps who are constantly on the take for buck. We are being played like an old violin and it will continue until either there is rebellion of the Messiah returns. - rdb**

**Commentary:**

**The Biden Administration Wants You to Forget Afghanistan**[Dinesh D'Souza](https://townhall.com/columnists/dineshdsouza/) Posted: Sep 01, 2021 3:40 PM  
 The Biden Administration is hoping that you and I will quickly forget what just happened in Afghanistan. That we'll quickly forget the 13 U.S. servicemen killed. We'll quickly forget the Americans left behind, that we will move on. That's the goal.  
 Pentagon Spokesman John Kirby minimized the Americans stranded in Afghanistan and basically said, "Well, what's so unusual about that?"  
 "How does diplomacy get those people out of the Taliban-controlled Afghanistan?" MSNBC's Willie Geist asked.  
 "It's not completely unlike the way we do it elsewhere around the world. I mean, we have Americans that get stranded in countries all the time," Kirby responded.  
 Wow, it happens all the time! You know, you forgot your passport, and you can't get back, or you lost it in France. And you know, you're stranded there for a while. Well, there's a little bit of a difference in those isolated situations and America having drawn all these Americans to work, teach and serve in Afghanistan in this capacity or that and then when it comes time to get them out, "Sorry, we're out of here! We'll leave you behind!"  
 The callousness of this really shocking. It's almost like they're daring the American people to do something about it – "This is who we are. We're running the country. It's our decision."  
 In the same vein, Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats blocked a group of Republican congressmen from reading the names of the 13 servicemen killed. You could say that this was out of political embarrassment; they don't want the solemnity of all this, the gravity of it, the sheer negligence of it, to be apparent. So they're trying to push it all under the rug.  
 Think about the contrast between refusing to let the names of the servicemen even be read on the floor, on the one hand, and Pelosi, Schumer and all these Democrats taking a knee, kind of obsequiously bowing and scraping before you know George Floyd. They don't want to honor the servicemen, but they want to honor a guy who is a home invader, a drug abuser, a check forger. If these are your heroes, you just might be a Democrat.   
 Very disturbingly, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan was just on television with ABC's George Stephanopoulos, and he dropped an idea that has not really received the attention I think it deserves – the United States is getting ready to pay ransoms to the Taliban, to give them huge amounts of money.   
 Sullivan was aware that this is a delicate topic. So he broached it in this way. He said, in effect, that we've been giving aid to Afghanistan for a long time, and there are a lot of humanitarian needs over there.   
 Well, there might be. But when a country becomes your deadly enemy, you don't normally supply development aid to those countries. So not only was Sullivan saying that there could be ways for this development aid to continue, but he was also offering what was clearly a carrot to the Taliban, essentially saying, "our money is your leverage." If there are Americans left over there and other Afghan allies that we want to get out, we're willing to give the Taliban, our enemy, and in fact now the strongest terrorist regime in the world, taxpayer money.   
 Let's remember, this is not Jake Sullivan's money. It's not Antony Blinken's money. It's not Biden's money. It's your money, and it's going to be going to the Taliban under this administration.   
 The efforts to shift the blame continue. Blame Trump, blame the American people. There's an article in The Atlantic titled "Afghanistan Is Your Fault: The American public now has what it wanted." Max Boot of the Washington Post wrote, "Who is to blame for the deaths of 13 service members in Kabul?" According to him, we all are. You are. I am.  
 But who planned this evacuation? Who organized it? Who botched it? It was Biden from start to finish.  
 Now, the United States is in the groveling role. General Kenneth McKenzie called the Taliban "our generous host nation."  
 So we have to now kowtow to these people. We have to prepare to give them aid and money. Why? All because of an operation in which the Americans who have been left behind could have been evacuated in the first place. But the Biden people are hoping that by the time the midterms come along next year, this will be a long and distant memory for most Americans. <https://townhall.com/columnists/dineshdsouza/2021/09/01/the-biden-administration-wants-you-to-forget-afghanistan-n2595144>

**There's a Problem in the Upper Reaches of Our Military**[*Victor Davis Hanson*](https://townhall.com/columnists/victordavishanson/) *Posted: Sep 02, 2021 12:01 A* It is the beginning of a never-ending bad dream. Joe Biden and the Pentagon have managed to birth a new terrorist haven, destroy much of U.S. strategic deterrence, and alienate our allies and much of the country.  
In the hours after the horrific deaths of 13 service members, we have been reassured by our military that our partnership with the Taliban to provide security for our flights was wise. We were told that the terrorist victors share similar goals to ours in a hasty American retreat from Kabul. We were reminded that Afghan refugees (unlike U.S. soldiers) will not be forced to be vaccinated on arrival. Such statements are either untrue or absurd.  
 On the very day of the attack that killed American troops, the sergeant major of the U.S. Army  reminded us in a tweet that diversity is our strength, commemorating not the dead but Women's Equality Day. If so, then is the opposite of diversity -- unity -- our weakness? Will such wokeness ensure that we do not abandon the Bagram air base in the middle of the night without opposition?  
 The chief of staff at the Office of Naval Intelligence warned the ONI's active duty and retired service members that they must not criticize Biden, their commander in chief, over the Afghanistan fiasco. The office correctly cited prohibitions found in the Uniform Code of Military Justice barring any disrespect shown to senior government leadership.  
 Indeed, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps was relieved of his command for posting a video accurately blaming military and civilian leadership for the Afghanistan nightmare.  
 Yet until Jan. 20, retired top brass had constantly smeared their elected commander in chief with impunity.  
 Recently retired Gen. Michael Hayden retweeted a horrific suggestion that unvaccinated Trump supporters should be put on planes back to Afghanistan, where they presumably would be left to die. Hayden earlier had compared Trump's border facilities to Nazi death camps.  
 Other retired high-profile military officials variously called their president an emulator of Nazi tactics, a veritable Mussolini, a liar, and deserving of removal from office sooner than later. None of these retired four-stars faced the sort of repercussions that the Office of Naval Intelligence just warned about.  
 More than 50 former intelligence officials on the eve of the November election signed a letter suggesting that incriminating emails found on Hunter Biden's missing laptop might be "Russian disinformation." They used their stature for political purposes to convince the American people that the story was a lie.  
 Retired Gen. Joseph Dunford and retired Adm. Mike Mullen recently blasted retired brass who had questioned Biden's cognitive ability. OK. But they should have issued a similar warning earlier, when the violations of fellow retired officers were even more egregious in election year 2020.  
 Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, apologized for doing a photo op with Trump, erroneously buying into the narrative that Trump had ordered rioters cleared from Lafayette Square for the staged picture. Worse, he leaked to journalists that he was so angry with Trump that he "considered" resigning.  
 Think of the irony. If Milley considered a politicized resignation to rebuke Trump over the false charge, then surely he could consider a real resignation after overseeing the worst military disaster of the last half-century in Kabul.  
 Milley had promised to root out white supremacy from the ranks while recommending that his soldiers read Ibram X. Kendi's racialist diatribes.  
 Something is terribly wrong in the ranks of America's top commanders that reflects something wrong with the country.  
 The Pentagon needs to stop virtue-signaling about diversity days and culturally sensitive food for Afghan refugees. Instead, can it just explain why the Bagram air base was abandoned by night, or why Taliban terrorists are our supposed "partners" in organizing our surrender and escape?  
 Which general allowed more than $85 billion in American weapons to fall to the Taliban -- a sum equal to the price of seven new U.S. aircraft carriers?  
 Who turned over to the Taliban the lists of Americans and allied Afghans to be evacuated?  
 Who left behind biometric devices that the Taliban are now using to hunt down our former Afghan friends?  
 Somehow our new woke Pentagon is hell-bent on losing the trust of the American people -- along with the wars it fights abroad.<https://townhall.com/columnists/victordavishanson/2021/09/02/theres-a-problem-in-the-upper-reaches-of-our-military-n2595184>

**Defeat COVID Mandates by restoring the Genuine Meaning of the “privileges and immunities” and “due process” clauses***By* [*Publius Huldah*](https://newswithviews.com/author/publius/)*|September 2nd, 2021* Someone asked me why I write on the US Constitution when the US Supreme Court won’t enforce it.  
 This is why:  Our Declaration of Independence recognizes the self-evident Truth that Rights come from God, and that they are unalienable.  **Accordingly, there are certain areas of your life which are off-limits to government regulation – you have an “immunity” from governmental regulation of these areas**.  
 But since the federal and State governments are refusing to recognize our Rights, it falls on us to boldly step up to the plate and insist that our Rights be respected.  You have no lawful, moral, or religious duty to submit to a government when it violates our Constitution and seeks to take from you the Rights *God* gave you.  
 Governments do *not* have constitutional authority to force you to take the COVID JAB.  
 And in this paper I show that the “privileges and immunities” and “due process” clauses of the US Constitution *prohibit* the federal, state, and local governments from requiring you to be “jabbed” or putting you into a concentration camp if they assert that you are at “high risk” of getting infected [i.e., those who are 65 years of age or older.]  
 So Americans are going to have to man-up and assert their God-given Rights.  But before you can do that, you must understand what your Rights are and what the Constitution says.  
 Our Constitution of 1787 is a glorious Document.  But we didn’t read it, we didn’t adhere to its genuine meaning, and we permitted judges to redefine its terms.  We must put a stop to that.  The following draft[1] Resolution for State and local governments shows how, by restoring the genuine meanings of the “privileges and immunities” and “due process” clauses, we can defeat COVID tyranny.  
**Right to Freedom from COVID mandates – Model Resolution for State and local governments**  
**The Law**  
 WHEREAS, our **Declaration of Independence** is the Fundamental Act of our Founding and part of the Organic Law of our Land, and recognizes that our Rights come from the Creator God; that among these Rights are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness; and further, that the purpose of government is to secure the Rights *God* gave us; and  
 WHEREAS, the **Constitution of the United States** is one of enumerated powers only; and We The People did not grant to the federal government power over the Country at Large to interfere in medical or health matters;  to dictate that injections be administered to The People; to impose quarantines or “lock-downs” for real or pretended diseases; to establish internment (concentration) camps for the purpose of confining whomsoever the federal government wishes to confine; to require that The People wear devices such as face masks, or to obtain and carry internal passports; or to exercise any other such control over the sanctity of our persons; and  
 WHEREAS, **the First Amendment** of the Constitution of the United States provides,  
 “Congress shall make no law … abridging the right of the people peaceably to assemble…”; and  
 WHEREAS, the **privileges and immunities clauses** of the Constitution of the United States provide:  
 “The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.” (Article IV, § 2)  
 “…No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States…” (§1 of the Fourteenth Amendment); and  
 WHEREAS, the **due process clauses** of the Constitution of the United States provide:  
 At the Fifth Amendment, that “No person shall…be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law…”; and  
 At §1 of the Fourteenth Amendment, that “…nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law…”; and  
 WHEREAS, **Blackstone’s Commentaries on the Laws of England** set forth at Book I, Chapter I, pp 128-140 (J.B. Lippincott) [[**link**](https://oll-resources.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/oll3/store/titles/2140/Blackstone_1387-01_Bk.pdf)] the common law definitions of “privileges” and “immunities”; and shows that *“immunities” refers to those areas of personal liberty which are free from regulation and control by civil governments*, to-wit:  
 The God-given **Right of Personal Security** consists in a person’s legal and uninterrupted enjoyment of his life, his limbs, his body, his health, and his reputation  – and specifically that a person has the Right to preserve his health from such practices as may prejudice or annoy it [p. 132 at 4.]**;**   
 The **God-given right of Personal Liberty** consists of an individual’s right of locomotion, of changing situation, or moving his person to whatsoever place his own inclination may direct; that no person may be imprisoned or confined except pursuant to the lawful judgment of his equals; the right of *habeas corpus*; and the prohibition against excessive bail; and  
 The **God-given Right of Property** consists of the absolute and inherent Right of an individual to the free use, enjoyment, and disposal of his acquisitions; and that no person may be divested of his property, but by the judgment of his peers; and  
 WHEREAS, “**due process of law**” is a term with a precise technical import going back to the Magna Charta; and means that a person’s Life, Liberty or Property cannot be taken away from him *except by the judgment of his peers pursuant to a fair trial!*  [See Raoul Berger’s masterful work, “Government by Judiciary: The Transformation of the Fourteenth Amendment”, at Part I, Chapter 11 “Due Process of Law” [**link**](https://oll.libertyfund.org/title/mcdonald-government-by-judiciary-the-transformation-of-the-fourteenth-amendment#lf0003_head_041)]; and  
 WHEREAS, it is a fundamental Principle of Anglo/American Jurisprudence that when Framers of a Constitution or Statute use a term which has been defined at the Common Law, ***that*** *is the meaning to be assigned to the term in the Constitution or Statute* (United States v. Smith (1820) [**link**](https://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?case=3853117026305187474&q=united+States+v.+Smith+(1820)&hl=en&as_sdt=6,43&as_vis=1) ) & Raoul Berger’s chapter on “Due Process” at p. 222]; and  
**WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Ohio declares at Article I: Bill of Rights that**  
 “Section 1: Inalienable rights.  All men are, by nature, free and independent, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and seeking and obtaining happiness and safety.”  
 “Section 3: Right to assemble. The people have the right to assemble together, in a peaceable manner, to consult for the common good; to instruct their Representatives; and to petition the General Assembly for the redress of grievances.”  
 “Section 20: Powers reserved to the people. This enumeration of rights shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people; and all powers, not herein delegated, remain with the people.”  
 **Violations by the federal government of The Law**  
 **WHEREAS**, under the pretext of protecting the public from the allegedly dangerous COVID disease, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the federal government has been involved in the development and administration of a so-called “vaccine”; but that there is considerable evidence that such are not “vaccines” in the traditional sense of the word – but are injections designed to alter human DNA and replace it with a man-made DNA, and to destroy our God-given immune systems; and further that “COVID vaccines” have resulted in many deaths and disabilities among injected persons and are expected to result in a great many more deaths among injected persons in the coming years; and  
 **WHEREAS**, also under the pretext of protecting the public from the allegedly dangerous COVID disease,  the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has made plans [[here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/global-covid-19/shielding-approach-humanitarian.html#print) & [here](https://web.archive.org/web/20210814173305/https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/global-covid-19/shielding-approach-humanitarian.html)] to relocate selected Persons against their wills to internment (concentration) camps which are now, with the connivance of certain State governments, being set up throughout the Country; and  
 **WHEREAS,** the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is an unconstitutional federal agency which is not authorized by our Constitution to exist; accordingly all of its actions are unauthoritative, void, and of no force; and  
 **WHEREAS**, by these above-described acts, the federal government has usurped powers not delegated, and hence its acts are not law, but are altogether unauthoritative, void, and of no force; and  
 **WHEREAS**, such acts are also unconstitutional as in violation of the right of free assembly within the meaning of the First Amendment to the US Constitution; and  
 **WHEREAS**, such acts also deprive Citizens of their God-given Immunities from civil government’s regulation of their Persons and Personal Liberty, and deprive them of their God-given Right to the free use and enjoyment of their  Property – all in violation of Article IV, §2, US Constitution; and  
 **WHEREAS**, such acts also deprive Citizens of life, liberty and property without due process of law in violation of the Fifth Amendment to the US Constitution.  
 **III. State and local governments**  
 WHEREAS, certain “private” businesses have been seeking to bring about the forced injections of Citizens with the so-called “COVID vaccine” by threatening to fire such Citizens  unless they submit to the injection; and further, that for State and local governments to permit such tyranny violates that Principle, set forth in our Declaration of Independence, that the purpose of government is to secure the rights God gave us (which governments are to do by protecting us from those who seek to take our rights away from us); and that just as civil governments may not lawfully deprive The People of their God-given Rights and Liberties, neither may private persons or businesses; and  
 WHEREAS, for the State or any local government to impose lock-downs, mandate social distancing, order the closures of churches and selected businesses, and impose limitations on crowd sizes, would unlawfully restrict the Rights of The People to freely assemble; and that in the State of Ohio, such would violate Article I, Sections 1 and 3 of the Declarations of Rights set forth in the State Constitution; and  
 WHEREAS, for the state or local governments to cooperate with the unconstitutional federal agency known as the “Center for Disease Control and Prevention”, in its unlawful and tyrannical plan to incarcerate in internment (concentration) camps, Citizens against their wills, would unlawfully deprive the Citizens of Ohio of their Rights of free association and free assembly; and would also trespass on their  Immunities against civil government’s control of their persons within the meaning of **§ 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment;** and would also deprive Ohio Citizens of life, liberty and property without due process of law, also in violation of § 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment; and  
 For the state or local government to mandate the wearing of face masks also violates the God-given Right of Personal Liberty.  
 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:  
 That all acts of the federal government described herein above in Part II are unconstitutional and are unauthoritative, void, and of no force.  
 That all acts of State and local governments described herein above in Part III would also be unconstitutional and unauthoritative, void, and of no force; and that this body [identify whether it’s the State legislature or a County or municipal governmental body] will vigorously oppose all such unlawful acts.  
 That this body intends to vigorously uphold the Right of the Citizens to be free from the requirement of forced injections, mask wearing, social distancing, lock-downs; and will not permit Ohio Citizens to be relocated against their wills to the internment (concentration) camps now being planned by the unconstitutional federal agency known as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.  
 It is so RESOLVED, this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2021.  
 Signatures, etc.  
<https://newswithviews.com/defeat-covid-mandates-by-restoring-the-genuine-meaning-of-the-privileges-and-immunities-and-due-process-clauses/>

**Biden Tried to Send Pallets of Cash to the Taliban as Kabul Fell**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*September 01, 2021*](https://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/09/biden-tried-to-send-pallets-of-cash-to.html)

On August 14, Secretary of State Blinken spoke with Afghanistan’s former president and promised that the Biden administration would provide a [bulk shipment](https://twitter.com/aahmady/status/1427883009164955649) of dollars.  
 The next day Kabul fell.  
 On that same call, Afghanistan’s former leader [had agreed](https://twitter.com/aahmady/status/1429058195364925440) to surrender power to the Taliban.

The Biden administration had effectively agreed to provide a massive infusion of cash to the Taliban. But the final deal fell through, the Afghan government fled, and the Taliban took Kabul.  
 The bulk shipment of dollars never did arrive.   
 Biden’s diplomats scrambled to evacuate from Kabul. Ajmal Ahmady, the governor of DAB, Afghanistan's central bank, already had a ticket and headed to the airport. He managed to get on a military plane.  
 Since then he's tweeted that he was warned that the Taliban had come looking for him.  
 The Taliban were hoping to get their hands on Afghanistan’s money, but much of it is in the United States. The most tangible part of Afghanistan’s assets, $1.3 billion in gold, is sitting in downtown Manhattan, a little bit south of Ground Zero, in the vaults of the Federal Reserve.  
 If there were any justice, that money would be used to compensate the police officers, firefighters, and workers who died on that day or later on from ailments related to 9/11.  
 Meanwhile, all the Taliban have to do is fly into JFK, take an Uber to 33 Liberty Street, and ask to be taken down to the basement to see all the bars of gold. And even in Biden’s America and De Blasio’s New York City, they might have trouble walking away with over a billion in gold bars.   
 Not unless they trade their camos and kameezes for Black Lives Matter t-shirts.  
 The United States did plenty of dumb things in Afghanistan, but it kept the gold locked up in the basement vaults and $3.1 billion of DAB’s assets went into U.S. Treasury bills and bonds.  
 Ahmady [estimates](https://twitter.com/aahmady/status/1427883012348424192) that $7 billion of DAB's assets are being held by the Federal Reserve which includes the gold, the bills and bonds, $300 million in cash, and another $2.4 billion in World Bank funds for aiding developing countries. There’s also $700 million at the Bank for International Settlements and another $1.3 billion in international accounts.  
 Those are likely being held in Turkey which is an Islamist dictatorship friendly to the Taliban.  
 The Taliban would like some or all of that money.   
 The problem is that while the Taliban expected to find vaults full of gold and cash, Afghanistan had been plugged into the international finance system in which access to cash depends on either great internal wealth or good international relations. The Taliban have neither.  
 To the extent that the Taliban have been behaving themselves, at least in Kabul, it’s because they want to lay claim to the stream of international wealth that used to flow into Afghanistan.  
 A week after Kabul fell, the International Monetary Fund was supposed to disburse $460 million in Special Drawing Rights to Afghanistan, but that, like all the other international funding mechanisms that the Taliban wanted to lay claim to, was blocked. While the Biden administration’s diplomats and national security people had made a complete hash of the withdrawal, the treasury people proved to be surprisingly on top of cutting off Taliban cash.  
 The Taliban still control border crossings and they’ll be able to take advantage of Chinese money, but that’s a long way from the cash they need to run any kind of functional country.  
 Paradoxically, we were the single biggest revenue source for the Taliban’s money machine.  
 One expert [estimated](https://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/the-world-today/2021-08/afghanistan-money-can-be-milk-taliban-moderation) that at the peak of Obama and Biden's Afghanistan surge, "the Taliban’s ‘taxes’ on truckers supplying NATO likely even surpassed the Taliban’s income from drugs, being tens of millions of dollars at least, maybe up to $100 million annually."   
 Like a lot of failed states, remittances from Afghans living overseas made up 4% of their GDP. Last year that amounted to [$788 million](https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-08-22/taliban-finances-collapse). Some of that money is being blocked. For now.  
 Without an ongoing war, the money from both NATO and the international financiers of the Jihad will stop flowing. Chinese state businesses won’t allow the Taliban to rob them the way that they looted NATO and while drugs are big money, they’re no substitute for an economy.   
 Just ask Venezuela and Iran. Or Detroit.  
 The Taliban’s options are limited. They've appointed Mohammad Idris, a previously unknown Taliban official, to head the central bank. Afghanistan’s currency is imploding and dollarization without dollars doesn’t work so well. Much of Afghanistan’s economy, which was propped up by foreign aid, will collapse leaving behind subsistence farming, opium, and smuggling rackets.  
 The arms and vehicles looted from the United States will be sold off to fellow Jihadists for a one-time cash infusion because there’ll be no more armored vehicles and drones handed out.  
 Before 9/11, Afghanistan was facing drought and famine under the Taliban. The United States campaign not only toppled the Taliban, but saved parts of the country from starvation.  
 But the Taliban do have two key assets: people and trouble.  
 Those are the same assets held by Jihadists around the world from Hamas in Gaza to the Houthis in Yemen. The Taliban don’t care if portions of the population, especially non-Pashtuns and non-Sunni Muslims suffer, but they know that we do.  
 Even now there’s talk about how to continue providing humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. And the flow of humanitarian aid to a population in a terrorist area means funding terrorists.   
 Beyond inflicting misery on Afghans, the Taliban have a variety of options for causing trouble for their enemies. They can speed the flow of migrants and refugees to Europe and also boost the opium business and demand money to “fight drug trafficking” in order to shut it down. (This scam is common in both South America and Southeast Asia, and helps fund the drug trade in the name of fighting it as corrupt politicians cash in on both the drug and anti-drug businesses.)  
 And their biggest short-term asset are the Afghans and Americans trapped in Afghanistan.  
 Whatever agreements the Biden administration reached with the Taliban to allow it to operate and to coordinate on security arrangements were almost certainly financial. Once the United States leaves, the Taliban will be able to extract money for every single Afghan who leaves.  
 But what the Taliban really want is all that money sitting in the Federal Reserve.   
 There have been precedents for terror states toppling legitimate governments and leaving their wealth in the hands of the United States. From the Bolsheviks of the Soviet Union to the Shiite Islamists of Iran, Democrats eventually turned over the money to the red-green terrorists.  
 There’s little doubt that the Taliban will get their hands on much of the money.  
 China, Russia, Pakistan, Turkey, and Qatar will likely push to legitimize the Taliban in international forums. The Biden administration will make a token show of resistance. As the international governance bodies topple and humanitarian groups cry about famine, the money pipeline will reopen. And even though there won’t be a single American soldier in Afghanistan, Biden will go on funding the Taliban long after the withdrawal is wholly complete.  
 The $7 billion will end up being another down payment in the funding of Islamic terrorism.  
 The day before Kabul fell, Biden nearly allowed a massive bundle of pallets of dollars to be shipped to Afghanistan. He did so knowing that the money was destined for a Taliban regime.   
 His cash shipment to the Taliban only fell apart because the Afghan government did.  
 How long will it be until Biden is shipping money to the Taliban? He may already be doing it.  
 "Seems to me this would be a good time to send, no strings attached, a check for $200 million to Iran," Biden [proposed](https://archives.frontpagemag.com/point/biden-after-911-it-would-be-good-time-send-check-daniel-greenfield) after September 11. His previous administration illegally shipped $1.7 billion in pallets of cash to Iran. The question isn’t whether Biden will fund the Taliban, but when.  
 Creating a hostage situation is, as Obama already discovered, a convenient pretext for funding Islamic terrorists. Biden has created a massive hostage crisis in Afghanistan. What better way could there be to force the United States to fund our worst enemies once again?

[*Daniel Greenfield*](http://sultanknish.blogspot.com/)*is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's*[*Front Page Magazine*](https://www.frontpagemag.com/)*.*

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https://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/09/biden-tried-to-send-pallets-of-cash-to.html

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**ANALYSIS: Iran is making progress in the program to wipe Israel from the map**

***Iran is continuing to close in on Israel in a slow but determined fashion - and received a boost from the Taliban after the US army pullout.***

*Yochanan Visser , Sep 02 , 2021 8:50 PM*

**The conclusion that Iran is slowly but surely closing in on Israel can be drawn from certain underreported events that have occurred in the past and those which are currently taking pla**ce.

**Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett addressed the increasing Iranian imperialistic aggression before and after his meeting with US President Joe Bide**n and made it clear that Israel would act alone against the Islamic Republic if necessary.

**Let us first take a look at what’s happening close to the Israeli border** on the Syrian Golan Heights.

**Local independent Syrian media reported more than a month ago that the Syrian army together with Iranian-backed Shiite militias had started an offensive against the last rebel stronghold in southern Syria,** the city of Dara’a where the uprising against dictator Bashar al-Assad began in 2011.

**The offensive is clearly meant to bring the Syrian Golan Heights and the Dara’a Province that borders on Jordan under direct Iranian control**, since the Syrian army unit that is attacking the rebels is under full control of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, the force tasked with exporting the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979.

This Syrian army unit is the 4th Division and is led by Iranian officers.

The rebels in Dara’a have carried out numerous attacks on the Syrian army and its allies ever since the Syrian army regained control over southern Syria in the summer of 2018.

Ehud Yaari, a veteran Israeli TV commentator on Mideast affairs who works for Israel's *Channel 12,* was the first Israeli journalist who picked up the story of the assault on Dara’a. He warned that the offensive would be expanded to the Syrian Golan Heights as soon as the highway to the city comes under full control of the Iranian axis.

The fighting in Dara’a indeed escalated this week, *Israel Defense* [reported](https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/51720).

In principle, the Russian military presence in Syria should have stopped Iran’s advance towards the Israeli border, but the agreements between the Assad regime, Moscow, and the rebels proved to not be worth the paper on which they were written.

**Abdullah II, the King of Jordan, is now, like the government of Israel, deeply concerned about the activities of the Iranian coalition on the Golan Height**s. Abdullah traveled to Russia last week to hold an emergency meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

**Abdullah would like to restore relations with the Assad regime in order to gain more influence over what happens along Syria’s border with Jordan**. Under no circumstances does the King of Jordan want the IRGC and Hezbollah to gain a foothold along the Kingdom’s border.

The King knows that the Syrian Army’s Fourth Division and Seventh Division are commanded by the IRGC’s Quds Force, and the same is true of that army’s central command.

So far, the Iranians have abstained from a massive military build-up on the Golan Heights and have limited themselves to flying unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) while setting up lookouts and intelligence facilities along the border with Israel.

The Israeli military has acted against the Hezbollah-manned lookouts on the Syrian Golan Heights several times, but now is facing a dilemma.

**Despite repeated warnings and an agreement with Syria on a demilitarized zone that came back into effect at the end of 2018, when the UN returned its peacekeeping force (UNDOF) to the Golan Heights, the Israeli army will soon have to take preventive military action against the Iranian axis on the strategic** plateau.

When that happens, Israel will risk conflict with the Russian military in Syria since the Russians, who had tacitly allowed Israeli forays, have recently changed course and are already frustrating Israel’s actions against Iranian targets in Syria.

**Then there are other largely secret Iranian actions that indicate the Islamic Republic is trying to encircl**e Israel.

Former Israeli diplomat Lenny Ben David reported this week that Iran has converted commercial ships into warships and these vessels are now used to patrol the Mediterranean Sea.

**The two large ships carry helicopters, UAVs, and speedboats that the IRGC also used to carry out attacks and piracy against ships belonging to Western nations and Israel in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf** of Oman.

The two ships were most recently spotted in the Strait of Gibraltar, where they were escorted in thick fog by Russian warships.

Iran is trying to expand its belligerent imperialistic activities on the seas and is now threatening Israel from The Mediterranean Sea.

Iran is also trying to tighten its grip on Lebanon where an unprecedented economic crisis has brought the cedar country to the brink of an abyss.  
 Lebanon lacks fuel, among other basic needs, and this gave Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah the chance to bring Iran directly into the picture.  
 **Iranian tankers are now reportedly on their way to Lebanon**, something that has led to concerns in Israel where Foreign Minister and alternate Prime Minister Yair Lapid [said](https://en.mehrnews.com/news/178126/Issue-of-Iranian-ships-sent-to-Lebanon-security-one-Lapid) the fuel transports were “a security issue that will be addressed accordingly.”  
 **Iran has also for many years transferred weapons and missiles to the Palestinian terror groups** in Gaza.  
 This was confirmed by Talal Naji, the Secretary-General of the Central Command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PLFP). **More -** [**https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312949**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312949)

**Fragments from Syrian rocket found in central Israel**

***IDF confirms: Surface-to-air missile fired towards Israel from Syria.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Sep 03 , 2021 12:04 PM*

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***Rocket fragments Flash 90***

**A surface-to-air missile was fired Thursday night from Syrian territory into Israeli territory, an IDF statement said.**

**The missile exploded over the Mediterranean Sea, and because of that, in line with policies, an air raid siren was not sounded.**

On Friday morning, residents of central Israel discovered a number of shrapnel fragments on the ground. The rocket fragments will be collected by Israel Police.

" We thank the residents for their awareness and ask to avoid touching these pieces," the statement concluded.

On Thursday night, Syrian media [reported](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312960) that the country's air defense systems were activated after Israel struck several targets in Damascus.

Syrian television also reported that the country's air defense system succeeded in intercepting most of the Israeli missiles, and that only material damage was caused by the Israeli strikes.

Meanwhile, residents of the central region of Gush Dan reported hearing explosions. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312986>

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**09/02/2021 NEWS AM**

**Don’t Miss Shorashim Insights:**

[**https://madmimi.com/p/cc1ec21?pact=8516-164554358-1683292940-2160d4a1f7c6d34378c6ca14c80923daee66ab3f**](https://madmimi.com/p/cc1ec21?pact=8516-164554358-1683292940-2160d4a1f7c6d34378c6ca14c80923daee66ab3f)

**Sift through Thousands of Years of Jerusalem's History**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZH7875u64UQ>

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| **"There are all kinds of devices invented for the protection and preservation of countries: defensive barriers, forts, trenches, and the like... But prudent minds have as a natural gift one safeguard which is the common possession of all, and this applies especially to the dealings of democracies.  What is this safeguard? Skepticism. This you must preserve.  This you must retain.  If you can keep this, you need fear no harm." -- Demosthenes (384-322 BC) Greek statesman and orator of ancient Athens** |

**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 38:27And it came to pass in the time of her travail, that, behold, twins were in her womb. 28And it came to pass, when she travailed, that one put out a hand; and the midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet thread, saying: 'This came out first.' 29And it came to pass, as he drew back his hand, that, behold his brother came out; and she said: 'Wherefore hast thou made a breach for thyself?' Therefore his name was called Perez. 30And afterward came out his brother, that had the scarlet thread upon his hand; and his name was called Zerah.**

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| **Dr. David Martin - Covid vaccine mRNA code is a BIOWEAPON developed via a digital SIMULATION**  <https://www.brighteon.com/309412a4-65e5-4bd6-a7c9-52805b5a6b93>  **This is rather long but critical to understand the criminality of what is going**  **on with the FDA and the alleged approval of the JAB** |

**Right move, wrong way: Lapid pans US pullout from Afghanistan**

***Foreign minister also opens rift with Washington over its plans to reestablish de facto mission for Palestinians in capital, warning it could destabilize government***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:05 pm*

**Foreign Minister Yair Lapid criticized the US pullout from Afghanistan Wednesday, and pushed back against a decision to reopen a consulate in Jerusalem, prying open a rift with Washington just days after putting renewed ties on display**.

**Lapid told reporters that the decision by US President Joe Biden to pull troops out of Afghanistan and end a 20-year war in the country was likely the correct move, but suggested it was executed poorly**.

“It didn’t happen the way it was supposed to happen,” Lapid told foreign media during a briefing in Jerusalem.

“It was probably the right decision maybe that wasn’t performed in the right manner.”

**The US has been slammed over chaotic scenes as thousands of Afghans tried to get onto evacuation flights after the Taliban rapidly seized control of the countr**y. The last US military flight out left Tuesday. Many foreign nationals, as well as Afghans who assisted Western powers over the past 20 years, were reportedly left behind amid fears they could be targeted by the vengeful Taliban.

**“I don’t think we yet understand completely all the consequences of this move, of this retreat… I think we should wait a little before we jump to conclusions**” about its effect on the region, he said.

He suggested people listen to a speech from Biden Tuesday in which the US president [defended the “wise decision” to leave Afghanistan](https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-forcefully-defends-decision-to-end-forever-war-and-forever-exit/), telling Americans he refuses to send another generation to fight in a “forever war.”

Israeli **officials have reportedly expressed criticism of the Kabul pullout** fiasco, but have been careful not to speak out publicly for fear of upending attempts to renew ties between Jerusalem and Washington Democrats.

**Lapid also aimed fire at the administration’s plan to reopen the US Consulate General in Jerusalem, warning that restoring the de facto mission to Palestinians could tear apart Israel’**s fragile coalition government.

“We think it’s a bad idea and we’ve told America we think it’s a bad idea,” Lapid said.

Former US president Donald Trump moved to close the consulate in 2019 and integrate it with the embassy that had been moved to Jerusalem, describing it as an efficiency measure.  
 Much **of the staff at the historic mission on Agron Street have continued doing the same jobs at the same location, though under a newly named Palestinian Affairs Unit formed under the larger umbrella of US relations to Israel. The move was considered a de facto downgrading of ties**, and Biden has expressed support for reversing the closure.  
 The **issue has become a rare point of contention between Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s government and the Biden administration, threatening to damage** efforts to tighten ties.  
 Lapid **said the reopening “will send the wrong message**, not only to the region, not only to the Palestinians, but also to other countries, and we don’t want this to happen.”  
 “And **besides, we have an interesting yet delicate structure of our government and we think this might destabilize this government and I don’t think the American administration wants this to happen**,” added the foreign minister.  
 In a statement responding to Lapid’s remarks, the US Embassy in Israel said, “the US will be moving forward with the process to reopen our consulate in Jerusalem.”  
 The **Biden administration announced its plan to reopen the consulate in May**, but agreed to [hold off on the move](https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-pushing-off-jerusalem-consulate-reopening-to-keep-bennett-critics-at-bay/) until after Bennett’s government passes a budget in November in order to prevent the destabilization of the nascent coalition, according to Israeli officials.  
 Biden officials have pointed to Bennett and Lapid’s diverse coalition of right, left and centrist parties as a model of bipartisanship. But the coalition’s exceedingly slim majority has also made it difficult for the government to enact wide-ranging legislation and left it prone to being brought down by a single divisive issue.  
 Lapid’s **comments came days after Bennett returned from a trip to Washington to meet Biden. Lapid had praised the meeting as successfully building ties between the** allies.  
 Biden [raised the issue of the consulate](https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-raised-reopening-of-jerusalem-consulate-concerns-over-evictions-with-pm/) with Bennett during their meeting and made clear that he still plans to reopen the mission, a US official said after the summit.  
 Asked **about the matter during an interview with The New York Times earlier this week, Bennett went the furthest he’s gone to publicly oppose the effort**. “Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. It’s not the capital of other nations,” he said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/right-move-wrong-way-lapid-pans-us-pullout-from-afghanistan/>

**Israel opposes U.S. plan to reopen Jerusalem consulate as 'destabilizing'**

**Lapid warns move could send wrong message to Palestinians and others in the region adding the decision is Israel's *to make, says he, like BIden favors a two state solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict***

*Reuters | Updated: 09.01.21, 17:22*

**Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said on Wednesday that a U.S. plan to reopen its consulate in Jerusalem that has traditionally been a base for diplomatic outreach to Palestinians is a "bad idea**" and could destabilize Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's new government.

"We think this is a bad idea and told the U.S. as much," he said. "The consulate has been there for 130 years and reopening it after it was closed sends the wrong message." **More -**<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hyjyxb6bf>

**Bennett picks new chief, ‘Resh,’ for Shin Bet security service**

***Until he enters office, the current deputy head of the organization can only be identified by the first Hebrew letter of his name***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 2:41 pm*

**Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Wednesday selected the deputy head of the Shin Bet security service to succeed the current leader of the organization, Nadav Arga**man.

**For security reasons, the deputy Shin Bet chief can only be identified by the first Hebrew letter of his name, “Resh,” until he enters of**fice.

**“Resh is a courageous fighter and an excellent commander. I have no doubt that he will lead the service to new heights of excellence for the security of Israe**l,” Bennett said in a statement announcing Resh’s appointment.

**Resh is expected to formally enter the role in the coming weeks, replacing Nadav Argaman, who has served at the head of the organization since 201**6. One of Bennett’s first acts as premier was to extend Argaman’s tenure through October in order to allow for more time to find a suitable successor.

**Then-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu** [**had reportedly planned**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-extends-shin-bet-heads-tenure-by-4-months-amid-clash-with-gantz/) **to appoint his national security adviser, Meir Ben-Shabbat, as the new director of the agency, but he faced staunch opposition from Defense Minister Benny Gant**z.

Resh beat out the prior deputy head of the Shin Bet, who can only be identified by the first Hebrew letter of his name, also “Resh.”

The incoming Shin Bet chief served in the Israel Defense Forces’ elite Sayeret Matkal unit, the same detachment in which Bennett served, and then entered the ranks of the Shin Bet as a field agent.  
 “As part of his years-long service for the security of Israel, Resh fought in and commanded many operations in the Gaza Strip, in Judea and Samaria, and in Lebanon,” the Prime Minister’s Office said, using the biblical term for the West Bank.  
 Resh was tapped to lead the Shin Bet’s Operations Division in 2011, became head of the service’s resource development department in 2016, and took over as deputy head of the organization in 2018.  
 “In **light of his extensive experience, his actions and his understanding of the significant challenges facing the State of Israel in general and the Shin Bet security service in particular, Prime Minister Bennett decided to appoint him to the position of the next head of the Shin Bet,”** the PMO said.  
 Argaman said in a statement that his chosen successor has “extensive professional experience that entails proven management and commanding skills in a long list of operations and activities.”  
 Argaman said Resh “excelled in all of the positions he held” and expressed confidence that “his abilities, personality and values will lead him to success when dealing with the many challenges facing the agency.”  
 Defense Minister Gantz also hailed the decision to appoint Resh to the position, calling it “an excellent choice.”  
 “As someone who has known him for decades in all the operational positions that he has held, I have no doubt that he will lead the Shin Bet to great operational achievements in the years to come. At this time, I also want to thank the outgoing head of the Shin Bet, Nadav Aragaman, for his years of service, for preserving the security of Israel and for leading the Shin Bet to breakthrough achievements in counterterrorism,” Gantz said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-picks-new-chief-for-shin-bet-security-service/>

**COVID tally tops 10,000 for 2nd straight day, but number of seriously ill dips**

***Serious cases down by 36 since start of day and testing positivity rate also drops slightly compared to previous days, but death toll jumps by 56 in 24 hours***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:52 pm*

**New daily COVID-19 cases dropped slightly, but still topped 10,000 for the second straight day Tuesday, Health Ministry figures published Wednesday showed, as Israel pushed ahead with kicking off the school yea**r despite concern it could worsen the outbreak.  
 Providing a **rare bright spot, though, the number of patients in serious condition dropped and Israel dropped the dubious distinction of having the highest number of new cases per capita across the globe**, falling to fourth place.  
 Israel **on Monday recorded its highest-ever number of cases in a single day, 11,133, amid a massive testing push ahead of the start of school, which began Wednesday**.  
 Another **10,384 new cases were recorded Tuesday**, Health Ministry figures showed, while 7,386 more were identified from midnight to early Wednesday evening.  
 The **death toll leapt by 56 since the ministry last updated the figure on Tuesday** evening, reaching 7,086.  
 However, serious cases were down, dropping by 36 since the start of the day Wednesday to 675, with 158 of them on ventilators. The testing positivity rate also dropped slightly compared to previous days, reaching 6.74 percent.  
 The **Health Ministry said over 2.3 million Israelis have received the third COVID vaccine dose — and nearly 6 million have been given at least one** shot.  
 Many of the serious patients continued to be those who have not been fully vaccinated against the virus.  
 השחקנית עירית קפלן התאשפזה היום במחלקת קורונה במצב קשה. קפלן לא התחסנה. ממיטת חוליה, היא זועקת: ״אני מרגישה שאני מתה. קשה לי לנשום, אני מאבדת כוחות, זה ייסורים אמיתיים. אין צעד בלי תחושת חנק. [pic.twitter.com/RjYPbldTGl](https://t.co/RjYPbldTGl)  
 — בית חולים איכילוב (@tasmc1) [September 1, 2021](https://twitter.com/tasmc1/status/1433070758775955463?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 Among them was actress Irit Kaplan, 48, according to Ichilov Medical Center, which published a picture of her in a hospital bed and a plea from her urging all Israelis to get immunized against the “cursed disease.”   
 “I feel like I’m dying, it’s hard for me to breathe, I’m losing strength, it’s real suffering,” she said from her hospital bed, expressing regret for declining the vaccine over fears it would exacerbate her preexisting autoimmune condition.  
 Israel had **the world’s highest seven-day rolling average of new daily coronavirus cases per million people, according to** [**figures**](https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases) **published by the Oxford University-based Our World in Data on** Tuesday.  
 On Wednesday, though, its rolling average of 896 cases per million people dropped it behind Montenegro, Georgia and Kosovo in the global ranking.  
 **Experts have expressed concerns that the opening of schools Wednesday could send infection numbers even** higher. Almost 2.5 million Israeli students from kindergarten to 12th grade started school Wednesday. Some 250,000 students needed to study via Zoom, due to health restrictions, but the Education Ministry said over 90% of students showed up for school on the first day, far exceeding expectations.  
 A majority of teachers across the country have not been vaccinated with the coronavirus booster shot, according to Channel 13 news.  
 The Meuchedet HMO said that only 38% of its members who are teachers have received the third dose. In Clalit, the figure was 35% and in Leumit and Maccabi the number was roughly 25%. The government’s current policy is that teachers who are not fully vaccinated with three doses by October 1 will not be allowed to attend classes unless they get tested regularly.  
 Prime Minister Naftali Bennett visited a school in the southern town of Yeruham and said he would do all in his power to ensure schools stay open, but could not offer guarantees. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/covid-tally-tops-10000-for-2nd-straight-day-but-number-of-seriously-ill-dips/>

**As kids head back to class, Bennett says no guarantees schools will stay open**

***PM touts mass COVID testing campaign, says he’ll try to avoid disruptions like last year; President Herzog to students: ‘Your generation has been through an unimaginable reality’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 4:24 pm*

**As the school year opened under the pandemic’s shadow, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett visited a school in the southern town of Yeruham and said he would do all in his power to ensure schools stay open, bu**t could not offer guarantees.

**Almost 2.5 million Israeli students from kindergarten to 12th grade started school Wednesday, despite record virus numbers and with officials acknowledging** the return to classes could spark a further rise in infections. Some 250,000 students needed to study via Zoom, due to health restrictions, but the Education Ministry said 88 percent of students showed up for school on the first day, far exceeding expectations.

“**For me, the first day of the school year is always very moving,” Bennett said, touring the school alongside Education Minister Yifat Shasha-Biton** and Yeruham Mayor Tal Ohana. “I think that we are all happy that summer vacation is finally over.”

[**Figures**](https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases) **published Tuesday showed Israel with the world’s highest seven-day rolling average** of new daily coronavirus cases per million people. Despite the spike, Bennett’s government resisted calls by some to delay the opening of schools, instead instituting special rules for high-infection areas and undertaking a massive testing program for all schoolkids ahead of the school year.

**“Together with the education and health ministries, we held the largest testing campaign in the history** of the State of Israel,” he said. “In one day, two million tests were carried out for all of Israel’s schoolkids so that we could reach this moment of the opening of the school year.”

**“We learned this year that there is another important thing, and that is… making sure that all the people of Israel can work and earn a decent living,** even during the coronavirus pandemic, because it is a sacred thing,” Bennett said of his stated goal of avoiding lockdowns even amid record daily COVID-19 cases.

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| ***[Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Education Minister Dr. Yifat Shasha-Biton sit with children at the Eli Cohen Meuhad School in Yeruham, at the start of the new school year, September 1 , 2021 (Haim Zach / GPO)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/09/GPOZAC_7158-e1630491849447.jpg)***  ***Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Education Minister Dr. Yifat Shasha-Biton sit with children at the Eli Cohen Meuhad School in Yeruham, at the start of the new school year, September 1 , 2021 (Haim Zach / GPO)*** | ***Students arrive to the classroom on the first day of the new academic year, at Orot Etzion School, in the Jewish settlement of Efrat, in the West Bank on September 1, 2021. (Gershon Elinson/Flash90)*** |

He pledged that “we will continue to make supreme efforts so that all Israeli students will be able to learn. We cannot guarantee that result, but we can guarantee 100 percent effort. This is what the education minister, the Health Ministry and all of us did to reach this day.

“Therefore, after a year of Zoom, a difficult year of staring into screens, I want to congratulate you, the pupils of Israel, with one blessing: May the year of screens come to an end, and may a year of experiences begin.”

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| ***Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Education Minister Dr. Yifat Shasha-Biton with children at the Eli Cohen Meuhad School in Yeruham, at the start of the new school year, September 1, 2021 (Haim Zach / GPO)*** | ***President Isaac Herzog and his wife visit a school in Modi’in Maccabim Re’ut at the start of the new school year on September 1, 2021. (Amos Ben Gershom/GPO)*** |

**President Isaac Herzog and his wife Michal visited several schools in the city of Modiin** alongside Mayor Haim Bibas.

“What a joy to see you here, and to open the new school year with you,” he said.

**“I am guessing that you did not imagine that your first day would be so complicated in terms of masks, social-distancing guidelines, and yes, also conce**rns about quarantine and infections. Your generation has been through an unimaginable reality, and you will speak of this for decades to come.”

As various other ministers and municipal officials toured various institutions of education around the country, Defense Minister Benny Gantz visited a special education school in Moshav Beit Oved that leads projects encouraging enlistment to the military for those with special needs.

Based on the Education Ministry’s plan for reopening schools amid the ongoing pandemic, daycare centers, preschools and grades one and two will hold regular in-person learning five days a week in towns designated as green, yellow or orange based on their coronavirus figures.

In towns designated as red due to high case counts, daycares, preschools and grades 1 through 4 will still be allowed to continue learning in person. However, grades 5 through 7 will be required to learn outdoors or in small groups. Grades 8 through 12 will be required to learn outdoors if less than 70 percent of students are exempt from quarantine thanks to vaccination or recovery.

Under the Education Ministry’s updated guidelines, anyone other than a student who enters a school or daycare will have to provide proof of vaccination or a negative coronavirus test result. Only tests authorized by the Health Ministry will be accepted.  
 Shasha-Biton said Tuesday that some 18,000 teachers in the education system have not been vaccinated, along with another 18,000 teaching assistants and other educational staff, and urged them to do so.  
 “This is a matter of personal example and commitment,” she said.  
 Staff who are not vaccinated must be tested every few days or they will not be allowed to work.  
 She also warned that the latest model for the reopening of schools in-person may need to be adapted based on case numbers in the coming weeks and months.  
 “Things need to be addressed in a targeted manner. We will constantly monitor what is happening in the education system,” she said, adding that her office had an obligation to provide children with a routine.  
 According to the Kan public broadcaster, more than 90,000 students are currently in quarantine due to either being infected or having come in contact with someone who tested positive. More than half of those who tested positive for the virus on Monday were school-aged children. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-kids-head-back-to-class-bennett-says-no-guarantees-schools-will-stay-open/>

**Bennett predicts FDA to approve vaccine for children aged 6-11 in two months**

***During a live Q&A session on TikTok in a bid to encourage youth to vaccinate, PM reiterates determination to avoid further lockdowns, school closures***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *2 September 2021, 1:24 am*

**Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Thursday that he believes the US Food and Drug Administration will approve coronavirus vaccines for children aged six to 11 in some two mont**hs. **[God Forbid! – rdb]**

**Bennett made the prediction during a live Q&A session he held on TikTok as part of his efforts to reach out to younger Israelis and encourage them to get vaccin**ated.

**Contrary to the government’s previous decisions regarding the vaccine, which pre-empted approval from the FDA, the prime minister said he felt that for this it would be better to wait for US authorities to give the go-ahea**d. However, he clarified that as soon as the approval is granted, Israel will follow suit. **[Is he aware of the fact that the last FSA approval was a farce and isn’t true and that Big Pharm pays 43% of the FDA budget????? – rdb]**

“On this matter, I felt it would be too great a risk in the absence of knowledge at this stage, Bennett said when pressed on the matter. “There are times where I am willing to take a risk, in this case, I was not. I expect that in the next two months the long-awaited [FDA] approval will arrive, and then we will surely do it.”

Israel currently has authorized vaccines for the entire population 12 and up, including a third booster shot after five months. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-predicts-fda-to-approve-vaccine-for-children-aged-6-11-in-two-months/> **[Sacrificing your children to Moloch. - rdb**

**Israeli study proves ‘silent mutations’ can help detect cancer, predict survival**

***Peer-reviewed research at Tel Aviv University shows previously overlooked genome alterations can be used to help identify cancer types and predict patients’ chances of survival***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:05 pm*

**Researchers at Tel Aviv University have found that “silent mutations” in cancer genomes can be used to predict both the type of cancer and a patient’s probability of surviving it, and say the method they developed may help save lives in the futur**e.

Silent mutations are mutations in DNA that don’t change the sequence of amino acids in proteins and therefore have no effect on an organism’s phenotype — the observable physical characteristics. In recent years, it has been shown that such mutations can affect gene expression, and may be associated with the development and spread of cancer cells.

According to the study led by Prof. Tamir Tuller and research student Tal Gutman [published in the NPJ Genomic Medicine journal](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41525-021-00229-1) earlier this month, silent mutations can help not only in the diagnosis of cancer, but also in identifying cancer types and predicting chances of survival.

**Using quantitative tools never before used to explore the functionality of silent mutations, Tuller and Gutman examined some three million mutations from cancer genomes of 9,915 patients and attempted to identify the type of cancer and predict survival probability 10 years after the initial diagno**sis — on the basis of the silent mutations alone.  
 The **findings show that “the predictive power of silent mutations is often similar to that of ‘ordinary,’ non-silent mutations,” the study says, and furthermore, that “by combining information from silent and non-silent mutations, classification could be improved** for 68 percent of the cancer types.”  
 In some types of cancer, classification was improved by up to 17%, while prognosis was improved by up to 5%, the researchers from the Department of Biomedical Engineering and the Zimin Institute for Engineering Solutions Advancing Better Lives found.  
 Tuller, in a statement released by Tel Aviv University, said that the results of the study have “several important implications.”  
 “First of all, there is no doubt that by using silent mutations we can improve existing diagnostic and prognostic models,” he said, noting that a 17% improvement in classification was “very significant.”  
 “Doctors discovering metastases want to know where they came from and how the disease has developed, in order to prescribe the best treatment. If, hypothetically, instead of giving wrong diagnoses and prognostics to five of ten cancer patients, they only make mistakes in four out of ten cases, millions of lives may ultimately be saved,” Tuller explained.  
 “These results are especially significant for a range of technologies currently under development, striving to diagnose cancer types based on DNA from malignant sources identified in simple blood tests,” he said.  
 According to the university, following their “proof of concept,” the researchers now intend to establish a startup with Sanara Ventures focusing on silent mutations as a diagnostic and prognostic tool. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/tel-aviv-university-researchers-prove-silent-mutations-can-help-detect-cancer/>

**Jewish woman attacked by stones near Hebron saved by Palestinians**

***Three Palestinians saved a Jewish woman who was hit in the head in a rock-throwing attack near Hebron.***

*By* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff) *SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 15:31*



***Palestinian youths slinging rocks 521(photo credit: REUTERS)***

**Three Palestinians saved a Jewish woman who was** [**stoned**](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/two-women-injured-from-stone-throwing-in-west-bank-677505) **near Hebron on Tuesday, Ynet rep**orted.

The woman**, a 36-year-old mother of six, was driving towards Kiryat Arba when a group of unidentified men attacked her car and** threw stones at her.

**"I was driving, and suddenly I found myself in the opposite lane with strong pains and blood flowing from my head," she told Ynet. "I went back into my lane, and It's a miracle there wasn't another** car.

"When I stopped the car, and I was dripping blood, I tried to see what happened. And that's when I saw a huge rock that hit my foot... I started to cry and scream, those were difficult moments. I tried to call the police and ambulance, but there wasn't any reception," she said.

 **"Suddenly three Palestinians arrived and tried to help. One of them told me he was a doctor and stopped the bleeding in my head, while another tried to call the rescue forces because he had a Palestinian networ**k that had reception in the area. It went on like this for ten minutes with me just sitting there and them waiting with me."

***Rear car window smashed by rocks on Jerusalem Day (credit: POLICE SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)***

The woman added that it makes no sense that there is no way to call for help in that area.

Eventually, [MDA](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/over-1000-mda-teen-volunteers-take-part-in-summer-training-courses-678009) showed up and took her to the hospital.

"It's a miracle that I was saved," she said to Ynet. "I almost died and I cannot believe it." <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/jewish-woman-stoned-near-hebron-saved-by-palestinians-678330>

**Israel extends Gaza fishing zone, lets in more workers despite border riots**

***Additional water and goods allowed into the Strip after Palestinians hold violent demonstration along security fence for fourth straight night***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 8:02 am*

**Israel announced it was rolling out a series of goodwill gestures toward the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, expanding its fishing zone to its furthest point in years and allowing into Israel thousands more workers from the enclave, despite ongoing nightly riots along the bo**rder.

“These **civil steps were approved by the political echelon and are dependent upon the continued preservation of security stability for an extended period**. An extension of them will be considered in accordance with a situational assessment,” Israel’s military liaison to the Palestinians said in a statement.

**The measures went into effect first thing Wednesday morning, according to the liaison, formally known as the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territo**ries.

**They included expanding the Gaza Strip’s fishing zone to 15 nautical miles — the furthest distance Israel has permitted since the Hamas terror group took control of the enclave in 2007. In additio**n, more goods and construction materials will be allowed into Gaza through the Kerem Shalom Crossing, and an additional 5 million cubic meters (1.3 billion gallons) of water will be allowed into the Strip, whose aquifers have long since deteriorated.  
 **Five thousand more workers will also be allowed into Israel from Gaza** — on top of the 2,000 already permitted in — though only those who either had the coronavirus or have been vaccinated will be eligible, COGAT said.  
 The measures were announced the morning after hundreds of Palestinians demonstrated violently on the border between Gaza and Israel, for a fourth straight night of riots.  
 Ga**zans from so-called “night confusion units” set tires alight and rolled them toward soldiers stationed along the frontier, and lobbed improvised explosives, in a repeat of violence see**n there the previous three nights.  
 As Israeli troops responded, the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza said that one Palestinian was moderately wounded from Israel Defense Forces live fire.  
 There was no immediate comment from the IDF and no reports of injuries on the Israeli side.  
 The “night confusion units” behind the border riots do not officially tie themselves to Hamas, though their activities could not take place without the approval of the terror group that rules the Strip.  
 The groups, which are affiliated with various terror factions, have said that the nightly riots on the border will continue until at least Thursday, starting at around 8 p.m. each evening.  
 The latest violence on the border came as Israel allowed dozens of truckloads of construction materials into the Strip on Tuesday.  
 Bassam Ghabin, director of the Palestinian side of the Kerem Shalom cargo crossing, said that 30 truckloads of cement, 120 trucks of gravel and 15 trucks of steel entered Gaza. He said that the materials began entering on Monday, and that the crossing was operating almost at the same capacity as before May’s 11-day flareup.  
 An Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity under policy guidelines, confirmed that building materials had entered Gaza. He had no specific details, but said that they came under previously announced government decisions.  
 Speaking to defense officials Monday night, IDF chief Aviv Kohavi warned that Israel would not tolerate the border riots.  
 “Calm and security will allow an improvement in civil conditions, but rioting and terror will lead to a strong response or operation,” he said.  
 “We have improved our attack capability in the Gaza Strip and our operational plans and if quiet isn’t preserved in the south, we won’t hesitate to embark on another campaign,” he said. “The reality of [Gazans’] lives can be completely different and significantly improved — but that will not be the case as long as terrorist acts of any kind continue.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-extends-gaza-fishing-zone-lets-in-more-workers-despite-border-riots/>

**Iranian fuel exported to Lebanon without government's permission**

***Lebanon's government did not receive any requests for fuel to be imported from Iran, possibly confirming Hezbollah bypassed the state.***

*By REUTERS   SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 15:55*

**The Lebanese government has received no request for fuel to be imported from Iran, the caretaker energy minister said on Wednesday, appearing to confirm that the Shi'ite gr**oup [Hezbollah](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/hezbollah-looks-to-take-over-lebanons-energy-needs-677952) has bypassed the state with a move to import Iranian fuel.

**Hezbollah, a heavily armed group founded by Iran's Revolutionary Guards in 1982, announced last month that a shipment of Iranian fuel oil was on its way to help ease cripplin**g shortages.

The group is by far the most powerful faction in Lebanon, where it has been part of the ruling system for years.

The [fuel crisis](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/lebanon-fuel-crisis-sparks-sectarian-violence-678094), caused by a broader meltdown of Lebanon's economy and plunge in the value of its currency, has forced even essential services to shut down or scale back operations.

**Hezbollah's opponents say the declaration, followed by announcements of two further Iranian fuel shipments for Lebanon, has further undermined the authority of the state and exposed Lebanon** to the risk of U.S. sanctions.  
 Asked about the Iranian shipment, the caretaker energy minister Raymond Ghajar told journalists "our role is restricted to import permits, we did not receive a request for permission."  
 Asked if this meant the ship was coming without permits, Ghajar said: "No. We do not have information. Permission was not requested from us. This is all I am saying."  
 The first shipment has yet to arrive, and Hezbollah has not announced details of where it will dock.  
 Tanker Trackers, which monitors shipments and oil storage, said satellite imagery showed that the second and third tankers had yet to depart.  
 "The first tanker should be in the southern section of the Red Sea by now," it added. "Awaiting visual confirmation."  
 Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Shi'ite Muslim ally of Hezbollah and one of the most powerful figures in the state, said on Tuesday he welcomed any support, including from Iran, to help Lebanon through its crisis. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iranian-fuel-exported-to-lebanon-without-governments-permission-678356>

**US has nothing to show for two decades of fighting in Afghanistan, Putin says, despite efforts to impose Washington's own values**

*1 Sep, 2021 11:27 By* ***Rachel Lloyd***

**Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that the crisis in Afghanistan is of Washington's making, arguing that efforts to reform the country have failed and saying the global community m**ust now work together to prevent tragedy.

**In a meeting with students on Wednesday, Putin criticized what he said amounted to the US' mishandling of its presence in Afghanistan, which ended abruptly in August when the Taliban took the capital**, Kabul.

**“The result is one tragedy, one loss... American troops were present in this region, and for twenty years they tried to civilize people, and to introduce their own norms and standards of life in the broadest sense... including in the political organization of society,” he continued. “The result is zero, if not to say that it is negative***.”*

**According to the Russian president, the situation needs to mature and tha**t “*if you want it to improve faster and better, we need to help people.”* He added that it is completely possible to accomplish this goal, but that *“it should be done in a civilized way: carefully, maintaining positive trends, slowly, being patient."*

**However, Putin has not shied away from arguing that Russia will respond to any perceived threats against its own interests in the region.** He has expressed concerns over potential security threats that countries may face, given the number of refugees fleeing Kabul, and has denounced the West for resettlement plans that may pose a risk to neighboring countries. In a telephone conversation last week, he and Chinese premier Xi Jinping noted that a spread of instability to adjacent regions must be prevented.

August proved to be a dramatic month that saw the American-backed Afghan government collapse virtually overnight. The Taliban strengthened its offensive as the US began extracting troops from the country, the Islamist group eventually entering the capital and taking control. On the 16th, it declared that the war in Afghanistan was over. The US completed its withdrawal from the nation on Tuesday. <https://www.rt.com/russia/533622-putin-afghanistan-crisis-washington-fault/>

**We had 'kill shot' and didn't take it? Report makes bombshell allegation**

***U.S. forces said to have a lock on Kabul airport bomber, but were told to stand down***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/?ff_source=Email&ff_medium=wnd-breaking&ff_campaign=breaking&ff_content=breaking)Published September 1, 2021 at 5:47pm

**A new report on Joe Biden's Afghanistan evacuation disaster, in which Americans were abandoned to be under the thumb of the Taliban and tens of billions of dollars worth of American war equipment was turned over to the terror group, explains the military probably could have prevented the suicide bombing that killed 13 service membe**rs.

**But it d**idn't.

[According to a report at the Media Research Center-affiliated NewsBusters,](https://newsbusters.org/blogs/latino/jorge-bonilla/2021/09/01/bombshell-former-deputy-secdef-claims-predator-drone-operator) the "bombshell allegation" appeared on Univision.

**It explained according to former Army Green Beret and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Roger Pardo-Maurer, the Defense Department knew of the homicide bomber at Hamid Karzai International Airport and had scrambled a Predator drone that locked on the target for the kill shot.**

**Then drone operators were ordered to stand down.**

**Apparently, "in deference to negotiations with the Taliban," the report said.**

**READ:** [**https://t.co/o9kRz5s9sx**](https://t.co/o9kRz5s9sx)

**— Jorge Bonilla (@BonillaJL)** [**September 1, 2021**](https://twitter.com/BonillaJL/status/1433159451821887492)

**Bottom of Form**

**The charge came on Univision's Edicion Digital newscast.**

**In the interview, Pardo Maurer explained those involved said "the Department of Defense already knew who the bomber was, and when (the Kabul attack would happen), and that a Predator drone had a lock on him, OK, and that they refused to grant permission to fire upon that bomber. (Permission) was requested, and was denied. Why? Because we are in this process of negotiating with the Taliban, who aren't even in control of their own government or their own people."**

Those 13 were killed when the bomber detonated at the Kabul airport, where U.S. service members were working to evacuate Americans, allies from Afghanistan, and the United States' own military because of Joe Biden's decision to withdraw completely from Afghanistan.

NewsBusters noted, "More information will emerge in the days to come but this is a deeply disturbing allegation from which two questions emerge: For how long in advance did we have eyes on the Kabul bomber \*prior\* to his arrival at HKIA, and who issued the stand down order to the Predator drone operator that had a lock on the Kabul bomber?"

Interviewers Paulina Sodi and Satcha Pretto discussing Kabul with Pardo-Maurer.

He explained that the Biden administration needs to get the rest of the Americans out of Afghanistan.

That mission, he charged, is simply not done. He noted may 100,000 individuals or so were evacuated, but the end total may need to be 200,000.

"To all those who are asking, 'what can I do to help?' 'What’s going to happen?' 'How are we going to honor our promises to the Afghans?', I say: calm. We’re going to see how it gets done, but it’s going to get done. Somehow, something is going to get established which people are already talking about an Underground Railroad, inspired by the (original) Underground Railroad with which fugitive slaves were removed from the South prior to the Civil War. So this is by no means over. We’re not even halfway there," he said.

Pardo-Maurer said the situation in Afghanistan, under Biden's retreat plan, was "total chaos." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/09/kill-shot-didnt-take-report-makes-bombshell-allegation> **[There is an enormous group of people in DC starting from “bi-dum” and all his cabinet and the heads in the military and those in the DNC that need to be court martialed, and publicly hung in the center of the capitol mall. – rdb]**

**Top FDA vaccine officials quit as Biden presses for booster shots**

***Agency facing 'mutiny' as White House moves ahead of scientists***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published September 1, 2021 at 3:52pm*

**Amid pressure from the White House to approve COVID-19 booster shots, two top Food and Drug Administration vaccine regulators have resig**ned.

**Politico cited a former FDA official who said Marion Gruber and Philip Krause quit Tuesday because they were angered by the agency's lack of autonomy regarding its approval of the vac**cines.

**A current official said the resignations were due to differences with FDA's top vaccine official, Peter Mar**ks. [But Politico, citing 11 current and former health officials, reported](https://www.politico.com/news/2021/08/31/biden-booster-plan-fda-508149) **the agency is "facing a potential mutiny among its staff and outside vaccine advisers, several of whom feel cut out of key decisions and who view the plan to offer boosters to all adults as premature and unn**ecessary."

The key point of contention is the Biden administration's decision to move ahead with boosters before the FDA's top scientists have had a chance to weigh in.

**The FDA has released five studies in recent weeks, with some showing fading immunity among health care workers who have been vaccinated and more breakthrough cases overall than previously recor**ded.

**The administration has set a deadline of Sept. 20 for rolling out booster shots to most adults**, which has the FDA scrambling to collect and analyze data to support the boosters' benefits.

**"Many outside experts, and some within the agency, see uncomfortable similarities between the Biden team's top-down booster plan and former President Donald Trump's attempts to goad FDA into accelerating its initial authorization process for Covid-19 vaccines and push through unproven virus treatments**," Politico said.

An FDA spokesman told Politico the agency understands "the importance of additional vaccine doses for control of this pandemic and will move as rapidly as possible to evaluate all submissions."

"Responding to this pandemic requires an all of government approach,” the spokesman said. "FDA has and will continue to make regulatory decisions. And the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s vaccine advisory committee] will continue to make clinical recommendations."

Meanwhile, President Biden’s COVID-19 czar, Jeff Zients, said Tuesday the booster decision "was made by and announced by the nation’s leading public health officials ... and as our medical experts laid out having reviewed all the available data, it is in their clinical judgment that it’s time to prepare Americans for a booster shot."

**But Politico reported career scientists have been confused and surprised by the process. And Biden, who came into office promising that scientis**ts would lead in decision-making and messaging regarding COVID-19, has only added to the controversy. He suggested after his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett last weekend that boosters could be administered just five months after the initial regimen, rather than the eight months his administration had just proposed.

***‘You’re not fully vaccinated without third shot’***

Just prior to his meeting with Biden, the Israeli prime minister said [people in his nation are not considered fully vaccinated until they get a third shot](https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/4940662/).

**His conclusion comports with a study of U.S. long-term care facilities that found vaccine effectiveness against any COVID-19 infection dropped to 53% in late June to early August**.

And **Pfizer has acknowledged its vaccine's efficacy decreases over time and that a third dose showed stronger antibodies against the initial COVID virus as well as the beta** and delta variants.

[**An Israeli study published in July**](https://www.forbes.com/sites/roberthart/2021/07/23/pfizer-shot-just-39-effective-against-delta-infection-but-largely-prevents-severe-illness-israel-study-suggests/?sh=75e1ba0a584f) **found the Pfizer shot was only 39% effective against the delta varia**nt, which comprised the majority of cases.

And a [study published Aug. 24 by researchers in Israel](https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.08.24.21262415v1), one of the world's most vaccinated nations, found natural immunity from a COVID infection is 27 times more effective than immunity from the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine.

On Aug. 23, the Pfizer vaccine became the first COVID-19 shot to receive full FDA approval. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/09/4942630/> **[This entire fiasco is a fraud and has been from the beginning – rdb]**

**More contaminated COVID vaccines found containing black particles**

***Jabs were given to 3,790 people before problems reported***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published September 1, 2021 at 2:23pm* ***By Harry Wilmerding****Daily Caller News Foundation*

**Japan found black particles contaminating a vial of Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine marking the fourth time in the last week that shots were suspended, Reuters rep**orted.

Japan [suspended](https://dailycaller.com/2021/08/26/japan-moderna-vaccine-contamination-covid-19/) 1.63 million doses of [Moderna’s](https://dailycaller.com/2021/01/25/moderna-vaccine-protective-coronavirus-variant-south-africa-uk-united-kingdom/) vaccine on Aug. 25 following contamination reports, according to [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japan-finds-another-moderna-vial-suspected-contain-foreign-substance-2021-09-01/). The company said manufacturing issues caused the contamination, and European safety regulators have launched an investigation.

Japan reported a fresh contamination case involving Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine, the fourth such incident in less than a week, threatening to slow the country’s sputtering inoculation campaign <https://t.co/CKdHZynMkL>

— Reuters (@Reuters) [September 1, 2021](https://twitter.com/Reuters/status/1433056713037520899)

The Kanagawa prefecture said Takeda Pharmaceutical, the vaccine’s domestic distributor, collected all remaining contaminated vaccines, according to Reuters. The shots were administered to about 3,790 people before contaminations were reported, but no one has been harmed.

**Other batches of Moderna’s vaccines were suspended this week in the prefecture after foreign particles were found in the vials. The** [**contamination**](https://dailycaller.com/2021/07/29/johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine-plant-food-and-drug-administration/) **was mostly due to parts of the vial’s stopper breaking off an**d falling into the vaccination.

**“The most probable cause of the particulates identified in lot 3004667 is related to friction between two pieces of metal installed in the stoppering module** of the production line due to an incorrect setup,” Moderna told the Daily Caller News Foundation via email. “It is believed that this condition occurred during the assembling of the line prior to production of batch 3004667 and was a result of improper alignment during a like changeover before starting this batch.”

Moderna said that traces of stainless steel particles were found in the vaccine, but the traces don’t pose a risk to patients. More than 200 million doses of the Moderna vaccine have been administered to more than 110 million patients in 45 different countries, the company said.

Japan reported 146,740 COVID cases and 357 deaths this week, according to the [Johns Hopkins University of Medicine](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/japan). Roughly 46% of the population is fully vaccinated. <https://www.wnd.com/2021/09/contaminated-covid-vaccines-found-containing-black-particles/>

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| **Crushing the Lifeblood of Medical Science**  by [Dr. Peter McCullough](https://www.americaoutloud.com/author/dr-peter-mccullough/) | Aug 3, 2021 | [F](https://www.americaoutloud.com/category/subject-matter/feature-1/)  <https://www.americaoutloud.com/crushing-the-lifeblood-of-medical-science/>  **Excellent and revealing report on the fraud going on with the JAB** |

**Cash, COVID, and cover-up, part 1:**

**​The questions we should have asked of Fauci about the origins of COVID-19**

[*Leon Wolf*](https://www.theblaze.com/u/leonwolf) *and* [*Chris Pandolfo*](https://www.theblaze.com/u/christopherpandolfo) *August 31, 2021* Top of Form

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Less than two years ago, an outbreak of a new, flu-like virus that would eventually be known as COVID-19 began in Wuhan, China. Today, almost 5 million people globally have died from this pandemic, and we are no closer to understanding how it began.   
 [Don't miss out on content from Dave Rubin free of big tech censorship. Listen to The Rubin Report now.](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-rubin-report/id1052842770)   
 Well, that's not entirely true. We are closer, but only by virtue of being allowed to ask in public a rather inconvenient question: Was a foreign lab that received U.S. taxpayer funding for years responsible for the start of the spread of this pandemic?   
 For months, this question was considered publicly taboo, prohibited from discussion (except as a topic of derision as a wild-eyed conspiracy theory) by a group of scientists who were, incredibly, some of the same people who should have been under the most intense scrutiny. The bizarre tableau would not have played out in any other walk of life. If ExxonMobil had conducted drilling operations that resulted in a massive oil leak, the media would not have refused to investigate the cause of the leak because respected scientists who happened to be employed by ExxonMobil insisted that it was not ExxonMobil's fault.   
 And yet, incredibly, that appears to be exactly what happened to the most significant question that has faced our generation. The very people who stood to lose the most were allowed to hastily exonerate themselves, and for months — when important information should have been uncovered — social media companies and the media *actually covered for them* and are *still covering for them today*.   
 The decision to rule this topic out of bounds was made in late January 2020, just a few days after the first cases of COVID-19 were detected in Washington state. Dr. Anthony Fauci, who has perhaps done more to shape coronavirus response policy than any other person in America, was a central figure in those discussions.   
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 It is difficult, after all that has happened over the last two years, to remember a time when Dr. Fauci was not famous, but it is important to remember that when the discussions that would shape the investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic began, the men and women who conferred with him were not conferring with the celebrity who would soon come to dominate American media coverage. They were, rather, conferring with a bureaucrat — one whom a vast, overwhelming majority of Americans could not have picked out of a lineup when he was announced as a member of then-Vice President Mike Pence's coronavirus task force on Jan. 29, 2020.   
 **But just because he wasn't famous doesn't mean he wasn't powerful. Not only is he literally the highest-paid employee of the entire federal government, but Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) provides billions of dollars for research projects in the United States** and around the world. NIAID was responsible for doling out [nearly $3 billion](https://www.usaspending.gov/federal_account/075-0885) annually in federal taxpayer dollars to research scientists between fiscal years 2017 and 2019. In FY 2021, NIAID received an annual budget of $6,067,071,000. The agency plans to fund another $3.8 billion in research grants this year, 62% of its budget.   
 **The director of NIAID wields enormous power and influence over which research projects receive that funding, which scientists will be paid to continue their work, and which therapies, vaccines, diagnostic tests, and other technologies get developed in the competitive field of infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases. And Fauci is the longest-serving head of NIAID, having been appointed director in 1984** and supervising research both within and without the agency from that position for nearly four decades since.  
 So, **while the average American might never have heard of Dr. Anthony Fauci prior to sometime in February or March 2020, the people who study viruses for a living certainly had**. Not only had they heard of him, but they were also acutely aware that he was in charge of the funding upon which a significant portion of their livelihood depends. Risking the disfavor of Fauci was not a move many in the field of infectious disease research would make.   
 Another **important individual in that field was Dr. Jeremy Farrar, director of the megacharity known as the Wellcome Trust. With an annual** total disbursement budget of over $11 billion — a significant portion of which is spent on infectious disease research — Farrar also represented an enormously important gatekeeper of medical research funding. The Wellcome Trust had a [financial endowment](https://wellcome.org/news/value-wellcome-investments-passes-25-billion-pounds) of £29.1 billion, or just over $40 billion, in 2020, making it the fourth wealthiest charitable foundation in the world.   
 Both Fauci and Farrar would play key roles in shaping the public response to questions about the origins of COVID-19. And they would serve — whether willfully or not — to stamp out questions that would have tended to implicate recipients of their funding largesse — and thus ultimately themselves. Somehow, very few people in the media found this worthy of curiosity, much less rigorous investigation.   
 Indeed, when Fauci finally faced aggressive questioning on the subject, from Kentucky Republican Sen. Rand Paul, CNN's Jake Tapper exemplified the approach of most of the media by [treating Paul's questions as scandalous in and of themselves and not worthy of even being repeated on air](https://www.nationalreview.com/news/cnns-tapper-dismisses-rand-pauls-gain-of-function-research-questions-as-misinformation-i-dont-want-to-get-into-the-details/). **Thus has our watchdog media completely failed to fulfill its responsibility to hold powerful bureaucrats in government a**ccountable.   
 +++++++++  
 Although the particulars of the lab-leak theory, as it would come to be called, would not be fleshed out for several months after the pandemic began, when COVID-19 introduced itself to the world in late 2019, it did not take long for a couple of salient facts to begin circulating on the internet. The first was that Wuhan, the epicenter of the COVID outbreak, was home to a virology lab that had been the subject of a [scathing State Department report](https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/read-the-state-department-cable-that-launched-claims-that-coronavirus-escaped-from-chinese-lab/2b80aef2-f728-4c36-8875-3bf6aae1d272/) that blasted the lab for inadequate security procedures, saying the Wuhan Institute "has a serious shortage of appropriately trained technicians and investigators needed to safely operate this high-containment laboratory."   
 The second was that one of the lab's top scientists, Shi Zhengli, had for years led a team of researchers into the field to collect dozens of coronavirus samples in the wild. Her virus-hunting expeditions took her deep into bat caves, earning her the nickname "bat woman," a fact that was of particular interest in early 2020 because Chinese scientists had [published a paper](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2012-7) showing the SARS-CoV-2 virus was 96% identical to a previously discovered bat coronavirus.   
 A video [released by Chinese state media](https://www.businessinsider.com/chinese-scientists-bat-caves-video-2021-6) just weeks before the first official reports of COVID-19 cases in Wuhan also gained attention. The video showed Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention staff (not to be confused with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a separate lab) collecting virus samples from horseshoe and pipistrelle bats in caves found in China's Hubei province. The video demonstrated that Chinese scientists had been handling bats and collecting virus samples similar to SARS-CoV-2, the COVID-19 pandemic was linked to Wuhan, and right there next to the city were a laboratory and a health institute that studied coronaviruses.   
 Given that the early scientific evidence strongly pointed to bats as the original host animal of what would become COVID-19, this led many to naturally wonder, "Could this lab have been the source of the pandemic?"   
 Topping it all off, the lab in question, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, was *funded by taxpayer dollars* that were funneled to it via the nonprofit organization EcoHealth Alliance, whose president, Peter Daszak, is one of the leading scientific voices discrediting the possibility that the virus came from the lab. Daszak's nonprofit received at least $15.2 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health since 2005, according to the [NIH's RePORTER website](https://reporter.nih.gov/search/yi9zmxlHDUO8yZkhiDs2uA/projects?sort_field=FiscalYear&sort_order=desc). Between 2014 and 2019, EcoHealth Alliance directed at least $600,000 in NIH sub-grants from Fauci's NIAID to study bat coronaviruses in collaboration with the Wuhan lab, a fact [confirmed by Fauci himself](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/exclusive-fauci-claims-us-gave-600k-to-wuhan-lab-research-documents-show-otherwise) in testimony given to Congress.   
 In June, Daszak [recused himself](https://www.theblaze.com/news/lab-leak-ecohealth-alliance-president-recuses-self-covid-investigation) from a U.N.-partnered commission investigating the origins of COVID-19 because of his apparent conflict of interest. Meanwhile, Fauci served as a member of President Donald Trump's coronavirus task force all through 2020, is now the top White House adviser on the coronavirus response, and continues to be sought after by the media as an expert authority on all things related to a pandemic that possibly has origins tied to research his agency funded.   
 It is almost unimaginable that the above series of facts alone did not lead to months of endless public interrogation of Fauci. Every media organization and governmental watchdog in the country should have immediately been calling for nonstop investigations — *especially* given the eagerness of the press to tar anyone connected with the Trump administration. The national media spent endless hours speculating, without any factual basis, about the contacts with Russia of every obscure member of Trump's team. Surely they would have interest in whether the man who was fast becoming the face of the Trump response to coronavirus was complicit, even indirectly, with the release of the virus into the world?   
 It turned out they would not. Somewhere along the line, Fauci became synonymous with "science" for many liberals and other opponents of President Trump. Perhaps nothing shielded Fauci from criticism or even investigation more effectively than the fact that, while he was nominally a member of the Trump administration, he was erected in the minds of liberals as the COVID foil to Trump.   
 Fauci himself encouraged this deification, [telling MSNBC's Chuck Todd](https://www.theblaze.com/news/fauci-attacks-science-truth), "So if you are trying to get at me as a public health official and a scientist, you're really attacking not only Dr. Anthony Fauci, you're attacking science. And anybody that looks at what is going on clearly sees that, you have to be asleep not to see that." Fauci became the scaffolding upon which the entire edifice of COVID-fighting measures favored by Democrats was built, and to attack him was seen as an indication that you probably sided with the "anti-science" crazies who think the virus is fake.   
 And the story of how this prevented the press from questioning Fauci or anyone else associated with him about how this pandemic began is one of the most regrettable failures of investigative journalism in all of history. But even more bizarre, as evidence has begun to mount that the very people who set forth to immediately stamp out all discussion of the lab-leak theory were a) the very people who would be implicated if the lab-leak theory proved true and b) were beholden to Fauci, the press seems curiously uninterested.   
 Only recently have cracks begun to appear in the façade, such as [last week's surprising Washington Post article](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2021/a-science-in-the-shadows/) that finally began asking government officials in various health agencies some difficult questions about exactly what level of oversight was exercised over the increasingly risky research being funded by taxpayer dollars. A shocking number of government officials absolutely stonewalled even the Post's inquiries.   
 This series is not intended to prove that the lab-leak theory is true. That can probably never be known with any certainty at this point, thanks largely to the intentional destruction of evidence by the Chinese government. But it *is* intended to ask questions that every person in the entire world should be interested in — and it seeks to encourage the public and the politicians who are theoretically accountable to them to demand answers that should have been demanded long ago.  
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 Over the next days and weeks, this series will investigate what we know, what we don't know, and what we may never know about the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.  
 Part 2 will examine the "gain of function" controversy and what we know about the research that was done on coronaviruses by Shi Zhengli, Ralph Baric, and others and the evidence regarding the structure of the virus that has led many to wonder if COVID-19 was, in fact, engineered in some way.   
 Part 3 will examine the early response to the pandemic by the group of scientists who would be responsible for shutting down any discussion of the lab-leak theory and the decision to control the message.  
 Part 4 will examine the scientific arguments put forth by opponents of the theory and the issues they have either glossed over or failed to examine.   
 Part 5 will track the effort that was made by social media companies to silence any questions about the theory as conspiracy theories.   
 Finally, part 6 will discuss the current state of knowledge and suggest a path forward for the debate.  
 The trail of suffering left across the globe by the COVID-19 pandemic and the attendant measures that have been undertaken to attempt to slow its spread are almost incalculable. Millions have died, millions more have suffered severe diseases, and almost everyone has been severely economically and emotionally impacted. Perhaps most devastatingly, so many of those who died during the pandemic had to die alone, isolated from friends and loved ones by fear of the contagion. The full downstream effects of this catastrophe cannot even be guessed at, and the possibility remains that the mutations of the virus may make it virtually undefeatable by vaccines in the long term.   
 In the face of all this human suffering, humanity deserves answers. We must do everything in our power to determine why this happened, so that we can do everything in our power to prevent it from happening again. The search for answers must be inexhaustible, and any person who might possibly be involved in any way should be an appropriate subject of aggressive investigation. After all that COVID-19 has done, humanity deserves no less. And it certainly deserves more than legacy media and social media companies have given it thus far. We will attempt to find those answers. <https://www.theblaze.com/news/cash-covid-and-coverup-part-1-the-questions-we-should-have-asked-of-fauci-about-the-origins-of-covid-19> [**This is long but you must come to the realization that money and power are the moving factors in all government entities and while it would be nice to think that ‘professionalism’ in the healthcare group would preclude such influences, that is not at all the case. Too much power and control and money simply breeds corruption. From what I have been reading that is the case here. – rdb]**

**'White people should commit suicide as an ethical act,' says white professor**

***'He took them to a proposed end of whiteness'***

*By* [*Joe Kovacs*](https://www.wnd.com/author/jkovacs/) *Published September 1, 2021 at 12:30pm*

**A psychology professor at Duquesne University is raising eyebrows by agreeing with another educator who says it would be ethical for white people to kill themse**lves.

**"White people should commit suicide as an ethical act," says the top of a video presentation by professor Derek Hook at the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvani**a, college.

**Professor of Psychology at Duquesne University Derek Hook, defends the quote “white people should commit suicide as an ethical act” as an “opportunity” to “castrate white**ness”.

This is part of an “anti-racist” discussion on “nice white therapists” held by AAPCSW. [pic.twitter.com/IL839IjUCV](https://t.co/IL839IjUCV)

— Mythinformed MKE (@MythinformedMKE) [August 25, 2021](https://twitter.com/MythinformedMKE/status/1430623830226186242)

The video was posted by the anti-Critical Race Theory group Mythinformed MKE.

"This is part of an 'anti-racist' discussion on 'nice white therapists held by the [American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work],'" the group wrote on Facebook.

 [The College Fix](https://www.thecollegefix.com/video-white-people-should-commit-suicide-as-an-ethical-act-duquesne-professor-says/) noted "the video appears to be from a summer session hosted by Hook, though the content is not otherwise publicly available."

***Duquesne University professor Derek Hook (Video screenshot)***

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**Hook, who himself is white, was quoting from Terblanche Delport, a South African philosophy professor at the University of Pretoria who wrote about white people killing themselves in 2016.**

 **"[T]he only (life) purpose for whites, specifically Afrikaners, is to await their death or to commit suicide**, like the samurai falls on his short sword when he has fallen into disgrace," Delport said, [according](http://www.radiofreesouthafrica.com/whites-die-academics-call-univ-witwatersrand/) to Radio Free South Africa.

**"White supremacy could only be ended once whites are dead,**" continued Delport, who also is white. "We should be prepared to die silently, without having children, so that white supremacy could come to an end at last."

***Terblanche Delport of South Africa's University of Pretoria (Video screenshot)***

**"Here's the kind of crazy gambit of this talk," Hook said in his analysis. "I want to suggest that psychoanalytically we could even make the argument that there was something ethical in Delport's stateme**nts."  
 He suggested white folks could symbolically kill themselves or undergo metaphorical "castration."  
 "I want to make the argument that there is some kind of ethical dimension to his provocations,” Hook continued.  
 "I think Delport took his white audience to the threshold of a type of symbolic extinction ... he took them to a proposed end of whiteness."  
 According to his [Duquesne biography,](https://www.duq.edu/academics/faculty/derek-hook) Hook is a "scholar and a practitioner of psychoanalysis with expertise in the areas of Lacanian psychoanalysis, post-colonial theory (the work of Frantz Fanon in particular), the psychology of racism and critical social psychology."  
 The College Fix noted: "The American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work is a liberal group that previously called on President Trump to resign days before his term in office ended due to the violence at the Capitol.  
 "The group 'believes that Donald Trump's presidential powers must be immediately revoked,' according to a January 13 statement. 'He has demonstrated an exploitation of such powers through the consistent promotion of racist groups and ideologies.'" <https://www.wnd.com/2021/09/prof-white-people-commit-suicide-ethical-act/> [**HUMMMM? Perhaps the best thing for all humanity would be for these insane nitwits to “GO FIRST”. If you had any questions why our kids in colleges are coming out of school with totally nutty ideas this might help reveal some insights. – rdb]**  
   
**San Francisco to pay gang members $300 per month to renounce violence and take ‘life coach’ classes instead***1 Sep, 2021 18:35* The **city of San Francisco will launch a bold initiative to curb gun violence: paying “high risk” individuals to put the guns down and become more productive members of society**.   
 San **Francisco will launch the ‘Dream Keeper Fellowship’ as a pilot program in October, the San Francisco Examiner** [**reported**](https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/a-local-solution-for-gun-violence-pay-people-300-a-month/) **on Tuesday. Behind the whimsical name, the idea is simple**: people *“who authorities believe are most at risk of shooting someone”* will be offered $300 per month to meet with *“life coaches”* instead, and to talk other *“high risk”* individuals out of committing gun crimes.  
 **This monthly stipend increases to $500 as these individuals complete tasks, like meeting with mentors and applying for jobs.**  
 As of July, shootings in San Francisco have doubled since last year, gun homicides are up by a third, and the number of non-fatal shooting victims has risen by more than 100%, according to the Examiner’s figures.   
 Mayor London Breed responded to this surge in violence not by hiring more police officers or authorizing a crackdown by law enforcement, but by promising to defund the police budget by $120 million, and reroute the money to welfare, black businesses, and other social-justice focused programs, all under the umbrella of the ‘[Dream Keeper Initiative](https://sf-hrc.org/sites/default/files/Dream%20Keeper%20Initiative_One%20Pager.pdf).’  
 While the budget cuts fell by the wayside in favor of a reshuffling of city finances, the soon-to-be launched program is a product of that same desire to tackle crime from a more woke angle. Police believe that conflict between just 12 black and Latino gangs is responsible for most of San Francisco’s homicides. As such, the new program will target the most dangerous of these gang members.  
 *“We are going to invest resources in this 25-year-old who has eight previous arrests, who is on parole, who is a proud member of a neighborhood clique and who is not even seeking services,”* David Muhammad of the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform told the Examiner. *“It’s just not a popular decision to make and may not be politically palatable, but that’s what you have to do in order to reduce gun violence.”*  
 Commenters online ridiculed the program, equating it to bribing criminals not to commit crimes. *“Violent criminals need jail,”* David Freddoso wrote in the Washington Examiner on Tuesday. *“They do not need cash. People who shoot other people need to be walled off in prisons and kept away from the rest of us.”*  
 San Francisco will pay 10 people who are "at high risk of shooting someone" $300 PER MONTH not to be involved in shootings.So leftists created a hijackers and hostages program. What happens when the program stops? Someone will die each day? <https://t.co/KM1v1XAQPf>  
 — Marina Medvin 🇺🇸 (@MarinaMedvin) [September 1, 2021](https://twitter.com/MarinaMedvin/status/1433027877532995585?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 brb, building up my track record of interpersonal violence so I qualify for the ‘earn $300 a month by not shooting people’ scheme <https://t.co/URfTcKnd4B>  
 — Mary Harrington (@moveincircles) [September 1, 2021](https://twitter.com/moveincircles/status/1432974602263744520?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 Similar initiatives, touted as successes by San Francisco officials, have yielded mixed results. One program, in Richmond, California, resulted in fewer [firearm deaths](https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305288), but more non-firearm deaths took place instead. Another program, in Stockton, California, boasted that 71% of participants [finished](https://www.advancepeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/advance_peace_stockton_eval_report_2021_final.pdf) the course with *“no new gun arrests.”* However, nearly a third were arrested during the course and the city saw a 60% rise in homicides, nearly double the national average increase.  
 Despite the criticism, the program has its true believers. *"The notion of paying criminals not to shoot might be a sexy headline but it's an extraordinarily inaccurate description of the intervention,"* Muhammad told [ABC7](https://abc7news.com/san-francisco-dream-keeper-fellowship-crime-prevention-reducing/10991396/). He stressed that participants will be given their cash payments on pre-loaded cards and won’t be able to spend them on illicit goods, and will be required to actively engage with social services, rather than simply refraining from murdering people.  
 <https://www.rt.com/usa/533674-san-francisco-pay-criminals-shooting/> [**When you thought the fruits and nuts in California had gone as far as they could go, then they come up with this cockamamy idea. L- rdb]**  
   
   
 **Commentary:  
Neither Biden Nor His Speechwriters Can Do Simple Math on the Afghan Pullout**[*John R. Lott, Jr.*](https://townhall.com/columnists/johnrlottjr/) *Posted: Sep 01, 2021 12:01 A* You have to wonder whether Biden’s speechwriters can do simple math. Possibly they don’t even care about getting numbers right because they know that no one in the press will check.   
 But by virtually any measure, [Biden’s speech on Tuesday](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/31/biden-speech-transcript-us-completes-afghanistan-withdrawal) claiming that our surrender in Afghanistan was a rip-roaring success didn’t go well. Biden claimed, “I take responsibility for the decision.” But he blamed the United States military, who he says unanimously advised him on what to do. He blamed the Americans who refused to leave despite supposedly being warned multiple times, ignoring Biden himself telling people that everything was going to be fine when Americans left. He blamed the “previous administration’s agreement” to leave by May 1st (of course, Biden ignored that date and all the other parts of the strategy and changed his own date from September 11th to August 31st). He blamed the Afghan national security forces and others. But others can dissect all of those many false statements.  
 My point is simple. Take three numbers provided by Biden that can’t all be true.  
 “Our Operation Allied Rescue ended up getting more than 5,500 Americans out.”  
 “The bottom line: 90 percent of Americans in Afghanistan who wanted to leave, were able to leave.”  
 “Now we believe that about 100 to 200 Americans remain in Afghanistan with some intention to leave.”  
 If more than 5,500 Americans represent 90 percent of the Americans who wanted to leave, that means that there were at least 611 who wanted out but still stuck in Afghanistan. But what is an extra 400 or 500 hundred American citizens stuck in a brutal country where Taliban soldiers are raping women and going door to door hunting for their enemies to kill? If there were only 100 to 200 Americans were still stuck in the country, you would think that Biden would brag that he had gotten out 97 or 98 percent of the Americans there. Saying that 10 percent of those Americans were left just doesn’t come across well.  
 Note that “90 percent of Americans” who wanted to leave assumes that everyone who wanted to leave could register with the U.S. embassy. Still, there is [evidence significant numbers haven’t registered](https://omny.fm/shows/the-vince-coglianese-show/the-vince-coglianese-show-chris-bedford-08-31-21).    
 The Biden administration put out different numbers every other day on the number of Americans in Afghanistan ([ranging up to 15,000](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/08/29/how-number-americans-afghanistan-went-15000-6000/)). Even on Tuesday, different numbers were coming out of the State Department on the number of Americans who wanted to get out, saying that it was “[fewer than 250](https://www.wthitv.com/content/news/575213622.html).” But these are Biden’s numbers in one speech, so it isn’t like changing information accounts for this inconsistency. Moreover, Biden made the unusual decision to wait a day to give his speech on the withdrawal, and a lot of efforts must have gone into preparing something this important.  
 Over 600 Americans still stuck in Afghanistan is about [ten times](https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/iran-hostage-crisis) the number of hostages taken by Iran back in 1979 during Jimmy Carter’s watch.  
 Biden promised on August 18th that “[if there’s American citizens left, we’re going to stay to get them all out](https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/full-transcript-abc-news-george-stephanopoulos-interview-president/story?id=79535643).” Possibly the continued sleight of hand with the numbers is an attempt to minimize that broken promise.   
 Of course, we also left tens of thousands of Afghans who helped the United States in our war with the Taliban to fend for themselves. Even the Washington Post [noted](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/afghanistan-evacuation-left-behind/2021/08/27/90f2758a-0665-11ec-b3c4-c462b1edcfc8_story.html): “Thousands of Afghans who put their lives at risk to work with the United States’ NATO allies have been left behind.” A headline in the Wall Street Journal [pointed out](https://www.wsj.com/articles/afghan-interpreter-who-helped-rescue-biden-in-2008-left-behind-after-u-s-exit-11630429285): “Afghan Interpreter Who Helped Rescue Biden in 2008 Left Behind After U.S. Exit.”  
 Biden’s credibility is already under assault. Being unable to put together numbers that make any sense makes the whole process look even more ludicrous. But don’t expect the fact-checkers at the Washington Post or other outlets to point out even these obvious inconsistencies.   
 With no American reporters left in Afghanistan, you won’t get many stories of the Americans left behind being tortured and murdered. Biden’s hope is undoubtedly that this will fade from people’s memory. <https://townhall.com/columnists/johnrlottjr/2021/09/01/neither-biden-nor-his-speechwriters-can-do-simple-math-on-the-afghan-pullout-n2595116>

**Biden’s State Department Blocking Christians From Leaving Afghanistan***By* [*Dr. Laurie Roth*](https://newswithviews.com/author/laurie/)*|September 1st, 2021* Afghanistan Christians are not being allowed to get into the Airport to wait for any flight out, but instead have been ordered out into the explosion and kill zone, very exposed to wait.  What are they waiting for?  It is vividly clear at the ordering of the Biden administration and his evil State Department, they are waiting to be attacked, exploded or burned alive since most are Muslim converts to Christianity. They aren’t waiting for a rescue apparently by Biden and his endless resources  
 Our whole nation is still a gasp at the notion that Biden would remove all our military from Afghanistan, first before safely taking out the civilian population somewhere between 10,000-70,000.  On top of that horrifying action, Biden thought it was wise and helpful somehow to turn over the names of all the civilians there to the Taliban.  You can’t make this stuff up in a horror movie designed to shock and illicit screams from all watching.  
 Real Christians and concerned Americans are donating big money and resources to save the thousands of Christians being forced to wait outside the fence of the Airport and wait for death instead of rescue by America.  Kenneth Copeland, a real Pastor and man of faith, has donated a big plane to help, while many others have coughed up big money in the private sector.  
 Beck has proof that the Biden State Department has been calling neighboring countries and ordering them not to allow any Christians from Afghanistan into their country. Many of the surrounding Muslim countries have tried to show mercy and would allow a temporary stay just to get them out of the deadly kill zone they are now in.  Think of it, people.  Biden, the U.S. and our military could have in 24 hours enough people, protection and planes in Afghanistan, to get all the civilians and Christians out of there but he won’t.  He doesn’t want to or he would have.  
 So far, Beck said he has not only raised 30 plus million to get them out but of this writing, had already rescued and flown out 5100 Christians to undisclosed locations.  The rest are in a kill zone, waiting to be set on fire by the Taliban, blown up, shot or tortured.  Look what one person in America, coordinating a rescue effort can do, thank you Glenn Beck.  
**Bottom line people**  
 Don’t talk to me about Biden’s alleged dementia.  It is very clear he and his handlers have a bold plan to make sure Christians waiting to get on any plane (not provided of course by Biden or the state Department) will be exposed, blown up or burned alive.  Of course, then there are those pesky 10-50,000 civilians left there to die with no protection, thanks to our satanic, un-American evil and fake president, Biden.  
 It is high time for Impeachments, arrests and Trump to return.  It is also time for more Americans to stand, no matter what against dangerous vaccine and mask tyranny, the stealing of your Constitutional rights and planned destruction of America and her people.  Get into groups., protest, stand up to evil Governors and up to Biden and his evil minions now or because a vaccinated slave who turns in their neighbor, sells out and dies an early death.  
 We are at war for everything that matters.  Get messy, organized and fight where you can.  Remember this.  Our real power, direction, strategic advantage and win is from our Lord Jesus. He has promised long ago in 2 Chronicles 7:14 to save and help us if we will submit to Him and trust Him.  “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land.” <https://newswithviews.com/bidens-state-department-blocking-christians-from-leaving-afghanistan/>   
  
**CDC's Mission Confusion***Betsy McCaughey Posted: Sep 01, 2021 12:01 A* The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a guide last week for "Inclusive Communication," cautioning against using words like prisoner, smoker, illegal immigrant, disabled or homeless, which the agency says could imply blame or stigma.  
 The guide's opening line says, "We must confront the systems and policies that have resulted in the generational injustice that has given rise to health inequities." The CDC is now about fighting injustice, not disease.  
 The agency says instead of gender-specific pronouns like him or her, use "they," even when referring to one person. And talk about "parents" or "expectant parents" instead of mothers or fathers.  
 After making the hundreds of language changes the CDC recommends, who has time to defeat COVID-19?  
 The CDC's got mission confusion. With parts of the U.S. considering more COVID lockdowns, Americans don't need language lessons on political correctness. They need scientific information on how to reduce the risk of being infected by this virus indoors. That's key to reopening workplaces and returning to normal.  
 Numerous new technologies are said to destroy airborne viruses, including ionization, dry hydrogen peroxide, far UV light and others. But school administrators and office building managers don't have a clue which ones actually work. They're flying blind.  
 The CDC's thousands of scientists could provide guidance. Not that they should endorse specific brands, but they can assess competing technologies. The CDC flatly refuses. Instead, it cautions against using them because they lack "an established body of peer-reviewed evidence."  
 What planet is the CDC on? Peer-reviewed evidence can take years. Here's the process: An academic journal sends a submitted article to scientists around the world for review and suggested changes. Once that input is received and the article is approved, the wait goes on because many of these journals only publish four times a year.  
 Glacial slowness doesn't work in a pandemic. That's why former President Donald Trump designed Operation Warp Speed for vaccines. The CDC's timetable isn't warp speed. It's warped. The CDC's tacit premise that yesterday's technology is good enough will doom us to failure.  
 Former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb told the Washington Post last week that the CDC has the wrong mentality to respond to a crisis. "Their mind set is we should polish it, vet it, peer-review it."  
 The result is the CDC offering 50-year-old information: Open windows, space desks apart and use HEPA filters where possible. HEPA filters were devised for gas masks during World War II, and commercialized for buildings in the 1950s.  
 Tried and true methods are not necessarily wrong. But the public deserves the latest science, too.  
 Eighteen months into the pandemic, giant employers like Apple and Amazon again are delaying reopening workplaces. They need help. Only 33% of U.S. office workers are back, according to Kastle Systems. New York City is far worse off, with only 22% back. That kills retail stores, coffee shops and restaurants that serve workers.  
 If it were possible to get back to normal without technological breakthroughs, it would have happened already. Eric Adams, the city's likely next mayor, needs scientific information on how to reduce aerosolized COVID-19 virus in transportation hubs, public buildings, offices and schools.  
 Citing the importance of speed in a pandemic, Gottlieb has been urging the FDA to establish a fast-track way of determining what works and what doesn't. The CDC should be doing the same using its own scientists.  
 As for schools, the medical journal Lancet's COVID task force has chastised the CDC for focusing on masking and social distancing instead of air quality.  
 A CDC study of 169 Georgia K-5 schools found COVID cases were reduced more by improving air quality than any other intervention. Mandating masks for students produced no statistically significant improvement.  
 A Kaiser Health News headline in June read: "More than 100 Missouri Schools Have Bought 'Often Unproven' Air Cleaning Technology." The words "often unproven" come from CDC guidance. If school districts are rushing in desperation to buy equipment without enough information, blame the CDC, not the school administrators.  
 A spokesperson for the company that sold ionization equipment to Missouri schools explained that peer-reviewed research on its equipment doesn't exist yet. That is why CDC scientists should get to work assessing new technologies themselves instead of writing speech manuals.  
 If the CDC wants to be politically correct, it can call its new air quality guidance "Indoor Environmentalism." That almost sounds green. <https://townhall.com/columnists/betsymccaughey/2021/09/01/cdcs-mission-confusion-n2595110>  
   
**Impeach Biden**

[*Daniel Greenfield*](https://www.blogger.com/profile/13575285186581875356) [*August 31, 2021*](https://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/08/impeach-biden.html)

When Kabul fell, the Taliban offered the Biden administration a deal. Either the United States could control the city until August 31, the terror group’s deadline, or the Taliban would.

The Taliban may have been testing Biden, wary of a direct military confrontation with a large concentration of American forces, but if so they quickly learned that they had little to worry about. Instead of maintaining control over Kabul so that Americans could be speedily evacuated, the Biden administration and its cronies turned over the city to the Taliban.  
 And the Taliban turned to their most professional and deadliest assets. The Haqqani Network had been closely allied with Al Qaeda and picked up many of its tricks. Its commanders understood urban warfare, excelled at suicide and truck bombings, and had expert units whose commandos had been trained in Pakistan by the terror regime’s ISI secret agents.  
 The Taliban officially named Khalil al-Rahman Haqqani to head security in Kabul. The Haqqani Jihadist figure had a $5 million bounty on his head from the United States. Not long after the Biden administration made its deal with the devil, a designated foreign terrorist group and a specially designated terrorist controlled access for American refugees fleeing to Kabul’s airport.  
 The Biden administration made no protest. It did not complain that a terror group founded by one of Osama bin Laden’s mentors which had repeatedly targeted American soldiers with suicide bomb attacks, including the murder of a colonel and two lieutenant colonels by a car bomber, a truck bomb that wounded 77 American soldiers in a 9/11 anniversary attack on a base, and a truck bombing attack on another base, was “coordinating security” for Kabul airport.  
 Biden had been given the opportunity to create a secure escape route for American civilians escaping Afghanistan and to keep American soldiers safe in the city. Instead he set them up to be massacred by turning security in Kabul and around its airport over to a terrorist group.  
 Even while Biden falsely claimed at a press conference that Afghanistan would be nothing like Kabul, military and intelligence briefings had already prepared him for much worse. If someone had to take the PR hit for chasing away refugees and a botched evacuation, Biden preferred that the Taliban play the bad guys while he disavowed all responsibility. He didn’t care how many Americans died as long as he maintained plausible deniability to cover up their deaths.  
 Biden’s assumption that the Taliban could be trusted to do his dirty work without wanting anything in return except the end of our presence in Afghanistan was treasonously dumb.  
 Obama had assumed that the Muslim Brotherhood could be trusted in Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya. The attacks of September 11, 2012, climaxing in the Benghazi massacre, proved him wrong. Biden’s own Benghazi began the same way when he turned over power to Islamists while believing that they would be satisfied with just taking over a country.  
 The Taliban had turned over the problem of Kabul airport to the Haqqani Network. Like Biden, the Taliban wanted plausible deniability for whatever might happen around the site. The Haqqani Network was part of the Taliban, yet the United States had set the unfortunate precedent of designating the Haqqanis, but not the Taliban, as a foreign terrorist organization.  
 That legal distinction had provided both the United States and the Taliban with plausible deniability over the years. The Haqqanis would carry out terrorist attacks while the United States could still negotiate with the Taliban without being accused of “negotiating with terrorists”.  
 When the Taliban turned over the checkpoints and security around Kabul airport to the Haqqani network, they were sending a clear signal that they were washing their hands of any attacks.  
 And the Biden administration, which had made the deal with the devil, could not hold the Taliban accountable without exposing its own complicity in this setup. The rest was all but inevitable.  
 The Taliban checkpoints failed to hold back the crowds from the airport even with bouts of occasional brutality. The Jihadists manning them had little interest in screening paperwork on behalf of the Kabul embassy, as Biden expected them to, instead they searched for Afghans on their lists. Once the State Department handed the Taliban its lists of approved Americans and Afghans, their real job of finding and detaining key officials and other figures became easier.  
 Americans continued to have trouble reaching the airport even while Biden and his cronies falsely claimed that there could be no problems with Al Qaeda’s allies running checkpoints.  
 Things got worse from there.  
 ISIS-K's leader, Shahab al-Muhajir, was a former Haqqani commander. The Islamic State affiliate had recruited heavily among the Taliban and, in particular the Haqqani Network.  
 Biden had put America’s worst enemies in charge of security around Kabul airport.  
 Gen. Frank McKenzie, who had originally met with Taliban officials to hear their offer to take Kabul, went on bragging that, "we use the Taliban as a tool to protect us as much as possible."  
 Who was using whom became obvious when an ISIS-K suicide bomber and gunmen who had gotten past the Haqqani checkpoints murdered 13 American military personnel.  
 Including eleven of McKenzie’s marines.  
 They didn’t have to die. And the entire botched evacuation didn’t have to play out this way.  
 Biden made numerous mistakes that led to the fall of Afghanistan, including the abandonment of Bagram Air Base, which not only cut off a secure evacuation route, but freed countless Jihadis, some of whom may have even taken part in the Kabul airport attack. But the decision to turn over Kabul to the Taliban, and to turn over security around Kabul airport to allies of Al Qaeda whom the United States had designated as terrorists is nothing short of treasonous.  
 13 American military personnel paid in blood for Biden’s treason.  
 Democrats made a point of impeaching President Trump twice. In 1787, Senator William Blount became the first politician impeached over a plot to help the British take over Florida and Louisiana. Impeachment in the Constitution begins with “treason”, continues with “bribery”, and then finally with “high Crimes and Misdemeanors“. Section 3 defines treason only as “levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort.”  
 It’s hard to think of a clearer definition of aid and comfort than the massive amount of armaments that the Taliban and its Jihadists have picked up in Afghanistan.  
 Biden can claim that all of that was unintentional. But turning over Kabul to the Taliban at a time when thousands of Americans sheltered there was no accident. Nor was shrugging when the Taliban handed over access to Kabul airport to the Haqqani Network which is designated as a foreign terrorist organization.  
 These were treasonous acts whose foreseeable consequences are entirely his responsibility.  
 The Jihadists levied war against American military forces with the attack at Kabul airport.  
 Biden’s treason led to the murder of 13 American military personnel. His aid and comfort to the enemy, his adherence to the Taliban at the expense of American soldiers and civilians led to the massacre of Americans. And he can and should be impeached for his treasonous crimes.  
 Joe Biden’s treasonous decision to entrust American lives and security to the enemy was not committed out of any pure motive, but to protect his own political career. After decades of appeasing Islamic terrorists, Biden was only doing what came naturally to him. And he had either learned nothing from Benghazi or he simply did not care about the risk to Americans.  
 Like Blount and later Burr, Biden, the third ‘B’ in the bunch, committed treason out of self-interest, throwing in with America’s enemies because he thought it would profit him.  
 That does not lessen his treason. It worsens it.  
 America’s original traitors, men like Benedict Arnold and Aaron Burr, were motivated by greed, pride, and wounded egos. They did not believe in anything except themselves.  
 Biden’s treason is that of a career politician who will sacrifice anyone for his own sake.  
 President Trump was impeached over Ukraine, yet the impeachers could not point to a single American who had died in that country. 13 Americans have died in Afghanistan. The parents of some of these fallen men and women have come forward to demand justice. They deserve it.  
 Democrats currently control the Senate and the House. But that does not excuse Republicans from the need to confront Biden and hold him accountable by calling for impeachment anyway.  
 Even a failed effort will keep this issue alive and prevent the dead from being forgotten.  
 We all saw Biden checking his watch at Dover while waiting for the transfer of the men and women he killed to be complete. The dead Americans are no more to him than the Afghans whose deaths he had falsely dismissed as having happened, “four or five days ago.”  
 After another four or five days, Biden hopes that the dead Americans will be forgotten.  
 Biden is counting on Americans to have as bad a memory as he does. And if Republicans remain silent, pivoting to the next scandal or talking point, he will have been proven right.  
 The Americans murdered and betrayed by Biden deserve justice. They deserve to see the question of his impeachment raised and debated. And America’s honor deserves it too.  
 The world must not think that what it saw in Kabul represents a new American normal.  
 That would be devastating to our national security and to our honor. The world must know that what happened was a crime. And that Americans will work to hold the criminal accountable.

[*Daniel Greenfield*](http://sultanknish.blogspot.com/)*is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's*[*Front Page Magazine*](https://www.frontpagemag.com/)*.* <https://www.danielgreenfield.org/2021/08/impeach-biden.html>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA  
Report: Taliban gives US tanks, military equipment to Iran  
 *US military equipment from Afghanistan emerges in images form Tehran.****Gary Willig , Sep 01 , 2021 8:41 PM*   
 ***Armored vehicles in AfghanistaniStock***  
   
 The **Taliban has begun turning over American-made military equipment to Iran, according to a report** by *Iran International.*  
 **According to the report, images on social media show military equipment which was given to the Afghan army by the US in Tehran and other parts** of Iran.  
 Photographs also show armored tanks and Humvees being transported towards Tehran.  
 Two of the images were posted by acting Defense Minister of Afghanistan Bismallah Mohammadi, who called Iran a "bad neighbor" and said that the country's "bad days are not eternal."  
 Last week, Iran offered to resume fuel shipments to Afghanistan to prevent an economic collapse.  
 The US left behind billions of dollars worth of equipment behind in Afghanistan when it completed its withdrawal from the country Tuesday morning. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312872>   
   
**Facebook deletes account of Kabul victim's mother after she criticizes Biden  
*Instagram account of mother of US soldier killed in Kabul bombing deleted after she pens post criticizing Biden's conduct and blaming him.****Arutz Sheva Staff , Sep 01 , 2021 8:02 PM* Facebook has apologized for the deleting the Instagram account of the mother of one of the US soldiers who was killed in the suicide bombing at the Kabul airport last week after she wrote a post criticizing US President Joe Biden.  
 Shana Chappell, the mother of Kareem Nikoui, who was one of the 13 US servicemen who was killed in the blast, was especially critical of Biden's conduct during his meeting with the families of the victims on Sunday.  
 “Remember i am the one who stood 5 inches from your face and was letting you know i would never get to hug my son again, hear his laugh and then you tried to interrupt me and give me your own sob story,” she wrote.  
 “You then said you just wanted me to know that you know how i feel and i let you know that you don’t know how i feel and you do not have the right to tell me you know how i feel! U then rolled your \*\*\*\*\* eyes in your head like you were annoyed with me," the bereaved mother added.  
 She further criticized Biden for looking at his watch five times during the memorial and concluded by stating that she blames Biden for her son's death.  
 Chappell's Instagram account was deleted following the post, a move which she said was a response to her criticism of Biden.  
 The deletion of the account caused an uproar on social media, which led the company to restore her account.  
 Facebook claimed in a statement to *The Telegraph* that the account's deletion was a mistake and apologized.  
 “We express our deepest condolences to Ms Chappell and her family. Her tribute to her heroic son does not violate any of our policies,” the statement said. “While the post was not removed, her account was incorrectly deleted and we have since restored it.” <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312869>   
   
**Report: Biden urged Afghan president to create impression Taliban wasn't winning  
*Report: Biden pressured Afghan President Ghani to create ‘perception’ Taliban weren’t winning****Dan Verbin , Sep 01 , 2021 5:57 PM* **US President Joe Biden strongly encouraged Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to cook up the “perception” that the Taliban did not have the upper hand – “whether it’s true or not” – in a phone call that came only three weeks before the Islamist group took over the country, according to a leaked transcript detailed in** the *New York Post*.  
 Biden spoke to Ghani for approximately 14 minutes on July 23. It was their last phone communication before the Taliban overthrew the Afghan government, throwing the country into panic as the US hastily withdrew American troops.  
 Most of the phone call consisted of Biden speaking about the Afghan government’s “perception” issue, according to the transcript of the audio, which was obtained by *Reuters*.  
 “I need not tell you the perception around the world and in parts of Afghanistan, I believe, is that things are not going well in terms of the fight against the Taliban,” Biden told Ghani. “And there is a need, whether it is true or not, there is a need to project a different picture.”  
 Biden urged Ghani to assemble the country’s top political figures – including former Afghan President Hamid Karzai – in a joint press conference supporting a new military strategy that would defeat the Taliban.  
 The American President remarked that such a measure would “change perception, and that will change an awful lot I think.”  
 While praising US-trained Afghan security forces, Biden offered help to the Afghan leader if he could put out a public plan that appeared to show he would be able to change course and defeat the Taliban.  
 “You clearly have the best military. You have 300,000 well-armed forces versus 70-80,000 and they’re clearly capable of fighting well,” Biden said. “We will continue to provide close air support, if we know what the plan is… And all the way through the end of August, and who knows what after that.”  
 Biden also offered to “continue to fight hard, diplomatically, politically, economically, to make sure your government not only survives, but is sustained and grows because it is clearly in the interest of the people of Afghanistan, that you succeed and you lead.”  
 On the day of the conversation, the Taliban had already begun its push to take over the country, having seized nearly half of the country’s major population centers. Weeks later, on August 15, the Taliban occupied Kabul.  
 Biden’s tone of voice during the call reportedly does not project that he believed the Afghan government was in danger of falling so suddenly a mere few weeks later.  
 When the Taliban took over Kabul, Ghani fled the city. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312861> **[One more example of the completely corrupt and lying group that is now in power. – rdb]**

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**09/01/2021 NEWS AM**

**La traviata - Libiamo - Brindis**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3i1-lrdpJso>

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| **“If ever the Time should come, when vain & aspiring Men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced Patriots to prevent its Ruin.”**  **— Samuel Adams** |

**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 38:24And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying: 'Tamar thy daughter-in-law hath played the harlot; and moreover, behold, she is with child by harlotry.' And Judah said: 'Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.' 25When she was brought forth, she sent to her father-in-law, saying: 'By the man, whose these are, am I with child'; and she said: 'Discern, I pray thee, whose are these, the signet, and the cords, and the staff.' 26And Judah acknowledged them, and said: 'She is more righteous than I; forasmuch as I gave her not to Shelah my son.' And he knew her again no more.**

**First Bahraini ambassador to Israel arrives in country to take up post**

***Both nations hail arrival of Khaled Yousif al-Jalahmah, the Gulf kingdom’s first envoy to Jewish state, as an important step in further developing ties after normalization***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:12 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/WhatsApp-Image-2021-08-31-at-18.11.46.jpeg)

***Bahrain's first ambassador to Israel, Khaled Yousif al-Jalahmah (right) after arriving in Israel, on August 31, 2021. (Shlomi Amsalem/GPO)***

**Bahrain’s first ambassador to Israel, Khaled Yousif al-Jalahma, arrived in Israel Tuesday afternoon to take up his post following last year’s agreement between the countries to normalize diplomatic** ties.

A statement [carried by the state-run Bahrain News Agency](https://www.bna.bh/en/BahrainiAmbassadortoIsraelarrivesinTelAviv.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2bDtWU78N3TdixGzCjN1TcUmY%3d) **touted al-Jalahma’s arrival as “an important step in developing relations between the two countries and their people**.”

**Before touching down in Israel, the new ambassador put out a tweet in Hebrew, Arabic and English, saying, “The opportunity to fulfill His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa’s vision of peaceful coexistence with all nations is a privilege that I will hold in high regard.”**

He later tweeted photos of himself and his wife landing at Ben Gurion Airport, saying they were both “very excited.”

A historic journey in the making accompanied by my wife. We are both very excited! [pic.twitter.com/3qKstuNiZk](https://t.co/3qKstuNiZk)

— Khaled Al Jalahma (@BahrainAmbIsr) [August 31, 2021](https://twitter.com/BahrainAmbIsr/status/1432747025062375424?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Israel and Bahrain agreed in 2020 to establish diplomatic relations as part of the Abraham Acc**ords, a United States-led initiative that has also seen the Jewish state normalize ties with the United Arab Emirates, Sudan and Morocco.

Israel’s Foreign Ministry also hailed the arrival in Israel of al-Jalahmah, saying that it “and the upcoming official opening of the Bahraini Embassy in Israel, mark an important step in developing the bilateral relations between the two countries and their peoples.”

**Foreign Ministry spokesman Lior Haiat added in a statement: “The Bahraini Embassy in Israel, as well as the Israeli Embassy in Bahrain, have a central role in the strengthening of the bilateral relation**s and serve as yet another milestone of the vision of the peace accords signed in 2020.”

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/03/image_from_ios-1-e1617109519529.jpg)

***Khaled Yousif Al-Jalahma. (Bahrain Foreign Ministry)***

**Israel signed off on al-Jalahma’s appointment in March. Al-Jalahma previously served as deputy ambassador to the US**, among other senior posts in the Bahraini diplomatic service.

His arrival in Israel comes weeks after Bahrain’s Undersecretary for International Relations Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmad al-Khalifa openly met an Israeli military commander in charge of Iranian matters while visiting Israel.

Khalifa met with Tal Kelman, head of the Strategic Division of the Israel Defense Forces’ Planning Directorate, and the IDF’s Arabic-language spokesperson Avichai Adraee on Tuesday [tweeted](https://twitter.com/AvichayAdraee/status/1425133725290016773) a photograph of them shaking hands.

**In the past, such meetings between senior Israeli and Arab officials had been largely kept away from public ey**es. Its public nature was a further indication of the warming of ties between Israel and Bahrain, and their alignment against Tehran. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/first-bahraini-ambassador-to-israel-arrives-in-country-to-take-up-post/>

**Israel hands every child a DIY virus test, in bold bid for safe school restart**

***Plan aims to stop kids who are infected but don’t realize it from coming in, thus reducing COVID spread, says expert; trust between parents, schools and authorities seen as key***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 3:10 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/F210802MA03.jpg)

***Children take samples as part of a coronavirus test at Sheba Medical Center for students to return to school at the beginning of the new academic year. (Miriam Alster/Flash90)***

**In one of the world’s largest deployments of home COVID tests, Israel is asking families to screen all children under the age of 12 before schools and kindergartens reopen on Wednesday following summer vacation**.

**Over-12s who are unvaccinated are also being given tests, and some schools are also distributing the test kits to vaccinated pupils, as the Delta variant** has broken through immunity on numerous occasions.

**The initiative is an ambitious attempt to identify and isolate kids who are infected but don’t realize it before they head to classrooms and infect other children as well as staff.** Infection from the Delta strain commonly goes unnoticed among youth, and the country is still deep in the throes of a wave of the highly infectious variant. More than 10,900 new cases of COVID were [confirmed in Israel on Monday,](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-hits-new-record-daily-covid-cases-with-testing-high-ahead-of-school-year/) marking a record one-day high since the outbreak of the pandemic.

**Parents have picked up test kits from school and have been asked to swab their kids’ nostrils by Tuesday and check results on a module that looks similar to a home pregnancy** test.

“This program has great potential to reduce the extent of infection arriving in classrooms,” Prof. Miri Yemini, an expert in health and the education system, told The Times of Israel. “The idea is to identify undercover or asymptomatic COVID by getting all children of all ages tested, and getting parents to sign a document saying that the result was negative.”

**Children who are deemed COVID-free by the test are to pack their schoolbags and show up with their declaration, while those who test positive are expected to enter quarantine imm**ediately.



***A child poses with her COVID-19 home kit test that she received from her school, ahead of the opening of the new school year, in Jerusalem, August 30, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)***

**Children with positive test results are supposed to register for a lab-processed PCR test to confirm the diagnosis. PCR tests are deemed more accurate**, and in some very rare cases a home test kit may throw out a false positive.

The **testing plan is intended to mitigate an expected inevitable spike in infections from schools reopening. Coronavirus czar Salman** Zarka told The Times of Israel earlier this month: “I can promise you that we will have more cases when school opens. When people gather again and again, this is how the virus passes from one to another.”

**Some ministers argued for delaying the start of the schools year but Zarka, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and other senior decision makers were determined to reopen on** time and implement measures to manage the foreseen upturn in cases.

**The home test operation, one such measure, hinges on communal solidarity rather than legal requirements. Parents are not required by law to perform** the home tests, but are expected to overwhelmingly comply out of a sense of responsibility.

“The concept relies on social obligation and solidarity, not law, and in a sense the success of the new year will be determined based on whether parents comply and perform home tests,” said Yemini. “The hope is those who are positive won’t go back to school, and this will allow reduction in infection and quarantining.”



***Distribution of home kit test ahead of the opening of the new school year, in Tel Aviv, August 30, 2021. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)***

**If the current screening goes smoothly, it is likely there will be a further round of tests after some or all of the Jewish holidays this mont**hs, though no plans for this have been announced.

**Steps are also being taken to reduce the spreading of infection by teachers. They are now required to have Green Passes, which means they must be vaccinated or have recovered from the virus. They also have the option of providing a negative result from a test performed in the last 72** hours, at their expense.

[Teachers unions are furious about the plan,](https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministers-vote-to-bar-unvaccinated-or-untested-teachers-doctors-from-workplaces/) and the Teachers Association says it will take legal action against the government decision if it is not enforced against all public sector employees evenly. The government believes that the plan is justified in order to control infections.

**Day-to-day school life will include mask-wearing indoors and a degree of social distancing.** Parents will only be allowed on school premises if they show a Green Pass, and teacher-parent meetings are expected to take place online rather than in person.

**Children ages 12 and up will be offered vaccines in school,** if they are not already inoculated, as long as they have the permission of one parent. In high-infection cities and towns, classes for grades 8 to 12 will be moved online if more than 30% of students are completely unvaccinated, though as soon as seven in 10 kids has at least one shot, they can return to classrooms.

**One of the biggest stresses of parents is quarantine — the constantly looming possibility that any unvaccinated child will be subjected to up to a week of isolation** because of contact with an infected person.

The government gave parents hope that they may be able to avoid this fate by launching a nationwide program to administer serological tests to all children. The simple blood test reveals if people have unknowingly recovered from COVID by assessing their antibody levels. If they are found to have antibodies, they will not need to quarantine upon exposure to an infected person.

**“This program was stopped after fewer children than was expected were shown to be positive**,” said Yemini. “In ultra-Orthodox cities positives stood at about 25%, but among the general population there were 5-7% positives, so the government decided to continue the program only where there have been high levels of reported infection, mostly in ultra-Orthodox and Arab towns.”

Yemini believes that trust between parents, schools and authorities is one of the key factors that will determine the success of the return to school. “This is really important, as if people feel connected to the national effort, the country can confront the virus much better,” she said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-hands-every-child-a-diy-virus-test-in-bold-bid-for-safe-school-restart/>

**Ombudsman faults ‘defective’ decision-making on COVID under Netanyahu**

***State Comptroller says there was no proper procedure during past virus waves to monitor then-PM and his cabinet, finds decisions were made without government deliberation***

*By* [*Raoul Wootliff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/raoul-wootliff/) *Today, 7:10 pm*

**Israel’s response to the first three waves of the coronavirus pandemic was marred by under-preparation, the sidelining of experts, a lack of a clear decision-making process, a failure to learn from mistakes and vast discrepancies in nationwide enforcement of government decisions, according to a scathing new report by the state co**mptroller.

**The report, released on Tuesday**, covers the outbreaks that took place under the watch of Israel’s 34th and 35th governments under then-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and does not address the response of current Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s government to the latest outbreak.  
 It **also does not address Israel’s world-beating vaccination drive initiated by Netanyahu**.  
 State Comptroller Matanyahu Englman said on Tuesday that the “significant shortcomings” uncovered by the report were “more relevant than ever” given the ongoing battle with the virus.  
 “**We are now in the fourth wave and it is important to correct the shortcomings immediately**,” Englman said.  
 While **the report criticizes a range of issues relating to efforts to prevent the spread of the virus, Englman, a Netanyahu appointee, saves some of his harshest criticism for the overall mechanism under which decisions were made, saying a number of key rulings were made by the former premier without full cabinet approval** or proper oversight.  
 “**Defects were found in the process of making decisions** and implementing them,” the report says.  
 According to Englman, **there was no proper procedure in place to supervise and monitor the decisions** made by Netanyahu and his government, and no process was put in place by the National Security Council or Health Ministry to learn lessons at a national level.  
 The report charges that numerous decisions — such as on purchasing ventilators and when and how to exit the first lockdown — were not deliberated by the government but made in “different forums led by the prime minister.”  
 **Citing cabinet protocols from early 2020 that were made available to the comptroller but remain barred from publication, the report says that Netanyahu presented ministers** with handpicked forecasts for infections and deaths — which supported his own position on implementing harsh measures to stop the initial spread — and failed to address a range of issues created by the virus.  
 It **wasn’t until June 2020, four months after the first coronavirus patient was diagnosed in Israel, that the government held any discussion on the impact of the virus on the economy**, education or welfare systems.  
 The report also criticizes the fact that the coronavirus cabinet, a select panel of ministers tasked with forming virus policy, wasn’t given authority to make decisions on behalf of the government until the second wave in June 2020. Until then, government approval was required for every decision, which slowed down the handling of the crisis, it said.  
 **Engelman also notes that the appointment of a coronavirus czar to oversee government policy on the pandemic was delayed for four months amid political disagreements**.  
 The comptroller specifically scolded the government for failing to convene the coronavirus cabinet at all during July and August last year, saying that the break in meetings “hurt the adoption of the traffic light system [for rating cities based on infection rates] and led to the second lockdown in September 2020.”  
 Among the **specific policy issues addressed by the comptroller, the report describes home quarantine for travelers arriving from abroad as “inefficient” in both compliance and enforcement**.  
 It describes the furlough program created by the government to compensate workers who were unable to work as a “failure,” saying that there was confusing information put out about who was eligible, vast delays in getting the money to those who did qualify, and that it ultimately had “the opposite effect of what was intended” and encouraged people to remain out of work after the crisis had abated.  
 **Additionally, Englman decries the way restrictions were enforced, arguing that “there was no congruence between the places in which there was an outbreak of the coronavirus and enforcement in these places**.”  
 He notes that the number of fines issued in Jerusalem and Bnei Brak — both of which have large ultra-Orthodox populations — “did not correlate to the high levels of morbidity.”  
 **Netanyahu, who is closely allied with the Haredi Shas and United Torah Judaism parties, faced criticism during the pandemic for allegedly not ordering more stringent enforcement of COVID rules in ultra-Orthodox areas with high infection** rates.  
 Citing figures showing that Israeli schools operated for fewer days since the start of the pandemic than in most countries in the world, Engleman slammed the “dire situation” faced by Israeli schoolchildren, which he said was caused by “a severe lack of focus on educational institutions and the impact the virus has had on them.”  
 The report also criticizes the roll-out of distance learning methods across the country, saying that without proper planning, the initiative “increased the inequality that exists in the education system.”  
 In a particularly harsh condemnation of decision-makers, Engleman concludes his report with a critique of what he describes as the Netanyahu government’s “apparent inability to learn from the experience of the virus and implement improvements before each new wave of infection.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ombudsman-faults-defective-decision-making-on-covid-under-netanyahu/>

**Head of Israel's Biological Institute: Our COVID vaccine was sabotaged**

***Professor Shmuel Shapira says his institute was half way to developing an Israeli made vaccine when the government opted to turn country into Pfizer's experimental laboratory; 'We may not be chosen by the pharma industry next time and must rely on ourselves,' he says***

*Sarit Rosenblum | Updated: 08.31.21, 19:13*

**As the chief of Israel's Institute for Biological Research, Prof. Shmuel Shapira has grown accustomed to dealing with the unexpected.**

 **Still, the man who headed one of the country’s most secretive and important institutions for the better part of a decade will never forget the phone call he received** on February 1, 2020.

***Former head of Israel's Institute for Biological research, Prof. Shmuel Shapira***

***(Photo: Ilya Malinkov)***

**On the other side of the line was the office of then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who summoned Shapira to an urgent meeting on the development of an Israeli made COVID** vaccine.

**A year and a half after that call, over 5 million Israelis had already received the Pfizer vaccine - which many around the country regard as nothing less than an economy-saving lifeline**.

Shapira, though, still believes in his institution’s own vaccine, the development of which, he claims, was suspended for reasons unknown.

**"We are a big enough and important enough country to have our own vaccine,” says Shap**ira.

**“Maybe tomorrow we will not have such a good relationship with one country or company and we will not get the vaccines so fast,” he added, referring to the deal Netanyahu made with Pfizer’s CEO**, Albert Bourla, who agreed to send Israel tens of millions of doses of their COVID vaccine in exchange for medical data on its effects on Israel’s population.  
 “**Maybe the CEO of the next vaccine developer will decide to conduct its medical experiments on the citizens of Singapore instead**. What will we do then?”  
 **According to Shapira, the development of the Israeli vaccine is still ongoing because the pandemic is not over and the Delta variant is spreading rapidly around the country**.   
 "I have **documentation that government officials worked to delay us for months on end**,” says Shapira.  
 “**When senior officials in the Health Ministry say the Israeli vaccine is unnecessary, it is basically a call to shut down the proje**ct. When officials in the Finance Ministry hears this, they tend to think to themselves, ‘wait a minute, maybe this project is a waste of money’. We saw real malice, in some instances,” he said.   
 Shapira **added that in July 2020, his team was on the cusp of a breakthrough**, with a real effective vaccine at hand.  
 “We should have and could have started the regulatory process back then. By my count, four times the Health Ministry rejected our pleas to start the process, for reasons I, and many others, thought were irrelevant."  
 **Shapira is critical of the government's decision to administer a booster shot of the Pfizer vaccine to the over 12 population. "There's a lot of problems with that move**. The first two shots hit their mark, sort of. I don't think it was an excellent vaccine. It's was effective for four to five months and failed very quickly when mutations began to appear,” Shapira explains.  
 “When **there is a serious medical problem, you should try to attack the cause from different fronts. Here they chose to attack on the same front, with the same vaccine that is simply not suitable for the current** variant.”  
 One of the issues with the third jab, Shapira says, is that Israel once again, became a medical experimental lab for the world.  
 “We did the same thing with the first and second doses of the vaccine. Now we’re doing it again with the third jab,” he says, emphasizing that those who received Pfizer’s vaccines, willingly participated in the medical trial of a commercial company.  
 "I myself am in no hurry to get the booster vaccine,” Shapira says. “I will wait a bit to see what happens. I hope that in the meantime a serious article may be published. Maybe some reputable world authority will express its opinion on the vaccines.”  
 The full interview will be published on the weekend <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/byemibz11k> **[The issue still boils down to “follow the bucks” and find out who got a major bump in a bank account when that deal was struck – and you will need to check ALL international accounts. – rdb]**

**Israeli AI startup bets on robotic beehives to save global bee populations**

***Beewise says round-the-clock monitoring, care for honeybees will make world of difference in protecting pollinators, global food supply and agriculture***

*By* [*Ricky Ben-David*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ricky-ben-david/) *Today, 3:18 pm*

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| ***Beewise founders from left to right: Hillel Schreier, Eliyah Radzyner, Saar-Safra, Yossi Surin, Boaz Petersil. (Courtesy: Beewise)***  ***Beewise founders from left to right: Hillel Schreier, Eliyah Radzyner, Saar-Safra, Yossi Surin, Boaz Petersil. (Courtesy: Beewise)*** | ***Inside the Beehome, an autonomous, automated hive by Israeli startup Beewise that can house up to 24 bee colonies. (Courtesy)***  ***Inside the Beehome, an autonomous, automated hive by Israeli startup Beewise that can house up to 24 bee colonies. (Courtesy)*** |

**Serial Israeli entrepreneur Saar Safra didn’t set off to get into the bee-saving business when he moved back to his native country after 15 years in Seattle. He’s a software guy who, in the past two decades, has led or founded five software-based companies, three of which have been acquired.**

After closing down his last venture in Seattle in 2017, Safra relocated his family back to Israel and began looking for his next opportunity in the local tech ecosystem.  
 He had **four criteria. “It had to be B2B [business to business], based on a SaaS [software-as-a-service] model, and it had to be a billion-dollar business. I also wanted to be involved in something that would do well by doing good,” Safra told The Times of Israel in a** recent interview.

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| ***Beekeepers re-housing honeybees from traditional hives into the Beehome by Beewise. (Courtesy)***  ***Beekeepers re-housing honeybees from traditional hives into the Beehome by Beewise. (Courtesy)***  ***pollen in the spring. (Andreas Häuslbetz on iStock by Getty Images)*** | ***The Beehome by Beewise is a converted steel container that cares for bee colonies around the clock. (Courtesy)***  ***The Beehome by Beewise is a converted steel container that cares for bee colonies around the clock. (Courtesy)*** |

In **one of his dozens of meetings with local entrepreneurs and business people, he came across Eliyah Radzyner, a beekeeper by trade and apiary operations adviser who had previously co-founded an agriculture tech startup developing robotic systems for greenhouse far**ming.  
 Radzyner was looking to introduce more technology into modern beekeeping, a profession that largely builds on practices from over 150 years ago. The two hit it off and Safra said he thought he would help Radzyner get off the ground with a business plan and a way to assess metrics “just for a few months” using his rich background in business development.  
 But half **a year later, Safra, said he “realized this was it” and in 2018, together with three other co-founders, they established Beewise, a startup based in Beit Ha’em**ek that has since developed what it calls the first automated and autonomous beehive dubbed the Beehome.

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| ***The Beehome is an automated, autonomous beehive developed by Israeli startup Beewise that monitors and cares for bees 24/7. (Courtesy)*** | ***Honeybees are among the most important pollinators in our ecosystem. (Susanne Schulz on iStock by Getty Images)*** |

The **Beehome is a solar-powered, converted container that brings together robotics, artificial intelligence, imaging, a software platform, and a mobile application to monitor and care for honeybees around the clock. The device can house up to 24 bee colonies and automatically controls for climate and humidity conditions, detects and eliminates pests and parasites, identifies when a colony is preparing to swarm, sends alerts when human intervention is needed, and even harvests the honey the bees** produce.  
 “The **Beehome works with 24 colonies, 12 on each** side. And in the center, there’s a robotic system that moves and monitors [the colonies] 24/7 using computer vision, machine learning and neural networks. It dispenses food, water, medicine if there is a disease or pest, it knows if it’s too hot or cold — the robot can treat all of this,” Safra said.  
 **Controlling and monitoring all these conditions in real-time ensures that yields improve, pollination occurs more efficiently, and honeybee populations are protected,** he explained.  
 Bee populations certainly need protecting. Due to what Safra calls a “perfect storm” of climate change, habitat loss, excessive use of agricultural chemicals, parasitic mites, and various pathogens, bee populations have been [declining for decades](https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/colony-collapse-disorder) and the world “is losing about 40 percent of colonies every year.”  
 In **the US, beekeepers lost an estimated 45% of their managed honeybee colonies between April 2020 and April 2021, marking the second-highest annual loss on record according to the most recent loss and management** [report](https://beeinformed.org/2021/06/21/united-states-honey-bee-colony-losses-2020-2021-preliminary-results/) issued by the Bee Informed Partnership.  
 It’s an astonishing **figure given that “nearly 90% of the world’s wild flowering plant species depend, entirely, or at least in part, on animal pollination, along with more than 75% of the world’s food crops** and 35% of global agricultural land,” [according to the United Nations](https://www.un.org/en/observances/bee-day). [**It has long been known that if there are no bees there will be no food. They are essential to crop production. – rdb]**  
 In **addition, “pollinators contribute to crops that provide biofuels** (e.g., canola and palm oils), fibers (e.g., cotton), medicines, forage for livestock, and construction materials. Some species also provide materials such as beeswax for candles and musical instruments, and arts and crafts,” [according to the World Bee Project](https://worldbeeproject.org/faqs/), a UK-based initiative advancing the integration of various technologies to help save the bees.  
 Indeed, technology is a much-needed solution to protect bee populations and help them thrive – at the risk of losing important processes that bees facilitate, Safra said.  
  
 ***An illustrative photo of flying bees around a wooden beehive. (Sushaaa on iStock by Getty Images)***  
 “**Treating and caring for living biological beings in real time helps keep them strong and healthy**. A robot can do this all day long; it doesn’t get tired. Humans can’t treat bees in real-time. If there’s a problem, you don’t know about it until you get to the hives. They [beekeepers] need to drive into the field — if they have 1,000 boxes scattered around, they need to look into them to see what’s happening, and often it’s too late as the colony has collapsed,” he said.  
 **With the Beehome, apiarists can take immediate action if there’s an issue, which means “more bees stay alive, there’s more honey and more pollination.” Acc**ording to initial internal findings, colony collapse with the Beehome is reduced to about 10 percent, Safra told the Times of Israel.  
**The bee tech and the vision  
 Beewise is on a real mission to “save the bees,” said Safra, whose company title is chief bee officer. “The world we are savi**ng is the real world, and it is worth saving. I truly believe with all my being that we are going to do it.”  
 The company currently employs about 70 people who are passionate about the cause, according to Safra, and the startup is growing fast. It’s already raised close to $40 million since it was founded in early 2018, from both Israeli and foreign investors.  
  
 ***Beewise’s automated Beehome next to traditional beehives. (Courtesy)***  
 **With a number of “happy and excited customers,” Beewise is now setting its sights on the North American market, targeting commercial beekeepers and growers in Canada, the US, and Mexico**.  
 “Growers want visibility into the pollination services they’re getting. Beekeepers want to reduce costs and increase yield,” Safra said, indicating that Beewise contributes to both. At the same time, the company is “not a general supplier of solutions for the beekeeping industry; our sole focus is on saving the bees.”  
 Beewise’s tech has created such a buzz — it was featured in TIME magazine’s list of “best inventions” in 2020 — that currently “there is more demand than we can supply,” Safra said. The company has deployed about 100 Beehomes to date and expects to deliver hundreds more over the next few months, with the goal of selling tens of thousands in the coming years.  
  
 ***Beewise founders from left to right: Hillel Schreier, Eliyah Radzyner, Saar-Safra, Yossi Surin, Boaz Petersil. (Courtesy: Beewise)***  
 “Innovations don’t need 100 years to catch on. If we get a million devices in the field, we can make a real impact,” he urged.  
 The biggest hurdle has been logistics. Beewise currently converts the containers and outfits them with the software and robotic systems in Israel, after which they are dispatched to clients.  
 “We call our solution ‘software wrapped in tin,’ but there is physical distribution of hardware and it has to be delivered on trucks. This increases costs,” Safra explained. He would not divulge the price of a Beehome but said it was “not cost-prohibitive.”  
 In-market manufacturing would make the solution much more cost-efficient, not to mention faster, and that is where Safra said he is focusing his energies.  
 The Beehome is not meant to supplant human involvement, Safra emphasizes. “We’re mimicking what beekeepers do and separating the expertise from the physical labor. The beekeepers’ expertise is important. They make the decisions — the robot system in the field carries out the repetitive manual labor.”  
 Beewise also works closely with apiarists to offer new features and abilities. Having already rolled out a heating-based solution to control for varroa, parasitic mites that often lead to bee colony collapse by feeding on the fat reserves of adults and larvae, the startup is now developing a way to intercept killer hornets. These invasive species, also known as murder hornets and Asian giant hornets, are particularly harmful to honeybees — just a few of them can [destroy whole colonies](https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/what-you-need-to-know-about-murder-hornets) in mere hours.  
 The feedback, Safra said, has been overwhelmingly positive. “We hear from beekeepers all the time who say they are “never going back to the 150-year-old box.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-ai-startup-bets-on-robotic-beehives-to-save-global-bee-populations/>

**Taliban commit 'house-to-house executions' in Kabul after US exit as chilling audio demonstrates Afghans' fear**

***Afghan man who helped the US on the ground: 'I have no idea how to leave'***

*By* [*Tyler O'Neil*](https://www.foxnews.com/person/o/tyler-oneil) *,* [*Teny Sahakian*](https://www.foxnews.com/person/s/teny-sahakian)[*| Fox News*](https://www.foxnews.com)***Published*** *11 hours ago*

**Horrifying audio of distant gunshots appears to confirm reports of "house-to-house executions" as the Taliban asserts control of Kabul and** [**Afghanistan**](https://www.foxnews.com/category/world/conflicts/afghanistan) **after the** [**U.S. military's**](https://www.foxnews.com/category/us/military) **departure on Monday e**vening.

**An Afghan man who worked with Americans on the ground provided Fox News with the chilling audio featuring distant gunsho**ts.

**"I think there's a conflict between the Taliban, I have no idea where I'm located. From everywhere I hear the sounds of shooting, gunfire. I have no idea how to leave,"** the Afghan man said in the audio clip, recorded around the time the final U.S. plane left Kabul.

Distant gunshots rang in the background in the audio clip.

**Taliban militants were carrying out "house-to-house executions in Kabul" after the U.S. departure, a senior U.S. source told Fox News Investigative journalist Lara** Logan.

President Biden [did not deny](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-doesnt-deny-report-of-u-s-handing-over-names-of-americans-to-taliban-theyre-may-have-been) a Politico report, confirmed by Fox News, that U.S. officials in Kabul gave the Taliban a list of American citizens, green card holders, and Afghan allies in an effort to grant them entry to the airport which resulted in outrage from military officials behind the scenes. The president said "there may have been" such a list. "Basically, they just put all those Afghans on a kill list," one defense official told Politico.  
 Hours after the departure of U.S. troops, the [official Taliban Twitter account celebrated](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/taliban-brags-us-troops-left-kabul-afghanistan-gained-full-independence) the withdrawal.   
 "The last American soldier left Kabul airport at 9pm Afghan time tonight and our country gained full independence. Thank God and blessings," the Taliban account tweeted.   
 Retired Army Maj. Gen. Vincent Boles told Fox News that the Taliban should not get too comfortable.   
 "Be careful what you ask for," Boles said. "Now they have to show they can govern a nation and people that are very different than when they left power. Will the Taliban go forward to the future or pull Afghanistan back to the past? The answer will be in their behavior… behavior is believable."  
 "From everywhere I hear the sounds of shooting, gunfire. I have no idea how to leave."  
 — Afghan source who worked with Americans on the ground.  
 Last Wednesday, a former translator for a high-ranking U.S. Army Ranger [told Fox News](https://www.foxnews.com/media/afghan-translator-taliban-hunting-down-executing-us-allies) the Taliban had started executing allies of the U.S. in public, in provinces away from the media attention of Kabul.  
 "They are not doing really bad stuff in Kabul right now because there's a lot of media focus on Kabul, but they already started public execution in other provinces where a lot of media is not available or covering it," the interpreter said.  
 What's more, in holding to his Aug. 31 withdrawal deadline, President Biden appears to have [broken his promise](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-breaks-promise-stay-afghanistan-every-american-evacuated) to stay in Afghanistan until every American has been evacuated.  
 "We did not get everybody out that we wanted to get out," Marine Corps Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., commander of U.S. Central Command, admitted Monday evening.  
 On Aug. 18, Biden had told ABC News' George Stephanopoulos that the U.S. military's objective in Afghanistan was to get "everyone" out, including Americans, Afghan allies and their families.  
 "That's what we're doing now, that's the path we're on. And I think we'll get there," he said. "If there's American citizens left, we're gonna stay to get them all out."  
 Yet a senior State Department official told Fox News that a "small number" of Americans remained in Afghanistan, putting the number at "below 250." <https://www.foxnews.com/world/taliban-kabul-executions-afghanistan-gunshots-audio>

**Here's how Afghanistan withdrawal could affect US foreign policy**

***Will the chaotic withdrawal make the administration rethink its policies on other issues, such as Iran?***

***By*** [***OMRI NAHMIAS***](https://www.jpost.com/author/omri-nahmias) ***AUGUST 31, 2021 20:53***



***A CH-46 Sea Knight military transport helicopter flies over Kabul, Afghanistan this week.(photo credit: STRINGER/ REUTERS)***

**On Monday night, shortly after midnight Afghanistan local time when the date shifted to August 31, the US’s self-imposed** [**deadline of withdrawal**](https://www.jpost.com/international/us-completes-troop-withdrawal-from-afghanistan-us-officials-678190)**, the Pentagon announced that the last US flight had left Ka**bul.

Maj.-Gen. Chris Donahue, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, was the last US soldier to step aboard the final evacuation flight leaving Kabul, bringing to end 20 years of US military presence in Afghanistan.

**More than 123,000 people were evacuated from Kabul in a massive and chaotic airlift by the United States** and its allies over the past two weeks, but tens of thousands who helped Western nations during the war were left behind.

A contingent of Americans, estimated by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken as fewer than 200, and possibly closer to 100, wanted to leave but were unable to get on the last flights.

**The Biden administration has been criticized in the past weeks for its botched withdrawal, seen as Biden’s most significant foreign policy move since taking office on January** 20.

**Members of Congress from both left and right slammed the administration’s decisi**on to leave as US citizens **were still looking for a way to leave Afghanistan.  
 “I’m continuing to urge the Biden administration to work with NGOs and our partners around the world to ensure that we use all available resources to support the evacuation of all Americans and vulnerable Afghans who remain  
 in Afghanistan and are at acute risk, Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR**) said in a statement.  
 “The United States just completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan with many Americans still stuck behind enemy lines desperate to get out, and $85 billion in US weapons and equipment now in Taliban hands. This is a historic disgrace of epic proportions ordered by President Biden,” said Congressman Lee Zeldin (R, NY-1), member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and United States Army veteran, in a press release.  
 As the US is officially out of Afghanistan, the question now is how will the new reality shape the administrations’ foreign policy priorities.  
 Another question that remains unanswered at this point is whether the chaotic withdrawal will make the administration rethink its policies on other issues, such as Iran.  
 **Danny Ayalon, who served as Israel’s Ambassador in Washington from 2002 to 2006, told The Jerusalem Post that while the decision to withdraw was correct, it was poorly executed**. “It doesn’t suit a super-power,” he said, and noted it should have been planned better. “It damaged the US’s reputation and could also erode the US deterrence, something that can make allies such as Taiwan feel anxious. Therefore, any step that America will take from now on will have consequences,” Ayalon said.  
 “The **US will need to build its leverage by strengthening ties with allies such as South Korea and Japan versus China and Israel and other moderate Arab states versus Iran**,” Ayalon added.  
 “For that reason, the [meeting](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/bennett-invites-biden-to-israel-after-excellent-meeting-677924) with Israeli Prime Minister Bennett amidst the withdrawal was an important signal.”  
 He went on to say that “the only time that Iran voluntarily suspended its nuclear program was in 2003, after the US entered Iraq, and Iran was afraid that they would be next. In my view, the US will have to take a tougher position in the negotiations and make it clear to Iran that if they don’t come to the table, the administration has other options. I believe it is no coincidence that Biden decided to voice this message with the Israeli Prime Minister.”  
 Jonathan **Schanzer, senior vice president for research at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies in Washington, told the Post that it is likely that the administration will now focus on China**.  
 “The goal has always been to pivot to Asia,” he said. “Getting out of the Middle East was always framed as a way to do that. Of course, this ignores that the US had only a small presence in Afghanistan. The pivot was possible, either way.”  
 According to Schanzer, much depends on the political aftermath of the debacle. “The White House is now framing the withdrawal as a complicated mission accomplished, and the end of America’s longest war,” he said.  
 “If this becomes the political narrative, the president could try to forge ahead with other risky foreign policies, like the Iran nuclear deal. But there is a lesson here that Biden should heed. Negotiating with avowed enemies of the United States comes with great risk. Iran could very easily pull the rug out from under Washington, much as the Taliban did. And with a nuclear weapon hanging in the balance, the stakes are higher.”  
 Naysan Rafati, Crisis Group’s senior Iran analyst’s research is focused on the Iran nuclear deal and Iran’s regional policies. He told the Post that he doesn’t think events in Afghanistan necessarily alter the administration’s overall approach to the JCPOA in the short-term.  
 “The aim of the talks is to reverse the advances Iran is making on its nuclear program, and whereas they continue to expand their enriched uranium stockpiles, raise enrichment rates, shrink the breakout time and limit inspections, I think the Biden team still sees a mutual return to compliance as the preferred option for dealing with it.”  
 “That said, I think the main impediment right now is on the Iranian side, because they haven’t seriously engaged in negotiations since a sixth round wrapped up in June and have yet to indicate when they’ll resume,” said Rafati.  
 “The longer the delay drags out, the more the US – and I think the Europeans as well – will be looking at options to signal to Tehran that the dithering is unwelcome. The IAEA Board of Governors meeting that takes place in mid-September, for example, could see their tone sharpen considerably.”  
 Mike Pregent, senior fellow at Hudson Institute, told the Post that the quick collapse of Afghanistan “emboldened our enemies and geo-political foes across the globe.”  
 “The loss of life, the loss of leverage, the loss of credibility, and the loss of trust by US allies has weakened the Biden Administration’s position on all foreign policy and national security fronts,” he said.  
 “The Biden-assisted loss of Afghanistan is so devastating you would think it would give this administration pause when looking at the next steps it will take with the Islamic Republic of Iran,” said Pregent.  
 “US diplomacy failed in Vienna and failed in Kabul, both ceded leverage and capitulated to dedicated enemies. The problem is, the Biden team does not see Afghanistan as a failure – they are congratulating themselves on Afghanistan for the largest airlift in American history, leaving out the fact that they left Americans behind surrounded by terrorists.”  
 “The Obama-Biden team left Iraq to ISIS and sacrificed Syria to secure the JCPOA and I am concerned that the Biden team – comprised of the same people – will sacrifice Iraq and other allies in the region to rejoin a JCPOA that is already expiring,” he added. <https://www.jpost.com/international/how-the-afghanistan-withdrawal-could-affect-the-us-foreign-policy-678271>

**‘BURN IN HELL’: Families of slain troops RAGE at Biden as Facebook suspends grieving mother after angry posts aimed at president**

*31 Aug, 2021 17:07*

**Several parents of the US Marines killed by a suicide bomber in Kabul have vented their anger at President Joe Biden, with Facebook intervening to censor one mother’s r**ant.

Biden traveled to Dover Air Force Base in his home state of Delaware on Sunday to pay respect to the 13 slain American service **members arriving back from Afghanistan in flag-draped coffins. The reception from some parents, however, was hostile**.

The meeting *“didn’t go well,”* Mark Schmitz, father of 20-year-old Marine Lance Cpl. Jared Schmitz told Fox News’ Sean Hannity on Monday. Biden *“***talked a bit more about his own son than he did my son, and that didn't sit well with me,” Schmitz added, referring to Biden's well-reported habit** of bringing up his own late son while empathizing with the families of fallen veterans.

Two Gold Star Fathers who lost their sons in the Terrorist Attack in Afghanistan went on Hannity tonight.Watch this. [pic.twitter.com/PlcbCBswDm](https://t.co/PlcbCBswDm)

— Benny (@bennyjohnson) [August 31, 2021](https://twitter.com/bennyjohnson/status/1432537145676345345?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Shana Chappell, mother of slain US Marine Kareem Nikoui, noticed the same. In a post to Facebook she described how she told Biden “don’t make it about you,” and complained that the president “rolled [his] f\*\*king eyes” like he was “annoyed with me.” Addressing Biden,  Chappell wrote that “the only reason I was talking to you was out of respect for my son...You are a weak human being and a trait***or.”*

**Chappell made similar posts on Instagram**, which resulted in her account being temporarily suspended, along with her Facebook account. After an outcry by conservative pundits and [lawmakers](https://twitter.com/senatormelendez/status/1432533462708146177), Chappell’s accounts were reinstated, with Facebook telling the New York Post on Tuesday that the accounts were *“incorrectly deleted.”*

Biden drew flak for apparently checking his watch as the dead troops’ remains were being wheeled off transport planes at Dover AFB on Sunday. *“I actually leaned into my son's mother's ear and I said ‘I swear to God if he checks his watch one more time...’ and [that] was probably only four times in,”* Schmitz told Hannity. *“I couldn't look at him anymore after that, considering, especially, the time and why we were there. I found it to be the most disrespectful thing I'd ever seen.”*

**Others refused to meet with the president. “We said absolutely not. We didn't want to deal with him. We didn't want him anywhere near us***. We as a family decided that that was the way it was going to be,”* Darin Hoover, father of Marine Staff Sgt. Taylor Hoover told Hannity.

That a conservative talk show host like Hannity would bring on these family members to bash Biden is unsurprising, but they have vented their anger elsewhere, too. Schmitz told the same story to the [Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/biden-meeting-fallen-americans-families/2021/08/30/07ecff7c-09ac-11ec-a6dd-296ba7fb2dce_story.html), while Jiennah McCollum, widow of Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee McCollum, told the paper that she felt Biden’s words were shallow, and showed *“total disregard to the loss of our Marine – our brother, son, husband and father.”*

Another family member at the ceremony was less diplomatic. *“I hope you burn in hell! That was my brother!”* Schmitz recalled the grieving relative yelling at Biden in his Post interview.

The 13 service members were the last Americans to die in a 20-year war that has claimed the lives of nearly 2,500 US troops and wounded 20,000 others. Biden’s handling of the final evacuation from Kabul – which saw the military withdraw before civilians, only to go back in and attempt to coordinate the airlift with Taliban militants from a single airport with a single runway – has been slammed by critics on the left and the right.

The last American plane left Kabul shortly before midnight on Monday, minutes before the August 31 withdrawal deadline. Speaking to reporters a day earlier, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki set off fresh outrage when she said that the deaths of the 13 troops *“doesn’t take the place of all of the progress, all of the work that’s been done to evacuate people.”* [*https://www.rt.com/usa/533568-dead-troops-family-members-biden/*](https://www.rt.com/usa/533568-dead-troops-family-members-biden/)**[The feeble minded imbecile deserves every on of those condemnations. His incompetence and that of the idiot demon-rats who gerrymandered the election deserve every word. – rdb]**



**Taliban hold mock ‘funeral’ for NATO, take Black Hawk helicopter for joyrides, and show off loot at Kabul airport after US retreat**

*31 Aug, 2021 18:28*

***Crowd carries makeshift coffins draped in NATO, US and UK flags during a pretend funeral on a street in Khost, Afghanistan August 31, 2021. ©  Reuters / ZHMAN TV***

**After nearly 20 years of fighting against the US in Afghanistan, the victorious Taliban posed with captured American gear at the Kabul airport, held a mock funeral for NATO in Khost, and flew a Black Hawk helicopter over Kandahar**.

**The last US troops left the Hamid Karzai International Airport on Monday, just before the clock struck midnight local time**. On Tuesday morning, Taliban fighters strolled through the airport they now controlled, littered with debris, posing for photos with the captured vehicles, aircraft and equipment.

[#Taliban](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Taliban?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) fighters mock US in American uniforms as group takes over [#Kabul](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Kabul?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) airportFollow us on Telegram <https://t.co/4xzXvo6aO3>[pic.twitter.com/c7FxLiUfEP](https://t.co/c7FxLiUfEP)

— RT (@RT\_com) [August 31, 2021](https://twitter.com/RT_com/status/1432750037327437829?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Taliban leaders reviewed a “special forces” unit, equipped with weapons and gear captured from the US-trained Afghan army, on the Kabul ru**nway.

*“It is a historical day and a historical moment.... we liberated our country from a great power,”* said Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, adding that the past two decades should serve as *“a big lesson for other invaders, a lesson for the world.”*

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby acknowledged on Tuesday that a lot of US equipment with *“a lethality component to it”* has fallen into Taliban hands, but said it doesn’t pose a threat to the US or neighboring countries.

*“These are not the kinds of things that the Taliban can make great strategic use out of,”* Kirby told reporters.

The first flight of black hawk. [pic.twitter.com/7NTWlrFJ0y](https://t.co/7NTWlrFJ0y)

— Talib Times (@TalibTimes) [August 30, 2021](https://twitter.com/TalibTimes/status/1432341450549829633?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The Taliban thought otherwise, however, showing off at least one newly acquired Black Hawk helicopter in the skies over Kandahar in a couple of videos. The second clip caused some confusion on social networks, as more than a few American commentators claimed the figure dangling from the helicopter was someone being executed.

The *“Talib Times”* account that posted the video said no such thing, however. On closer look, the man seemed to be a Taliban fighter joyriding on a rescue harness.

Our Air Force! At this time, the Islamic Emirate's air force helicopters are flying over Kandahar city and patrolling the city. [pic.twitter.com/rlE6nUldZf](https://t.co/rlE6nUldZf)

— Talib Times (@TalibTimes) [August 30, 2021](https://twitter.com/TalibTimes/status/1432328727376007171?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Meanwhile, in the southeastern city of Khost, a crowd of Taliban supporters held a mock *“funeral”* for the ousted occupiers, carrying coffins draped with US, NATO, British and French flags, as well as some banners of the defeated Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – now replaced by the white flag of the Taliban’s Islamic Emirate.

People of Kabul in large number participated in the symbolic funeral of the US and NATO... interestingly both Taliban and former government flags were present during the procession... [pic.twitter.com/Q8Jkv1EZjH](https://t.co/Q8Jkv1EZjH)

— Mike Mihajlovic (@MihajlovicMike) [August 31, 2021](https://twitter.com/MihajlovicMike/status/1432743595849703426?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Taliban hold mock funerals for British, American, and NATO forces as thousands take to the streets to celebrate 'victory' over the west after last US flight took offTaliban 'victory' parades took place in Afghanistan today after the last US troops left the country overnight [pic.twitter.com/oT1nqBro3u](https://t.co/oT1nqBro3u)

— MassiVeMaC (@SchengenStory) [August 31, 2021](https://twitter.com/SchengenStory/status/1432693264554106880?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The US withdrawal turned into a mad scramble to evacuate just over 6,000 US citizens – along with tens of thousands of Afghan civilians – on August 14, when the Taliban took over Kabul without a fight and the Washington-backed government collapsed. It also turned tragic last week, when up to 200 Afghans and 13 US troops died at the entrance to the airport, in a suicide bombing claimed by the terrorist group ISIS-K.

Intersting now... the Flag Pole which held and represented all the NATO nations at the military side of Kabul Airport.A symbol of utter failure! [pic.twitter.com/hEyUXHgHJR](https://t.co/hEyUXHgHJR)

— Brit & Co'wealth Military 🇬🇧 🇲🇾 🇳🇿🇨🇦🇦🇺 (@BritComMil) [August 30, 2021](https://twitter.com/BritComMil/status/1432281835715784705?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The Pentagon has acknowledged that some US citizens could not reach the airport and were left behind. The State Department was tasked with negotiating their safe passage out of Afghanistan.

<https://www.rt.com/news/533573-taliban-nato-funeral-helicopter-victory/>

**Harvard epidemiologist: Major study demolishes case for vaccine passports**

***Natural immunity offers exponentially more protection than shots***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published August 31, 2021 at 7:46pm*

**Harvard Medical School professor Martin Kulldorff argues that new research cofirming that natural immunity offers exponentially more protection than vaccines means vaccine passports are both unscientific and discrimina**tory.

**The latest is** [**an Israeli study**](https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/study-previous-covid-19-infection-prevents-delta-better-pfizer-shot/) **finding vaccinated individuals were 27 times more likely to get a symptomatic COVID infection than those with natural im**munity.  
 **Kuldorff concludes that's a death blow to the vaccine passports required by New York City, France, the Canadian provinces of Quebec and British Columbia**, and others, [reported the Foundation for Economic Education](https://fee.org/articles/harvard-epidemiologist-says-the-case-for-covid-vaccine-passports-was-just-demolished/).  
 "**Prior COVID disease (many working class) provides better immunity than vaccines (many professionals), so vaccine mandates are not only scientific nonsense, they are also discriminatory and unethical**," Kulldorff, a biostatistician and epidemiologist, wrote on Twitter.

In April, Kulldorf joined with Stanford professor of medicine Jay Bhattacharya in [an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal](https://www.wsj.com/articles/vaccine-passports-prolong-lockdowns-11617726629), arguing vaccine passports would harm rather than benefit public health.  
 April WSJ op-ed with [@MartinKulldorff](https://twitter.com/MartinKulldorff) held up well:  
**Vaccine passports are unjust and discriminatory. Most endorsing belong to the laptop class. Millions did essential jobs at their usual workplaces and became immune** the hard way. <https://t.co/iITY3LihbM>  
 — Jay Bhattacharya (@DrJBhattacharya) [August 31, 2021](https://twitter.com/DrJBhattacharya/status/1432675033088888835)  
 "The idea that everybody needs to be vaccinated is as scientifically baseless as the idea that nobody does," they wrote. "Covid vaccines are essential for older, high-risk people and their caretakers and advisable for many others. But those who’ve been infected are already immune."  
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They pointed out that the data shows the "young are at low risk, and children — for whom no vaccine has been approved anyway — are at far less risk of death than from the flu."  
 "If authorities mandate vaccination of those who don’t need it, the public will start questioning vaccines in general," they warned.  
 Last fall, [as WND reported](https://www.wnd.com/2020/10/4859862/), Kulldorff, Bhattacharya and Dr. Sunetra Gupta of Oxford launched their Great Barrington Declaration arguing mitigation should be focused on the vulnerable -- older people with more than two comorbidities -- while allowing the healthy to go about their business. The declaration states that as "infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists we have grave concerns about the damaging physical and mental health impacts of the prevailing COVID-19 policies, and recommend an approach we call Focused Protection."  
 They emphasized that herd immunity should be the objective, contending it could be achieved in a relatively short amount of time.  
 COVID is not a "death sentence," Bhattacharya argued, alluding to survival rates calculated by the Centers for Disease Control of nearly 100% for those under 70 and nearly 95% for those who are older.  
**Among world's most vaccinated nation**  
 **Significantly, the Israeli immunity study was conducted in one of the most highly COVID-19-vaccinated countries in the world. The researchers analyzed the medical records of tens of thousands of Israelis between June 1 and Aug. 14, when the delta variant was dominant, focusing on infections, symptoms and hospitalizations.  
 In Israel, vaccinated individuals had 27 times higher risk of symptomatic COVID infection compared to those with natural immunity from prior COVID disease [95%CI:13-57, adjusted for time of vaccine/disease**]. No COVID deaths in either group.<https://t.co/hopImCD1D0>  
 — Martin Kulldorff (@MartinKulldorff) [August 25, 2021](https://twitter.com/MartinKulldorff/status/1430660291579105284)  
 FEE noted that Australia has floated the idea of making higher vaccination rates a condition of lifting its lockdown in jurisdictions. In the U.S., President Joe Biden is considering making interstate travel unlawful for the unvaccinated.  
 But another [15 studies back the Israeli study](https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/fifteen-studies-show-natural-immunity-better-vaccines/).  
 Moreover, CDC research shows that vaccinated individuals are still being infected and are spreading COVID, with as much of the virus in their throat and nasal passage as unvaccinated people.  
 "High viral loads suggest an increased risk of transmission and raised concern that, unlike with other variants, vaccinated people infected with delta can transmit the virus," CDC Rochelle Director Walensky noted after an oubreak of mostly vaccinated people in Massachusetts.  
 This week, the CDC said vaccine effectiveness in preventing hospitalizations has fallen from a high of 95% to as low as 75%.  
 Israel now has the highest current case rate in the entire world.  
 Oddly, Israel was also the first country to vaccinate the majority of their population and the first country to vaccinate 80% of adults. [pic.twitter.com/xjJPaicQ82](https://t.co/xjJPaicQ82)  
 — PLC (@Humble\_Analysis) [August 31, 2021](https://twitter.com/Humble_Analysis/status/1432784113400827905)  
 Israel has now administered booster doses to 25% of the population; their vaccine passport will no longer consider as vaccinated anyone who has let six months pass since their last injection.  
 This is not the behavior of a nation which has confidence in continuing efficacy. [pic.twitter.com/9qeuaTzc5h](https://t.co/9qeuaTzc5h)  
 — PLC (@Humble\_Analysis) [August 31, 2021](https://twitter.com/Humble_Analysis/status/1432786523649294336)  
 FEE concludes: "Vaccine passports would be immoral and a massive government overreach even in the absence of these findings. There is simply no historical parallel for governments attempting to restrict the movements of healthy people over a respiratory virus in this manner."  
 **Censorship**  
 In April, [YouTube censored a video](https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/4906816/) featuring Kulldorf, Bhattacharya and other health experts in an exchange hosted by Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis.  
 YouTube didn't like an exchange in which Kulldorff, responding to a question by DeSantis, said "children should not wear face masks, no. "  
 "They don’t need it for their own protection and they don’t need it for protecting other people, either," he said.  
 Bhattacharya said it is "developmentally inappropriate" for children to wear masks and it "just doesn’t help on the disease spread."  
 "I think it’s absolutely not the right thing to do," he said.  
 Bhattacharya said that "if we went back a year, a lot of experts would say that wearing masks for the general public is not evidence-based."  
 Later, Stanford's Scott Atlas said "there’s no scientific rationale or logic to have children wear masks in schools." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/harvard-epidemiologist-study-demolishes-case-vaccine-passports/> **[Anyone who has had the disease should NOT get the JAB and with the multiple modalities of therapy you are better off with the disease and some HCQ or ivermectin than taking the JAB. This is a great demonstration of the disgusting and unconscionable liesthat have been spewing forth from the NIH, CDC and FDA. The recent “approval” by the FDA is a total farce. There are literally no long term studies and results to demonstrate the JABs safety. You have no idea of what will happen in a couple years or more down the road. This has been a criminal enterprise. Rdb]**

**Resistance to vaccine mandates grows among tens of thousands**

***'Mandatory injection requirements may begin with COVID, but they will not end there'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published August 31, 2021 at 3:25pm*

**The federal government likely hasn't run an advocacy campaign like its current pro-COVID-19 vaccination messaging in decades. It's joined by most state governments as well as industry, Big Tech, education, business and travel interests.**

**Get your COVID shot, consumers are told, warned and even threatened, even though the benefits are subject to question and the side effects have put thousands in hospitals, or their graves.**

**But a surging number of Americans are simply rejecting the messaging as not tr**ue.

**Disinformation.**

**Propaganda.**

**Mat Staver, founder of Liberty Counsel, runs one of the legal teams that, across the country, now are facing a nonstop barrage of telephone and email requests for help fighting demands that students and employees take the experimental shot**s.

He confirmed in a recent email message that his organization has received more than 10,000 requests from people "desperate to escape the shot mandates."  
 His organization filed a lawsuit against Maine already, where officials simply decided no one was allowed to have a religious belief opposing vaccinations, including the COVID-19 shots that were developed with the use of cell lines from aborted infants.  
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The **state-turned-church apparatus said simply no one could claim to have a belief against its shot requirements**.  
 Reports predicted "many more legal battles" over that issue.  
 In fact, Staver reported that some of those individuals among the more than 10,000 requests for help have, individually, represented "thousands" of people threatened by the mandates.  
 "**Mandatory injection requirements may begin with COVID, but they will not end there," he warned. "The CDC is already recommending booster shots**."  
 The result is that **students have been expelled from schools, to** which they'd already paid tuition and fees, workers are unemployed and many, many are facing the untenable choice of giving up their religious convictions or getting fired.  
 **Staver's organization, too, is just one of dozens that are responding to individuals** horrified by the prospect of submitting to a "treatment" plan that may kill them.  
 Staver said the pleas for help "are breaking my heart."  
 "One husband called and broke down in tears: 'My wife will be fired on Monday. She is part of more than 50 medical workers in a nursing home who declined the jab. They are being forced to sign that they 'voluntarily' quit so they can’t get unemployment benefits. Do we have to?'" Staver explained.  
 "**Do hospitals really think they can terminate 60-80% of their staff members? I am not exaggerating. In one hospital with 23,000 employees and contractors, 80+% are saying 'No' to the shots. At another with 14,000 employees, 66% are saying 'No!'** How will the hospitals fill the void? How will these heroes feed their families?" he said.  
 He cited a testimonial from a "healthy Virginia woman."  
 She wrote, "As soon as I received the vaccine, I immediately felt shooting pains in my right eye and noticed red blood vessels had busted on my eyeball, and I began experiencing light and sound sensitivity as well as a strong sense of smell. The next day I woke up to horrible acid reflux, nausea, diarrhea, stomach cramps and stabbing stomach pains as well as neck pains and throbbing in the back left side of my head.  
 "I then developed insomnia, anxiety, nerve pains and vomiting as well as a metal taste in my mouth and sore, swollen tongue. I also began having muscle spasms in my legs. The diarrhea, which lasted 6 weeks, caused a large amount of weight loss (eventually totaling 72 pounds). When the diarrhea subsided, the shooting neuropathy in my legs, arms and torso began. After about 7 weeks, my eyes began to start having shooting pains and my vision was affected."  
 Now, he explained she reports having "tremors in the occipital region of my head when laying down, as well as body shaking and muscle and joint pains. I have also had memory issues and brain fog as well as ear popping. I then developed bulging veins on my feet, hands, neck and face."  
 Some of **the actions so far against those who want to retain America's liberty and control over their own health care have been largely overlooked in legacy** media.  
 For example, Democrats in Connecticut adopted a bill that would end the state's religious exemption for vaccinations for all students.  
 In some cases, exemptions have been granted, then revoked.  
 **Such was one situation involving a student at Rensselar Polytechnic Institute which granted a religious exemption, accepted payment from an incoming student, then simply said the exemption no longer applied.  
 Liberty Counsel has filed a complaint with the New York Division of Human Rights over that** stunt.  
 The student, who holds sincere religious belief that prohibit her from taking the COVID shot, was told the school decided there were too many people requesting religious exemptions so they simply picked an arbitrary cutoff date to cancel that option.  
 The problem for the school, Liberty Counsel explained, is "the Equal Protection Clause of the New York State Constitution explicitly states that it is unlawful discriminatory practice for an educational institution to deny the use of its facilities to any person otherwise qualified, or to permit the harassment of any student or applicant, by reason of his race, color, religion, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military status, sex, age or marital status…"  
 Further backing those challenging the requirement is the fact the current vaccines are being used under an emergency authorization ruling, meaning they continue to be considered experimental.  
 "That means people must be told the risks and benefits, and they have the right to decline a medication that is not fully licensed. All of the COVID-19 shots (Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson) have received only EAU authorization and not full FDA approval," Liberty Counsel noted.  
 **The one shot that had been given Food and Drug Administration approval is called Comirnaty, from Pfizer and BioNTech, but it is not yet available.** The Pfizer shots now being used remain experimental.  
 Walt Disney and Walmart are among the major companies that have told some or all of their employees that they must get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 this fall. The Pentagon will require vaccinations for service members no later than Sept. 15, or sooner if the FDA grants full approval earlier. The Department of Veterans Affairs will require nearly every worker, volunteer and contractor within its vast health care system to be vaccinated, [the New York Times reported](https://t.co/zQCj8HZAQk?amp=1).  
 Some **50 health-care professional societies and organizations in the United States have urged all health-care employers to require their employees to be vaccinated against COVID**-19.  
 Recently, [Oregon Democratic Gov. Kate Brown announced](https://ktvz.com/top-stories/2021/08/19/watch-live-gov-brown-says-vaccines-now-be-required-for-all-oregon-health-care-workers-school-staff/) all health care workers in the state must be vaccinated. There is no alternative.  
 In Washington state, Gov. Jay Inslee has inserted a "gotcha" question for those filing for exemptions.  
 The state's "guidance" for public school faculty and staff members who seek a religious exemption to the vaccine mandates includes several questions.  
 The first, "You assert that you have a sincerely held religious belief or religious conviction that prevents you from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine … Yes or no?"  
 And the "gotcha?"  
 "You affirm/agree that you have never received a vaccine or medicine from a health care provider as an adult. Yes or no?"  
 KOMO News explained Inslee claimed, "The purpose of this question is to understand whether there was a history of declining medical treatment or vaccination based on an applicant's religious belief."  
 Inslee said, "If they answer no, the HR professionals would engage in follow up questions to better understand the person's history, such as demonstrating changes they have made as an adult based on those beliefs."  
 The danger would be twofold, the report suggested, in that it equates any "medicine" obtained from a "health care provider" with the abortion-linked COVID vaccines.  
 Further, it would open the door for a government official to express his or her opinion on a religious belief.  
 Explained Liberty Daily, "This question will act as a hindrance for some. Those who have received past vaccines such as their flu shots will have the moral dilemma of whether they should lie in order to get their exemption. If they don’t, will that disqualify them? Probably not, but they will be put through indoctrination with their 'HR professionals' who will try to convince them to take the jab.  
 "It’s **ugly politics. Nothing more.** Jay Inslee and his fellow vaccine-pushers want no excuses for why people aren’t getting vaxxed. They want as many jabs in as many arms as possible, moral values and medical science be damned."  
 [KOMO reported there was a reaction from state Sen. Doug Ericksen, R-Linden.](https://komonews.com/news/coronavirus/need-a-religious-exemption-from-covid-19-vaccine-state-releases-guidelines-for-getting-it)  
 "I think what you're seeing here is a system that the governor has intentionally put out to make it as difficult as possible for someone to qualify under this exemption that he's put out there," he said.  
 "So, it's pretty disingenuous to say you're going to have a religious exemption and then place so many caveats and so many rules and restrictions on it that it makes it almost impossible for somebody to use honestly."  
 The fight covers many categories of people. Just this week, a federal judge in Michigan granted a temporary restraining order protecting the rights of four soccer team athletes at Western Michigan University who had been threatened with ejection for refusing the vaccines.  
 The Great Lakes Justice Center was working on that case. The judge said, "Plaintiffs have established a likelihood of success on their claim that WMU’s denial of a religious exemption from vaccine requirement for its student athletes violates Plaintiffs’ right to the free exercise of religion. Defendants are enjoined from enforcing a COVID-19 vaccine requirement against Plaintiffs. Defendants may not prevent Plaintiffs from participating in team activities for the reason that Plaintiffs have not received a COVID-19 vaccine." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/resistance-vaccine-mandates-grows-among-tens-thousands/> **[This is obviously a reprehensible collusion by corporate America against the American people and their freedom of choice Time to prosecute the real criminals in government and big pharm for their dastardly behaviors. – rdb]**

**Commentary:**

**Cui Bono? Who Benefits From the Afghanistan Withdrawal?**[*Dennis Prager*](https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/) *Posted: Aug 31, 2021 12:01 AM* How does a leader decide what to do?  
 The most logical response is: "Cui bono?" -- "Who benefits?" -- from the decision.  
 If some policy benefits your country most, you should, within moral bounds, pursue it.  
 If your enemies benefit most, you should avoid it.  
 I'd be curious to learn what answer proponents of America leaving Afghanistan -- conservative or liberal -- would give to the question, "Cui bono?"  
 I can say that until this moment, I have not read or heard a single cogent argument from proponents of American withdrawal as to how exactly it benefits America.  
 "Twenty years is too long," or its variant, "we have to end these endless wars," the most commonly offered argument for withdrawal, has nothing to do with benefiting America.  
 It is an emotional sentiment, not a rational argument.  
 The withdrawal has already cost us in a single day more service members' lives than we lost on any one day in Afghanistan since June 2014, seven years ago.  
 The number of American servicemen killed in Afghanistan per year from 2015 to 2020 is respectively 22, 9, 14, 14, 21 and 11. No one can seriously argue that we are leaving Afghanistan because of high American casualties.  
 So, while America doesn't benefit at all from leaving Afghanistan, it does get hurt.  
 The damage to the reputation of America -- as an ally and as a strong country -- is not easily overstated.  
 The damage done to NATO, whose members President Joe Biden didn't bother to consult, is greater than any damage former President Donald Trump -- whom the left-wing mainstream media constantly attacked for damaging NATO -- was alleged to have done.  
 On the other hand, "Cui bono?" has some very clear answers: China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, every Islamic terror group in the world and every other anti-American regime and movement.  
 In the Daily Wire, Ben Shapiro compiled a list of recent Western weakness in the face of tyrants and the commensurate strengthening of those tyrants:  
 "The West's abandonment of Hong Kong in the face of Chinese aggression last year.  
 "The West's continuing desire for a rapprochement with the Iranian mullahcracy.  
 "The West's routine appeasement of Russia.  
 "All speak to the unwillingness of the West -- and the West's leader, the United States -- to stand up for allies anywhere on earth.  
 "Afghanistan is simply the latest, and by far the most stunning, example of abandonment of an American ally ...  
 "China's Global Times, a Communist Party mouthpiece, chortled, 'From what happened in Afghanistan, those in Taiwan should perceive that once a war breaks out in the Straits, the island's defense will collapse in hours and U.S. military won't come to help. As a result (Taiwan) will quickly surrender.'  
 "Indeed, given the window presented by the Biden administration, it would be somewhat of a surprise if China *didn't* attempt some sort of action against Taiwan in the next few years ...  
 "Foreign policy abhors vacuums, and the United States has now created one. That means that erstwhile American allies will begin to play footsie with countries like Russia and China, believing that American commitments mean little. They have reason for such suspicions, obviously."  
 The effects on Americans' perceptions of the military constitute another terrible price paid by leaving Afghanistan. More and more Americans see the military as more concerned with fighting white supremacy in America and transphobia in the military than with fighting for the supremacy of freedom on earth. This is new. And it will have a devastating effect on both America and the military. One obvious consequence: Who will want to enlist in a woke military? (Perhaps that's the goal.)  
 It seems that every generation has to relearn the basic laws of life, such as this one: There are many bad people and many bad countries in the world, and only a fear of good countries prevents them from conquering other countries.  
 There is less fear of good countries in the world today than at any time since World War II. And that is especially so because the good countries are preoccupied with their own alleged evils rather than with the world's real evils.  
<https://townhall.com/columnists/dennisprager/2021/08/31/cui-bono-who-benefits-from-the-afghanistan-withdrawal-n2595041>

**The ONLY COVID Facts You Need***By* [*Lex Greene*](https://newswithviews.com/author/lex/)*|August 31st, 2021* I know, the Nazis running our country these days have total control over the news media and social media, and they only allow ONE narrative in the USA right now, their false narrative. That has conned millions of Americans into voluntarily accepting a “[fake vaccine](https://www.brighteon.com/embed/7aa42228-b05c-4e55-9570-caf7aa685e0b)” that has already maimed millions and killed tens of thousands.  
 Everyone who has taken these “[fake vaccines](https://www.brighteon.com/embed/7aa42228-b05c-4e55-9570-caf7aa685e0b)” had good intentions. They simply trusted that their government, the news media, the Nazi scientists and go-along-to-get-along health professionals pushing these “[fake vaccines](https://www.brighteon.com/embed/7aa42228-b05c-4e55-9570-caf7aa685e0b)” would “do them no harm.” For the most part, the same mindless dotes that voted for a totally mindless lifelong criminal career politician last November, have been conned, bribed, coerced and threatened into “[fake vax](https://www.brighteon.com/embed/7aa42228-b05c-4e55-9570-caf7aa685e0b)” compliance.  
 However, there are only a few indisputable facts that should have kept every Citizen from making this fatal mistake… and here they are…  
 **Indisputable FACT #1** – Every year, [approximately 0.9% of American citizens die](https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/USA/united-states/death-rate#:~:text=United%20States%20-%20Historical%20Death%20Rate%20Data%20,%20%201.220%25%20%2068%20more%20rows%20). They die of many different causes, from heart disease to cancer, and yes, the flu and cold. Each year, the total number of USA deaths moves around a bit, but only by one-one hundredth of one percent. In 2019, before the COVID PLAN-demic, 0.8782% died of multiple causes. In 2020, under the COVID19 PLAN-demic, this number was 0.8880%, up just under one-one hundredth of one percent.  
 Indisputable CONCLUSION: It is entirely impossible for this to be true, if there was any “killer virus” flooding the country, as we have been so advised by the mad “experts.” This is NOT to say that no one ever gets sick or dies. It’s to prove that we have been lied to from day one about this PLAN-demic.  
 **Indisputable FACT #2** – For many years now, the W.H.O. and CDC have required an event to impact at least 7% of the population, before labeling the event an “epidemic.” [According to the CDC](https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/) as of this morning, 39,668,541 Americans have been infected by COVID19, 11.9% of the USA population. However, more than 80% have been asymptomatic, also known as “false positive,” which brings the real case number to date down to 7,933,708…or, 2.4% of the USA population. The number of COVID cases has been overstated by at least 500% – and actual COVID deaths have been overstated by at least 1600%.  
 Indisputable CONCLUSION:The CDC and W.H.O. have intentionally and grossly overstated the facts with a clear intent to mislead Citizens, frighten them and eventually, con, bribe, intimidate, threaten, coerce, or otherwise FORCE Citizens into voluntarily accepting “[fake vaccines](https://www.brighteon.com/embed/7aa42228-b05c-4e55-9570-caf7aa685e0b)” without any real foundation for even needing a vaccine at all.  
 **Indisputable FACT #3** – If masks, social distancing and quarantining healthy people worked, this so-called “pandemic”would have been long gone by April of 2020. The real “science” is printed on the side of every mask box…they are not designed to, or capable of, preventing the spread of any virus.  
 Indisputable CONCLUSION: Of course, that would have meant that we had no need for “mail-in ballot elections” making it very easy for the global left to steal the 2020 elections and seize total control of the U.S. Federal government. It’s all about Pavlov training all Americans to do even the dumbest things…if Simon says so.  
 **Indisputable FACT #4** – To date, COVID19 has had an overall survival rate of 99.8% in the USA…even with our government blocking access to known cures like [Hydroxychloroquine and Ivermectin](https://rumble.com/vlpecw-the-story-of-ivermectin.html).  
 Indisputable CONCLUSION: Americans have been Pavlov trained by our government and their social-engineering news media, to fear everything. Today’s Americans are so scared of every little thing, even when it makes no common sense whatsoever, that they are forfeiting their freedom and liberty for what they think is an ounce of safety. Sadly, the “fake vaccines” are FAR from safe. You have a better chance of surviving a direct lightning strike, than surviving these “fake vaccines.”  
 **Indisputable FACT #5** – NO ONE has the legal, moral, or ethical RIGHT or authority to FORCE vaccinate, mask, social distance or quarantine any healthy person, ever, for any reason at all. By NO ONE, I mean NO ONE! Public servants are “servants of the people,” not elected or appointed dictators. They don’t issue “mandates,” instead, they must follow – OUR – mandates, well defined in our Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights. [Amendment 4](https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/fourth_amendment) guarantees every Citizen an inalienable RIGHT to be “[secure in their person](https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/fourth_amendment).”  
 Indisputable CONCLUSION: In addition to founding document protections, numerous Federal and State Laws, as well as past Supreme Court decisions, have outlawed any notion that anyone has the legal Right or authority to FORCE any medical mandates on any individual, much less the entire population. In fact, the [use of mRNA technology on human beings has been strictly prohibited](https://www.brighteon.com/embed/7aa42228-b05c-4e55-9570-caf7aa685e0b).  
 Now, I could keep going for pages here…however, these five indisputable FACTS should be all that any half-intelligent truth-seeking Citizen needs to know exactly what danger the Biden regime has forced every American Citizen into… It’s all a lie, and it’s unlawful and unconstitutional as well.  
 I hear people calling for the “impeachment of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.” But in the USA, we don’t impeach treasonous frauds, we arrest them and prosecute them for their crimes against the USA and all humanity. This is NOT a game…Life and liberty hangs in the balance!  
 Before there is nothing left but violent options, the American people must **FOLLOW THE REAL SCIENCE presented here, UNITE in common to STOP ONGOING COVID TYRANNY** and secure the future of Freedom and Liberty not only for ourselves, but for all posterity and freedom loving people all over the world.  
 Begin by [JOINING a NATIONWIDE STRIKE](https://northamericanlawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Jones_StandardsForDocumenting.pdf) to shut down the tyrants before they lock us all down again. If we wait for them to be on every doorstep, we will have waited far too long.<https://newswithviews.com/the-only-covid-facts-you-need/>   
   
**Biden Letting China Get Away with Crime of the Century**

*by* [*Gordon G. Chang*](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Gordon+G.+Chang) *August 31, 2021 at 5:00 am* On August 27, the Biden administration released an [unclassified summary](https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/Unclassified-Summary-of-Assessment-on-COVID-19-Origins.pdf) of the intelligence community's report on the origins of COVID-19. The IC, America's 18 intelligence agencies, could reach only a few definitive conclusions. The agencies said they needed more information, but the world now knows enough to begin imposing severe costs on China.  
 America and other nations must impose those costs to prevent China's Communist Party from releasing a civilization-killing disease. Yes, the People's Liberation Army is now developing pathogens to destroy non-Chinese societies.  
 "The IC assesses that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, probably emerged and infected humans through an initial small-scale exposure that occurred no later than November 2019 with the first known cluster of COVID-19 cases arising in Wuhan, China in December 2019," the summary states.  
 The IC believes "the virus was not developed as a biological weapon." "Most agencies also assess with low confidence that SARS-CoV-2 probably was not genetically engineered," the summary report states. Both a "natural exposure to an infected animal and a laboratory-associated incident" are "plausible."  
 The report's bottom line: "The IC remains divided on the most likely origin of COVID-19."  
 "The world deserves answers, and I will not rest until we get them," President Biden [said in a statement](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/27/statement-by-president-joe-biden-on-the-investigation-into-the-origins-of-covid-%e2%81%a019/) accompanying the release of the summary. Good on him.  
 Not, however, good enough. The President of the United States does not need perfect knowledge to act. As the summary states, Beijing "continues to hinder the global investigation, resist sharing information, and blame other countries, including the United States."  
 There is no justification for China's actions. It has the information, as the intelligence community tells us; it just refuses to share what it knows.  
 The failure to share information when it has an obligation to do so is enough reason to impose severe costs on Beijing, but there are two additional reasons — both sufficient in and of themselves — to do so.  
 First, for at least five weeks, Chinese officials first covered up and then lied about the human-to-human transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2, telling the world COVID-19 was not contagious when they knew it in fact was. While they were locking down Wuhan and other cities, these officials were pressuring other countries to accept arrivals from their country without restriction. They had to know they were, considering everything, spreading the disease, making the 4.5 million deaths outside China look intentional.  
 Second, China's military is working on the next generation of pathogens. Its National Defense University, in the 2017 edition of the authoritative *Science of Military Strategy*, mentioned a new kind of biological warfare of "[specific ethnic genetic attacks](https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2019/08/chinas-military-pursuing-biotech/159167/)."  
 China's military researchers and analysts for a half decade have been writing about pathogens of this sort, and American officials are in fact concerned that Chinese scientists have been experimenting with, in the [words of Bill Gertz](https://m.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/may/14/china-deception-fuels-fears-biological-weapons-eth/) of the *Washington Times*, "germ weapons capable of attacking ethnic groups." Beijing's determined campaign to collect genetic profiles of foreigners while [preventing the transfer](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2019-06/10/content_5398829.htm) to recipients outside China of the profiles of Chinese is another indication that the Chinese military, in violation of its obligations under the Biological Weapons Convention, is building ethnic-specific bioweapons.  
 "Whether you think China deliberately or mistakenly released its coronavirus on the world, its collective reactions have fantastically educated the People's Liberation Army on how to make a possible future bio-attack a deadly success," Richard Fisher of the International Assessment and Strategy Center [told](https://online.flippingbook.com/view/0766896/52-53/) *American Consequences*. Many analysts have stated that biological weapons are not practical, yet SARS-CoV-2 has killed millions and hobbled societies around the world. It is, unfortunately, the ultimate proof of concept.  
 It should come as no surprise that Beijing acted so maliciously. As Cleo Paskal of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies told the same publication, "China's Communist Party uses an empirical framework called Comprehensive National Power, or CNP, to rank countries." Beijing can become the world's most powerful country as ranked by CNP by either increasing China's CNP or decreasing the CNP of others.  
 "If Chinese leaders realize they have an epidemic on their hands that will lower China's CNP, it is logical to turn that epidemic into a pandemic by restricting the spread domestically while not stopping the spread internationally," Paskal, also at Chatham House, said. "That way, China's CNP might be lowered, but so will everyone else's, and China's relative ranking won't be affected, in fact, it might even improve."  
 If Chinese scientists succeed in designing pathogens targeting only foreigners, the next microbe, virus, or germ from China could end non-Chinese societies. This will be Communist China's civilization-killer.  
 The next pandemic, therefore, could be the one that leaves China as the world's only viable society. The world, therefore, needs something far more important than justice or compensation. It needs deterrence.  
 Up to now, Biden has shown little — and sometimes no — interest in holding China accountable. He spent two hours on the phone with Chinese ruler Xi Jinping in February and [did not raise the origin question once](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-chinese-president-xi-jinping-coronavirus-origins). It appears he ordered the intelligence community review on May 26 only after the uproar that morning caused by a CNN report that his State Department had killed a Pompeo-era investigation into the disease.  
 So far, Biden, with his feeble reaction, has shown Xi Jinping that Beijing can, without cost, kill millions of non-Chinese with a pathogen. Xi, unless stopped, will certainly do so again.  
 *Gordon G. Chang is the author of* The Coming Collapse of China, *a Gatestone Institute distinguished senior fellow, and a member of its Advisory Board.* <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/17709/china-crime-of-the-century>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Construction materials allowed into Gaza: 'It pays to kill a soldier'**

***Dozens of trucks with cement, iron, and gravel enter Gaza ith Israel's permission.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Aug 31 , 2021 8:28 PM*



***Tucks enter Kerem Shalom crossing Flash 90***

**The Israeli government has approved the introduction into the Gaza Strip of construction materials intended for the private sector in the Strip, and not just for humanitarian projects as has been available until now. This is the first such approval the end of Operation Guardian** of the Walls in May.  
 *Kan News* **reported that in the last two days dozens of trucks with cement, iron and gravel have been brought into the Strip through the** Kerem Shalom crossing.  
 **Cement and gravel brought into Gaza can now be purchased by any ordinary citizen in the Strip without any restriction. The traders in Gaza are not yet allowed to sell iron to anyone who demands it, since approval has not yet been received from Israel for its sale to private customers, even though quantities of iron have already been imported into the Gaza S**trip. **[Tunnels and bomb factories anyone? - rdb**  
 Traders in Gaza have complained that the construction market in Gaza is weak and residents have not yet begun rehabilitating their homes which were damaged in the most recent conflict, as the economic crisis in the Strip and cash shortages significantly reduce purchasing power and many residents in need of cement and construction materials are currently refraining from purchasing them.  
 Religious Zionism Party chairman MK Bezalel Smotrich attacked the decision to allow construction materials into Gaza. "It pays to kill a soldier, shoot at Sderot in the afternoon, inflate incendiary balloons and send the nightly harassment companies. By these means Hamas obtained cement and iron from Bennett to rehabilitate its offensive tunnel network. Think about what the Bennett who was in the opposition would say about his current self." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312789>

**ZOA calls out Philadelphia libraries for anti-Israel content targeting children**

***After Philadelphia Jewish community discovers libraries promoting extreme anti-Israel content to children, ZOA calls out library system.***

*Dan Verbin , Aug 31 , 2021 8:19 PM*

A report **by the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) drew attention to a library system in Philadelphia that was criticized by members of the Jewish communityover what they said was an attempt to turn children and parents against Israel using heavily biased Pro-Palestinian books, videos and resource** links.  
 The library system has subsequently promised to make changes to remedy the situation.  
 **ZOA stated that their investigation into the concerns found “disturbing” content on the website of the Free Library of Philadelphia – one of America’s largest public library systems**.  
 ZOA Philadelphia executive director Steve Feldman found that the 55 branches of the library system had their own Facebook pages where librarians would post book suggestions for children and their parents or caretakers.  
 “I **started looking, and I kept finding more and more disturbing content that was first of all directed at young people – children, middle-school age or maybe even younger frankly – and that it was all of an anti-Jewish, anti-Zionist nature**,” said Feldman. “There seemed to be a campaign going on to indoctrinate young Philadelphians, or whoever else uses the websites in the library or the branches of the library, to indoctrinate young people and their parents to be anti-Zionist, anti-Jewish, anti-Israel.”  
 Feldman questioned whether there was a “deliberate effort to delegitimize Jewish self-determination and even dehumanize the Jewish people to young Philadelphians, particularly of other minority groups.”  
 He added: “Out of all of the conflicts in the world, all the situations in the world, why have there been multiple programs and activities focusing on Israel and the Palestinian Arabs, and not, for example, what’s going on in China, Cuba, North Korea, Venezuela, or any places where there actually are human rights violations?”  
 Feldman called it a “deliberate, one-sided campaign” that was “all based on lies.”  
 “The librarian in a couple of those videos comes off like a female Mr. Rogers, which intensifies the impact of the propaganda that she is delivering,” said Feldman. “Why isn’t she the following week promoting a book about Zionism or about Israel or about the Jewish longing to return to [the Jewish] homeland? About what it’s like to be a young person with rockets, thousands and thousands of rockets fired at you frequently? Nothing like that is there.”  
 The ZOA noted that one, and possibly two, of the librarians involved in the criticized programming were signatures to an open letter titled “Statement in Solidarity with Palestinian Liberation: An Open Letter from Members of the Children’s Book Industry.”  
 The open letter accused Israelis of “lynching” Palestinians with “protection and participation of Israeli police,” along with genocide, ethnic cleansing, stealing land and targeting children.  
 “You’re also talking about a government agency,” Feldman said. “You know, who would think that a public library would be trying to indoctrinate young people to hate another people? It would be the furthest thing that anybody would think of. A library is regarded as a safe space – maybe one of the safest spaces. If you’re going to sit your kid down in front of a website to watch videos, who would suspect anything untoward at the library?” <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312788>

**PA takes over Area C and Israel doesn't care'**

***Former defense ministry adviser for settlement affairs Kobi Eliraz slams government inaction on Area C lawlessness.***

*Uzi Baruch , Aug 31 , 2021 9:02 PM*

**Kobi Eliraz, a former adviser to multiple defense ministers on settlement issues, is very concerned about the Palestinian Authority takeover of Area C and the government's indifference to**wards it.

**"While Areas A and B were given to the Palestinians in the Oslo Accords, Area C is our responsibility. In practice, the Palestinians, in a systematic way and especially in the last decade with the help of funding and budgeting from all over the world, have set for themselves the goal of taking over these territories. Isra**el is quite indifferent to this situation," Elirza says in an interview at *Arutz Sheva's* Jerusalem station.  
 He says, "**The Israeli governments in the last decade - and most of them were headed by Benjamin Netanyahu - have not done much. I expected Naftali Bennett, the former defense minister, to have a different approach to the issue. He even appointed me in charge of dealing with [the PA's] takeover of Area C and I wrote an in-depth document on the issues, how to stop the unilateral deterioration and possible solutions." I gave** it to Naftali Bennett, who once criticized Benjamin Netanyahu for not doing anything, but at the moment this issue is not a priority for the government."  
 Eliraz **criticizes the government's conduct on the issue of settlements**. "I saw the way the housing units were approved for Israelis and Palestinians and it was not done very professionally, to say the least. Unfortunately at the moment the Prime Minister's Office does not have a figure, adviser, or trusted person on this issue. Other suitable people are graduates of the systems who are familiar with the issue have not received a serious response to the situation, nor have I."  
 "It should be understood that if in the Trump plan, which was enough to reflect the situation, it was written that 60% of Area C would be in our hands and 40% in their hands. The situation is already the opposite today. Trump gave us 30% with 15 enclaves created in the last 20 years. If we continue with the current situation, we will incur dozens more enclaves in a plan that another government will plan in a few years' time," Eliraz declares.  
 How can the situation be resolved? "Effective enforcement must be realized by legal means, a staff in the Civil Administration must be budgeted for effectiveness so that it will be of interest to the Minister and he will monitor it."  
 The building permits for Palestinian Arabs given by the government are a lesser problem in his opinion. "The thousand housing units for Palestinians are less disturbing. I think there is room for Palestinians to have approved plans in Area C because they are also increasing. Certainly appropriate criteria need to be set that will define their plans, and assuming they are met we are right to approve them, because it is beneficial for us. When we come to the Supreme Court and demand the demolition of a Palestinian house, we are asked how many plans we approved for them - and then we are told - when you approve plans, then you will also be allowed to demolish [illegal homes]."  
 But the defense minister's conduct is very worrying to Eliraz. "Benny Gantz goes to Abu Mazen and talks to him about benefits for the Palestinian. I have not heard that this move is conditional on the cessation of the takeover funded and led by Abu Mazen himself in Area C." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312790>

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**08/31/2021 NEWS AM**

**What is Elul?**

<https://www.aish.com/h/hh/e/>

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| **“Courage, then, my countrymen, our contest is not only whether we ourselves shall be free, but whether there shall be left to mankind an asylum on earth for civil and religious liberty.”**  **— Samuel Adams** |

**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 38:21Then he asked the men of her place, saying: 'Where is the harlot, that was at Enaim by the wayside?' And they said: 'There hath been no harlot here.' 22And he returned to Judah, and said: 'I have not found her; and also the men of the place said: There hath been no harlot here.' 23And Judah said: 'Let her take it, lest we be put to shame; behold, I sent this kid, and thou hast not found her.'**

**Israel and US working on ‘Plan B’ if Iran nuke talks fail, Gantz says**

***In wide-ranging briefing, defense minister says intel ties with US getting stronger, calls for strengthening the PA and keeping a strict blockade on Gaza until Hamas frees captives***

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

**Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Monday said Israel and the United States had restored intelligence ties and were working to develop a “Plan B” if the stalled talks between Washington and Tehran regarding a fresh Iran nuclear deal sputter out, followi**ng a meeting between Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and US President Joe Biden last week.

**Gantz warned that if Iran becomes a nuclear state, it will trigger an international arms race in which many other nations, in the Middle East and beyond**, will attempt to acquire an atomic bomb.

“The United States and Israel share intelligence information, and the cooperation with the United States in this field is only getting stronger. We are working with them in order to establish a Plan B and to demonstrate that if there is no deal, other activities will begin, as President Biden said,” the defense minister said, speaking to military correspondents ahead of the Jewish New Year next week.

**On Friday, the US president told a joint press conference with Bennett that his administration was “ready to turn to other options”** if diplomatic talks with Iran failed, likely alluding to the possibility of clandestine operations and military strikes.

The White House meeting came a day after US officials told the New York Times that Israel’s previous administration had downgraded intelligence sharing with the US after Biden took office. Bennett has sought to restore ties with US Democrats after their relationship with former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu became frayed, though Iran was the focus of the Friday meeting.  
 **Gantz did not specify what the “Plan B” could entail**, but Israeli officials have signaled a need for a credible military threat to deter Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons.  
 Gantz’s **comments joined a flurry of threats by Israeli defense officials toward Iran in recent** days, including Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi, who told reporters last week that the military was preparing plans and funding for a potential military strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities.  
 “We are allocating resources in order to strengthen our ability to act against challenges in the region, chief among them Iran,” Gantz said.  
 The defense minister made his comments during an extended briefing with reporters at the Defense Ministry’s offices in Tel Aviv’s Kirya military base, focusing on Iran along with his meeting Sunday with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, the lingering threats from the Gaza Strip following May’s conflict with terror groups there, the Middle East in general and the ongoing efforts by the government to pass the budget and fund the Defense Ministry’s programs.  
 “A **defense budget allows us to rearm and allows for the operational ability that we need, alongside important social considerations**. We are working to improve fortifications in the north and to build the [Lebanese border] barrier that was held up for years,” Gantz said.  
 Referring to recent efforts by the government to encourage ultra-Orthodox men to perform national service, the defense minister said he was working to expand this in order to get a larger majority of Israelis to enlist, warning that if this is not accomplished within the next decade, Israel will be forced to move to a professional, volunteer military.  
 “The goal is to get more than 70 percent of people to serve each year, when today we only have roughly 50 percent,” Gantz said.  
 The defense minister said he instructed the IDF to begin preparing for the possibility that it will have to continue to support the national pandemic response through the end of 2022, after initially planning to scale back the military’s involvement in these efforts following this year’s massive vaccination drive.  
**Strengthening the PA  
 Gantz reiterated his support for strengthening the Palestinian Authority, which works closely with Israel on security issues, particularly against Hamas and other terror groups in the West** Bank. However, the PA is often maligned in Israel for its financial support for terrorism in the form of stipend to the families of Palestinians imprisoned in Israeli on terrorism charges or killed as they perpetrated terror attacks, as well as for its repeated efforts to gain unilateral recognition as a state in international forums such as the United Nations.  
 “I told Abbas that we aren’t going anywhere and that the Palestinians aren’t going anywhere. I went to the meeting in order to build confidence and preserve the interests of the State of Israel and the important ties we have with the Palestinian Authority, which I believe we need to strengthen,” Gantz said.  
 “As **the Palestinian Authority gets stronger, Hamas gets weaker,** and so long as it has greater governance, we will have more security and we will have to act less,” he added.  
 The defense minister did not bring up the possibility of renewed peace talks with the Palestinians, and an official close to the prime minister told reporters earlier in the day that “there is no diplomatic process with the Palestinians nor will there be.”  
 Regarding the Gaza Strip, which has recently seen a significant increase in violence along the border, Gantz said Israel was maintaining its policy of making full reconstruction and further development of the enclave contingent upon the release of two Israeli civilians and the remains of two fallen IDF soldiers from Hamas captivity.  
 The defense minister said the military would also continue to strike more forcefully than it did in the past in response to low-level violence along the border, such as the launching of balloon-borne incendiary devices.  
 “We said that what had been will not be again, and what had been is not what is happening now. This is in terms of the nature and strength of our retaliations, in the different mechanism through which Qatari funds are being transferred, also on civilian issues and on the dependence of reconstruction on the captives, as I said at the end of the operation,” Gantz said.  
 **Echoing similar comments made recently by IDF chief Kohavi**, the defense minister warned that Israel may be at the outset of a fresh round of fighting in Gaza, continuing the campaign from May’s 11-day conflict, known in Israel as Operation Guardian of the Walls, if the violence along the border continues.  
 “Our strikes in Gaza have been precise and have hit rearmament facilities that are painful for Hamas and that deny it capabilities. I cannot promise that we will not have to continue with a 12th day of Guardian of the Walls,” he said.  
 Gantz also noted that rocket attacks from Lebanon, which began during Operation Guardian of the Walls, appeared to be the work of Palestinian terror cells linked to Hamas.  
 During the fighting in Gaza, three rounds of rocket fire were launched at northern Israel, causing neither injuries nor damage. A fourth attack was launched on July 20 and a fifth on August 4 by these Palestinian cells.  
 “We have seen that Hamas International is trying to create an infrastructure in Lebanon,” Gantz said.  
 The IDF does not see these cells as a major threat, but has allocated additional intelligence resources to monitoring them. The main threat in Lebanon remains the Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorist militia.  
 After Israel retaliated forcefully to the August 4 attack, Hezbollah fired 19 rockets at northern Israel, the first time the organization has openly launched such an attack since the 2006 Second Lebanon War. These rocket attacks from Lebanon raised the specter of a potential two-front war in the future, in which Israel would have to fight both Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.  
 “The humanitarian situation in Lebanon is very worrying, but so are the rearmament efforts of Hezbollah. We are prepared for the possibility of fighting on the northern front, including a situation in which we would be fighting on northern and southern fronts,” Gantz said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-and-us-working-on-plan-b-if-iran-nuke-talks-fail-gantz-says/>

**Liberman rolls out ‘most social budget ever’; predicts swift passage**

***Finance minister says he will submit 2021-2022 state budget to Knesset on Tuesday with the aim of it passing its first plenary reading this week***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:33 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/F210830YS65.jpg)

***Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman speaks at a press conference about the state budget, at the Finance Ministry in Jerusalem, August 30, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/ Flash90)***

**Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman will submit the two-year state budget to the Knesset Tuesday with an eye toward passing an initial vote on it by the end of the week**, he said Monday.

Liberman presented the plan at a press briefing in which he said the two-year budget would allocate NIS 432 billion ($135 billion) for 2021 and at NIS 452 billion ($140 billion) for 2022.

Israel has not had a new budget approved by the Knesset since 2019, due to political gridlock and several subsequent elections.

**The two-year state budget includes** [**sweeping reforms**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/new-budget-bill-shows-despite-fragility-coalition-to-launch-sweeping-reforms/)**of the**[**kashrut establishment**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/religious-affairs-minister-seeks-to-reform-kosher-certification-irking-haredim/)**and the agriculture industry, steep taxes on**[**disposable plasticware**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/disposable-plasticware-prices-to-double-in-2022-under-new-tax-proposal/)**and sugary drinks, and considerable changes to import polici**es.

**Other major reforms include the gradual raising of the retirement age for women to 65 over the course of 11 ye**ars, at a rate of four months a year for three years, and three months a year for a further eight years.

Liberman predicted that a pair of budget bills — one to earmark funds and an Arrangements Bill to determine how allocation will be implemented — will have a majority backing in the Knesset, though the coalition government has the slimmest possible majority.

**“It is the most social budget in the history of the count**ry,” Liberman said.

He rejected any possible political fighting over the Arrangements Bill, which can be more prone to partisan dispute, telling reporters that lawmakers will have to support both together.

“They are one whole, you can’t vote for the first and oppose the second,” he said.

**Liberman, who has opposed steps to restrict economic activity to curb the spread of COVID-19, said the economy is growing and “has learned to live alongside the coro**navirus.”

The government cabinet approved the budget at the beginning of the month, the first time a budget has been approved in three years, due to a political deadlock that eventually ended with the installation of the current coalition in June.

In a key challenge for the coalition, which holds a narrow parliamentary majority, the complex legislation must now pass through committee stages and three readings in the Knesset plenum by a November 4 deadline.

If it does not pass by then, the Knesset would automatically dissolve and elections would follow.

The budget will require all the votes of the wafer-thin coalition to pass, with the opposition of a single lawmaker able to bring it down. The diverse composition of the government led by Prime Minister Naftali Bennett — made up of right-wing, centrist and left-wing parties — complicates the effort.

In the previous government, then-prime minister Netanyahu refused to pass a budget — which allowed him to call elections without then-coalition partner Defense Minister Benny Gantz immediately becoming transitional prime minister under the terms of their rotation deal. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/liberman-rolls-out-most-social-budget-ever-predicts-swift-passage/>

***Citing vulnerability of young children ineligible for coronavirus vaccine, judge throws out compensation claim of teacher who quit after claiming exemption from wearing mask in class due to asthma***

*Lital Dobrovitzky | Published: 08.30.21, 22:08*

**The Be'er Sheva District Labor Court ruled Monday that the Education Ministry must bar teachers who refuse to wear a face mask in class from teaching students in pers**on.

**The judge wrote in his ruling that since only youths aged 12 and over are eligible for a coronavirus vaccine, most of the country’s elementary school students remain unprotected against the pathog**en, especially as the highly infectious Delta variant was raging throughout the country. [**Another case of someone in the judiciary trying to practice medicine and public health. Crazy. – rdb]**

**The court also ruled that even those who are fully vaccinated must continue to wear a mask since the vaccine does not prevent further spread of the vir**us. **[If that is true why take the JAB?**

The ruling came as part of a lawsuit filed by a teacher against the school she was teaching at after she refused to wear a face mask in class, claiming she was exempt from doing so due to her asthma.

The presiding judge rejected the teacher's lawsuit, who had resigned in the meantime, and denied her request to NIS 60,000 in compensation.

The court further stated that while the teacher did bring up several important issues regarding individual rights in the midst of a pandemic, the nationwide mask mandate still applied to those with asthma — which make up 5% of the population — since the Health Ministry did not see fit to grant that group an exemption from wearing a mask.

The Education Ministry, on its part, said that the teacher has chosen to resign even though she was given the opportunity to work remotely to allow her to continue teaching without a mask, even though she did not present any medical proof she was exempt from wearing a mask in indoor public spaces. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/b17l100c11k>

**Ministers vote to bar unvaccinated or untested teachers, doctors from workplaces**

***‘Red City’ high schools with less than 70% vaccination rates to go to distance learning; cabinet also approves limits for mass ‘selichot’ prayer services at Western Wall***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:52 am*

**Ministers of the high-level coronavirus cabinet voted Monday to expand the so-called Green Pass entry limitations to education, health, and social welfare institutions, a government statement said**.

**Applying the system to schools, hospitals and welfare facilities means employees — including teachers, doctors, nurses and care-givers —  will only be granted entry to their workplaces if they have documentation showing they are vaccinated against COVID-19**, have recovered from the virus, or have tested negative for the virus within the past 72 hours.

The expanded rules, approved by a select panel of ministers tasked with forming virus policy, will also apply to workers in all places where customers are required to abide by the Green Pass system and expands on existing restrictions.

Ahead of the school year that starts Wednesday, the cabinet also voted to accept a recommendation to ease restrictions in the so-called “Red Cities,” where infection rates are high.

Under the original government plan, students in red cities — those with a high rate of new cases and a high positivity rate — in grades 8-12 would only study in person if 70 percent of their grade level is fully vaccinated.

But officials agreed on Monday to count those who have received a single dose in the tally, making it easier for schools to open in-person learning in high morbidity areas. As of September 30, the model will shift to require that 70% have received two doses. **More -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministers-vote-to-bar-unvaccinated-or-untested-teachers-doctors-from-workplaces/> **[ This is the epitome of stupidity and short sightedness. People are crying for more staff in hospitals and staff to fill in schools with all their “pod” methods so lets just make it more difficult for people. This is coercion and bullying in the worst way. May their entire system collapse. – rdb]**

**Bennett says schools will open Wednesday, eases in-person learning rule**

***Government updates plan for in-person classes in high-infection areas, allowing students with one dose to count as vaccinated until the end of the month***

*By* [*Amy Spiro*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/amy-spiro/) *Today, 9:48 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/F210828YA110.jpg)

***Yahli, Shachar, and Rumi, who will begin school in the upcoming academic school year, seen in Moshav Yashresh, on August 28, 2021. (Yossi Aloni/Flash90)***

**Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said schools will open nationwide as planned on Wednesday, after stubbornly high COVID morbidity rates threatened to derail the start of the academic ye**ar.

**In a statement following a meeting with the health and education ministers, as well as other officials, Bennett unveiled some changes for schools in areas with high COVID rates, including loosening rules for who counts as v**accinated, and reiterated plans to not delay the opening of school.

**For weeks, multiple ministers had** [**urged**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/postpone-start-of-school-year-by-a-month-says-minister/) **delaying the star**t of the school year until October 1, following the period of the High Holidays, but last week, the cabinet ruled to go ahead as planned for September 1.  
 Under the original government plan, students in red cities — those with a high rate of new cases and a high positivity rate — in grades 8-12 would only study in person if 70 percent of their grade level is fully vaccinated.  
 But officials agreed on Monday to count those who have received a single dose in the tally, making it easier for schools to open in-person learning in high morbidity areas. As of September 30, the model will shift to require that 70% have received two doses.  
 There are currently more than 50 towns and cities currently classified as “red” by the Education Ministry standards, including Rishon Lezion, Ashdod, Netanya, and Rehovot.  
 As of Monday evening, 47% of 12- to 15-year-olds nationwide had received at least one dose, while 31% had received both. Among those 16-19 years old, 81% had received at least one dose, and 70% were fully vaccinated.



***Parents receive COVID-19 home testing kits ahead of the opening of the new school year in the settlement of Efrat, in Gush Etzion, August 29, 2021. (Gershon Elinson/Flash90)***

**Israel only began fully vaccinating those under 16 over the sum**mer.

**The statement from the Prime Minister’s Office reiterated the government’s plan to widely roll out rapid COVID testing for all students at schools**, as well as the “Green Pass” system for all teachers and educational staff.

Unvaccinated teachers and school employees will be required to show a negative test twice a week, in order to continue working at the school.  
 Ran Erez, chairman of the Teachers Association, said the plan to “prevent the entry of educational staff to their work is inexplicable in every way.”  
 In remarks to the Kan public broadcaster on Monday, he reiterated plans to take legal action against the government decision as long as it is not enforced against all public sector employees evenly.  
 The government also noted Monday that, as planned, COVID-19 vaccinations will be offered on school grounds during school hours.  
 The full coronavirus cabinet is meeting Monday evening to discuss further COVID regulations, including the [possibility](https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-backs-expanding-virus-restrictions-to-health-education-workers/) of mandating the “Green Pass” for all public sector workers, health care workers, and employees of locations where a Green Pass is required for entry.  
 On Sunday, Health Ministry officials [announced](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-offers-covid-booster-shot-to-all-eligible-for-vaccine/) that vaccine booster doses were now available to all Israelis over age 12 who are more than five months after their second shot. Officials also revealed that, starting October 1, the “Green Pass” will expire six months after the holder received the second or third dose — meaning those without a booster will no longer be eligible for the Green Pass once six months have passed since their second dose.  
 As of Monday evening, there were 78,700 active COVID cases, with 1,138 hospitalized, 736 in serious condition, and 163 of those on ventilators. The official COVID death toll also crossed 7,000 dead on Monday, with 7,030 fatalities listed in Health Ministry statistics since the start of the pandemic.  
 Meanwhile, more than 64% of the country has received at least one COVID dose, while 59% have received two and almost 23% — more than 2 million people — have already received a third booster shot. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-says-schools-will-open-wednesday-eases-in-person-learning-rule/>

**Netanyahu asked to return gifts from Trump, Obama, Putin**

***Former PM Benjamin Netanyahu has kept gifts from foreign leaders on display at his private residence despite requests by the Prime MInister's Office legal adviser to return them.***

*By* [*GIL HOFFMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/gil-hoffman) *AUGUST 30, 2021 17:30*

**Former prime minister** [**Benjamin Netanyahu**](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/benjamin-netanyahu/netanyahu-prosecution-continue-fight-over-evidence-as-trial-nears-659085) **has not heeded requests by the Prime Minister's Office legal adviser Shlomit Barnea Farago to return to the state gifts he received from foreign leaders, according to documents revealed on Sunday by Ma'ariv newspaper columnist Ben Cas**pit.

The **gifts were allowed to be displayed at the Prime Minister's Office or his official residence, but Netanyahu was supposed to return them when his term ended**.

The list of gifts includes a memento of the declaration of American recognition of control over the [Golan Heights](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/the-golan-heights-donald-trumps-dream-gift-to-benjamin-netanyahu-analysis-584197) from former US president Donald Trump, a plate from Trump's wife Melania, a glass box with gold leaves from former US president Barack Obama and the first Bible with Rashi's commentary from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

There were also gifts from German Chancellor Angela Merkel and former French president Nicolas Sarkozy, and a fancy booklet of quotes of the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

When Netanyahu left the Prime Minister’s Office after losing the 1999 election, he was also accused of illegally taking gifts that belonged to the state. The police recommended charges against Netanyahu in that case but the attorney-general decided against an indictment due to a lack of evidence and because he had left politics. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/netanyahu-asked-to-return-gifts-from-trump-obama-putin-678097>

**Israel agrees to send NIS 500 million to PA, bypassing terror stipend freeze**

***So-called loan to Ramallah will be paid back via garnished tax revenue held by Israel, allowing Jerusalem to circumvent its own law requiring offsetting funds PA pays to terrorists***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 7:03 pm*

**Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Monday said Israel had offered to transfer the Palestinian Authority NIS 500 million ($155 million) in order to keep the cash-strapped governmen**t afloat.

**The arrangement announced by Gantz, which he described as a loan, will allow the Israeli government to effectively circumvent a law passed in 2018 that requires it to offset any payments made by the PA to Palestinians** wounded, jailed, or killed by Israel — including avowed terrorists — by withholding the same amount from the Palestinian tax revenue that Israel collects. **[HUMMMM! Definitely leftist thinking. Why pass a law if you are going to bypass it. This is what the Marxists in the US have been doing. - rdb]**

Instead, Israel will loan the PA approximately NIS 500 million, and pay itself back next June out of the roughly NIS 600 million ($186 million) it withheld earlier this summer and put in escrow, which was estimated to be roughly the same as what Ramallah paid out in salaries to terror convicts and families of so-called martyrs in 2020.

**Gantz’s announcement came after a meeting he held the night before with PA President Mahmoud Abbas, the first such public meeting between high-level Israeli and Palestinian officials in over a decade**. At a briefing Monday, Gantz called for the PA to be bolstered as a bulwark against Hamas and other terror groups. **“I told Abbas that we aren’t going anywhere and that the Palestinians aren’t going anywh**ere. I went to the meeting in order to build confidence and preserve the interests of the State of Israel and the important ties we have with the Palestinian Authority, which I believe we need to strengthen,” Gantz said.  
 The PA did not immediately comment on the offer of funds. The two sides have been negotiating the matter for some time. Last week, [a Palestinian official confirmed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-pa-discuss-potential-aid-to-ramallah-amid-fears-of-economic-collapse/) that these talks were taking place, though it described the arrangement as an “advance” on funds that the PA was owed, “not a loan.”  
 The defense minister said Israel would also recognize the status of Palestinians or their spouses currently living in the West Bank without proper documentation, most of whom came from the Gaza Strip or from abroad without official permission over the years in order to marry people in the West Bank. This status change would only apply to adults and would be performed according to the relevant security protocols, his office said.  
 A senior Palestinian official, Hussein Al Sheikh, confirmed that the PA had agreed to work with Israel to get approvals for 5,000 undocumented spouses as a first step toward addressing this issue in general.  
 [Tens of thousands of undocumented spouses](https://www.timesofisrael.com/stuck-in-limbo-undocumented-palestinian-spouses-live-shadow-lives/) of Palestinians and others are thought to live in the West Bank, facing deportation or arrest if caught, and Israel, which is not obligated to approve these requests in accordance with a 1987 High Court ruling, has largely halted its recognition of undocumented Palestinian spouses over the last 12 years.  
 We have reached an agreement with the Israeli government on the Palestinian families’ reunification file, to have 5000 as a first batch in the road to finalising this file entirely in a prearranged timeframe.  
 — حسين الشيخ Hussein Al Sheikh (@HusseinSheikhpl) [August 30, 2021](https://twitter.com/HusseinSheikhpl/status/1432370477176082440?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 Under the Oslo Accords, the PA requires Israeli approval in order to issue identity cards, but it has largely refused to pass along requests for these undocumented spouses, believing that Israel should not have this authority.  One former Palestinian official told The Times of Israel that 35,000 such residency applications were stuck in limbo between Israel and the PA.   
 Israel was also digitizing many of its permit applications for Palestinian in order to streamline the process and make it cheaper and easier, according to Gantz.  
 An additional 16,000 Palestinians will also be permitted to work in Israel, 1,000 of them specifically in tourism industries, and Israel will also approve more building in Area C of the West Bank, which is under full Israeli security control, he said.  
 The defense minister did not bring up the possibility of renewed peace talks with the Palestinians, and an official close to Prime Minister Naftali Bennett told reporters earlier in the day that “there is no diplomatic process with the Palestinians nor will there be.”  
 Gantz’s meeting with Abbas came as Bennett returned from Washington after meeting with US President Joe Biden. [Biden raised the Palestinian issue](https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-raised-reopening-of-jerusalem-consulate-concerns-over-evictions-with-pm/) with the new Israeli leader during their discussions.  
 During Biden’s meeting with Bennett, the president underscored “the importance of steps to improve the lives of Palestinians and support greater economic opportunities for them” and noted “the importance of refraining from actions that could exacerbate tensions, contribute to a sense of unfairness, and undermine efforts to build trust,” the White House said.  
 Bennett has vowed to prop up the ailing PA government and economy, although he has ruled out working to establish an independent Palestinian state.  
 The last high-level face-to-face talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders were in 2010, at the beginning of former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s second term in office. While the two leaders crossed paths on occasion later, ties became increasingly strained as the peace process went on indefinite hold; their last public phone call was in 2017 after a Palestinian terror attack.  
 In recent years, high-level contact between the two sides became rare.  
 According to Gantz’s office, the politicians held two rounds of discussions. The first was attended by Israel’s military liaison to the Palestinians, Ghassan Alian, Palestinian Authority intelligence chief Majid Faraj and al-Sheikh. In the second, Gantz and Abbas spoke privately.  
 Gantz spoke on the phone with Abbas in mid-July, marking the highest-level public contact between the two sides since Netanyahu’s 2017 phone call. A flurry of meetings and phone calls have followed: Public Security Minister Omer Barlev spoke with Abbas a few weeks later, while ministers on both sides held rare meetings with their counterparts.  
 Israeli officials have publicly emphasized strengthening the PA’s economy as Ramallah faces a growing fiscal crisis. In July, Israel increased the number of work permits for West Bank Palestinians seeking employment inside Israel in an attempt to ease the economic pangs.  
 The West Bank economy has been battered by the coronavirus, shrinking by 11.5 percent over the course of 2020. The PA government budget has also taken a serious hit, with a Western diplomat warning The Times of Israel in late July that the PA was “about to collapse due to lack of revenues.”  
 At the same time, Ramallah has seen a major drop in Arab and international aid, which previously accounted for a significant chunk of its budget. In 2019, the PA received around $300 million in budget support by the end of June. In 2021, however, it got just $30.2 million — barely more than one-tenth the amount. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-agrees-to-send-nis-500-million-to-pa-bypassing-terror-stipend-freeze/>

**Watch: Man hangs from U.S.-supplied Black Hawk helicopter in Afghanistan**

*Is this an execution or the Taliban patrolling Kandahar?*

*By* [*Joe Kovacs*](https://www.wnd.com/author/jkovacs/) *Published August 30, 2021 at 6:03pm*



***A man is seen hanging from a helicopter over Kandahar, Afghanistan on Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021. (Video screenshot)***

**Video emerged Monday showing a man hanging from a U.S.-supplied helicopter during what is being called an aerial "patrol" of Kandahar, Afghanistan.**

**The footage shared by the Talib Times, which calls itself the "English language official account of Islamic Emirate Afghanistan," shows the person dangling from what's thought to be a UH-60 Black Hawk chopper.**

**Our Air Forc**e!  
At this time, the Islamic Emirate's air force helicopters are flying over Kandahar city and patrolling the city. [pic.twitter.com/rlE6nUldZf](https://t.co/rlE6nUldZf)

— Talib Times (@TalibTimes) [August 30, 2021](https://twitter.com/TalibTimes/status/1432328727376007171)

**The caption reads: "Our Air Force! At this time, the Islamic Emirate's air force helicopters are flying over Kandahar city and patrolling th**e city."

The dude is alive by the way. [pic.twitter.com/UKt1VUpK8n](https://t.co/UKt1VUpK8n)

— Chris (@Chris56974422) [August 30, 2021](https://twitter.com/Chris56974422/status/1432405047552495626)

The reason for the man hanging was unclear, but [the Right Scoop](https://therightscoop.com/video-shows-man-hanging-from-black-hawk-helicopter-as-taliban-flies-over-kandahar/) site suggested it may have been a gruesome, public execution.

Bottom of Form

Grabbed this from a Taliban Twitter account — a Taliban-piloted UH-60 Black Hawk hovering over Kandahar with what appears to be a person, or maybe a statue, hanging from a cable underneath [pic.twitter.com/36HFMLEwmn](https://t.co/36HFMLEwmn)

— (@BryanPassifiume) [August 30, 2021](https://twitter.com/BryanPassifiume/status/1432410078116732929)

**"I can't imagine this could be anything other than a public execution by the Taliba**n," its report stated. "Why else would you hang a man from a helicopter like this? But I'm open to suggestions otherwise."

It appears to be (now former) Afghan Air Force [pic.twitter.com/plG695bMfv](https://t.co/plG695bMfv)

— (@BryanPassifiume) [August 30, 2021](https://twitter.com/BryanPassifiume/status/1432410487724064772)

The unverified video was shared just one day before the remaining American troops were expected to exit Afghanistan.

Some online commenters noted:

* "You folks just don't get it. The Taliban is in the White House. Taliban Treasonist Joe Biden! Wake up, this is no mistake but by design."
* "Just wait till they start tossing their enemies out of the C130s we left them."
* "I like how Talib Times Twitter account uses same logo as NBC. LOL." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/watch-man-hangs-u-s-supplied-black-hawk-helicopter-afghanistan/>

**UNICEF says SEVEN children were killed in Kabul drone strike that US said targeted ISIS-K terrorists**

*30 Aug, 2021 18:07*

**At least seven children were killed in a Kabul drone strike, the UNICEF representative in Afghanistan told reporters. The Pentagon had said the strike eliminated an “imminent threat” by ISIS-K terrorists to the ongoing** airlift.   
 *“We have confirmation from open sources that seven children were killed”* in the incident, Herve De Lys, UNICEF’s envoy to Afghanistan, told reporters on Monday. *“We don’t know who is behind the strike,”* he added.  
 The **apparent ignorance from De Lys was puzzling, since the same open sources that reported the deaths clearly attributed the strike to the US – the New York Times**, for example.  
 **Family members said 10 people, including seven children, were killed by a U.S. drone strike in Kabul on Sunday.“At first I thought it was the Taliban**,” one survivor said. “But the Americans themselves did it.” <https://t.co/R0EzvPAgJg>  
 — The New York Times (@nytimes) [August 30, 2021](https://twitter.com/nytimes/status/1432324747505946630?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 The US military also said it had carried out the drone strike, saying it was done in self-defense against an *“imminent”* threat by Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K). The group claimed responsibility for last week’s bombing at the gate of Kabul’s Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA), which claimed the lives of 14 US military members and around 170 Afghans.   
 *“We are not in a position to dispute it right now,”* Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters on Monday, when asked about reports of civilian casualties in the strike.   
 US Central Command spokesman Captain Bill Urban said on Sunday that CENTCOM was *“aware”* of reported civilian casualties and was still *“assessing”* the outcome of the strike, which he said targeted a car bomb belonging to ISIS-K. Survivors of the drone strike, however, said it killed multiple members of an Afghan family, all civilians.   
 *“We know that there were substantial and powerful subsequent explosions resulting from the destruction of the vehicle, indicating a large amount of explosive material inside that may have caused additional casualties,”* Urban said. *“We would be deeply saddened by any potential loss of innocent life,”* he added.  
 De Lys said UNICEF is continuing its mission in Afghanistan, even though many outside agencies have picked up and left following the Taliban takeover, as some 10 million children remain at risk and at least 200,000 have been displaced.

*“It is clearly a child protection crisis in a country that is already one of the worst places on earth to be a child,”* he told reporters. <https://www.rt.com/news/533482-unicef-kabul-drone-strike-children/>

**Pentagon knew about Kabul suicide bombing ‘hours in advance,’ report claims, but troops on the ground say they weren’t protected**

*30 Aug, 2021 15:48 / Updated 4 hours ago*

**US military leaders knew in advance that a “mass casualty event” was planned at Kabul airport, a Politico report reveals. However, accounts from the troops in harm’s way suggest** that nothing was done.   
 **A suicide bombing outside Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul last Thursday killed more than 150 people, including 13 American troops**. The bombing provoked the US into launching two drone strikes, one targeting an alleged *“planner”* and *“facilitator”* with the group responsible, and another supposedly wiping out *“multiple”* would-be suicide bombers but reportedly [annihilating](https://www.rt.com/news/533415-airstrike-civilian-casualities-isis-kabul/) a family and children alongside them.  
 **The initial bombing didn’t take US officials by surprise. The US embassy in Kabul had warned Americans to stay away from the airport due to “security threats” and, in the hours before the suicide attack, Pentagon leaders held a conference call to prepare for an imminent “mass casualty event,” according to a Politico** [report](https://www.politico.com/news/2021/08/30/pentagon-mass-casualty-attack-kabul-507481) on Monday.  
 The **report says Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke on Wednesday with senior Pentagon leaders – including Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Peter Vasely, commander of American forces in Afghanistan, and Maj. Gen. Christopher Donahue, commanding general of the 82nd Airborne** Division at Kabul Airport.   
 Milley warned of *“significant”* intelligence indicating that ISIS-K, a regional offshoot of the Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS) terror group was plotting a *“complex attack,”* and the brass in Afghanistan stated that the attack would likely take place at the airport’s Abbey Gate, where droves of Afghans had gathered in the hopes of a spot on an evacuation flight.   
 The **attack was due to take place within the following 24-48 hours**, according to notes from the conference call detail.  
 The **White House reportedly left it up to Austin and the generals to prevent this attack** as they saw fit. In a separate call afterwards they discussed pressing the Taliban to step up security outside the airport, even while knowing that the militant group couldn’t be relied on, and mulled but ultimately rejected closing the Abbey Gate, as doing so would prevent the ongoing British evacuation operation.  
 Hours after the second call, the bomber struck, the devastating blast ripping through flesh and bone at the packed gate. Austin and Milley were reportedly at the White House at the time, preparing to brief President Joe Biden on the threat.  
 While the Politico article details a frantic yet failed attempt to prevent a massacre, accounts from US troops on the ground in Kabul tell a story of negligence.  
 The Abbey Gate entrance to the airport packed rows of people between two concrete walls, a perfect environment to amplify the destructive power of a suicide bomb. Looking at video footage of the crowds there the day before the blast, Marine Corps veteran and former Trump administration official Adam Korzeniewski asked *“why weren’t there defensive emplacements built?”*  
 [@CENTCOM](https://twitter.com/CENTCOM?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) Task Force 51/5 CG - why weren’t there defensive emplacements built? <https://t.co/qycNGm6u8t>  
 — Adam Korzeniewski 🇺🇸 (@RealAdamK) [August 29, 2021](https://twitter.com/RealAdamK/status/1432045569598447622?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 **Multiple troops stationed at the airport messaged a veteran-run Instagram business page, claiming that they had received word of an incoming suicide bomber, but were instructed by superiors to continue “police calling” (picking up trash) regardless.**   
 Another said that their commanders had precise information about what the suicide bomber looked like, and what time they would strike, down to the hour. *“All day on the radio it was a countdown,”* the service member posted.  
 These accounts are unverified but, taken with the Politico article, point to a military leadership entirely forewarned yet inexplicably unprepared for the deadliest day for the US military since 2011, when a CH-47 Chinook helicopter carrying Navy SEALs was shot down over eastern Afghanistan, killing 30 Americans.  
 As of Monday, the US is set to depart Afghanistan for good in less than 24 hours. The bombing and subsequent drone strikes, however, have increased calls for American military and political leaders to be held accountable.   
 Biden insisted they planned for all contingencies. We need to know who was in charge of this “planning.” Americans deserve accountability.  
 — Ronna McDaniel (@GOPChairwoman) [August 30, 2021](https://twitter.com/GOPChairwoman/status/1432307613363052549?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 I woke up today to learn that no one has been fired for the Afghan debacle. If I were a Democrat, I'd be giving up all hope for the next two national elections.  
 — Scott Adams (@ScottAdamsSays) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/ScottAdamsSays/status/1431605163186212871?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 We'd rather do this than jail the incompetent generals and seize the personal bank accounts of lockheed and raytheon executives and distribute proceeds to fallen soldiers' families <https://t.co/tQ7m9fXYza>  
 — Darren J. Beattie 🌐 (@DarrenJBeattie) [August 29, 2021](https://twitter.com/DarrenJBeattie/status/1432114841343385609?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 Thus far, the only member of the military fired over the Afghanistan debacle has been Marine Lt. Col. Stuart Scheller, ironically after he posted a [video](https://www.rt.com/usa/533313-marine-dismissed-afghanistan-accountablity/) demanding *“accountability”* from his superiors.  
 The Pentagon maintains that Kabul airport is still under threat. *“We’re in a particularly dangerous time right now,”* spokesman John Kirby told reporters on Monday. *“The threat stream is still real, it's still active, and in many cases it's still specific.”* [*https://www.rt.com/usa/533462-pentagon-knew-kabul-suicide-bombing/*](https://www.rt.com/usa/533462-pentagon-knew-kabul-suicide-bombing/)**[Sounds to me that there is a very large group of trolls that need to be tried and hung for dereliction of duty and incompetence. Start with “bi-dum”and work you way down thru the upper echelon of the pentagon and then top it off with PEElosi, Schumer, long neck Schiff and a bunch of others. Be sure to include Romney and Cheney while you are at it. rdb**

**EU moves to reimpose COVID travel restrictions on Israel, US**

***Along with 3 other countries, Israel and US no longer considered ‘epidemiologically safe,’ by Brussels; European member states not required to follow bloc’s guidelines***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:56 pm*

**Israel, the US, and three other countries were officially** [**removed**](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/08/30/covid-19-council-removes-5-countries-and-one-entity-territorial-authority-from-the-list-of-countries-for-which-travel-restrictions-should-be-lifted/) **from a list of nations deemed “epidemiologically safe” by the European Union on Monday, due to rising COVID-19** cases.  
 The **move means that the European Council is now advising EU member states to reimpose restrictions on travelers from the five countr**ies. Although the recommendation is non-binding, most EU members have followed Brussels’ travel advice during the crisis so far.  
 **Kosovo, Montenegro, and North Macedonia are the others scrubbed from the** list.  
 The **EU has no unified COVID-19 tourism policy** and national EU governments have the authority to decide whether they keep their borders open to foreign tourists. Possible restrictions could include quarantines, further testing requirements upon arrival, or even a total ban on all nonessential travel.  
 Overall, nonessential travel into the bloc from outside the 27-member EU and eight associated countries — Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, and the Vatican — has been restricted.  
 Some countries and territories have been exempted from this list, but their number has been shrinking in recent months, and now includes only 17 members, plus China, if Beijing reciprocates.  
 “This list will continue to be reviewed regularly and, as the case may be, updated,” a Monday statement from the European Council said.  
 On Sunday, 6,621 people in Israel tested positive for COVID-19, according to Health Ministry statistics. As of Monday, there were 78,700 active COVID cases in Israel, with 1,138 hospitalized, 736 in serious condition, and 163 of them on ventilators. The death toll since the start of the pandemic stood at 7,030.  
 Last Tuesday saw the highest one-day figure so far during the fourth wave, with over 10,000 infections — close to the record for a one-day new case total set in January.  
 On Sunday, the Health Ministry announced that, effective Friday, Israelis returning from low- and moderate-risk countries will not have to self-isolate for a week upon landing, if they received a booster or their second vaccine dose within the past half a year. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/eu-moves-to-reimpose-covid-travel-restrictions-on-israel-us/>

**U.S. troops speak out against COVID-vaccine mandate**

***'Service members should be given the right to decline'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published August 30, 2021 at 7:55pm*

**A Republican congressman who has proposed a bill to block federal funding of the U.S. military vaccine mandate hosted a conference call with troops who warn the mandate could harm military rea**diness.

**The service members say many of their colleagues feel the same way but are not speaking out because of the possible consequences**, [Breitbart News reported](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/08/29/military-members-speak-out-against-vaccine-mandates-servicemembers-should-given-right-decline/).  
 Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., has introduced HR 3860, which would prohibit "any requirement that a member of the Armed Forces receive a vaccination against COVID-19."  
 Regarding Vaccine Mandates:

“Representative Massie moderated a conference call that included a dozen armed service members, with experience ranging from a first-year Air Force Academy cadet to a Major with 17 years of service, including combat experience.”<https://t.co/9efDVcEwDp>  
— Thomas Massie (@RepThomasMassie) [August 29, 2021](https://twitter.com/RepThomasMassie/status/1432049315946586115)

Last Wednesday, after the FDA's approval of Pfizer's vaccine, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered service leaders in a memo to "impose ambitious timelines for implementation."  
 More than 800,000 service members have yet to get their shots, according to Pentagon data, the Associated Press reported.  
 "To defend this Nation, we need a healthy and ready force," Austin said in the memo. "After careful consultation with medical experts and military leadership, and with the support of the President, I have determined that mandatory vaccination against coronavirus disease ... is necessary to protect the Force and defend the American people."  
Bottom of Form

**'A lot of pressure'**  
 In the conference call Friday, a cadet at the Air Force Academy said there was "a lot of indirect pressure to be vaccinated before it was even mandatory."  
 "And that's coming from our peers and especially during our basic training where ... the people in charge of us were always making, like, indirect comments," the cadet said.  
 An Air Force member said there is "a lot of pressure from our commanders ... and they tell you these sob stories to heavily persuade you, and it's borderline harassment."  
 "It makes you wonder, well I joined to change my life and they're all about inclusion and diversity but I have to restart just because of the shot," he said.  
 He plans to leave the Air Force if he doesn't get an exemption.  
 "I'm not getting that shot," he said.  
 Another active Air Force member said he could receive a dishonorable discharge for refusing to be vaccinated.  
 "That's basically putting us in the same category as rapists and killers, which I think that's insane," he said.

Our bill, HR 3860, prevents federal funds from being used to require a member of the Armed Forces to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC has issued new warnings about the risk of heart inflammation developing in some recipients of the shots. [pic.twitter.com/offU1FKcAu](https://t.co/offU1FKcAu)  
 — Thomas Massie (@RepThomasMassie) [June 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/RepThomasMassie/status/1409645949295595537)

**'Not a one-size-fits-all blanket solution'**  
 A U.S. Army captain said that as a Christian, he tried to get a religious accommodation last December but was rejected by the U.S. Army surgeon general without a reason or avenue of appeal.  
 He told reporters he will not stop fighting for "my fellow patriots who love the Lord as I do" and is willing to take his case to federal court.  
 A 17-year active service member who has served in Afghanistan and Iraq said he has a heart condition and "absolutely cannot risk any vaccines."  
 "It is not a one-size-fits-all blanket solution, and it should not be enforced as such," he said. "All service members should be given the right to waive and decline the vaccine."  
 He warned that the mandates could serve as a "death blow" to military readiness.  
 A senior captain in the Air Force and a combat vet said he tried to get a religious exemption for the mask mandate.  
 The claim that masks protect and don't harm people is a violation of the ninth commandment, he said, to not bear false witness against one's neighbor. He said wearing a mask is tacit approval of that false narrative and he's not willing to do it.  
 As a consequence, he effectively has been fired as flight commander. He said that while many colleagues appear to be motivated by fear of their superiors, he's chosen to fear God and reject the deception.  
**'Scared to say something'**  
 **The service members estimated that about one-third to one-half of the people around them are not vaccinated.  
 Breitbart News asked if they believe there are many others who feel the same way they do but are afraid to speak out**.  
 "Yes," said one. "Especially being part-time guard unit where we do one weekend a month kind of deal, most everyone I speak with and affiliate with at the unit … there are very few who do not share my sentiment or position on the matter."  
 One said there is a "significant volume" of others sharing his concerns. But many are still "scared to say something right now to their leadership." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/u-s-troops-speak-covid-vaccine-mandate/>

**Changes in Body Mass Index Among Children and Adolescents During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

[*Susan J. Woolford, MD, MPH1*](https://jamanetwork.com/searchresults?author=Susan+J.+Woolford&q=Susan+J.+Woolford)*;* [*Margo Sidell, ScD2*](https://jamanetwork.com/searchresults?author=Margo+Sidell&q=Margo+Sidell)*;* [*Xia Li, MSc2*](https://jamanetwork.com/searchresults?author=Xia+Li&q=Xia+Li)*; et al* [*Veronica Else, RN, MSN3*](https://jamanetwork.com/searchresults?author=Veronica+Else&q=Veronica+Else)*;* [*Deborah R. Young, PhD2*](https://jamanetwork.com/searchresults?author=Deborah+R.+Young&q=Deborah+R.+Young)*;* [*Ken Resnicow, PhD4*](https://jamanetwork.com/searchresults?author=Ken+Resnicow&q=Ken+Resnicow)*;* [*Corinna Koebnick, PhD2*](https://jamanetwork.com/searchresults?author=Corinna+Koebnick&q=Corinna+Koebnick)

*Author Affiliations* [*Article Information*](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2783690#247965887)

*JAMA. Published online August 27, 2021. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.15036*

**The COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with weight gain among adults,**[**1**](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2783690#jld210057r1) **but little is known about the weight of US children and adolescents. To evaluate pandemic-related changes in weight in school-aged yo**uths, we compared the body mass index (BMI; calculated as weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared) of youths aged 5 to 17 years during the pandemic in 2020 to the same period before the pandemic in 2019.

***Methods***

**We conducted a retrospective cohort study using Kaiser Permanente Southern California (KPSC) electronic health record data. Youth between 5 and 17 years with continuous health care coverage were included if they had an in-person visit with at least 1 BMI measure before the pandemic** (March 2019-January 2020) **and another BMI measure during the pandemic** (March 2020-January 2021 with at least 1 BMI after June 16, 2020, ie, about 3 months into the pandemic). Youth with complex chronic conditions were excluded.[2](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2783690#jld210057r2),[3](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2783690#jld210057r3) Race and ethnicity based on caregiver report or birth certificates were used to compare with the underlying population. Outcomes were the absolute distance of a youth’s BMI from the median BMI for sex and age,[4](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2783690#jld210057r4) weight adjusted for height, and overweight or obesity (≥85th or ≥95th percentile of BMI for age, respectively).[5](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2783690#jld210057r5),[6](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2783690#jld210057r6) We fit mixed-effect and Poisson regression models accounting for repeated measures within each individual, using an autoregressive correlation structure and maximum likelihood estimation of covariance parameters to assess each outcome. Similar to an interrupted time-series design, we included a binary indicator representing the periods before or during the pandemic plus a calendar month by period interaction term. We divided youths into 3 age strata (5.0-<12, 12-<16, 16-<18 years) based on age at the start of the pandemic.

**Models were adjusted for sex, race and ethnicity,** state-subsidized health insurance, neighborhood education, neighborhood income, and number of parks in the census tract. Mixed-effects models also included BMI-for-age class at baseline. All analyses were performed with α = .05 for 2-sided tests using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc). The KPSC institutional review board approved the study and granted a waiver for informed consent.

***Results***

The cohort (n = 191 509) was racially and ethnically diverse (10.4% Asian and Pacific Islander, 50.4% Hispanic, 7.0% non-Hispanic Black, and 25.3% non-Hispanic White) with 49.6% girls, mean age of 11.6 years (SD, 3.8 years), and mean prepandemic BMI of 20.7 (SD, 5.4). The study population was comparable with the overall KPSC pediatric population with regard to sex, age, race and ethnicity, and socioeconomic factors. Prepandemic, 38.9% of youth in the cohort were overweight or obese compared with 39.4% in the KPSC source population.

**Youths gained more weight during the COVID-19 pandemic than before the pandemic (**[**Table**](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2783690#jld210057t1)**). The greatest change in the distance from the median BMI for age occurred among 5- through 11-year-olds** with an increased BMI of 1.57, compared with 0.91 among 12- through 15-year-olds and 0.48 among 16- through 17-year-olds. Adjusting for height, this translates to a mean gain among 5- through 11-year-olds of 2.30 kg (95% CI, 2.24-2.36 kg) more during the pandemic than during the reference period, 2.31 kg (95% CI, 2.20-2.44 kg) more among 12- through 15-year-olds, and 1.03 kg (95% CI, 0.85-1.20 kg) more among 16- through 17-year-olds. Overweight or obesity increased among 5- through 11-year-olds from 36.2% to 45.7% during the pandemic, an absolute increase of 8.7% and relative increase of 23.8% compared with the reference period ([Table](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2783690#jld210057t1)). The absolute increase in overweight or obesity was 5.2% among 12- through 15-year-olds (relative increase, 13.4%) and 3.1% (relative increase, 8.3%) among 16- through 17-year-olds. Most of the increase among youths aged 5 through 11 years and 12 through 15 years was due to an increase in obesity.

***Discussion***

**Significant weight gain occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic among youths in KPSC, especially among the youngest children. These findings, if generalizable to the US suggest an increase in pediatric obesity due to the pandem**ic.

Study limitations include the observational design and inclusion of only those with in-person appointments. However, the analyses benefited from longitudinal data with prepandemic BMI and in-person well-child visits resuming at 84% of prepandemic levels by June 2020. Furthermore, the sample was comparable in all relevant characteristics with the overall KPSC pediatric membership.

Research should monitor whether the observed weight gain persists and what long-term health consequences may emerge. Intervention efforts to address COVID-19 related weight gain may be needed.

**Section Editors:** Jody W. Zylke, MD, Deputy Editor; Kristin Walter, MD, Associate Editor.

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**Accepted for Publication:** August 18, 2021.

**Published Online:** August 27, 2021. doi:[10.1001/jama.2021.15036](http://jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?doi=10.1001/jama.2021.15036)

**Author Contributions**: Dr Koebnick had full access to all the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis. Drs Woolford and Sidell shared equal first-author roles.

*Concept and design:* Woolford, Sidell, Resnicow, Koebnick.

*Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data:* Woolford, Sidell, Li, Else, Young, Koebnick.

*Drafting of the manuscript:* Woolford, Sidell, Resnicow, Koebnick.

*Critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content:* Woolford, Sidell, Li, Else, Young, Resnicow.

*Statistical analysis:* Woolford, Sidell, Li, Resnicow, Koebnick.

*Obtained funding:* Koebnick.

*Administrative, technical, or material support:* Else, Resnicow, Koebnick.

*Supervision:* Koebnick.

**Conflict of Interest Disclosures:** None reported.

**Funding/Support**: The current project was supported by Kaiser Permanente Community Benefits.

**Role of the Funder/Sponsor:** Kaiser Permanente had no role in the design and conduct of the study; collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of the data; preparation, review, or approval of the manuscript; and decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

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**[One more example of how these criminals have abused to public. - rdb**

**Report: Wisconsin lost track of 82,000 ballots in a state Biden won by 20,000**

**'This isn't the way to run an election'**

By [WND News Services](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) Published August 30, 2021 at 11:24am **By Fred Lucas** The Daily Signal

**Wisconsin lost track of more than 82,000 mail-in ballots cast in the state in the November 2020 elections—more than four times the margin of difference separ**ating the two presidential candidates in the state, according to a report by the nonprofit Public Interest Legal Foundation.

**The legal foundation, an election integrity watchdog group, released a research brief Friday looking at one of the most closely contested states in the 2020 presidential electio**n.  
 **However, the Wisconsin Elections Commission disputes those findings, as the commission spokesman said the report “mischaracterizes election systems and cherry-picks data,” addin**g, it is “unreliable and frankly, it’s sloppy work.”  
 Joe Biden defeated then-President Donald Trump by 20,682 votes in [Wisconsin](https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/03/11/zuckerberg-grant-allowed-outsider-to-infiltrate-presidential-election-in-wisconsin/) in the November presidential election. However, according to the legal foundation’s report, 82,766 mail-in ballots in the state were either undeliverable or suffered an unknown fate.  
 A further breakdown by the legal group shows that 1.4 million ballots were sent by mail. Of those, 6,458 were undeliverable. An additional 2,981 mail-in ballots were rejected. The vast majority, 76,308, met an “unknown” fate.  
 “The federal data show the 2020 election had more [mail ballots](https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/04/14/the-left-is-calling-for-mail-in-voting-heres-why-its-a-bad-idea/) that were never counted than the margin of victory in the presidential election in Wisconsin,” J. Christian Adams, president of the Public Interest Legal Foundation, said in a statement.  
 Bottom of Form

“This isn’t the way to run an election,” said Adams, a former Justice Department lawyer in the Voting Section. “Mail ballots invite error, disenfranchisement of voters, and puts the inept U.S. post office determining the outcome of elections.”  
 Wisconsin was among the three most closely contested states in the country, along with [Georgia](https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/07/20/the-truth-about-georgias-voting-law/) and [Arizona](https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/07/15/arizona-senate-seeks-more-voter-data-as-election-audit-raises-questions/), each of which Biden won by 0.6% or less. A Washington Post analysis in February found that flipping about [43,000 votes](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/02/09/republicans-came-within-90000-votes-controlling-all-washington/) across those three states could have changed the Electoral College outcome.  
 The Public Interest Legal Foundation previously determined [14.7 million](https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/08/19/15-million-votes-in-2020-election-not-accounted-for-report-finds/) mail-in ballots were unaccounted for nationally. The group bases the numbers on data from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.  
 Biden won 306 electoral votes to Trump’s 232. In the nationwide popular vote, Biden received 81,268,924 votes to Trump’s 74,216,154—a victory margin of 7,052,770.  
 **The U.S. Election Assistance Commission asks local election officials to provide numbers on how many mail ballots were not returned as voted, were undeliverable, or were otherwise “unable to be tracked**.”  
 The U.S. **Postal Service inspector general found 13% of mail ballots in the 2018 election used the official tracking syste**m.  
 The inspector general says ballots in the “unknown” column could have been put in the wrong mailbox or thrown out with unpaid bills.  
 Reid Magney, spokesman for the Wisconsin Elections Commission, objected to the findings, in a detailed email statement.  
 The statement asserted the legal foundation report does not use data from the [Election Administration and Voting Survey](https://www.eac.gov/research-and-data/studies-and-reports) report. Instead, Magney said, the information appears to be from raw data from the Election Assistance Commission.  
 “Their figures for ballots sent, undeliverable ballots, and rejected ballots count are all incorrect—in some cases by a wide margin,” Magney told The Daily Signal in the email statement.  
 He referenced Wisconsin’s own reporting that shows about 85,000 absentee ballots were not returned, “but there is no indication they ‘went missing’ or were undeliverable.” He said the number used for “unknown” ballots “doesn’t add up to any combination of ballot status classifications used in the State of Wisconsin.”  
 “The PILF report makes a big deal of how many more ‘unknown’ ballots there were in Wisconsin in 2020 compared to 2016,” Magney continued. “But as a percentage of all absentee ballots, “unknown” ballots plummeted from 7% in 2016 to 3.8% in 2020.”  
 Trump has [alleged](https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/12/11/4-big-highlights-from-wisconsins-investigative-hearing-of-election-fraud-allegations/) his election loss was fraudulent. However, he has come up short in all of his legal challenges.  
 Unaccounted-for votes do not prove the outcome would have turned out differently, as it’s not knowable how many of the uncounted votes were for Biden and how many were for Trump. But according to the legal group, this marks the first time, going back to at least 2012, that the number of unaccounted-for ballots was larger than the margin of victory.  
 For example, when Trump won the state of Wisconsin in 2016, defeating Hillary Clinton by 27,257 votes, there were only 12,984 unknown or undeliverable mail-in ballots, according to the report. In the 2012 presidential election, President Barack Obama carried the state by 205,204 votes, and there were only 54,077 unknown or undeliverable mail-in ballots.  
 The Public Interest Legal Foundation report doesn’t allege an incorrect election outcome, but focuses on the perils of mass mail-in voting, which occurred in 2020 primarily as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.  
 “Expanded vote-by-mail efforts create stress tests on a state’s voter-registration list maintenance system and reveal if investments in ballot chains-of-custody were effective,” the report says. “When Wisconsin loses track of more ballots than the difference between winning and losing its Electoral College votes, that is a core system failure.”

<https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/report-wisconsin-lost-track-82000-ballots-state-biden-won-20000/>

**Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn says major U.S. bank canceled his accounts**

***Financial giant claims former Trump official posed 'reputational risk'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published August 30, 2021 at 3:35pm*

**Former Trump national security adviser Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn said Sunday that Chase Bank sent him a letter informing him it is canceling his accounts and credit cards because he poses a "reputational risk" to the company's** brand.

**"After careful consideration, we decided to close your credit cards on September 18, 2021 because continuing the relationship creates possible reputational risk to our company," the letter said, accordi**ng to Flynn.

[Flynn posted a screenshot of the letter](https://t.me/RealGenFlynn/635) on his Telegram social-media account.

**Reacting to the move, he said Chase "has gone full blown w**oke!"

**"They need to deal with their own reputation instead of persecuting my family and** I," he wrote.

**He then referenced the Justice Department's case against him in the Russia investigation,** [**which the DOJ dropped**](https://www.wnd.com/2020/11/4872755/) **after Flynn and his laywer**, Sidney Powell, presented evidence he was "ambushed" by FBI agents after the bureau concluded it didn't have a case.

"DOJ dropped my case for their own egregious government misconduct, appears you weren’t that lucky with the DOJ," he wrote on Telegram, directing his words to Chase Bank.

**Last September,** [**Chase agreed to pay $920 million to resolve criminal charges**](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/jpmorgan-chase-co-agrees-pay-920-million-connection-schemes-defraud-precious-metals-and-us) **brought by the DOJ in connection with schemes to defraud precious metals and U.S. Treasuries mar**kets.

**"I guess my America First political views don't align with yours. Your loss,"** Flynn wrote on Telegram.

WND asked Ashley Dodd, Chase's executive director of communications, in an email to specify how Flynn posed a "reputational risk" to the bank. Dodd did not respond by the time this article was published.

Flynn could not be reached for comment.

🚨🚨BREAKING: Chase Bank cancels its credit card accounts with General Flynn citing possible “reputational risk” to their company. In case there was any doubt what is happening in this country. @TracyBeanzOfficial [pic.twitter.com/GIyQHXgW9l](https://t.co/GIyQHXgW9l)

— Regina Hicks (@reginahicksreal) [August 29, 2021](https://twitter.com/reginahicksreal/status/1431993932527947776)

The closure of Flynn’s accounts is reminiscent of Wells Fargo shuttering the account of Trump supporter and America First activist Lauren Witzke, who was mysteriously left with zero balance without any warning in June, as [WND reported](https://www.wnd.com/2021/06/gal-stranded-0-00-major-bank-cancels-trump-supporters-account-without-warning/).

***‘Offline harm’***

[Twitter permanently banned Flynn's account](https://www.wnd.com/2021/01/4883461/?preview=true) two days after the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol for "behavior that has the potential to lead to offline harm."

A Twitter spokesman told Fox News at the time that Flynn's tweets were related to alleged ties to the conspiracy website QAnon and calls to violence.

The accounts, according to a Twitter spokesman who spoke with NBC News, violated a "policy on Coordinated Harmful Activity."

"We've been clear that we will take strong enforcement action on behavior that has the potential to lead to offline harm, and given the renewed potential for violence surrounding this type of behavior in the coming days, we will permanently suspend accounts that are solely dedicated to sharing QAnon content," the spokesman said.

In March, Flynn's brother Jack Flynn, [filed a $75 million defamation lawsuit against CNN](https://thehill.com/homenews/media/545225-michael-flynns-brother-sues-cnn-for-75m) for claiming he and his brother and other family members were pledging an oath to QAnon in a video posted on Twitter.

The suit states that after "the January 6 storming of the Capitol, a chorus of left-wing media outlets began to spread false narratives about QAnon, including that Jack Flynn’s brother, retired Lieutenant General Michael T. Flynn ('General Flynn'), was the ‘founder’ of QAnon."

Countering the “insurrection” narrative by establishment media and politicians, [law enforcement sources told Reuters earlier this month](https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/fbi-sources-no-grand-scheme-attack-u-s-capitol-jan-6/) the FBI believes there was no coordinated grand scheme by Trump supporters to attack the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 and overthrow the 2020 election.

***‘Why does it feel like we are losing?’***

**Flynn's criticism in 2015 of the U.S. handling of the war in Afghanistan following his service as intelligence director for the NATO coalition in Afghanistan prompted a** [**Washington Post investigation**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/investigations/afghanistan-papers/afghanistan-war-confidential-documents/)**, called "The Afghanistan Papers."**

**The probe found that the U.S government largely had misled the public, communicating optimism while holding private reservations.**

"From the ambassadors down to the low level, [they all say] we are doing a great job," Flynn told government investigators, according to documents reported in the Post investigation. "Really? So if we are doing such a great job, why does it feel like we are losing?"

Flynn served as the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency under President Obama until he was forced out in 2014 after differences with James Clapper, then the director of national intelligence.

"I was fired ... after telling a congressional committee that we were not as safe as we had been a few years back," Flynn wrote in his memoir, "The Field of Fight." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/lt-gen-michael-flynn-says-major-u-s-bank-canceled-accounts/>

**Commentary:**

**Performance Art with No Performers**

*By Mark Steyn Published August 30, 202* On the day that twelve US Marines and some 150 civilians were blown apart by suicide bombers, it was heartening to learn what real heroism is.  
 Until January 6th, the highlight of Michael Byrd's "law-enforcement" career was leaving his loaded Glock in a congressional men's room and paying no price. He "serves" with the grotesquely misnamed "Capitol Police", which is not a police department but a praetorian guard - a personal security team for the praetors of Congress. Lieutenant Byrd shot and killed Ashli Babbitt, a 5'2" unarmed woman, because "she was posing a threat to the US House of Representatives".  
 All that has been known for months by anyone who wanted to know. The only real news in [NBC's Byrd exclusive](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/officer-who-shot-ashli-babbitt-during-capitol-riot-breaks-silence-n1277736) was the level of his self-congratulation:  
 *I believe I showed the utmost courage on January 6.*  
 His interviewer, Lester Holt, did not respond: "Er, hang on, isn't that the kind of thing you're meant to leave for someone else to say about you?"  
 And did he have to say "utmost"? Even in as unutterably vulgar an age as ours, is even Michael Byrd incapable of imagining any "courage" greater than his own?  
 Ah, well, don't over-think it; it's just one of those phrases, half-remembered by Byrd from some Rose Garden medal ceremony he caught on TV: "utmost" goes with "courage" like "white" goes with "supremacist" and "domestic" goes with "terrorist".  
 America is a land that tends to the utmost in all things. At the end of the nineteenth century, Bernard Shaw popularized the term "chocolate soldier" - the dashing hussar who is useless in battle but looks good in a uniform. We have the tutti-frutti generals: Thoroughly Modern Milley and his chums, whose diversity ribbons from shoulder to scrotum advertise their own utmostness even as they explain why everything going wrong merely demonstrates how everything is going right.  
 The tutti-frutti generals report to the ice-cream commander-in-chief melting all over the lectern every afternoon. His predecessor was on telly all day every day; Mr Biden was sold to head-in-the-sand Americans as the quiet-life guy who wouldn't be in your face. Unfortunately, when your countrymen get blown up by government blunders, the citizenry expects him to be in their faces at least every now and then. Across the Atlantic, Boris and the EU chaps were on the screen responding to an all too predictable atrocity. But in the White House Joe Biden's meds hadn't yet kicked in - or, conversely, they'd shot him the juice too early and it had worn off. So, as has become familiar, the melting waffle cone was hours late in tottering across the room, squinting into the camera and reading with woozy and wooden defiance. This time he gave it the full Corn Pop:  
 *To those who carried out this attack, as well as anyone who wishes America harm, know this: We will not forgive. We will not forget.*  
 But Joe, a man who cannot reliably [name his own Defense Secretary](https://www.the-sun.com/news/2476098/biden-forget-defense-secretary-lloyd-austin-name/), has already forgotten.  
 Powerline's Scott Johnson reminds us of [what happens next](https://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2021/08/biden-bugs-out.php):  
 *Have we ever had a more ridiculous vice president than Kamala Harris standing next in line? Next in line after Kamala Harris is Nancy Pelosi. Next in line after Nancy Pelosi is Patrick Leahy.*  
 [Yesterday](https://www.steynonline.com/11646/countdown-in-kabul) I said Biden was the American Brezhnev. So it's good to know we have Nancy Andropov and Pat Chernenko standing by. The Kremlin waxworks propped up on the reviewing stand every May Day had mostly non-speaking parts, so as long as they didn't lean too precariously to one side or the other it was almost semi-convincing. The waxworks of American decrepitude are still expected to handle dialogue, like Thoroughly Modern Milley glinting flintily into the cameras of congressional hearings and announcing gruffly that he's proud to have shown the utmost courage in awarding himself a Gold Star for improving Viagra distribution to upcountry headmen anxious to avoid non-alcoholic brewer's droop with their catamites. It's all performance.  
 Anticipating some serious Corn Poppery from Biden's puppeteers, I found myself recalling a little more Bernard Shaw:  
 *He did it like an operatic tenor—a regular handsome fellow, with flashing eyes and lovely moustache, shouting a war-cry and charging like Don Quixote at the windmills. We nearly burst with laughter at him; but when the sergeant ran up as white as a sheet, and told us they'd sent us the wrong cartridges, and that we couldn't fire a shot for the next ten minutes, we laughed at the other side of our mouths.*  
 But Joe couldn't even give us the operatic tenor with lovely moustache, could he? Just an exhausted late-Soviet husk who's already got the precarious leaning down pat. Politics as performance art, but without the performers.  
 Until the "fortified" US election of 2020, it was one of the most reliable political axioms that something beats nothing. But, doing Soviet decay on an American budget, whoever's running the Democrats spent two years and a bazillion dollars installing their particular nothing. At the end of Biden's presser, when he slumped over the microphone during Peter Doocy's question, I almost felt for poor ol' Joe: Is there no DC shyster willing to take him on as a wizened Britney and sue Dr Jill for being an abusive conservatrix? Or are we to endure "Oops! I Did It Again" for another three-and-a-half years?  
 Meanwhile, back at the fiasco, the old axiom still applies. The three nations keeping their Afghan embassies are China, Russia and Pakistan. Unlovely as they are, these guys, unlike the Big Nothing, each represent something real. So do the Taliban, who are playing this beautifully. A week-and-a-half back I quoted their [spokesmullah Zabiullah Mujahid](https://www.steynonline.com/11605/dead-superpower-walking), whose pressers are way more convincing than the ice-cream commander's:  
 *We have defeated a great power.*  
 That was always the goal, way back in 2001: Lure the Great Satan into the Hindu Kush, and finish him off. Their leaders were released from gaol supposedly to negotiate a "coalition" government with Ghani, Karzai et al. But the A-list Talibs weren't interested in "power-sharing", so, sprung from the big house, they used their newfound liberty to plan the total takeover of Afghanistan on a timeline that ensured American humiliation. They have never lost sight of the endgame: Defeat of the so-called "great power", enfeebled as it is.  
 So in Washington Biden and his Pentagon spokesmen explain how awfully cooperative the big beards are being about airport security, to the point where Joe partially concedes *Politico*'s report that the US military is now giving names of approved Americans and Afghans to the Taliban, to expedite their admission to "Hamid Karzai International".  
 Meanwhile, back in Kabul, the Taliban guards also admit past those checkpoints a couple of "Isis-K" suicide bombers to give the Yanks a send-off to remember.  
 Incidentally, had you heard any of these networks mention "Isis-K" until this week? Now it's the Delta Variant of jihad, and every correspondent is an instant expert on the implacable hostility between the K variant and the Talibs.  
 Personally, I incline more to the assessment of Amrullah Saleh, latterly the vice-president of Afghanistan and now holed up in the Panjshir Valley trying to figure out how to take back his country: Interviewed by the BBC's Yalda Hakim six weeks ago, he pooh-poohed these subtle distinctions advanced by western correspondents and observed that, whenever his men interrogated new captives, the lads were currently al-Qa'eda but a couple of years ago had been Taliban, and before that Isis, and before that some other grouping, according to expediency and shifting fashions in jihad. In Kabul, the Taliban and the suddenly famous "Isis-K" are a bog-standard good cop/bad cop routine. As I wrote [over a decade ago](https://www.macleans.ca/general/99-year-old-granny-is-not-the-problem/):  
 *The second thought that strikes you is that the ever-longer lines to get into the 'secure' area are now the least secure area in America. Why not blow up the security line? You could kill as many people as on an airplane, and inflict more long-term economic damage. But don't worry. The TSA has plans to expand the 'secure' area, so the insecure perimeter will be somewhere else, with even more vulnerable people standing around waiting to get into it.*  
 Welcome to Hamid Karzai International.  
 It would be asking an awful lot of the Taliban, cooperative as they have been, to forego the pleasure of one parting shot - given their focus on the strategic goal: advancing the perception of a pitiful flailing Gulliver tormented by Liliputians. Their only concern was the risk of a brutal and punitive American response and, after they'd all fallen around laughing for ten minutes, they went ahead with impunity.  
 Christmas has come early for Washington's enemies. Literally. Kackling Kamala Harris was dispatched to Singapore to assure our allies that the hyperpower was not a complete laughingstock. Instead, she told her hosts that it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas is [as kaput as the Karzai International gift shop](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9920843/Harris-offer-vision-Indo-Pacific-major-speech.html):  
 *'If you want to have Christmas toys for your children, it might now be might be the time to start buying them, because the delay may be many, many months,' she said.*  
 Oh, my. Why would that be?  
 *'The climate crisis is fueling a lot of this. When we look at the stronger typhoons that have disrupted shipping lanes and sea level rise, which threatens port infrastructure as an example. So these are the many issues that are causing these disruptions.'*  
 Uh-huh. So rising sea levels have washed away the massive container port at Long Beach, California, and the huge Toys R Us flotilla attempted to divert to Los Angeles but got swept away and down to Davy Jones' locker by Typhoon Elmo. Did all 347 agencies of the "intelligence community" sign off on that?  
 Back in the real world, all America's toys are made in China, in a huge Crap R Us warehouse behind the Wuhan Institute of Virology. And, as with everything else made under the supervision of Chairman Xi, there are suddenly strange, arbitrary disruptions to the supply chain, "supply chain" being a euphemism for the fact that global trade is a giant version of Kabul airport security, entirely reliant on our enemies. Like Blanche DuBois, Christmas depends on the kindness of strangers - and it would be asking too much to expect the Politburo, like the lads at the Taliban checkpoints, not to have some sport at our expense.  
 That's another reason going to war with Chairman Xi over Taiwan would not end well: As the brass assured the Tommies in August 1914, it'll all be over by Christmas - because the whinging brats on the home front aren't going to put up with a stocking of tin soldiers, a satsuma and a rusting abacus.  
 I was thinking the other day of my appearance at the US Senate with the valiant Judith Curry, when we pushed back against a Massachusetts senator called Ed Markey for exceeding even the bounds of congressional codswallop:  
 After the above, I shall never be invited back to the Senate - because I "disrespected" Markey, a boob completely reliant on his staffers. (Is he fourth in line after Leahy? or is it Feinstein?) Don't worry, I have no desire to go back - because it's a crap dump of over-entouraged Emirs of Incumbistan entirely irrelevant to the world's affairs.  
 But the whole ramshackle edifice rests on being taken seriously, and that is what I failed to do. I'm sure the Singaporeans listening to Khristmassy Kamala likewise knew it was bollocks on stilts, but somehow felt obliged to keep a straight face. So it goes with the court eunuchs of the press corps watching Biden slump over the lectern.  
 The excitable Mohammedans jumping up and down in the streets have never really needed to yell "Death to the Great Satan!" because the Grand Satan is doing a grand job of committing suicide. Not so long ago I mentioned Shirley Bassey's reaction to Madonna's title song at the premiere of the Bond film [Die Another Day](https://www.steynonline.com/11211/madonna-with-plugs):  
 *The opening titles and the song ended, and Dame Shirl yelled from the stalls, 'Rubbish!'*  
 Good for Shirley, and I wish there were more like her. That is a healthy reaction, and someone needs to say it to Kamala and Joe and Nancy and Thoroughly Modern Milley, Tailspin Taylor, Darth Plexi-Visor and all the rest. America has ceded global dominance to dark forces that nevertheless have an existential advantage: they are real, and animated by reality; we are utterly, contemptibly fake, warning of rising sea levels at Santa's Grotto as halfwit goatherds blow us to kingdom come. <https://www.jewishworldreview.com/0821/steyn083021.php>

**Critical Thinking 091***Ted Noel Posted: Aug 30, 2021 12:01 AM* Anyone who has been to college will recognize that course number. Freshman courses start at 100, and the numbers get larger as you progress. Numbers below 100 mean that you need to make up for what you didn’t learn in high school. A lot of Americans simply can’t get to the starting blocks. They know they don’t trust the government and they don’t trust the media, but then they watch PMSNBC and take the CDC at its word. It’s clear that their cognitive isn’t connected, so they can’t even develop cognitive dissonance. Their brains are off and their transmission is stuck in Park. Let’s see if we can at least turn the key.  
 There is one absolute truth that must be understood as we begin. As Ayn Rand famously said, something cannot be both “A” and “not-A” at the same time. This is the Law of Non-Contradiction. A proposition cannot be both true and false at once.  Another fallacy is simply presenting the word of another as gospel. This “Appeal to Authority” is a way for the person making the assertion to avoid confronting any information that might contradict the “authority’s” statements.   
 With Anthony Fauci as the face of the CDC (He’s at NIAID, but few notice the distinction.), we must ask a simple question. Has Anthony Fauci been consistent in his advice and practices? Many on the Left simply take his latest pronouncement at face value, never remembering that he has been all over the map on masks. In the beginning he said, in concert with CDC recommendations, that public masking was of no benefit. Then he flipped back and forth, making excuses for his earlier positions.” Once we get the vaccine, we won’t need masks.” Now CDC Director Walensky says the vax doesn’t matter. You have to wear a mask. Critical Thinking tells us that Fauci and the CDC are not to be trusted because they can’t keep their story straight. Were they wrong before, or are they wrong now? Were they lying? Heaven forbid! All we need to do is [check the data](https://rationalground.com/mask-charts/). Masks in public don’t help. The CDC is stuck on stupid.  
 One example isn’t enough for this crew. Fauci told us that we needed 60% of people to get vaccinated for us to have “herd immunity.” [Wikipedia notes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herd_immunity) that this is “indirect protection” that everyone gets when enough people become immune. It’s a concept, not a number, and it doesn’t say how that immunity arrives. But as more people got jabbed, suddenly the number crept up to 70%, 80%, and now everyone has to get the shot to get a “vaccine passport.” Critical analysis tells us that, since the goalposts are changing, this diktat from a government agency is suspect. But there’s more.  
 We’ve been lectured that the best immunity comes from the shot. Now CDC Director [Walensky tells us](https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2021/08/studies-covid-vaccine-protection-waning-against-infection-not) that it’s not that good. [Fully vaccinated people can readily spread the Delta Variant](https://news.yahoo.com/cdc-says-fully-vaccinated-people-201508057.html). The immunity it confers is waning, and we’ll need a booster. So the critical thinker has to ask if there’s another way to become immune. What if I have already had COVID? Believe it or not, Wikipedia, provides an answer. The concept of herd immunity was developed from naturally acquired measles immunity in the 1930s. Is it possible that the same is true for COVID?   
 A [large Israeli study](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/08/having-sars-cov-2-once-confers-much-greater-immunity-vaccine-no-infection-parties) shows that getting the Wuhan Flu and recovering confers “durable immunity,” thirteen times better than the vaccine. The [National Institutes of Health leans on a modeling study](https://directorsblog.nih.gov/2021/06/22/how-immunity-generated-from-covid-19-vaccines-differs-from-an-infection/) to say that the vaccine is better. But both can’t be true. So the critical thinker must ask why the results conflict. The NIH funded study looked at mechanisms, but the Israeli study looked at people. Mechanisms don’t get sick, people do. So the NIH proclamation doesn’t fit with the facts on the ground. Another government agency has lied to us. How long have they been lying? And about what subjects?  
 Every night for about a year, the Drive-by Media ran chirons with COVID case and death tickers. These stopped when Joe Biden occupied the White House. That alone should raise our antennae. Now with the Delta Variant, we’re getting panic porn about huge case increases. “Hospitals are being overcrowded” is the line, and the message is “Delta will kill you, get the shot!”  
 By now, the critical thinker will ask why hospitals are being overcrowded. This time, the answer is a bit harder to find, in that the MSM has simply not reported it. They have instead followed the CDC line that Hydroxychloroquine is hocus-pocus. They trumpeted a study that Lancet had to withdraw supposedly proving that doctors who prescribe HCQ are quacks. And a number of states prohibited the use of this safe and effective drug. The same thing is happening with Ivermectin. On August 26, ABC News trumpeted the fact that some people were getting problems from veterinary doses of Ivermectin. They didn’t report the fact that people had to resort to veterinary medications because of roadblocks thrown up by the powers that be.  
 Tracing this a bit farther, we have to ask why those roadblocks exist. At the risk of being a conspiracy theorist, we have to note that [Anthony Fauci has been on the inside of coronavirus vaccine](https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x82untb) development for decades. He also helped develop remdesivir for AIDS, only to discover it was no help. The only treatment protocols Fauci and CDC have approved are for after people are so sick they have to come to the hospital. But there are at least [thirteen effective protocols](https://c19protocols.com/) for at-home therapy.  
 It would be possible to go on into the wee hours with examples of how our “betters” at government agencies tell us to do things that are opposite to what the data shows. The very best face we can put on this is that there is disagreement. But the government insists that it is right, and all dissent must be suppressed. This should again suggest that the government is incorrect. After all, if the best argument that can be made is to shout us down, they the people shouting are almost certainly wrong.  
 Vigorous scientific dissent and discussion are excellent ways to reach truthful answers. Dictatorial responses only demonstrate a desire for power. Careful thinkers should rise up in firm opposition to petty dictators. For every complicated question, there’s a simple answer that’s wrong. Diktat’s are those simple answers. We must be free to make our own decisions. <https://townhall.com/columnists/tednoel/2021/08/30/critical-thinking-091-n2594955>

**Eviction Moratorium Fiasco***By* [*Guest Writer*](https://newswithviews.com/author/guest/)*|August 30th, 2021By Paul Engel* Contrary to much of the reporting, the Supreme Court did not find this moratorium unconstitutional, only not authorized by the law.  
 While the courts have almost universally agreed that the CDC does not have the legal authority to issue a nationwide evictions moratorium, they have also tended stay or leave a stay in place rather than stop it.  
 Each and every court has missed one very crucial and constitutional point, this moratorium is a violation of the Fifth Amendment.  
 There has been a fair amount of focus lately on the CDC eviction moratorium, including court findings and the fact that President Biden ignored them. By doing some research, we can find out the facts of this case, including the good, bad, and ugly when it comes to the constitutionality of the different actions taken. Let’s take a look at those details, and determine for ourselves what we should do about it.  
 Tiger Lily, LLC  
 Our story starts back in March, 2020.  
 *In March of 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. … Among other things, the CARES Act imposed a 120-day moratorium on evictions from rental properties that participated in federal assistance programs or had federally backed loans.*  
 [**TIGER LILY, LLC v US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development**](https://www.opn.ca6.uscourts.gov/opinions.pdf/21a0166p-06.pdf)  
 In March we knew relatively little about the SARS-COV-2 virus and the disease it caused, COVID-19. The models used were absolutely frightening, so many Americans were terrified of COVID-19. Did that fear mean the Constitution doesn’t matter?  
 Did Congress have the authority to dictate how our private owners of property run their businesses because they receive federal assistance from federally backed loans? The answer to both questions is no. They could make the federal assistance contingent on voluntary moratorium standards, but unless the loan contract allows the United States to change the requirements without approval of all parties involved, the loans should be unalterable. However, in no situation does Congress have the legal authority to enact such a moratorium.  
 *After that congressionally enacted moratorium ended, the CDC stepped in. It issued an order entitled “Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions To Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19.” … The Halt Order imposed a broader eviction moratorium than Congress had, one that prohibited eviction of all “covered persons”—without regard to whether the rental property relied on federal funds or loans—through December 31, 2020. The CDC explained that the Order is a necessary measure to facilitate self-isolation, support state lockdown orders, and prevent congregation in settings like homeless shelters.*  
 [**TIGER LILY, LLC v US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development**](https://www.opn.ca6.uscourts.gov/opinions.pdf/21a0166p-06.pdf)  
 When Congress’ illegal moratorium ended, the CDC enacted its own. Not only did the Trump administration continue this illegal act, it expanded it to all covered persons regardless of whether there was federal financial involvement or not. The CDC explained that the order was necessary to help people isolate themselves and support the illegal lockdown orders the states had been issuing. Where did the CDC claim it had received the authority to issue such an order?  
 *The CDC found authority for its entry into the landlord-tenant relationship in the Public Health Service Act of 1944, which authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to “make and enforce such regulations as in his judgment are necessary to prevent the introduction, transmission, or spread of communicable diseases.” 42 U.S.C. § 264(a). To carry out and enforce “such regulations,” the Secretary can “provide for such inspection, fumigation, disinfection, sanitation, pest extermination, destruction of animals or articles found to be so infected or contaminated as to be sources of dangerous infection to human beings, and other measures, as in his judgment may be necessary.”*  
 [**TIGER LILY, LLC v US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development**](https://www.opn.ca6.uscourts.gov/opinions.pdf/21a0166p-06.pdf)  
 I’m wondering how does the authority to create regulations to provide for inspection, fumigation, disinfection, sanitation, pest extermination, and destruction of infected animals or articles morph into the authority to interfere with the contract between a landlord and their tenant? The answer is it’s only in the mind of petty tyrants who will use any excuse to get the outcome they want. This, the latest example of the philosophy that the ends justify the means, is not only destructive to rights and liberty, but also to the very idea of the rule of law.  
 It didn’t take long for people to seek a redress of this grievance. Tiger Lily, LLC, that owns and manages rental properties, filed suit in district court seeking both a declaratory judgment and a preliminary injunction barring the moratorium’s enforcement. The district court denied the injunction because it found that the loss of income was not an irreparable injury. However, after the court heard the case it found that the moratorium did exceed the statutory authority under 42 USC §264(a). Not surprisingly, the government immediately appealed and requested both the district and circuit courts issue an emergency stay pending the appeal.  
 The circuit court denied the request, stating they thought the government was not likely to succeed. Sure enough, after hearing the appeal, the circuit court found that 42 USC §264(a) does not authorize the CDC to implement a nationwide eviction moratorium.  
 Before we go on, notice the details of what both the district and circuit courts found. Not that government interfering with the rental contract is not a power delegated to the United States. And not that a blanket prevention of landlords from evicting renters who violate the contract is a deprivation of property without due process of law or a violation of the Fifth Amendment. No, they found that Congress, when it passed 42 USC §264(a), did not authorize the CDC to issue such a regulation. This mistake will be repeated as this fiasco continues.  
 Alabama Association of Realtors  
 Alongside the Tiger Lily case, the Alabama Association of Realtors filed suit against HUD. The District Judge for the District for the District of Columbia vacated the order. Why?  
 *The Court recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic is a serious public health crisis that has presented unprecedented challenges for public health officials and the nation as a whole. The pandemic has triggered difficult policy decisions that have had enormous real-world consequences. The nationwide eviction moratorium is one such decision.*  
 *It is the role of the political branches, and not the courts, to assess the merits of policy measures designed to combat the spread of disease, even during a global pandemic.*   
 *The question for the Court is a narrow one: Does the Public Health Service Act grant the CDC the legal authority to impose a nationwide eviction moratorium? It does not. Because the plain language of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. § 264(a), unambiguously forecloses the nationwide eviction moratorium, the Court must set aside the CDC Order, consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act, see 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(C), and D.C. Circuit precedent, see National Mining Ass’n, 145 F.3d at 1409.*  
 [**Alabama Association of Realtors v. U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services**](https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/20/20A169/180893/20210603170556355_SCOTUS%20Application%20to%20Vacate%20Stay%20-%20Appendix%20-%20Lower%20Court%20Orders%20and%20Opinions.pdf)  
 Yes, COVID-19 has become a crisis. As the evidence mounts that not only is COVID not a generally deadly disease, but that the data that has been used to scare the world into serfdom is suspect at best. Even taking for granted the courts statement that COVID-19 is a serious public health crisis, the law is the law, and the law does not authorize the CDC to issue a nationwide eviction moratorium. Once again, nothing is mentioned about the Fifth Amendment’s prohibition on taking property without due process of law, but only that Congress did not authorize the CDC to issue the moratorium. This decision was appealed to the circuit court, with a request that the court issue an emergency stay, pending appeal., which was granted by the judge, meaning the eviction moratorium remained in place. The Alabama Association of Realtors filed an emergency motion to vacate the stay, but that was denied. This request made its way to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who referred it to the court. This request was denied, but this is also where the reporting gets extremely questionable.  
 News media and pundits alike have claimed that the Supreme Court “ruled” that the moratorium was unconstitutional. Not only did the Court issue no such opinion, no court record I’ve found even questioned the constitutionality of the moratorium, but only whether the CDC had been granted the authority by Congress. If fact, when the court denied the application to vacate the stay, they left the moratorium in place. While the court did not publish an opinion on its decision, Justice Kavanaugh did publish a concurrence.  
 *I agree with the District Court and the applicants that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention exceeded its existing statutory authority by issuing a nationwide eviction moratorium.*  
 [**Alabama Association of Realtors v. U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services – Kavanaugh Concurrence**](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20a169_4f15.pdf)  
 So, if Justice Kavanaugh agrees with District Court that the CDC exceeded its legal authority in issuing a nationwide moratorium, why did he vote to deny the motion?  
 *Because the CDC plans to end the moratorium in only a few weeks, on July 31, and because those few weeks will allow for additional and more orderly distribution of the congressionally appropriated rental assistance funds, I vote at this time to deny the application to vacate the District Court’s stay of its order.*  
 [**Alabama Association of Realtors v. U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services – Kavanaugh Concurrence**](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20a169_4f15.pdf)  
 Because the moratorium was scheduled to end in a few weeks, Justice Kavanaugh “punted” both his responsibility and his oath to support the Constitution of the United States. We don’t know why the other justices who voted to deny the motion did so, only that justices Thomas, Alito, Gorsuch, and Barrett would have granted it. As if this dereliction of duty were not bad enough, Justice Kavanaugh went on…  
 *In my view, clear and specific congressional authorization (via new legislation) would be necessary for the CDC to extend the moratorium past July 31.*  
 [**Alabama Association of Realtors v. U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services – Kavanaugh Concurrence**](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20a169_4f15.pdf)  
 If these “legal eagles”, supposedly the best legal minds in the nation, cannot see the blatant violation of the supreme law of the land in this moratorium, who can? Justice Kavanaugh admitted in his concurrence that he believes Congress has the authority to authorize this type of moratorium. We are being led by idiots.  
 I’ve heard “experts” claim that this is a violation of the Taking Clause, but it’s not. Not only is the property not taken, it’s not being used for public purposes.  
 *nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.*  
 [**U.S. Constitution, Amendment V**](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript#toc-amendment-v)  
 What I have not heard is a single lawyer, judge, constitutional professor, or anyone that participates in the judicial system, point out that this is a violation of the Fifth Amendment’s due process clause.  
 *No person shall … be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law;*  
 [**U.S. Constitution, Amendment V**](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript#toc-amendment-v)  
 This should be an open and shut case. Any judge with the slightest knowledge of the Constitution shouldn’t need more than 30 seconds to decide it. The CDC’s eviction moratorium deprives the landlords of this country their property (specifically the control of their property), without due process of law. No one has shown that these landlords violated any law. No evidence has been provided showing a widespread right to occupy rental property without paying rent. Only the concern by those at the CDC that should people be evicted, they may go to a homeless shelter, creating an overcrowding condition. Of course, that situation only exists because governments, starting with state and local governments, shut down their economies, preventing people from working to earn the money to pay the rent. And nowhere has anyone made any accommodation for the landlords, who are still expected to pay mortgages, utilities, and yes, taxes on the properties they can no longer generate income from.  
 And the atrocities did not stop with the Supreme Court’s decision.  
 Executive vs Judicial  
 When the moratorium expired on July 31st, guess what happened? President Biden’s CDC simply extended it yet again. Not only has Justice Kavanaugh been shown to be a fool for thinking this would not happen, but District Court judge Dabney Freidrich has shown herself to be one as well. According to the opinion memorandum for her stay, she notes the “substantial economic hardships as a result of the CDC’s nationwide moratorium on evictions.” However, she states that “given the public health consequences cited by the CDC, a stay is warranted.” Even if the CDC used a study that has not been peer reviewed, they made claims about cases and deaths which seem more like wild guesses than actual scientific data. How big was this tremendous spike that should crush the rights of the American people? The wild guess from the CDC expected about a 1 to 1.5% increase in cases and deaths nationwide. Based on the CDC’s recent history of exaggerating numbers, I don’t have much trust in those numbers.  
 People far and wide cried “foul”, claiming that President Biden was violating the rule of law by ignoring the opinion of the Supreme Court. Lost in the hew and cry was the fact that the court itself decided not to vacate the stay of the District Court’s opinion. Or the fact that, as a separate branch of government, the court has no authority to order the executive to do anything.  
 *The authority, therefore, given to the Supreme Court by the act establishing the judicial courts of the United States to issue writs of mandamus to public officers appears not to be warranted by the Constitution,*  
 [**Marbury v. Madison Opinion**](https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/5/137)  
 There were two questions the Marbury v. Madison court had to decide. First, did Mr. Marbury deserve the commission to the position he had been appointed to by the previous administration? And second, did the court have the authority to order the President to issue the commission, in legal terms a writ of mandamus. Issuing this writ would have effectively placed that court and Congress above the President, something not authorized by the Constitution. Since the courts in this case did not find the moratorium unconstitutional, only not authorized by statue, the claims that the President’s actions were unconstitutional seem somewhat hyperbolic. Yes, the President was not faithfully executing the laws of the United States, but that is not what was being claimed. The fact that the President disagreed with the court, and acted based on his opinion, is not a violation of the Constitution, even if the eviction moratorium is.  
**Conclusion**  
 It’s not just that the court trusted the questionable expected outcome from the CDC, but that they put it above the law.  
 *Thus, the particular phraseology of the Constitution of the United States confirms and strengthens the principle, supposed to be essential to all written Constitutions, that a law repugnant to the Constitution is void, and that courts, as well as other departments, are bound by that instrument.*  
 [**Marbury v. Madison Opinion**](https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/5/137)  
 Here we have an executive department claiming powers not included in their statutory charter. Powers that, even if Congress had authorized them, would violate the Constitution of the United States and therefore be illegal. What truly disturbs me though, is the absolute disregard for the oath of so many in both the executive and judicial branches of our government. When those we have hired to protect our rights abuse them so badly, how can we trust them at all?  
 *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.–That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, –That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it,*  
 [**Declaration of Independence**](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript)  
 What do we do when governments created to protect our rights not only fail to do so, but actively subvert them? Yes, we have the right to alter or abolish such government. It is not insurrection to attempt to restore the Constitution to its rightful place as the supreme law of the land. As Abraham Lincoln said:  
 *The people — the people — are the rightful masters of both Congresses, and courts — not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert it*  
 [**Abraham Lincoln, [September 16-17, 1859] (Notes for Speech in Kansas and Ohio)**](https://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/abraham-lincoln-papers/history3.html)  
 Ultimately, it is up to us to overthrow those who are perverting the Constitution. That includes the judges and justices of the courts, the members of Congress, and those in the President’s administration who are betraying their oaths. The future of America rests in the hands of its people.  
 *But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.*  
 [**Declaration of Independence**](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript)  
 Will our future be secure? Or will we fall under the absolute despotism of those in the federal government?  
<https://newswithviews.com/eviction-moratorium-fiasco/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**IDF soldiers protest: Let us defend ourselves**

***Hundreds of soldiers stage social media protest following death of soldier who was shot on Gaza border.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Aug 30 , 2021 8:53 PM*

***prayers outside hospital for Barel Shmueli - יגאל מלכא***

**A social media protest has begun within the IDF following the death of** [**Barel Hadarya Shmueli,**](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312699) **the Border Policer officer who was critically wounded in violent riots on the Gaza border over a week ago, passed away from his wounds**

Hundreds of soldiers posted a message on their Instagram accounts claiming that the IDF senior command was preventing soldiers from defending themselves, *Kan 11* reported.

Military correspondent Roi Sharon reported that the protest follows claims that IDF forces at the riot where Shmueli was shot at close ranged asked for permission to open fire and were refused.

According to the military investigation conducted last week, this claim is incorrect. But the argument that IDF soldiers are put at unnecessary risk by commanders who refuse to let them defend themselves is not new.

Barel enlisted in the Border Police and underwent training as a soldier in March 2019. Following his training, he completed a course to join the Border Police's undercover Arab unit, after which he became part of the Border Police Southern District's unit (Yamas). <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312715>

**Coronavirus pandemic: Hasidic groups ban unvaccinated, not recovered from synagogues**

***Hasidic sects publish announcement urging followers to get coronavirus vaccine - or not join community prayers on Rosh Hashanah.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Aug 30 , 2021 4:16 PM*

**Ahead of Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year), preparations are being completed in hasidic communities for large groups of hasidim to spend the holiday with their rabbis and teach**ers.

**Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this year several hasidic groups have come out with clear instructions regarding who is allowed to attend the mass pr**ayers.

According to *Kikar Hashabbat*, Rabbi Itche Meir Tauman, a leading [Gerrer](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312682) rabbi, has ordered that anyone who is eligible for a third dose of the coronavirus vaccine receive it immediately. Those who are unvaccinated will not be allowed to pray in the synagogue, he said.

Rabbi Tauman also said that anyone who has a [Green Pass](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/311950) will be able to receive an entrance permit so that the guards will be able to allow him in, and that children over 12 years of age must also be vaccinated in order to enter the synagogue.

Yeshiva students who have a Green Pass will receive a special bracelet from their yeshiva supervisors, and anyone who has symptoms in the coming week will not be allowed to enter the synagogue on Rosh Hashanah.

In the Karlin hasidic community, a list of guidelines was published regarding which hasidim can spend the holiday with their rebbe (hasidic leader).

In a detailed special notice published on *Kikar Hashabbat*, Karlin hasidim were informed as follows:

1. Those who have received three doses of the vaccine, and whose third vaccine was at least one week ago, may participate. (The third vaccine may be received up until Monday evening.)

2. Those who received only two doses of the vaccine, as long as the second dose was within the past five months - meaning, after the 25th of Nissan 5781 (April 7, 2021) - may participate.

3. Those who have recovered within the twelve months prior to Rosh Hashanah 5782 - meaning after the 17th of Elul 5780 (September 6, 2020), even if they received only one dose of the vaccine, may participate. Those who recovered within the twelve months prior to Rosh Hashanah 5782 who have not yet been vaccinated should immediately receive their first dose, no later than Monday evening.

4. Those who have a positive serological test result, as defined above, are not considered recovered or vaccinated, and may participate only if the test is from the past month.

5. Children under age 12 may participate only if they have recovered [from coronavirus] within the twelve months prior to Rosh Hashanah 5782 (2021), meaning, after the 17th of Elul 5780 (September 6, 2020), or by presenting a positive serological test result received within the past month, as above.

6. The definition of a "recovered" person and a positive serological test will be only a person whose illness and recovery, or whose serological test results were documented by the Health Ministry, not those who have made claims on their own.

7. The Health Ministry's Green Pass is not enough in order to enter the site on Rosh Hashanah. Instead, entry will be dependent on the conditions below.

8. Entry to the site will be dependent on receipt of a defined seating space, as well as on the presentation of a special permit issued by the committee. There will be a separate notice regarding how to receive such a permit.

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312695>

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**08/30/2021 NEWS AM**

**What is Elul?**

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/what-is-elul/>

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| **“When people are universally ignorant, and debauched in their Manners, they will sink under their own weight without the aid of foreign invaders.”**  **— Samuel Adams** |

**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 38:18And he said: 'What pledge shall I give thee?' And she said: 'Thy signet and thy cord, and thy staff that is in thy hand.' And he gave them to her, and came in unto her, and she conceived by him. 19And she arose, and went away, and put off her veil from her, and put on the garments of her widowhood. 20And Judah sent the kid of the goats by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive the pledge from the woman's hand; but he found her not.**

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| **ONE YEAR Anniversary report from America’s FrontLine Doctors**  **If you want to know what is happening!**  [**https://rumble.com/vkoyqr-summit-sessions-the-science-lee-merritt-md-what-is-vaers-and-what-does-it-s.html**](https://rumble.com/vkoyqr-summit-sessions-the-science-lee-merritt-md-what-is-vaers-and-what-does-it-s.html)  **also**  [**https://americasfrontlinedoctors.org/videos/white-coat-summit-the-one-year-anniversary/**](https://americasfrontlinedoctors.org/videos/white-coat-summit-the-one-year-anniversary/) |

**US drone strike in Kabul hits IS suicide bombers heading to airport**

***American officials say intended target was struck, averting another attack; in apparently separate incident a child is killed in a rocket strike nearby***

By [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) and [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) Today, 5:53 pm

WASHINGTON — US officials said an American drone strike has hit a vehicle carrying multiple Islamic State suicide bombers heading for Kabul airport. A military official said the strike on Sunday caused “significant secondary explosions,” indicating the presence of a substantial amount of explosive material in the vehicle.

Two senior officials said the US believes it was a successful strike and that the intended target was hit. This is the second airstrike the US has conducted against the group, which claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing Thursday at the Kabul airport gate that killed 13 US service members and scores of Afghans struggling to get out of the country and escape the new Taliban rule.

The officials said Sunday that initial reports indicate there were no civilian casualties caused by the airstrike, but one official said they are assessing reports of any other collateral damage.

There have been reports of an explosion at a house near the airport, but it wasn’t clear the two explosions were connected. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations.

In that second incident, a rocket hit a neighborhood just northwest of the airport, killing a child. The rocket attack struck Kabul’s Khuwja Bughra neighborhood, said Kabul police chief Rashid, who goes by one name. Video obtained by The Associated Press in the aftermath of the attack showed smoke rising from a building at the site around a kilometer (half a mile) from the airport.

The two strikes initially appeared to be separate incidents, though information on both remained scarce.

No group immediately claimed the attack; however, militants have fired rockets in the past.

The attack comes as the United States began to wind down a airlift that saw tens of thousands evacuated from Kabul’s international airport, the scene of much of the chaos that engulfed the Afghan capital since the Taliban took over two weeks ago.



Taliban fighters patrol along a street in Kabul on August 29, 2021, as suicide bomb threats hung over the final phase of the US military’s airlift operation from Kabul, with President Joe Biden warning another attack was highly likely before the evacuations end. (Aamir QURESHI / AFP)

After an Islamic State affiliate’s suicide attack that killed over 180 people Thursday, the Taliban increased its security around the airfield as Britain ended its evacuation flights Saturday.

US military cargo planes continued their runs into the airport Sunday, ahead of a Tuesday deadline earlier set by US President Joe Biden to withdraw all troops from America’s longest war. However, Afghans remaining behind in the country worry about the Taliban reverting to their earlier oppressive rule — fueled by the recent shooting death of a folk singer by the insurgents. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-drone-strike-in-kabul-hits-is-suicide-bombers-heading-to-airport/>

**Rockets fly in Kabul as US airlift deadline nears**

***At least one projectile is intercepted, according to eyewitnesses; American troops wrapping up evacuation efforts***

*By* [*David Fox*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/david-fox/) *Today, 7:42 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/000_9LV9G8.jpg)

Taliban fighters investigate a damaged car after multiple rockets were fired in Kabul on August 30, 2021. (Wakil Kohsar / AFP)

KABUL, Afghanistan (AFP) — Rockets flew across the Afghan capital on Monday as the United States raced to complete its withdrawal from Afghanistan, with the evacuation of civilians all but over and terror attack fears high.

US President Joe Biden has set a deadline of Tuesday to withdraw all US forces from Afghanistan, drawing to a close his nation’s longest military conflict, which began in retaliation for the September 11 attacks.

The return of the hardline Islamist Taliban movement, which was toppled in 2001 but took back power a fortnight ago, triggered an exodus of terrified people aboard US-led evacuation flights.

Those flights, which took more than 114,000 people out of Kabul airport, will officially end on Tuesday when the last of the thousands of American troops pull out.

But US forces are now focused chiefly on flying themselves and American diplomats out safely.

The Islamic State group, rivals of the Taliban, pose the biggest threat to the withdrawal after carrying out a suicide bomb attack at the airport late last week that claimed more than 100 lives, including those of 13 US troops.

[#AFG](https://twitter.com/hashtag/AFG?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw). Several rockets landed in different parts of [#Kabul](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Kabul?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) city on Monday morning, sources said.  
A car, as seen the pictures, was used as launchpad for the rockets.  
There is no further details on exact target possible casualties.  
Pix: [@pajhwok](https://twitter.com/pajhwok?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/L7KowfxzEa](https://t.co/L7KowfxzEa)

— Ab Qadir Sediqi (@qadir\_sediqi) [August 30, 2021](https://twitter.com/qadir_sediqi/status/1432186430533607425?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Biden had warned more attacks were highly likely and the United States said it carried out an airstrike on Sunday night in Kabul on an explosives-laden vehicle.

That was followed on Monday morning by the sound of rockets flying across Kabul, according to AFP journalists in the city.

Several rockets had been fired at the airport, according to witnesses and security sources.

Smoke could be seen rising near the airport.

The sound of the airport’s missile defense system could be heard by local residents, who also reported shrapnel falling into the street — suggesting at least one rocket had been intercepted.

A security official who worked in the former administration that was toppled by the Taliban said the rockets had been fired from a vehicle in the north of the city.

[#KabulAirport](https://twitter.com/hashtag/KabulAirport?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw): Rockets fired toward Kabul Airport, local reports say rockets were intercepted and exploded in the air dropping shrapnels on the ground… [pic.twitter.com/mc4Nx7FFQL](https://t.co/mc4Nx7FFQL)

— Rahul Upadhyay (@rahulrajnews) [August 30, 2021](https://twitter.com/rahulrajnews/status/1432173705434521601?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**‘Potential loss of innocent life’**

A Taliban spokesman confirmed Sunday’s incident, saying a car bomb destined for the airport had been destroyed — and that a possible second strike had hit a nearby house.

The United States has been accused of killing many civilians in airstrikes throughout the war, one reason for losing local support, and that was again a possibility on Sunday.

“We are aware of reports of civilian casualties following our strike on a vehicle in Kabul today,” Captain Bill Urban, a US Central Command spokesman, said in a statement.

Urban said the US military was investigating whether civilians were killed, noting there were “powerful” explosions that resulted from the destruction of the vehicle. **More -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/rockets-fly-in-kabul-as-us-airlift-deadline-nears/>

**Bennett weighs offering help to transport Afghan refugees to third countries**

***PM won’t resettle refugees in Israel, but, in gesture to Biden, may suggest assisting in airlifting fleeing Afghans out of US airbases, sources say***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 5:04 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/000_9LR633.jpg)

Afghan refugees arrive at Dulles International Airport on August 27, 2021 in Dulles, Virginia, after being evacuated from Kabul following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan (Olivier DOULIERY / AFP)

WASHINGTON — Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is weighing offering the Biden administration Israel’s assistance in transporting Afghan refugees from US bases to a third country of resettlement, two sources familiar with the matter confirmed to The Times of Israel on Saturday.

The sources clarified that Israel was not offering to resettle any refugees in the Jewish state and that those fleeing the country since the Taliban’s takeover would not set foot on Israeli soil. However, the proposal under consideration would see Israel help in the airlift of the refugees from US military bases in Qatar and Kuwait — where thousands who managed to escape are currently being housed — to a third country of resettlement.

The sources declined to provide further details, with one of them describing the sensitive proposal as “still in flux.”

A coalition official said the Prime Minister’s Office and the Foreign Ministry had both been approached by US officials on the Afghan refugee issue, without elaborating further.

The transport idea was then floated by Bennett’s aides ahead of the premier’s trip to Washington last week as a possible goodwill gesture to the Biden administration by the new Israeli prime minister, said one source familiar with the discussions.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister’s Office denied that such a proposal was being considered.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman declined to comment, while another official in the office said that conversations on the matter are still in the early stages.



Prime Minister Naftali Bennett speaks as he meets with US President Joe Biden in the Oval Office of the White House, Friday, Aug. 27, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

This would not be the first time Israel offered its assistance in a refugee crisis that does not involve Jews.  
 From 1977 to 1979, then-prime minister Menachem Begin welcomed about 360 Vietnamese boat people fleeing for their lives from the Communist takeover of their country. Israel granted them citizenship, full rights and government-subsidized apartments.  
 In public remarks following his one-on-one meeting with Biden on Friday, Bennett offered his “condolences and deep sadness” on behalf of the Israeli people to the US. He said the US soldiers killed in a Thursday attack at Kabul airport were there to save lives and that this was “the very definition of courage and sacrifice. May they rest in peace.”  
 On Sunday the US State Department issued a joint statement on behalf of dozens of countries — including Israel — stating their commitment to ensuring safe travel out of Afghanistan for “our citizens, nationals and residents, employees, Afghans who have worked with us and those who are at risk can continue to travel freely to destinations outside Afghanistan.”  
 The statement said the countries have received assurances from the Taliban that those they issue with travel authorization will be allowed “to proceed in a safe and orderly manner to points of departure and travel outside the country.” The countries added that they intend to continue issuing travel documentation to designated Afghans. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-weighs-offering-help-to-transport-afghan-refugees-to-third-countries/>

**Israel okays COVID booster shot for all public**

***Health Ministry Director General Prof. Nachman Ash says anyone who received first two vaccine jabs more than 5 months ago, can from Sunday receive the third shot; travelers who've been vaccinated with booster, won't have to isolate upon arrival***

*Adir Yanko | Published: 08.29.21, 17:08* Israel on Sunday approved the third coronavirus vaccine booster shot for all public in an effort to curb the raging Delta variant.   
 The country has gradually expanded its booster vaccination campaign to more and more age groups since its rollout several weeks ago as the coronavirus infection rate has surged to figures not seen in almost a year.   
 Health Ministry Director General Prof. Nachman Ash announced the move during a press briefing, which was also attended by Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz, Public Health chief Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis and coronavirus czar Prof. Salman Zarka.   
 "The decrease in the effectiveness of the vaccines is proving to be significant," he said. "Today we are expanding the possibility of receiving a booster shot for the entire population, provided that five months have passed since they've received the second dose."  
 Prof. Zarka also said that according to new guidelines, travelers returning from abroad would not have to enter quarantine upon arrival if they've been vaccinated with the third shot or with two initial jabs less than five months ago.   
   
 Health Ministry officials hold daily briefing   
 (Photo: Amit Shaabi)  
 "We are updating the term 'vaccinated.' Who is vaccinated against corona? Whoever received two shots less than five months ago or those who received the third shot," he said.   
 The new definition will take effect October 1st and the Green Pass will be considered out of date for anyone who have not been vaccinated with the third vaccine or have been dosed more than five months ago.   
 Dr. Preis added that side effects after the third shot are less severe than after the first and second jab. "This is also supported by a study conducted by Clalit HMO," she said. She said that thanks to the booster vaccination campaign, Israel was able "to curb the exponential increase in critically ill patients." <https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/s172pzy11k>

**New COVID variant detected in South Africa, most mutated variant so far**

***The C.1.2 variant first detected in South Africa is more mutated compared to the original virus than any other known variant.***

*By* [*TZVI JOFFRE*](https://www.jpost.com/author/tzvi-joffre) *AUGUST 29, 2021 14:47*

A new [coronavirus variant](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/coronavirus-in-israel-new-travel-restrictions-cap-on-weddings-676840), C.1.2, has been detected in South Africa and a number of other countries, with concerns that it could be more infectious and evade vaccines, according to a [new preprint study](https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.08.20.21262342v1.full-text) by South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases and the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform. The study is awaiting peer review. [Surprise! Surprise! Surprise! I do recall that we have had warnings from the developer of the mRNA technique that continuing to give more and moreof the JABS during a major outbreak simply promotes more and more variants. rdb

Scientists first detected C.1.2 in May 2021, finding that it was descended from C.1, which scientists found surprising as C.1 had last been detected in January. The new variant has "mutated substantially" compared to C.1 and is more mutations away from the original virus detected in Wuhan than any other Variant of Concern (VOC) or Variant of Interest (VOI) detected so far worldwide.

While first detected in South Africa, C.1.2 has since been found in England, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mauritius, New Zealand, Portugal and Switzerland.

The scientists believe that the number of available sequences of C.1.2 may be an underrepresentation of the spread and frequency of the variant in South Africa and around the world. The study found consistent increases in the number of C.1.2 genomes in South Africa on a monthly basis, rising from 0.2% of genomes sequenced in May to 1.6% in June and then to 2% in July, similar to the increases seen with the Beta and Delta variants there.

The study also found that the C.1.2 lineage has a mutation rate of about 41.8 mutations per year, which is nearly twice as fast as the current global mutation rate of the other variants. The scientists stated that this short period of increased evolution was also seen with the Alpha, Beta and Gamma variants, suggesting that a single event, followed by a spike in cases, drove faster mutation rates.

More than half of the C.1.2 sequences have 14 mutations, but additional mutations have been noticed in some of the sequences, suggesting that evolution within the lineage is ongoing, according to the study.

More than half (about 52%) of the mutations in the spike region of the C.1.2 sequences have previously been seen in other VOCs and VOIs. The mutations N440K and Y449H, which have been associated with escape from certain antibodies, have also been noticed in C.1.2 sequences. The scientists stressed that the combination of these mutations, as well as changes in other parts of the virus, likely help the virus [evade antibodies](https://www.jpost.com/health-science/pfizer-covid-vaccine-86-percent-effective-after-third-shot-maccabi-677053) and immune responses, including in patients who have already been infected with the Alpha or Beta variants.

The scientists added that further work is required to understand the exact impact of these mutations and to see if they give the variant a competitive advantage over the Delta variant.

The study comes as a doctor in Turkey reported indications that a new coronavirus variant had been detected in the country, with tests detecting mutations that weren't found in the current variants named by the World Health Organization (WHO).

People wearing protective masks walk along a street amid a surge in COVID-19 cases in Diyarbakir, Turkey (credit: SERTAC KAYAR / REUTERS)

Dr. Lütfi Çamlı told Turkish media that while tests were conducted to detect the presence of variants around Turkey, doctors found a new variant with no connection to the other variants, reaching a rate of about 50%-60% of cases in the northern province of Rize. Çamlı stressed, however, that it is still unclear whether they have actually found a new variant or if it was just the result of false negativity in PCR tests.

The doctor additionally stressed that it is normal for new mutations to emerge in an epidemic and that the mutations recently found in Turkey may not have any serious effect on how the virus functions. Çamlı called for further research and for the results of genomic tests of the samples carried out in Ankara to be released to the public.

As of last Wednesday, the WHO had identified four VOCs and four VOIs. As of last Thursday, the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) had identified five and six respectively. A number of other variants have been designated for further monitoring. <https://www.jpost.com/health-science/new-covid-variant-detected-in-south-africa-most-mutated-variant-so-far-678011>

**Work begins to partially renovate hazardous bridge to Temple Mount**

***Western Wall Heritage Foundation says maintenance project on Mughrabi Bridge will take a few days; part of the women’s prayer area in the plaza to be closed off***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *Today, 6:14 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/120417NM01-1.jpg)

The wooden Mughrabi Bridge leading up from the Western Wall plaza to the Temple Mount compound in Jerusalem's Old City. April 17,2012. (Noam Moskowitz/ Flash 90)Vital repair work began Sunday to a bridge that serves as the sole entry point for Jews and non-Muslim tourists to Jerusalem’s Temple Mount, due to a risk of collapse.

The start of maintenance work on the Mughrabi Bridge was announced by the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, which said it would take a few days to complete.

As part of the maintenance work, part of the women’s prayer section of the Western Wall plaza will be closed off, said the foundation that administers the plaza and prayer arrangements at the site.

The tenuous state of the Mughrabi Bridge has raised fears of another disaster months, after a deadly crush at a religious festival in northern Israel killed 45 people.

Days after the tragedy in May, Ofer Cohen, a municipal engineer hired by the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, inspected the Mughrabi Bridge. Citing its poor condition, he [urged its immediate replacement](https://www.timesofisrael.com/bridge-for-jews-entering-temple-mount-in-immediate-danger-of-collapse-report/) and authorized its use only until September.

In a letter obtained by The Associated Press, Cohen said the hastily constructed bridge’s wooden beams were “in a state of extreme dryness” and severely cracked. He urged authorities “to act immediately to replace the bridge in order to make safe its use.”

In response to the engineer’s report, the state said it would conduct a gradual replacement of the wooden beams that are in bad shape, Channel 13 news reported earlier this month.

The move would allow the temporary bridge to continue being used, as Israel has no current plans for a permanent solution, the report said.



A general view of the wooden footbridge leading up from the Western Wall compound to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem’s Old City, December 11, 2011. (Nati Shohat/Flash90)

The Mughrabi Bridge leading from near the Western Wall plaza to the Mughrabi Gate of the Temple Mount compound was hastily constructed 15 years ago as a temporary replacement for an earthen access ramp that was in danger of collapsing at the time.

The structural engineer had recommended replacing the bridge with a metal one that would be more durable and fireproof. However, that would likely inflame tensions with the Palestinians and with Jordan, who view any building activity in the area as a provocation against Muslims.

The Temple Mount compound is considered the holiest place in Judaism as it is the site where the first and second Jewish Temples once stood. It also houses the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam.

Israel captured the Temple Mount, and the rest of the Old City and East Jerusalem, from Jordan in the 1967 Six Day War, and annexed it, but it allowed Jordan’s Waqf (Muslim trust) to continue to oversee the compound and other Islamic sites in Jerusalem. Israel allows Jews and other non-Muslims to visit the Temple Mount but not to pray there (though such instances have also been increasing).

In 2014, Israel dismantled a partially built wooden access ramp that had been under construction and would have replaced the bridge. But under heavy Jordanian pressure, then-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered that the structure be removed, saying its construction was “illegal” and had never received the proper authorization, a government source said at the time. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/work-begins-to-partially-renovate-hazardous-bridge-to-temple-mount/>

**Cairo Genizah paper may hold key to secrets of Qumran, Dead Sea Scrolls**

***An ancient religious ceremony, described in several Dead Sea Scrolls, could explain the mysteries of the archaeological site of Qumran.***

*By* [*ROSSELLA TERCATIN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/rossella-tercatin) *AUGUST 29, 2021 20:05*



The site of the Qumran Scrolls, known as the Dead Sea Scrolls (photo credit: HADAR YAHAV)

A mystical religious ceremony described in several [Dead Sea Scrolls](https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/dead-sea-scrolls-scholar-flushes-out-mystery-670357) and in a medieval document from the Cairo Genizah holds the key to understanding the mysteries of the archaeological site of Qumran, new research suggests.  
 The nature and distinctive characteristics of Qumran, the nearest site to the caves where the legendary 2,000-year-old documents were found, have been debated by scholars for decades. It was thought to be a settlement where the Jewish sect of the Essenes lived; some proposed that its residents were not Essenes but a different community; others said it was wrong to attribute the area to a specific group; while according to some experts, Qumran might have been a fortress.  
 No matter the interpretation, some puzzling elements remain, according to Dr. Daniel Vainstub of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, who authored a study recently published in the peer-reviewed, open-access academic journal Religions.  
 Why have archaeologists only found remains of public buildings and not of private dwellings? How is it possible to explain the presence of thousands of pottery vessels in a place that had a few dozen residents at most? And why did the area feature such a multiplicity of mikvaot ritual baths, including very large ones, for such a small population?  
 According to Vainstub, [Qumran](https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/last-member-of-original-dead-sea-scrolls-research-team-dies-from-covid-19-654922) was intimately connected to the Essenes, but rather than a permanent settlement of the group, it was the site where all its members and candidates would flock from communities all over the country to hold their annual celebration of the “passing of the covenant.”  
 “I looked both at the texts and the archaeological remains, and what I have seen perfectly fits this possibility,” Vainstub said.  
 The ceremony was modeled after one described in Deuteronomy,  chapters 27-28. In the passage, Moses instructs the Israelites on how to proclaim God’s blessings and curses on Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim after they enter the land, which is subsequently described in the Book of Joshua.  
 The rules of the Essenes’ version are described in the so-called “Community Rule” manuscripts, as well as in the Damascus Document copied around the year 1,000 CE and retrieved in the Genizah.  
 However,  Vainstub wrote in the paper, “the description of the ceremony in the Damascus Document includes a sentence containing two pieces of information that are of critical importance for our purposes and are missing in the Community Rule: ‘And all [the inhabitants] of the camps shall assemble in the third month and curse anyone who deviates either to the right [or to the left from the] Torah.’”  
 From that sentence, the scholar pointed out that two elements can be deduced: that the gathering took place in a specific time – the month of Sivan, when the festival of Shavuot falls – and that people from different places (camps) were called to convene in one site.  
Excavations at Qumran (SHAI HALEVY/IAA).  
 Therefore, according to Vainstub, the rules that were previously thought to apply to Essenes’ general lifestyle describe the specific ceremony instead.  
 “It could be that Qumran was even built for the purpose of this gathering,” he wrote.  
 Those who convened ahead of Shavuot did not need to be housed in buildings, but rather slept outside or in one of the numerous caves of the areas, where millennia later the manuscripts that came to be known as the Dead Sea Scrolls would be found.  
 “My theory is also consistent with the fact that the scrolls did not necessarily originate from Qumran, but rather were brought to the caves from all over the country and were left in the caves over the decades,” Vainstub wrote.  
 The archaeological remains in Qumran, including the number and size of mikvaot, assembly hall and pantry (with thousands of stored vessels), as well as the empty southern esplanade, can also be explained from this perspective, he said.  
 “Some dozens of permanent residents of Qumran, perhaps with the help of small Essene groups living nearby close to the springs on the shores of the Dead Sea, had to host many hundreds of people at the site once a year in ever-increasing numbers,” Vainstub concluded in the paper. “The site of Qumran, with its facilities, caves and surfaces, accords with the evidence for the annual gathering that emerges from the scrolls. No other known site is suitable for such a purpose.” <https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/cairo-genizah-paper-may-hold-key-to-secrets-of-qumran-dead-sea-scrolls-678045>

**Police scramble to curb violence after 4 murders in 48 hours in Arab community**

***‘We have lost control of the streets,’ warns police official; Segev Shalom man found shot in a torched car, in latest apparent homicide***

By [Emanuel Fabian](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) Today, 4:28 pm   
 Police on Sunday rushed to find a solution to the rampant violence plaguing Israel’s Arab community after four people were killed in apparent homicides over the weekend.  
 Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai summoned Central District commander Moshe Barkat and other police officials for an urgent meeting on the violence, the Ynet news site reported.  
 “We have lost control of the streets,” an unnamed police official told the news site.  
 “The workplan must be changed and we must really act with all our might in the problematic cities, and where we know there is a bloody conflict,” the senior officer said.  
 “So far, we are only reacting to these incidents belatedly, and the next murder is only a matter of time.”  
 Top of Form

Ibrahim Abu Amra, 26, from the Bedouin town of Tel Sheva was shot dead Friday night, in what police suspect was a murder tied to a family feud. On Saturday, 18-year-old Anas Al-Wahwah was shot dead in the city of Lod while sitting inside a car, in what police also suspected to be a family feud. Later on Saturday night, Abed Qurmata, 26, was killed in a shooting in the central town of Kafr Qasim, but there was no immediate word on a suspected motive.  
   
 Composite photo: 18-year-old Anas Al-Wahwah (L), 26-year-old Ibrahim Abu Amra (C) and 26-year-old Abed Qurmata (R), all shot dead in separate gun violence incidents August 28-29, 2021 (Courtesy)  
 On Sunday morning, the body of 26-year-old Nur Ajaj, from the Bedouin town of Segev Shalom, was found in a burned car near the central town of Hagor. Police suspect he was shot prior to his vehicle being torched.  
 Ajaj, originally from the central town of Ramle, was recently released from prison, Ynet reported. His body was transferred to the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute in Tel Aviv for further examination.  
   
 26-year-old Nur Ajaj, from the Bedouin town of Segev Shalom was found shot dead in a burnt-out car near the town of Hagor, August 29, 2021. (courtesy)  
 The emergency meeting is set to take place at the police’s central district headquarters in Ramle. Barkat, who is currently heading the district, notified the commissioner last month he would be [leaving the force](https://www.timesofisrael.com/police-central-district-commander-who-oversaw-recent-jewish-arab-rioting-quits/) once a replacement is found.  
 Meanwhile, Shabtai met with Justice Minister Gideon Sa’ar on Sunday at police national headquarters in Jerusalem to discuss strengthening cooperation between the Israel Police and the Justice Ministry, among other subjects, the police said.  
 The police said the two discussed tougher punishments for violence and weapon crimes, stronger enforcement on arms smuggling, and increasing activities against economic offenses. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/police-scramble-to-curb-violence-after-4-murders-in-48-hours-in-arab-community/>

**Hamas, Islamic Jihad condemn Abbas for ‘reprehensible’ meeting with Gantz**

***Gaza rulers accuse PA leader of ‘betraying the blood of the martyrs’ for holding summit with defense minister who was once IDF chief of staff***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 2:55 pm*

Hamas and Islamic Jihad condemned Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Monday for meeting with Defense Minister Benny Gantz, after the two held a rare high-level meeting of senior Israeli and Palestinian politicians on Sunday night.

“President Mahmoud Abbas’s meeting with Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz is a stab in the back of the Palestinian people and what they have sacrificed. It is a betrayal of the blood of the martyrs,” said Hamas spokesperson Abd al-Latif al-Qanou in a statement.

Gantz and Abbas met in Ramallah on Sunday night, in the first such meeting between the sides in over a decade. The last meeting of a similar stature took place between former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Abbas in Jerusalem in September 2010. **More -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-islamic-jihad-condemn-abbas-for-reprehensible-meeting-with-gantz/>

**Turkey poised to recognize Taliban as Afghanistan's govt, expected to sign deal to operate Kabul airport after US exit - reports**

*29 Aug, 2021 18:27* NATO member Turkey is reportedly nearing a deal to recognize Afghanistan’s Taliban government and operate the Kabul airport in partnership with Qatar, paving the way for the Islamist group to attract foreign aid and investment.   
 The agreement is awaiting approval by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and will be finalized once Washington’s exit is completed, the [Middle East Eye](https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/afghanistan-turkey-taliban-close-deal-kabul-airport) (MEE) reported on Saturday, citing two unidentified people familiar with the negotiations.   
 US President Joe Biden has stuck to his plan to complete the withdrawal by August 31, ending the 20-year war, despite a chaotic evacuation process that has been marred by civilian deaths and a terrorist attack that killed nearly 200 people.  
 One apparent sticking point in Ankara’s talks with the Taliban has been the issue of who will provide airport security. *“How can we give the security to you (the Taliban)?”* Erdogan [told reporters](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/29/erdogan-turkey-diplomatic-embassy-kabul-afghanistan) on Saturday.  
 ***How would we explain it to the world if you took over security and there is another bloodbath there? This is not an easy job.***  
 The MEE report indicated that Turkey would provide security through a private contractor, manned by former Turkish soldiers and police. And Turkish special forces would operate in plainclothes to protect the country’s citizens within the airport’s perimeter.  
 In return, the Taliban would be recognized by Ankara as Afghanistan’s legitimate government.  
 EXCLUSIVE: Turkey and Taliban close to deal on Kabul airportThe terms needed approval by Erdogan• Recognition of Taliban • Qatar, Turkey to run the airport• Turkish private security firm • Special forces to protect Turks With [@leventkemaI](https://twitter.com/leventkemaI?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)<https://t.co/Q91DFAiap5>  
 — Ragıp Soylu (@ragipsoylu) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/ragipsoylu/status/1431590512302202881?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 The Taliban will reportedly need to reach a separate agreement with a group based in the United Arab Emirates that was awarded a contract last year by the Western-backed Afghan government to operate the airport. Turkey has provided security for the Kabul airport’s military section for the past several years and was negotiating a deal with the US to continue that work earlier that summer, before the Taliban overran Afghan security forces and recaptured control of the country even before Washington could complete its withdrawal, MEE said.  
 While other NATO members are withdrawing their diplomatic missions in Afghanistan, Turkey plans to maintain its presence to protect Ankara’s trade and political interests in the country. In fact, Erdogan said the Turkish embassy had been moved back into its building in Kabul after operating from the airport for the past two weeks amid the tumult surrounding the Taliban takeover.  
 Turkey’s core diplomatic staff, including its ambassador to Afghanistan, has remained in the country. *“Our plan is to maintain our diplomatic presence in this way,”* Erdogan said on Saturday, according to broadcaster NTV. *“We are continuously updating our plans according to developments regarding the security situation.”*  
 Erdogan agreed in a telephone call earlier this month with Russian President Vladimir Putin to strengthen coordination between Ankara and Moscow on Afghanistan issues to help foster stability in the country. The two leaders also agreed to *“coordinate the relationship to be developed with the government to be established in Afghanistan,”* according to Erdogan’s office.  
 Stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan could help prevent a massive influx of refugees in Turkey, which took in nearly four million people displaced by the Syrian civil war. Recognition from Turkey would provide the Taliban greater legitimacy in the international community, as well as a potential intermediary to the West.

<https://www.rt.com/news/533400-turkey-nears-taliban-recognition-deal/> [No surprise here. Birds of a feather flock together -rdb

**China combs through online content that ‘bad-mouths’ its economy**

*29 Aug, 2021 10:54* Beijing has launched a two-month campaign to probe commercial platforms and social media accounts that post economic information, in an attempt to cleanse the media of content that criticizes China’s economic policies.   
 The National Cyberspace Administration of China on Friday launched a “[*special rectification*](https://www.voachinese.com/a/china-cracks-down-on-harmful-financial-news-20210828/6076166.html)” action targeting illegal procurement and misinterpretation of financial information. The agency called on social media platforms to carry out checks to cleanse finance-related content that *“violates China’s regulations.*”  
 China’s major regulatory agencies will supervise and guide the moves, focusing on eight types of violations. These include “*bad-mouthing*” China’s financial markets and “*misinterpreting*” domestic economic policies, spreading finance-related rumors and “*hyping negative information to threaten, intimidate, blackmail relevant stakeholders and seek illegal benefits*.” Those who repost foreign media articles or commentaries that are deemed to falsely interpret China’s financial policy “*without taking a stance or making a judgment*” will also be considered violators under the regulation.  
 China’s cyberspace regulator claims the outlined violations “*disturb the normal market order*” in the country, stating that the rectification action will “*effectively calm the chaos of financial information on the Internet and create a good online public opinion environment for the healthy development of the economy and society*.”  
 China’s internet giants – including Tencent and ByteDance, which operate social media platforms such as WeChat, Douyin (the Chinese version of TikTok), Weibo, Toutiao, and Kuaishou – responded to the news instantly. They issued [statements](https://news.stcn.com/sd/202108/t20210829_3622420.html) on Saturday promising to abide by the new regulations and carry out sweeping checks of financial content in accordance with the requirements of the cyberspace administration.  
 The action is to last through October 26, by which time all media platforms are to provide authorities with the results of their checks. If they fail to remove information deemed in violation of the regulations by that time, the platforms risk being shut down. <https://www.rt.com/business/533373-china-cleanse-media-platforsm-economy-bad-mouth/>

**Commentary:**

**The Roots of America’s Defeat**

08/27/2021 Carolin Glick

Even before the suicide bombings outside the Kabul airport on Thursday evening, the U.S. media was acting with rare unanimity. For the first time in memory, U.S. media organs across the ideological and political spectrum have been united in the view that President Joe Biden fomented a strategic disaster for the U.S. and its allies with his incompetent leadership of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. Some compare it to the 1961 Bay of Pigs; others to Saigon in 1975; others to the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979. Whatever the analogy, the bottom line is the same: Biden’s surrender to the Taliban has already entered the pantheon of American post-war defeats.  
 Biden is personally responsible for the humanitarian and strategic disaster unfolding before our eyes. He is the only American leader in history who has willfully abandoned Americans and American allies to their fate behind enemy lines. But while Biden is solely responsible for the decision to leave Afghanistan in the manner it is, it isn’t Biden’s fault that after twenty years of war, the Taliban was still around, stronger than it was on September 11, 2001, and fully capable of seizing control of the country. The foundations of that failure were laid in the days, weeks and months that followed the September 11 attacks.  
 In the aftermath of September 11, then president George W. Bush and his national security team put together the guiding assumptions for what came to be known as the global war on terror. In the years since then, some of the assumptions were updated, adapted or replaced as conditions on the ground evolved. But three of the assumptions that stood at the foundation of America’s military, intelligence and diplomatic planning and operations since then were not revisited, save for the final two years of the Trump administration. All three contributed significantly to America’s defeat in Afghanistan and its failure to win the war against global terror as a whole. The first assumption related to Pakistan, the second to Iran, and the third to Israel.  
 By rights, Pakistan should have been the first domino to fall after the September 11 attacks. The Taliban were the brainchild of Pakistan’s jihad-addled ISI intelligence agency. Al Qaeda operatives also received ISI support. But aside from a few threats and temporary sanctions around the time of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001, the U.S. took no significant actions against Pakistan. The reason for America’s inaction is easy to understand.  
 In 1998 Pakistan tested nuclear weapons. By September 11, 2001, Pakistan fielded a significant nuclear arsenal. Following the attacks, Pakistan made clear its view of nuclear war, and the connection between its position and its sponsorship of terror.  
 In October and December 2001, Kashmiri terrorists sponsored by Pakistan attacked the Jammu and Kashmir parliament and the Indian parliament. When India accused Pakistan of responsibility and threatened reprisals, then Pakistani president Pervez Musharraf placed the Pakistani military on alert. India began deploying troops to the border and Pakistan followed suit.  
 Rather than side with India, the U.S. pressured Delhi to stand down, which it did in April 2002. In June 2002, Pakistani-backed terrorists carried out suicide bombings against the wives and children of Indian soldiers. The countdown to war began again. In June 2002, again bowing to U.S. pressure, India pledged it would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the conflict. Musharraf refused to follow suit.  
 Rather than rally behind India, the Bush administration wrested an empty promise from Musharraf that he would stop sponsoring terrorism and then pressured India to stand down again.  
 The U.S. message was clear. By credibly threatening to use its nuclear weapons, Pakistan deterred the Americans. Less than six months later, North Korea expelled UN inspectors from its nuclear reactor at Yangbyon and cancelled its signature on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Iran escalated its covert nuclear activities at Isfahan and Natanz.  
 The U.S.’s decision to dodge a confrontation with Pakistan following the Sept. 11 attacks empowered the ISI to rebuild the Taliban and al Qaeda after the U.S. decimated both in its initial offensive. Taliban leaders decamped to Pakistan where they rebuilt their forces and waged a war of attrition against U.S., NATO forces and the Afghan army and government they built. Osama bin Laden was living in what amounted to a Pakistani military base when he was killed by U.S. commandos. That war ended with Biden’s surrender and the Taliban’s recapture of Kabul this month.  
 This brings us to Iran. In their post-Sept. 11 deliberations, Bush and his advisors decided not to confront Iran, but instead seek to reach an accommodation with the mullacracy. This wasn’t a new policy. Since the Reagan administration, the dominant view in Washington has been that it is possible to reach an accord with the Iranian regime that would restore the strategic alliance Washington and Tehran shared before the 1979 Islamic revolution. Bush and his advisors were not moved to reassess that view when they learned that Iran provided material support to the September 11 hijackers. They didn’t reconsider their assumption after al Qaeda’s leadership decamped to Tehran when the Taliban were routed in Afghanistan. They didn’t reconsider it when Iran served as the headquarters and the arms depot for al Qaeda in Iraq or the Shiite militias in their war against U.S. and Coalition forces in Iraq.  
 Barack Obama embraced and escalated Bush’s assumption on Iran. Instead of confronting Tehran, he tried to realign the U.S. Middle East alliance system towards Iran and away from America’s Arab allies and Israel. He effectively handed Iran control over Iraq when he withdrew U.S. forces. He paved Iran’s path to a nuclear arsenal with the 2015 nuclear deal.  
 After a prolonged fight with the Washington establishment and its representatives in his cabinet who embraced Bush’s assumptions, in his last two years in office, Donald Trump partially abandoned the strategic assumption that Iran could and should be appeased. Biden for his part, is committed to reinstating and escalating Obama’s policies towards Iran.  
 As for Israel, in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, then secretary of state Colin Powell convinced Bush to adopt two related assumptions on Israel. First, he determined that terror against Israel was different – and more acceptable – than terror against everyone else. And second, Bush determined that the war against terror would be directed at terror groups but not at governments that sponsor terrorism, (except Iraq). As former Bush administration official David Wurmser, who was involved in the post-Sept. 11 deliberations recalled recently, Powell argued that terror threatens the Arabs no less than it threatens America. This being the case, the trick to winning them over to the U.S. side was to give them a payoff that would make it worth their while.  
 Israel was the payoff. The U.S. would be able to bring Syria on board by getting Israel to give the Golan Heights to the Assad regime. Washington would bring in the Saudis and the rest of the Sunnis by forcing Israel to give Judea, Samaria, Gaza and Jerusalem to the PLO.  
 Ahead of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, then Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon tried to unravel Washington’s guiding assumption about Iran. He told Bush and his advisors that Iraq hadn’t posed a strategic threat to Israel or anyone else in the region since the 1991 Gulf War. If the U.S. wanted to defeat global terror, Sharon explained, the U.S. should act against Iran. The administration ignored him.  
 As for the administration’s assumptions about Israel, a week after the attacks, Bush deliberately left the terror against Israel out of the terror that the U.S. would fight in the war against terror when he told the joint houses of Congress that the war would be directed against terror groups “with global reach.”  
 Recognizing where the Americans were headed, in October 2001, Sharon gave what became known as his “Czechoslovakia speech.”  
 Following a deadly terror attack in Gaza, Sharon said, “I call on the Western democracies, and primarily the leader of the free world, the United States: Do not repeat the dreadful mistake of 1938, when enlightened European democracies decided to sacrifice Czechoslovakia for ‘a convenient temporary solution.’  
 “Do not try to appease the Arabs at our expense – this is unacceptable to us. Israel will not be Czechoslovakia. Israel will fight terrorism. There is no ‘good terrorism’ and ‘bad terrorism,’ as there is no ‘good murder’ and ‘bad murder.’”  
 The administration’s response to Sharon’s statement was swift and furious. Sharon was harshly rebuked by Powell and the White House and he beat a swift retreat.  
 A month later, Powell became the first senior U.S. official to officially endorse the establishment of a Palestinian state.  
 Sharon’s failure to convince the Americans to rethink their false assumptions owed to his incomprehension, and fear of Washington. Benjamin Netanyahu, in contrast had an intimate familiarity with the ways of Washington. As a result, his efforts to convince the Americans to reconsider their assumptions about Iran and Israel met with significant success. Netanyahu’s first success in relation to Iran came through the Arabs.  
 Netanyahu recognized that the Arab Gulf states were as threatened by Iran – and by Obama’s efforts to appease Iran – as Israel was. So he reached out to them. Convinced by Netanyahu, Saudi Arabia led the Arab Gulf states and Egypt in embracing Israel as their ally in their existential struggle against Iran. Confronting Iran, the Saudis explained, was far more important to the Arabs than helping the Palestinians.  
 Israeli-Arab unity on Iran stymied Obama’s efforts to win Congressional approval for his nuclear deal. It also stood at the foundation of Trumps’ decision to abandon Obama’s deal.  
 Netanyahu used his operational alliance with the Arabs as well in his effort to undo the U.S.’s false assumptions about Israel, particularly in regard to the Palestinians. He also used public diplomacy geared towards influencing Israel’s Congressional supporters and public opinion. Netanyahu’s efforts derailed Obama’s plan to dictate the terms of a “peace” settlement to Israel. Under Trump, Netanyahu’s efforts influenced Trump’s decision to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and convinced Trump to support Israeli sovereignty over parts of Judea and Samaria.  
 Distressingly, Netanyahu’s successes are being swiftly undone by the Biden administration and the Bennett-Lapid government.   
 There is a growing sense that Biden’s catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan is setting the world back twenty years. But the truth is even more dire. In 2001, the U.S. was far more powerful relative to its enemies than it is today. And as has been the case for the past twenty years, the situation will only start moving in the right direction if and when America finally abandons the false assumptions it adopted twenty years ago.

[Originally published in Israel Hayom.](https://www.israelhayom.com/2021/08/27/the-roots-of-americas-defeat/)

<https://carolineglick.com/the-roots-of-americas-defeat/>

**Does Biden Want to Destroy America?  
/**[*Terry Paulson*](https://townhall.com/columnists/terrypaulson/) *Posted: Aug 29, 2021 12:01 AM* President Biden said he would bring America back. No, the Taliban is back. In little more than seven months, he seems to be doing everything he can to bring America down.  
 A guest on Dan Bongino’s radio show asked a question that demands an answer—If Biden wanted to destroy this country, would he do anything differently than what he has been doing? By looking at some of his policies and decisions in his first seven months, it could be argued that President Biden and his administration seem committed to destroying America as a beacon of freedom, law and order, and opportunity! The list of evidence keeps growing:  
 **If you want to destroy America, open our Southern border to all who want to come in.**Instead of continuing the work of his predecessor to secure our Southern border, Biden has opened America to unprecedented numbers of illegal aliens, M13 gang members, drug dealers, and potential terrorists from around the world. Even illegal immigrants with COVID have been welcomed and transported to states throughout the country at American taxpayer expense. Thankfully, a U.S. Supreme Court ruling has revived Trump’s “Stay in Mexico” policy, but implementation requires Mexico’s cooperation and that’s far from sure.  
 **If you want to destroy America, do everything you can to end our energy independence.**While giving his stamp of approval to Russia’s oil pipeline to Europe,President Biden has sabotaged President Trump’s progress in securing energy independence, He has halted construction on the Keystone XL Pipeline, closed drilling on federal lands, and is working to revive our support for the Paris Climate Accord that promises to dampen our country’s economic growth for years to come. He has called for electric cars without adequate plans to establish charging stations that can sustain the mass use of such vehicles.  
 **If you want to destroy America, stoke the fires of racial hatred in an already divided country.**President Biden has legitimized and supported the teaching of critical race theory and white privilege. Instead of unifying our country, he’s fueling a new racism that sees every white citizen as a privileged racist. We need another Martin Luther King Jr., not a Black Lives Matter movement that feeds racial hatred, demands reparations, encourages racial segregation, and fuels racial mistrust. The progress America has made in civil rights is in danger of being reversed while fracturing our country across racial lines.  
 **If you want to destroy America, allow crime on the streets to go unpunished.**President Biden and his Democratic colleagues continue to rail about Trump’s supposed January 6th‘insurrection” even when the FBI has found no evidence supporting such allegations of a planned breach. At the same time, he remains silent about the real “insurrection” on the streets of many of our major cities. Democratic district attorneys are failing to prosecute low level looting, destructive rioting, and even arson. When you do not hold criminals responsible and set them free, crime is rewarded. Even worse, President Biden wants to take guns away from responsible citizens while not protecting citizens from crime on the streets.  
 **If you want to destroy America, keep calling for lockdowns and strict mask guidelines.**Under the guise of protecting Americans from COVID-19, President Biden has defended economic lockdowns, unproven mask requirements, and restrictive requirements that have closed many small businesses forever and cost Americans jobs. What’s worse is some Democratic leaders don’t even consistently follow the very requirements they institute. Such hypocrisy undermines respect for leaders and the laws they create.  
 **If you want to destroy America, allow congress to pass reckless deficit spending creating government dependence and rampant Inflation.** President Biden is supporting drastic increases in government spending. Inflation rate has already increased to 5%, hitting the citizens who are already struggling to make ends meet. No wonder they are demanding more support from government and limits on evictions. There are jobs available, but the costs for housing, food, and gas for their cars is going up beyond what they can afford with the jobs available. Biden is doing all he can to make socialism appear the only answer possible.  
 **If you want to destroy America, establish the federal control of elections.**At a time trust in our elections is at an all-time low, President Biden has fully supported the federal takeover of our elections from the states. Biden’s supported “reforms” literally outlaw states from requiring verification of citizenship. By expanding the times and ways you can vote without increasing necessary controls will just ensure further opportunities for cheating and creating more distrust in our elections.   
 **If you want to destroy America, project military weakness and failed leadership in times of crisis.**President Biden’s poorly planned military withdrawal from Afghanistan has resulted in unnecessary deaths of our soldiers, citizens, and Afghan allies. By going it alone, he earned the criticism and condemnation of some of our best allies. By failing to expedite withdrawals before initiating the military departure, many have been left stranded at the mercy of Taliban rule. His failure to get critical military systems and equipment out has equipped potential enemies. The strengthened Taliban rule has once again provided a haven for and emboldened terrorists eager to attack America. The death of 13 American soldiers by two ISIS suicide bombers is but a foretaste of terrorist attacks to come.  
 In short, those of you who voted for President Biden, this is all on you. Yes, you may not have liked President Trump’s brash attacks and egotistical tweets. But by voting for Joe Biden, you took down a President who projected no-nonsense strength and resolve in making America strong. He unleashed the economy to record levels curtailed only by the pandemic. He was quick to free big pharma to produce vaccines to counter the COVID threat. Instead of begging for oil, he created energy independence. He lowered taxes on all Americans and small businesses. You traded an amazing future for weak leadership, uncertainty, and growing chaos for our country and our world. New elections cannot come soon enough to stop the downward American spiral Biden’s presidency has unleashed.

*Terry Paulson is  PhD psychologist, author, and professional speaker on Earned Optimism, Making Change Work, Claiming Your American Dream,*and*Becoming a Conservative Values Voter. Contact him to speak before your group at*

<https://townhall.com/columnists/terrypaulson/2021/08/29/does-biden-want-to-destroy-america-n2594926>

**Texas is Taking the Bull by the Longhorns (Somewhat)***By* [*Sidney Secular*](https://newswithviews.com/author/sidney/)*|August 29th, 2021* Tired of taking bull from the FedGov, Texas is doing what the FedGov is tasked to do but won’t. Texas is beginning to arrest migrants on trespassing charges near the US-Mexico border. Governor Greg Abbott says action is needed to slow the mind-numbing number of illegal border crossings. Abbott also said that Texas would continue building the border wall Trump started to build. Abbott has called on other governors to deploy law enforcement personnel and National Guard members along the entire border. The detainees are being held at what had been an empty state prison In Dudley, TX that can house about 1,000. All arrested so far have been single men. Apparently, family units will not be detained.  
 However, the largest Texas counties along the border, where the crossings are highest, are not cooperating in the enforcement effort. Those arrested will be charged with state crimes and will serve jail time. The amount of time spent in jail will be minimal and it was not announced what will be done with the detainees when they are released. What we need is more than just a runt of a political stunt but the value of the State’s efforts may well be cancelled out by Biden’s Washington and their love for illegals to add to their voter base.  
 THIS IS IT. If you’ve read the Bible or haven’t rejected it out of hand, it is not hard to see that what it calls “The Great Tribulation” or something akin to it, has begun to befall all of us, especially with the Covidiocy. I won’t turn this into a theological diatribe, which believers tend to get into easily, thereby turning some people off. I would just suggest you read The Book of Revelation to see how eerily its predictions seem to be coming to pass. Many Americans would like to go back to pre-COVID days and pretend or hope that things are returning to normal. However, it will be at best an abnormal normal with much lingering unemployment, evictions of tenants and or bankruptcy of small landlords, some chronic supply shortages, lingering lunacy involving some residual COVID nonsense such as masking, socialist distancing and lockdowns, paranoia among the ignorant owing to the depressing duplicity of the politicos, confrontations between the woke and the awake, sky-high prices, and the looming threat of the return to full-fledged Covidiocy to sharply remind us we’re far from being out of the woods!  
 The voting tragedy and travesties of the 2020 elections must be completely turned around through very forceful and persistent action if we are to have any hopes of restoring the Historic American Nation as a viable entity. There are those still insulated from the nefarious things that take place around the world daily and the Pollyannas would rather not be perturbed and disturbed by being forced to have to think of or confront such things. They favor the palaver and poop meted out by the mainstream media via their “communications devices” and the Jewspapers assuring them they are in the good hands of the govmint at all levels who are looking out for *their* interests (*no kidding!)*.  
 Alternative news and views from “extremists” who are, by definition whites and those who do not agree with them, will have a hard time penetrating the new “techno-curtain” communists erect around them to prevent them hearing from contrary news and viewpoints. We’re all being slowly boiled to death like the proverbial frogs or slowly smothered with a miasma/smog of lies that seems somehow to be in sync with suddenly increasing incidence of eye cataracts in the population. Maybe, like the fellow in The Matrix who wants to swallow the blue pill, we just don’t want to “see” what’s happening! The mockingbird media, internet search engines, social media sites, and mainstream media video sites are working feverishly to drive home the official New World Order program for global governance. History and truth are being snubbed and scrubbed away as emphasized in the book, “1984”. The media operate on the premise that a lie told often enough soon becomes the truth and reality in the minds of most, especially if they are unaware or reject alternative explanations or ideas. Meanwhile those who tell the truth are avoided, shunned, or “canceled” or otherwise live in a state of suspense.  
 If you’re in a position where your truth telling will influence too many people, you may be putting your life on the line.  But one cannot cower to those in power and be a free human, let alone a normal American. You need to be able to express yourself to have human “dignity’ as they call it. If you let them get to you beyond a certain point, you are a goner.  A simple bumper sticker, “RESIST” expresses the needed spirit–you needn’t say what’s being resisted. Over 60% of Americans have taken the jab, and the pressure and jabber for the jab will become overbearing or very intense if they implement another full blown lockdown. Indeed, there is already speculation that FEMA camps will be set up for “non-vaxxers” if the government’s grip on us isn’t broken.  
 It should be obvious by now to even to even a half-wit who still has his faculties functioning, that this COVID crapola is the clearly the biggest scam in all of recorded history. The hyped hypotheses are coming at us like attacks of pixels from the pixilated. Some say the jabbed are condemned to die soon, some say sooner or later, some say very much later as it will affect the DNA of our descendants. It’s now been said we’re catching diseases from the jabbed, so there’s no escaping that the paranoia is spreading quicker than any epidemic.  It’s said the so-called vaccines only ameliorate the symptoms of the disease–so why take a chance on them? Just go to bed and take chicken soup or whatever one usually does when one gets the flu or a bad cold! Is a disease with a 99.5% survival rate – if it exists at *all! –* worth taking an admitted poison? We’re already accustomed now to go to work in our pajamas, so its no big deal. Scores of new side effects from the jabs are noted almost daily. The number of deaths from the jabs in the US is 50,000 give or take several thousands as of this writing – its hard to keep score as the reports all differ from one another and no one in charge is telling the truth anyway!  
 The unreported cases are likely as much or more than the reported ones also. Blood clots and resultant strokes seem to be a major side effect along with heart issues. Strokes were already the third leading cause of death in the US before the virus “attacked” us, so those already prone to get them will likely get them easier now. None of the 4 alleged “vaccines”\* being used went through the full testing process and are literally “experimental”–so if you get jabbed you are the equivalent of a lab rat or guinea pig. Where animal test subjects were used, they all died These potions – not vaccines – are officially “for emergency use only”. As you may know, so-called emergencies can turn into events lasting generations! The declaration of an emergency that was issued as a result of our entering the Korean War is still in effect!  All 4 of the said vaccines have about 15 ingredients in them – no one really knows how many. Formaldehyde, used to embalm bodies is certainly one of them. Tissues from aborted babies is another.\*\*  
 There are hundreds of videos extant that show magnets sticking to the injection locations and radiation also emanating from these spots, all of which sounds very scary. Why do we have propaganda pushing for the jabs even for kids and babies when their infection rates are almost nil? The recovery rate for adults is over 99%, making a mockery of use of the term “pandemic”.  The ruling junta is getting so desperate to jab everyone, there is talk they will be sending out medical “brown shirts” to twist your arm to get it jabbed. The first areas to for these visitations will be those that have low vaccinations rates–the more rural, conservative and especially western states that are the most resistant to The Great Reset. Lone holdouts in the libber strongholds could also be quarantined in their homes making them increasingly the subject of social opprobrium they probably already are for being conservative or “different”. If you decide to be jabbed based on the visit, the jabbers will be equipped to jab you on the spot before you have a chance to change your mind.  
 [\*Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca]  
 [\*\* Aluminum, mercury thimerosal, aborted fetal tissue, human albumin, antifreeze (ethylene glycol), phenoxyethanol, phenol, methanol, Borax (sodium tetraborate decahydrate), glutaraldehyde, monosodium glutamate (MSG), sulfate and phosphate compounds, ammonium sulfate, gentamicin sulfate – and more. . .]  
 In the UK, France, and other areas of Europe, resistance to the jabs and lockdowns in the form of demonstrations is increasing and reaching significant levels. Canada is completely lost to global communism as is Australia and New Zealand and the USA is not far behind. Recently, the presidents of 3 countries (Burundi, Tanzania, and Haiti) that had refused the jab for their citizens suddenly died “unexpectedly” due to suddenly arising medical conditions (“side effects” of not taking the jab) or outright assassination in the case of Haiti. The new leaders of these countries are now “fast tracking” vaccination programs for their countries. Doctors everywhere who have warned of the dangers of the vaccines have wound up unemployed or dead. All the jab advocates are also life-long depopulation advocates. The devil is loose. The deception is thick. Do not be afraid to share this article and what you know about the Covidiocy with others. Be strong, bold, and courageous. Speak truth to power. If you are of a religious bent, “know that” all the cowards who refuse to speak the truth will be thrown into the “lake of fire”. <https://newswithviews.com/texas-is-taking-the-bull-by-the-longhorns-somewhat/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Gantz: Iran threatens the entire world**

***Defense Minister calls for international mobilization against Iran and its nuclear ambitions.***

*Ben Ariel , Aug 30 , 2021 12:02 AM*



Benny Gantz at memorial for Roni Daniel Ariel Hermoni/Ministry of Defense

Defense Minister Benny Gantz spoke on Sunday evening at an event in memory of journalist [Roni Daniel](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/310590), which took place 30 days after his death at the Givatayim Theater.

He began his remarks with comments on [the meeting](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312564) between Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and US President Joe Biden and the Iranian issue.

"Presumably, if he had been here today, Roni would have been pleased with President Biden's statement that Iran will never acquire nuclear weapons, and that if diplomatic moves fail, they will turn to other channels. A very important statement that sends a clear message, and reminds us that Iran is not an Israeli problem but first and foremost a threat to the Middle East and the entire world," said Gantz.

"In this context, it is very important that the whole world be mobilized for the mission before it is too late, because the great danger is that a nuclear Iran will not only threaten Israel and increase its aggression in the region - but will also lead to a regional arms race that endangers many countries and may in the future also put advanced weapons in unstable, irresponsible hands and in regimes controlled by terrorists," Gantz added.

On the discourse surrounding the permanent service of IDF soldiers, the Defense Minister said, "On days like this, without of course going into the issues themselves, I think about what Roni would say on Friday night about the style of some of the critics. Roni once said: 'An IDF servicemember is one who is told today to move to Be'er Sheva. When they want to strengthen the south with more doctors, they compensate the doctor who moves with half a million shekels. When a person who is serving in the army moves, they tell him otherwise.' That's how he so well understood the reality that is not seen in the Excel charts."

"Even if there are disagreements, we must manage them matter-of-factly, while respecting the value of the service, as well as for all of Israeli society," Gantz concluded. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312661>

**MK Dichter: I will run against Netanyahu for Likud leadership**

***MK Avi Dichter is the first to declare his intention to run against Netanyahu even before he steps down from politics.***

*Hezki Baruch , Aug 30 , 2021 2:08 AM*

Former Shin Bet chief MK Avi Dichter announced on Sunday that he will run against Benjamin Netanyahu for the Likud leadership as soon as primaries are announced in the party.

"When there are primaries, I will run for the Likud leadership – even against Netanyahu," Dichter said in an interview on *Reshet Bet* radio.

On US President Joe Biden's statement regarding the Iranian nuclear issue following his meeting with Prime Minister Bennett, Dichter said that "Israel must not be a guinea pig. There is no reason for Israel to be coordinated with the United States - surprises are part of the game."

A poll conducted about two weeks ago for *Channel 12 News* asked the public whether in its opinion the Netanyahu era as head of the Likud party was over. 56% of respondents answered no and 34% answered yes.

Among right-wing voters, Netanyahu's status is stronger: 71% of respondents think his time as Likud leader is over and 22%, about one-fifth of right-wing voters, think that the Netanyahu era is over.

As for the question of who should replace Netanyahu once he is no longer leading the party, 31% answered Nir Barkat, 12% said Miri Regev, 9% said Avi Dichter, 6% said Yuli Edelstein, 5% replied Yisrael Katz and 3% answered Tzachi Hanegbi. A third of Likud voters does not have a preferred candidate yet.

If Nir Barkat heads the Likud, the party, according to the poll, will lose a quarter of its power - 8 seats. In this scenario, the Likud will drop to 24 seats, Yesh Atid will have 20 seats, Blue and White and the Religious Zionist party will each win 10 seats and Shas will win 9 seats. Labor will receive 8 seats, Yisrael Beytenu and United Torah Judaism will each win 7 seats, and Yamina headed by Prime Minister Bennett will win 6 seats. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312663>

**Border Police officer wounded in Gaza riots passes away**

***Police announce Barel Hadarya Shmueli has succumbed to his wounds inflicted in riots on Gaza border over a* *week ago.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Aug 30 , 2021 3:22 PM*



Barel Hadarya Shmueli Israel Police

Sergeant Barel Hadarya Shmueli, the Border Policer officer who was critically wounded in violent riots on the Gaza border over a week ago, passed away from his wounds, the Border Police announced Monday afternoon.

Shmueli was [shot at close range](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312158) on the night of Saturday, August 21, during a Hamas-instigated riot at the Gaza border fence.

Barel enlisted in the Border Police and underwent training as a solditer in March 2019. Following his training, he completed a course to join the Border Police's undercover Arab unit, after which he became part of the Border Police Southern District's unit (Yamas).

During his service in the unit, Barel completed a snipers course, and served as a Yamas sniper. He took part in dozens of operations to foil terror activity and fight serious crime in southern Israel.

Following the shot to his head, Barel was evacuated via helicopter to Be'er Sheva's Soroka Medical Center, where he was admitted to the trauma unit and underwent an emergency operation. Doctors fought for over a week to save his life, but his condition deteriorated over the week and he succumbed to his injuries on Monday. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312699>

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**08/29/2021 NEWS AM**

**סבא קדישא - Shwekey & Lipa**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6CDlzDSHzM>

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| **The Saba Kadisha**  **Rabbi Zusha**  **Said every night**  **Himself very thoughtful**  **With type accounts**  **Pretty memoir**  **Himself over clarified**  **His eyes widened**  **I will be honest**  **Everything already fixed**  **I beg the Creator**  **We replied**  **I have already told you**  **The same words yesterday**  **Now I think so**  **I tell you to** | **I promise you**  **The Saba Kadisha**  **The Rebbe Reb Zisha**  **Used to say, Each and every day**  **Oh! Father in heaven**  **I beg you please listen**  **Complete answer - we returned**  **I wanna be honest**  **our father and our king**  **With a complete answer we returned**  **I know you hear me every day**  **Now and forever**  **Now I truly mean it** | **I want to be ... honest**  **And we returned**  **In complete answer**  **In front of you**  **Dad will hear my request**  **Bring me back to you**  **In complete answer**  **In front of you**  **father**  **I want to be honest** |

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| **"Can anybody point me to that one time in history where the side that was demanding censorship, segregation, propaganda, radical education, papers to move freely in society, plus government forces going door to door to demand compliance were the good guys?" -- Candace Owens (born April 29, 1989) American conservative author, talk show host, political commentator, and activist** |

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for 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 38:15-When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a harlot; for she had covered her face. 16And he turned unto her by the way, and said: 'Come, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee'; for he knew not that she was his daughter-in-law. And she said: 'What wilt thou give me, that thou mayest come in unto me?' 17And he said: 'I will send thee a kid of the goats from the flock.' And she said: 'Wilt thou give me a pledge, till thou send it?'**

**IDF strikes Gaza after violent border riots, airborne arson attack**

***Hamas-run Health Ministry says 11 Palestinians wounded in renewed clashes; 2 fires sparked in southern Israel by balloon-borne incendiary devices from enclave***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:00 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/000_9LU3AC.jpg)

Palestinian protesters burn tyres following a demonstration along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel east of Gaza City on August 28, 2021. (Photo by MAHMUD HAMS / AFP)

The Israel Defense Forces launched airstrikes in the Gaza Strip late Saturday night in retaliation for airborne arson attacks from the coastal enclave and renewed riots along the border.

The raids on Hamas targets south of Gaza City came hours after two fires were sparked in southern Israel by balloon-borne incendiary devices launched from the Gaza Strip. Hours later, Palestinians resumed clashes with Israeli forces along the Gaza border, as Hamas threatened to step up the cross-border arson attacks from Sunday.

The military said the airstrikes targeted a Hamas military compound used for training and weapon production, and the opening of a “terror tunnel.”

“The IDF will continue to respond forcefully against Hamas’s terror attempts,” the army said, underlining that its raids were in response to both the fires and border violence.

The Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza on Saturday night said 11 Palestinians were wounded in the border clashes with Israeli troops. According to the ministry, three of those wounded were hit by live fire and are in moderate condition. The other eight are said to have been lightly hurt from rubber bullets or shock grenades. It was not immediately clear if the Israeli airstrikes on Saturday night caused injury or damage. **More -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-strikes-gaza-after-violent-border-riots-airborne-arson-attack/>

**'Night Harassment Units' rioting on Gaza border**

***Gazan 'Night Harassment Units' began rioting on the border east of Gaza City starting at about 8 p.m. Saturday evening, after issuing a warning earlier in the day.***

*By* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff) *AUGUST 28, 2021 22:51*



Relatives mourn during the funrul of 12 years old Omar Hassan Abu al-Nil, who died of his wounds he sustained during a protest on the Israel-Gaza border last week, in Gaza City, August 28, 2021.

(photo credit: ATIA MOHAMMED/FLASH90)

Palestinian media reported at about 8 PM Saturday that Gazan "Night Harassment Units" gathering on its border with Israel at a point on the fence east of Gaza city, according to Israeli and Palestinian media.  
 Hundreds of rioters gathered at the border, burned tires and threw explosives. IDF forces deployed and in the area responded with riot control munitions and Ruger riot-control sniper rifles, according to the IDF Spokesperson Unit.  
 The troops were reinforced by special forces and tank units, it added.

مشاركة لثائر في فعاليات الارباك شرق مدينة [#غزة](https://twitter.com/hashtag/%D8%BA%D8%B2%D8%A9?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) رغم بتر ساقه سابقاً من قبل الاحتلال.  
تصوير: أيمن الهسي [pic.twitter.com/z8FAOcSioI](https://t.co/z8FAOcSioI)

— المركز الفلسطيني للإعلام (@PalinfoAr) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/PalinfoAr/status/1431681193519484937?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

At least eight Palestinians were wounded as of 9:20 p.m., some seriously, by IDF fire, according to Israeli and Palestinian sources.

جانب من انفجارات الإرباك الليلي شرق مدينة [#غزة](https://twitter.com/hashtag/%D8%BA%D8%B2%D8%A9?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/VM1QUn84mg](https://t.co/VM1QUn84mg)

— المركز الفلسطيني للإعلام (@PalinfoAr) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/PalinfoAr/status/1431674875765198852?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Earlier on Saturday, a 12-year-old boy who was present at the violent riots on the border last Saturday died due to wounds he sustained during the violence.

الاطفال يودعون شقيقهم الطفل عمر ابو النيل الذي ارتقى برصاص الاحتلال الإسرائيلي شرق غزة [pic.twitter.com/teRyyJt97q](https://t.co/teRyyJt97q)

— غزة الآن - Gaza Now #عاجل (@GazaNownews) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/GazaNownews/status/1431577944615493634?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

תיעוד: אנשי יחידות ההטרדה הלילית בדרך לגדר רצועת עזה[@AlonAmitzi](https://twitter.com/AlonAmitzi?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/NTD41BE0nd](https://t.co/NTD41BE0nd)

— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/kann_news/status/1431667203590471687?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

"The period of calm [Israel] has experienced has passed, and it has to prepare for the sounds of our explosions. We will continue our popular movement until the complete lifting of the siege on the Gaza Strip," the night units warned in a statement earlier on Saturday.  
 The warning despite the [easing of some restrictions](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/israel-makes-addition-gaza-gestures-ahead-of-bennett-biden-meeting-677764) on the Gaza Strip that went into effect on Wednesday ahead of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and US President Joe Biden's meeting. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/night-harassment-units-gathering-on-gaza-border-report-677983>

**Heading home, Bennett says all goals ‘achieved and surpassed’ during US trip**

***Premier touts progress on Iran, visa waivers for Israelis; report says leaders agreed to disagree on settlement construction, Blinken opposes linking Gaza aid to return of captives***

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

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/Image-from-iOS-11-1-e1630218668756.jpg)

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett boards a plane at Joint Base Andrews just outside Washington on August 29, 2021. (Avi Ohayon/GPO)

WASHINGTON — Departing the US in the early hours of Sunday morning, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett touted his “warm” and “successful” [meeting](https://www.timesofisrael.com/at-first-meeting-biden-pledges-to-bennett-that-iran-will-never-get-nukes/) with President Joe Biden on Friday, saying all of his goals had been achieved during his trip.

“We’re about to take off from a successful visit to Washington — the peak of which was meeting Biden,” Bennett said in a statement shortly before leaving the US capital. “We had a particularly warm and helpful meeting. Biden and I have developed a direct and personal relationship built on trust.”

Bennett and Biden [met in the White House](https://www.timesofisrael.com/at-first-meeting-biden-pledges-to-bennett-that-iran-will-never-get-nukes/) on Friday, after the meeting was delayed by 24 hours due to the deadly [bombing](https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-kabul-blast-death-toll-rises-to-over-170-us-says-another-attack-likely/) at the Kabul airport on Thursday, which killed at least 169 Afghans and 13 US military personnel.

Following the two leaders’ 50-minute meeting, Biden reiterated the US “commitment to ensure Iran never develops a nuclear weapon… We’re putting diplomacy first and seeing where that takes us. But if diplomacy fails, we’re ready to turn to other options.”

Departing on Sunday, Bennett said that he had “achieved and surpassed all the goals we set for ourselves for the meeting. We agreed on joint strategic cooperation to halt Iran’s nuclear race.” **More -**<https://www.timesofisrael.com/heading-home-bennett-says-all-goals-achieved-and-surpassed-during-us-trip/>

**Opening Israeli schools will not cause serious COVID cases to spike – HU**

***The coronavirus reproduction rate is expected to fall to 0.85 by mid-September.***

*By* [*MAAYAN JAFFE-HOFFMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/maayan-jaffe-hoffman) *AUGUST 28, 2021 21:56*

With less than a week until the opening of Israel’s schools, parents and teachers received a positive forecast on Friday: The opening of the school year is unlikely to increase the pace of serious [COVID-19](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/coronavirus-in-israel-9891-new-cases-second-day-in-a-row-nearing-10k-677664) infections, as long as the rate of vaccination continues.  
 This is according to a team of researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem who have been advising the coronavirus cabinet and the government throughout the pandemic. They said that the third shot of the Pfizer vaccine and the recently instituted expanded Green Pass program are stopping serious infection in general.  
 The predictions mirrored statements made Saturday night by Health Ministry Director-General Prof. Nachman Ash, who said in an interview with N12’s Meet the Press that he also believes the school year should open on time and that the encouraging trends Israel is seeing will continue this week as well – a direct result of the booster campaign.  
 So far, 1.9 million Israelis have received a [third shot of the vaccine](https://www.jpost.com/international/cdc-unvaccinated-29-times-more-likely-to-be-hospitalized-with-covid-19-677693). The Health Ministry said its goal is to reach three million within the next two or three weeks. The ministry’s Advisory Committee for the Corona Vaccines will vote soon on expanding the third shot to everyone. Currently, the booster is available for people over the age of 30.  
 The Hebrew University researchers also expect that the rate of infection will begin to decrease alongside the serious cases.  
 On Saturday night, the Health Ministry said it diagnosed 8,482 people with the virus on Friday. Some 6.65% of people screened had a positive result.   
 The number of serious cases has started to stabilize in recent days, holding at 703 on Saturday night, including 153 who were ventilated.  
 Health Ministry officials have said they expect the number to start to decline even more, hitting around 500 serious patients in mid-September. However, the number of serious cases among unvaccinated people over the age of 60 will continue to be a challenge, the Hebrew University team said. According to their report, unvaccinated individuals over the age of 60 are five times more likely to develop a serious infection than vaccinated individuals. Additionally, because unvaccinated people are hospitalized longer than vaccinated ones, they are expected to soon become the majority of people being treated in the country’s hospitals.  
 They also said that the mortality rate is expected to stabilize and be dominated by unvaccinated people.  
 Nearly 7,000 Israelis have died from the virus.  
 The reproduction rate, or “R,” currently stands at 1.11 but is expected to drop to less than 1 within a week, Ash said, and substantially by mid-September to 0.85, according to the Hebrew University researchers. As such, even if infection slightly increases due to the opening of schools, the rate of daily cases will continue to decline.  
 There has also been a decrease in infection rates among young children, ages six to 11 – more good news before the start of the school year. Nonetheless, the Hebrew University researchers stressed that there will be obstacles to continuing with routine as thousands of people are expected to enter quarantine as a result of the opening of schools.  
 So far, there are around 120 “red areas” in Israel, in which students in grades 8-12 will be forced to learn online unless at least 70% of their classmates are vaccinated. Only 30% of students ages 12-15 are fully vaccinated, and 69% of those 16-19. The rates are especially low among the Arab population.  
 Recall that parents are also being asked to screen their children with home COVID tests before the start of the school year to help prevent infected children from entering their classrooms.  
 The coronavirus cabinet is expected to meet early this week to discuss pushing for stronger restrictions on gathering, reducing the number of people allowed to congregate in closed spaces to 400 and in open spaces to 500 in all circumstances.  
 Ash told N12 that additional restrictions could help the rate of infection continue to decline.  
<https://www.jpost.com/health-science/opening-israeli-schools-will-not-cause-an-increased-covid-crisis-hu-677891>

**Israel’s education system is a ‘ticking time bomb’**

***A new report has shown that 50% of Israel's students are getting a third-world education.***

*By* [*MAAYAN JAFFE-HOFFMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/maayan-jaffe-hoffman) *AUGUST 28, 2021 21:13*

 Some 50% of Israeli children from the country’s fastest-growing sectors are getting a [third-world education](https://www.jpost.com/opinion/israels-government-must-act-to-save-our-childrens-education-opinion-674987) that will not be able to support a first-world economy, without which there will be no first-world health, welfare and defense systems, according to a [new report](https://shoresh.institute/archive.php?src=jpmh&f=ShoreshHandbook2021-Educ-Eng.pdf) published by the Shoresh Institution for Socioeconomic Research.  
 “The absence of a first-world ability to defend itself in the world’s most violent region will jeopardize the State of Israel’s very existence,” Prof. Dan Ben-David, who authored the 2021 report, told *The Jerusalem Post*. “This is an existential threat.”  
 Israel has enjoyed one of the world’s highest fertility rates for quite some time. The most recent report shows that Israeli families have an average of 3.1 children – a minimum of an entire child more than any other OECD country.  
 Families in Mexico and Turkey have an average of 2.1 children. The rest of the countries in the list average between one and 1.9.  
 Students and parents protest outside the Municipality in Tzfat after their school was closed allegedly due to safety deficiencies. August 25, 2021. (credit: DAVID COHEN/FLASH 90)  
 However, those children are being born mostly into certain sectors: Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) and Arab Israeli students each make up more than one-fifth of Israel’s first graders today, about 43% in total.  
 Most haredi students do not even study the core curriculum. The average score of Arab Israelis in the basic subjects is far below the entire developed world.  
 The education provided to students in Israel’s social and geographical peripheries is often inadequate as well.  
  That’s about 50% of students, and it “turns the national education picture into a ticking time bomb,” Ben-David said.  
 The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the fundamental problems of the education system, bringing to the forefront challenges that had existed for years prior, despite continual investment.  
 The Education Ministry budget is larger even than that of the Defense Ministry, yet students are simply not making the grade.  
 Israeli children’s average level of knowledge in mathematics, science and reading is below that of every developed country, the Shoresh report showed. Educational gaps in primary education within Israel are also much higher. And the country has more students who do not reach the minimum level of knowledge set by the OECD – even without considering [most ultra-Orthodox children](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/haredi-org-calls-for-funding-for-schools-that-teach-core-curriculum-673519), who do not study the materials and therefore do not participate in international exams.    
 Israel’s non-religious Jewish schools rank below a third of the developed countries, when looking at the most recent average achievement scores in 25 OECD countries and in Israel on the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) exam, which evaluates what students know in reading, mathematics and science and what they can do with that knowledge.  
 The country’s religious schools fall below 80% of those countries. Arab Israelis fall at the very bottom, including beneath nine of the 10 Muslim countries that participated in the most recent PISA exam.  
 While Israel cannot be compared to the United States in terms of population size, the US, like Israel, can be divided into four major ethnic groups. In the US, PISA scores show, Asians and whites are getting a better education than every student in every developed country, achieving an average score of 549 on the exam.  
 Israel’s non-religious students average 509. Israel’s religious students average 485.  
 However, American Hispanics achieve only 470, while African Americans have almost the lowest score – 436. But there is one group that achieves lower: Arab Israelis achieve an average of 372.  
 Moreover, Israel has the highest percentage (33%) of students in any OECD country scoring at or below “level 1” in mathematics, science and reading on the PISA exam, on which one is the lowest score and six is the highest.  
 “If education is a jumping-off board to the marketplace, with these gaps in knowledge, you cannot expect equality in future generations,” Ben-David said.  
 So, why is this happening?  
 THE EDUCATION system likes to blame the country’s large classrooms as the reason children are struggling to learn. But according to the Shoresh report, while this may be a contributing factor, not all Israeli classrooms are large, and there is no explanation for why efforts have not been made to reduce class size given the number of teachers that Israel employs per student – higher than average.  
 The number of students per teacher in Israeli elementary schools is nearly identical to OECD averages, according to the report, and the middle and high schools have fewer children per teacher than the OECD average.  
 Additionally, the number of instruction hours in Israel is greater than in most OECD countries.  
 As such, Ben-David pointed to a different challenge: the quality of Israeli teachers.  
 He said that the knowledge levels of undergraduate Israeli education students are very low – both compared to other Israeli college and university students and when compared to others in the developed world.  
 Some 79% of Israelis study to be teachers in one of the country’s teaching colleges, another 17% learn in general colleges and 4% are students in regular universities. The average psychometric score for those studying in teaching colleges is nearly 25% lower than the average for Israeli university students, the score is almost one-third (32%) lower for those who are accepted to general colleges, and still 9% lower even for those who learn to teach at the university level.  
 The situation becomes even more acute when looking at how Israeli teachers rank on the OECD’s Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) test, which examines the basic knowledge and skills of adults ages 16-64. Israeli literary teachers’ skills are close to the bottom of the developed world, and the knowledge of Israel’s math teachers is the lowest among developed countries.  
 Ben-David stressed that this situation is not because teachers in Israel are underpaid. He said that “contrary to Israeli conventional wisdom, the country’s teachers’ salaries are higher than the national average salary and are also higher than average teachers’ salaries in developed countries.”  
 Specifically, Israeli elementary school teachers make 3% more than the average received by their OECD counterparts, middle school teachers 16% more, and high-school teachers 23% more when looking at what teachers make per hour of instruction.  
 “Israel regards brain power as its primary natural resource. Its hi-tech sector – nearly the only economic sector that’s thriving economically in the global arena – does not have nearly the number of workers with university-level educations that it needs. How can teachers who could not even get accepted to universities themselves educate children at a level that could bring them there?” Ben-David asked. “How can we expect our kids to reach university and be a part of modern society if their teachers are not at that level?”  
 As Israel goes back to school on September 1, rethinking its classroom models to [keep kids safe from coronavirus,](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/can-students-be-safe-in-school-when-covid-19-spikes-677832) Ben-David said there is an equally urgent need to reimagine the way that Israel chooses, trains and compensates its educational staff.  
 “The system is not functioning well,” he stressed. “We need an overhaul of the entire system.”  
 While the sky is unlikely to fall this year or next, Ben-David told the Post that if Israel does not act soon, there will be “a point of no return.”  
 He highlighted the situation in Beirut that was brought on in large part by demographics – a less fertile, more educated elite sector of society was overturned over time by a more fertile, less-educated poor population.  
 “It is hard for young people today to imagine that Beirut was once called the Paris of the Middle East,” Ben-David said. “Today, it is a poverty state at the brink of explosion.... Countries do fail.”  
 To ensure that Israel is equally a success story in 2065 as it is today, Ben-David said that when it comes to education, “Israel must get its act together while we still can.”

https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/israels-education-system-is-a-ticking-time-bomb-677966

Do you want a comparison?

**FIXING AMERICA’S PATHETIC EDUCATION SYSTEM**

*By: Marvin L. Covault, Lt. Gen. US Army, ret. August 27, 2021*

**BOTTOM LINE: “Education is the wellspring from which a nation ascends … or the quagmire into which it sinks. Education is everything.” Michael Russell**

INTENT: My intent here is to make two points. One, what is the magnitude of the problem and secondly how do we fix it?

**HOW BIG** IS THE PROBLEM? Huge. Education is perhaps this nation’s greatest disgrace. Yet every four years we go through the same song-and-dance. Candidates promise to spend more billions of dollars, resulting in more top-down regulation which then requires a bigger inefficient and ineffective Department of Education bureaucracy. This is a decades-old formula for failure as we spend more dollars per student and watch our world rating in education continue to decline.  
 WHERE ARE WE TODAY? Education has been headline-news over the past 18 months. The pandemic shut down schools and 60 million kids and 180 million adults with children under age 18 had to learn, or not, to endure remote classrooms. More recently the national debate has been about including critical race theory as a foundational piece of every school’s curriculum and about masks and vaccinations. But what we do not talk about is the elephant in the room, embarrassing, ridiculous education results.  
 THE NATION’S REPORT CARD: The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the only assessment that measures what U.S. students know and can do in various subjects across the nation, states, and in some urban districts. Also known as The Nation’s Report Card, NAEP has provided important information about how students are performing academically since 1969. They grade mathematics, reading, science, writing, technology, arts, civics, geography, economics, and U.S. history for grades 4th and 8th every 2 years and 12th grade every 4 years.  
 PRE-COVID NAEP REPORT CARD: In 2019 NAEP tested 150,600 grade 4 students, 143,100 grade 8, and 26,700 grade 12 students and reported: Here is a summary pulled from a large comprehensive report:  
 Reading: The assessment measures reading comprehension by asking students to read selected grade-appropriate materials and answer questions based on what they have read.   
 Grade 4 Grade 8 Grade 12  
 NOT proficient: 59% 66% 76%  
 Mathematics: The assessment measures both mathematics knowledge and the students’ ability to apply their knowledge in problem-solving situations.  
 Grade 4 Grade 8 Grade 12  
 NOT proficient: 65% 66% 63%  
 Other subjects were even worse. For high school seniors 88% NOT proficient in history, 77% NOT proficient in writing ability and 78% NOT proficient in science.   
 NAEP defines “proficiency” as follows: NAEP student achievement levels are performance standards that describe what students should know and be able to do. Results are reported at three achievement levels, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. What we-the-people want and deserve from our schools are high school graduates who are “proficient”, that is they are ready to go out into the world with the skills to put together a successful and prosperous life. The above percentages represent the number that cannot score up to the “proficient” level. Generally speaking, two thirds of our high school graduates are not adequately prepared to do that. And that says nothing about the 7,000 students who drop out every school day.   
 More snapshots that illustrate the problems in government-run public schools: Providence, RI: Only 5% of eighth graders are proficient in math. Newark, NJ: 21% proficiency in math. North Carolina: 44 % of North Carolina fourth graders are not proficient in reading. Wisconsin: Black American eighth graders perform only slightly better than white fourth graders in reading and math. And so it goes across the country. A recent survey found that 20% of American adults cannot name even one of the three branches of government.  
 GOVERNMENT-RUN vs CHARTER: One cannot adequately analyze education results without getting inside the government-run public schools vs charter schools discussion. Let’s begin by understanding what a charter school is.  
 Facts shared by nearly all the states: Charter schools are authorized by the State Board of Education. Charter schools are tuition-free schools of choice that are operated mostly by independent non-profit boards of directors.   
 The two major teachers’ unions, the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) consistently spread false information against charter schools.   
 Misinformation # 1: “Charter schools are unaccountable, private schools that take money away from district schools.” Truth: Charter schools are 100% accountable to state authorities. Charter school students are typically funded at $0.73/dollar compared to district school students.  
 Misinformation # 2: “Charter schools don’t serve a diverse population of students; they get to hand pick their students to populate their schools.” The truth is, if a child is eligible to attend a public government school, parents may apply to any charter school. If a charter school receives more applications than its capacity, a lottery is conducted. Discrimination based on race, national origin, or religion is prohibited.  
 Misinformation # 3: “Charter schools are not academically superior to government-run public schools.” Truth: In New York City, for example, in several minority communities, traditional public school and charter school classes are co-located in a common building. In one co-mingled building in 28 different classes less than 10% of the government-run public school students tested to a proficient level while 81-100% of charter students were proficient.  
 Why do charter school students perform better? Two reasons:   
 1) Government-run public schools are top-down highly regulated vs charters with their own organization, planning, and programs allowing them the freedom to use innovative school models and customized approaches to curriculum, staffing, budgeting and teaching.  
 2) Government-run public schools are highly unionized while charters are not. With teacher union support, on average it takes about two years of a Principal’s effort to fire a teacher for poor performance. Unsatisfactory teachers are not being held accountable. By contrast, if charter students do not measure up to standards, the school is subject to being shut down by state law. Is accountability important in education? Yes, it is the ultimate arbiter.  
 CONCLUSION, TEACHERS’ UNIONS ARE NOT A PART OF THE SOLUTION, THEY ARE A BIG PART OF THE PROBLEM.   
 Two facts lead to this conclusion:  
 One, generally, across the nation, charter school students score higher on achievement tests than students in government-run public schools.  
 Two, this is a summary of what the union leaders are telling we-the-people about charter schools: Charter schools are privately-operated, deregulated, segregated, poorly supervised, de-unionized scandal-ridden contract schools that drain much-needed funds from demonized public schools. Those statements are all lies.  
 To illustrate how out-of-control the teachers unions can get, when California was considering sending teachers back into the classroom, the Los Angeles teachers’ union made the following demands: defund police, a moratorium on new charter schools, new wealth taxes on California millionaires and billionaires and Medicare-for-all at the federal level. Three questions come to mind:   
 1) How did they get so far out of their lane?   
 2) Why are they the final decision maker on when teachers return to the classroom?   
 3) How did they get that much power and influence?  
 THE DEMOCRAT PARTY AND EDUCATION: Biden on education during the 2020 campaign: “There are some charter schools that work.” Wow, what a resounding endorsement! And “I will stop all federal funding for for-profit charter schools.” Only about 16 percent of charter schools across the country are operated by for-profit entities.  
 The Democrat party traditionally supports everything the teachers’ unions are saying and doing which is not necessarily good for education. But it is good for campaigning; in 2016 the two largest teachers’ unions contributed $41 million dollars to candidates with 94% going to Democrats.  
 The Democrat Governor and legislature in Oregon, July 2021, found a solution to the dismal reporting that the state’s high school graduates had failed to master essential skills. The governor signed into law a suspension of the state requirements that students demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing and math. That simple piece of legislation just told the teachers, Principals, Superintendents, and school boards that they will not be held accountable for passing out high school diplomas to illiterate graduates.   
 FIXING EDUCATION begins with an understanding that education without standards is a failed system; education without accountability is a failed system. We have a failed system.  
 Since the Federal Government established the Department of Education in 1979, we have seen one failed program after another as each succeeding administration tries to fix education from the top down with hundreds of billions of dollars and tens of thousands of bureaucrats. What to do? We must change the way we solve education problems with more decentralized decision making and execution.  
 Learn from charter schools. As pointed out earlier, charters are turning out better educated graduates because they are allowed to operate with their own organization, planning, and programs allowing them the freedom to use innovative school models and customized approaches to curriculum, staffing, budgeting, and teaching. Big, centralized government bureaucracies stifle all of that.  
 We need to begin education reform by doing away with the federal Department of Education. Turn it into a small agency principally dedicated to handling federal grants to education. This will in turn take education out of national politics and hopefully make it less partisan.  
 Decentralize education by putting the responsibility for quality education squarely on the states where it can be more directly scrutinized by We-the-People.   
 AN ORGANIZATION WITHOUT STANDARDS IS A FAILED ORGANIZATION: Applying standards to education makes the teaching game-plan simple to define. It begins with the identification of an end state standard for a particular time period. For example, there must be a standard for the end of first semester fourth grade math. Given that standard the teacher will then develop a week-by-week lesson plan to achieve that standard with every student. Teach to a standard, then test. Teach to the next level, then test again. And so it goes week after week for 13 years, K-12. The concept is simple and there will be no need for hundreds of pages of regulations, frequent recurring reports, no need for legions of bureaucrats providing oversight and requirements for national testing.  
 HOW DO WE ESTABLISH THE STANDARDS? It is not difficult; it can be done quickly and does not require any bureaucrats, regulations, or tax dollars to do it. Here are the steps to take, for example at the State level, led by the Governor. The Governor is accountable for standards.  
 The Governor will set up a summer work session by inviting selected teachers and Principals to establish education standards.  
 On day one there will be a meeting of three experienced outstanding kindergarten teachers and three equally outstanding elementary school Principals. Their task is to define what every Kindergarten student should achieve by school year end; that is, the end state standard. Having done that, they will then outline, in general terms, what to achieve during each of the six-week intervals on the way to the end state. That’s it, they are done. The kindergarten standards are set. Every elementary school Principal and kindergarten teacher in the state will then work to achieve that standard.  
 A similar group of 1st grade teachers, who sat in on the kindergarten session but did not participate, now have a clear understanding of the kindergarten end-state which clearly defines their start point for 1st grade standards. They then set about to establish end of 1st grade standards.  
 And so, it would go on day after day during a summer-long session to define standards for every grade and every course K-12.   
 AN ORGANIZATION WITHOUT ACCOUNTABILITY IS A FAILED ORGANIZATION. If the accountable Governor has established viable, understandable standards for all subjects and all grades, accountability immediately moves down to the local level.   
 The local Board of Education and the Superintendent are accountable to the local public, we-the-people, for institutionalizing the standards. That begins with their school Principals’ job description, mission statement, goals, focus etc. however they want to phrase it. The Principal will be accountable for quality instruction to standard of every subject in every classroom every day, period. It is the Principal’s number one priority every day and whatever is second priority should rarely see the light of day: period.  
 How does the Principal’s focus get translated into the classroom? It begins with good old fashioned lesson plans. Every teacher is accountable for preparing lesson plans on a week-by-week basis that lead directly to the standard (for example) established for end of first semester 4th grade math.  
 The Principal’s accountability begins at the beginning of the year when he/she goes over every lesson plan with each teacher to insure there is a clear path to the required end-state; that is, what the student must know and understand at the end of each semester.   
 The Principal should have all the lesson plans in a 3-ring binder or on an iPad. Every day he/she will take the lesson plans and visit classrooms. If the teacher is behind schedule, if the instruction is sub-par, if the students are obviously not “getting it” there must then be a one-on-one Principal/ teacher “discussion” at the end of that day. Fix it! Accountability.   
 Accountability on the part of the Principal should include creating conditions for success. That is, an open-door/open discussion atmosphere, an environment in which initiative and innovation are encouraged and best practices sharing is the norm and reenforced with a culture of trust and respect.   
 Teacher accountability is to teach/test, teach/test to always know if the kids “get it” and if they do not, re-teach, tutor, whatever it takes to not let a student get behind. Getting behind in 4th grade leads to being further behind in 5th grade etc. until they eventually become one of the 7,000-per-day dropouts.   
 SEPARATING THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF: Teachers and leaders.  
 Teachers: Just as in any other organization, schools have key individuals (in this case teachers) who can be categorized as great, good, mediocre, or poor performers. How can you tell? There is a good chance that poor performing students have a mediocre or poor teacher. These are the teachers who will say in a huff, “Well, I know how to present the material, but I can’t make them learn;” blaming their failures on someone else. In contrast is the teacher with students who are doing well, and that teacher not only knows how to present the subject matter but also knows how to make the students WANT to learn.  
 Leaders: In all large organizations, industry, government, military and in this case education, there are elements (branches, divisions, schools) that are drowning in mediocracy. One thing that may be common in all of these is what I call consensus-to-fail. It is an unwritten, unstated but also alive and functioning operational understanding wherein the leader is “saying” without actually saying it out loud, “I will not hold you responsible for being mediocre subordinates if you will not hold me responsible for being a mediocre leader.” When one walks into an organization like that there is a feeling, a sense that initiative, innovation, high standards are not the order of the day, and they are completely satisfied with mediocracy.  
 There are some schools that are consistently poor performing organizations. If it is a charter school their charter will be pulled. If it is a government-run public school the usual solution is to throw more money at the problem. Additionally, one reason poor performing schools tend to remain substandard is that when a great or good teacher is hired and they get a sense of the consensus-to-fail culture, they want no part of it, and they move on.   
 With this emphasis on transforming education at the point of execution there is going to be demand for good-to-great leadership at the local level. The Superintendent is the first level where quality instruction becomes that position’s number one priority. Daily, the Superintendent must lead, mentor, and observe the first-line leaders the school Principals. Unrelenting focus on quality instruction.  
 Many school districts will be faced with the problem of not having enough experienced leaders at the Superintendent/Principal level. Many individuals in those positions were placed there because they were excellent teachers but may in fact have never had a day of leadership training. There is always an easy fix at the local level, and it is free. Every community has its share of successful civilian and/or military leaders either still employed or retired. The board of education could easily set up mandatory Saturday morning leader development seminars for the Superintendent and all the school Principals. Solicit the local leaders to participate pro bono in the seminars.  
 This is not rocket science; this is leadership and accountability and unrelenting focus at the point of execution. Some teachers will probably complain to their union representative. Good, that’s when the Superintendent and/or the local Board of Education steps in and explains to the union how the soup is made in their school district.   
 Sometimes large and seemingly insurmountable problems have a simple, common-sense solution. I believe that education in America can be put back on track. But it is going to take some draconian action by the President and Congress. Do away with the Department of Education. Cut out all the federal bureaucratic regulations and reporting requirements. Get politics out of education, just let it work on its own at the local level. We-the-People cannot rely on some nameless faceless bureaucrat in Washington to solve our local education problems. But if the accountable local Board of Education members get off track, we can for sure vote them out of office. The local Superintendent and school Principals are people we know and can talk to.  
 RECAP: EDUCATION NEEDS A NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION WHICH WILL ENTAIL, AS A MINIMUM, DOING THE FOLLOWING:  
 • Do away with the Dept of Education and its rules, regulations, reporting requirements and bureaucrats.  
 • Expand school choice with more charter schools.  
 • Decentralize education to the states to establish standards.  
 • Decentralize education to the school districts for accountability.  
 • Find a way to curb the power, control, and authority of the teachers’ unions.  
 Achievable standards and clearly articulated accountability is the formula for dramatically raising students’ “proficiency” in all subjects across America. It does not begin in Washington, it begins with state-wide standards and is accomplished at the point of execution, inside the schoolhouse one day at a time.

<https://wethepeoplespeaking.com/2021/08/27/fixing-americas-pathetic-education-system/> [this is a huge indictment of the US educational system. It has been sinking from the time of Dewey and all his vile theories. If you wonder why the youth know little and have no self control it is because of this coupled with rotten child psych theories Rdb]

**Israeli organization sending private flights to get activists out of Kabul**

***The Shai Fund says it is working in coordination with the U.S. government to evacuate human rights defenders and other activists who are direct targets of the Taliban, including Christians and LGBTQ+ who are in safehouses that are under threat***

*The Media Line | Published: 08.28.21, 23:37*

Out of her home in the coastal Israeli town of Zichron Yaakov, Charmaine Hedding is working feverishly to help extract thousands of people desperate to leave Afghanistan.

Hedding is an emergency response specialist and president of the Shai Fund, a humanitarian organization based in Israel and registered in the U.S.

She says her organization is heading up logistics, in coordination with the U.S. military, on a pending series of private flights that are set to swoop in and out of Kabul’s Hamid Karzai International Airport, in order to evacuate high-risk human rights defenders and other activists, including some high-profile personnel, who are direct targets of the Taliban, the Islamist group that has rapidly retaken control of the country upon the withdrawal of US and international forces, two decades after being overthrown.

“We formed a coalition because, of course, this is a huge operation. We have private charter flights. So, this is a civil society, grassroots initiative, run by NGOs (non-government organizations) like mine. We have raised the funds to get the flights in. So we have our first flight arriving. And these flights can take up to 300 people,” Hedding said.

The first flight was set to arrive on Sunday night.

“We’ve got 10 flights, back-to-back potentially, but there’s no point if we land in Kabul airport and they can’t get through the gates because the Taliban are controlling the gates to the airport. And so, we have to break that open and negotiate where we come in, and we establish this humanitarian corridor so that we can evacuate our people out,” said Hedding. **More -** <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/b1pmpop11f>

**Liberal columnist warns Taliban 'incapable of establishing a modern state'**

***Radicals accused of being 'hostile to life and humanity'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published August 28, 2021 at 12:58pm*



Taliban fighters (Video screenshot)

A "liberal thinker" has written in a column in the Egyptian daily newspaper Al-Watan that Muslims should not be rejoicing at the Taliban's rise to power in Afghanistan.

In fact, that terror organization of radical Islamists actually is "hostile to life and humanity" and is "incapable of establishing a modern state."

It will fail, explained Khaled Montaser, a physician and media figure who wrote in the newspaper, according to a report from the [Middle East Media Research Institute,](https://www.memri.org/reports/egyptian-liberal-taliban-are-hostile-life-whoever-celebrates-their-victory-needs-his-head) which described him as a "liberal thinker."  
 Montaser said his expectations of disaster started when the Taliban recently "killed Afghan comedian Nazar Mohammad and mutilated his body to intimidate [others]."  
 He explained, "Horror indeed intensified, and the murderers won. Nazar, known as Khasha Zwan, was known to his friends as a lover of comedy who posted funny videos on Youtube. He lived in Kandahar, a Taliban stronghold. He was surprised [in his home], abducted, tied and [forced into] a vehicle. A video circulated later shows Taliban soldiers slapping him and laughing, and another video showed them mutilating his body!"  
 Montaser continued, "The killing of humor marks the beginning of the path of deterioration and destruction… The Taliban's first and most important decision was to remove pictures of women from billboards, smash store windows mannikins and of course mandate the wearing of the chador, the Afghan niqab. Religious fascism intensified, until they reached the point of killing joy and then proceeded to kill life itself by forbidding Afghans to get vaccinated for Covid-19."  
 He said the extremism was highlighted by the Taliban's decision, earlier this year, to gun down "three women in Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan who worked vaccinating [the populace] against polio… In June [2021], five members of the polio vaccination teams were killed and four were wounded in a series of coordinated attacks in three different places in eastern Afghanistan."  
 Vaccines, including that for COVID-19, now are "forbidden," in the Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, he wrote.  
 Bottom of Form

"Is this unreasonable behavior the Taliban's way of becoming more liberated and civilized? Can those who are hostile to humanity and life be part of the modern [world]?" Montaser wrote, "The disaster is that some of our young people are writing [with admiration] of the Taliban's great victory, their takeover of Kabul and their invasion of Kandahar! Do they think that [the acts of] exiling people, stoning them, killing and perpetrating massacres herald the establishment of a [modern] state, the building of a nation and the revival of the homeland?!  
 "Whoever believes that what is happening in Afghanistan is a victory for Islam and the Muslims needs to have his head and his intelligence examined." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/liberal-columnist-warns-taliban-incapable-establishing-modern-state/>

**Gold Star mother of US marine killed in Kabul attack blasts Biden as ‘dementia-ridden piece of crap,’ blames his supporters**

*28 Aug, 2021 21:18*



An undated photo of Rylee McCollum, 20, a Marine among the thirteen U.S. service members who were killed in a deadly airport suicide bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan on August 26, 2021. © REUTERS/ U.S. Marines

The mother of one of the 13 US servicemen who were killed in Thursday’s terrorist attack at the Kabul airport has called into a radio show to excoriate President Joe Biden as a “feckless, dementia-ridden piece of crap.”

*“This was an unnecessary debacle that could have been handled properly,”* Kathy McCollum, mother of deceased US Marine Lance Cpl. Rylee McCollum, told radio host Andrew Wilkow on Friday. *“They had months and months to remove everyone from Afghanistan, and they chose not to. And so they sent in . . . 6,000 troops, and my son, through the laws of statistics, my son was one of the ones who just got blown up in a freaking terrorist bomb yesterday.”*

Kathy McCollum joined [@WilkowMajority](https://twitter.com/WilkowMajority?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) after the tragic death of her son in [#Afghanistan](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Afghanistan?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw), US Marine Rylee McCollum. [pic.twitter.com/NRAjPquxAn](https://t.co/NRAjPquxAn)

— SiriusXM Patriot (@SiriusXMPatriot) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/SiriusXMPatriot/status/1431660169423884288?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The Colorado mother said she chose to voice her reaction publicly, as *“I couldn’t just sit by idly because I think I need to process through anger instead of tears.”* She said her 20-year-old son, a newlywed, was getting ready to come home to be with his wife and witness the birth of his child in September but was instead among the troops that the Biden administration rushed to Kabul to aid in evacuations of Americans and Afghan allies as the Taliban took control of the country even before the US could complete its withdrawal.

“That feckless, dementia-ridden piece of crap just sent my son to die,” McCollum said. She then blamed Biden’s supporters for her loss, saying, “So my son is gone, and I just want all you Democrats who cheated in the election or who voted for him legitimately, you just killed my son with a dementia-ridden piece of crap who doesn’t even know he’s in the White House. He still thinks he’s a senator*.”*

Kathy McCollum, the mother of slain U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Rylee McCollum calls into the Wilkow Report, blames Biden for her son's death. Calls Biden a "feckless, dementia ridden piece of crap." [pic.twitter.com/mRT2xxoV65](https://t.co/mRT2xxoV65)

— Ian Miles Cheong @ stillgray.substack.com (@stillgray) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/stillgray/status/1431698002389835776?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

McCollum said she would meet with US Representative Lauren Boebert (R-Colorado) on Saturday to help get her story out. Republican strategist Amy Tarkanian thanked Boebert for visiting McCollum and accused the White House of failing to reach out to the grieving mother.

20 yr old Rylee McCollum was one of the 13 Marines killed in the suicide bombing in Kabul.His mom called into [@WilkowMajority](https://twitter.com/WilkowMajority?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) & it is truly a must-listen.Her representative [@LaurenBoebert](https://twitter.com/laurenboebert?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) has reached out & is visiting her home. The White House has not. [pic.twitter.com/xCLKIY1rU5](https://t.co/xCLKIY1rU5)

— Amy Tarkanian (@MrsT106) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/MrsT106/status/1431599432382959618?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

McCollum isn’t the only Gold Star parent who has spoken critically of the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan. Steve Nikoui, father of deceased Marine Lance Cpl. Kareem Nikoui, [told](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5IHlss-aP8) Fox News host Tucker Carlson that Thursday’s tragedy could have been prevented if the Pentagon ran evacuations through Bagram Airbase rather than abandoning that massive installation in July.

The Kabul airport *“looked like a turkey shoot,”* with traffic funneled through a narrow entry point, Steve Nikoui said. *“It was just basically so chaotic and not really planned out,”* he added.

Thursday’s bombing, for which terrorist group ISIS-K took responsibility, marked the deadliest attack the US military has suffered in more than a decade. At least 170 Afghans were killed, and hundreds more were wounded. Biden said on Saturday that another attack is likely within the next 24-36 hours. <https://www.rt.com/usa/533356-mother-marine-biden-dementia/>

**‘Clear attack on Afghan territory’: Taliban condemns US strike allegedly targeting ISIS ‘planner’ behind deadly Kabul blast**

*28 Aug, 2021 19:51*

The Taliban has strongly condemned a US drone strike in retaliation for the Kabul airport suicide bombing, calling it a “clear attack” on Afghan soil. The US claimed an ISIS-K “planner” behind the blast was killed in the strike.   
 The US carried out the drone strike early Saturday, targeting a hideout said to be used by Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISIS-K), a regional offshoot of Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS). The strike was conducted in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar.  
 The Taliban, which has recently seized control of most of Afghanistan’s territory and the capital city of Kabul, has strongly condemned the US strike. The drone attack constituted a *“clear attack on Afghan territory,”* the group’s spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on Saturday.  
 According to the latest information provided by Pentagon spokesman John Kirby, two *“high profile”* terrorists, described as the *“planner”* and the *“facilitator”* of the deadly Kabul airport attack were killed in the strike. Another terrorist was left injured by the attack.  
 The major suicide blast, claimed by ISIS-K, rocked the Kabul airport on Thursday. The explosion killed at least 170 Afghans, including 28 Taliban militants. Thirteen US servicemen and two British nationals were also killed. Hundreds more were injured.  
 Despite sharing hardline Islamist views, the Taliban and ISIS-K remain bitter adversaries, with the two groups embroiled in an open armed conflict for years already. <https://www.rt.com/news/533350-taliban-us-drone-strike/>

**‘CIA tweets CIA interview with CIA’: Viewers react to suddenly-released 'eerily prophetic' CNN interview with ISIS-K commander**

*28 Aug, 2021 20:06* CNN’s airing of an interview with an ISIS-K commander left observers to wonder how the media outlet gained access to the terrorist leader – and protected his identity – two weeks before his group killed nearly 200 people.   
 The interview was aired on Saturday, with the “senior ISIS-K commander” telling CNN reporter Clarissa Ward at a hotel in Kabul that the group was “laying low and waiting for its moment to strike*.”* That moment apparently arrived on Thursday, when a blast for which ISIS-K took responsibility killed 170 Afghans and 13 US servicemen outside the Kabul airport. Hundreds more were injured.  
 Two weeks prior to the attack in Kabul, CNN's [@clarissaward](https://twitter.com/clarissaward?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) interviewed a senior ISIS-K commander.At that time the commander told Ward the group was laying low and waiting for a time to strike. As Ward notes, these were "words that turned out to be eerily prophetic." [pic.twitter.com/XV7RggUEg4](https://t.co/XV7RggUEg4)  
 — Anderson Cooper 360° (@AC360) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/AC360/status/1431424098677166082?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 Ward called the commander’s words *“eerily prophetic,”* but social media users [suggested](https://twitter.com/umikomorebi/status/1431475322239737858) that the statement was more of a plot than a prophecy, considering the commander was speaking of what his group was about to carry out. Others argued that CNN aided and abetted the Kabul attack by having advance notice and apparently doing nothing to help prevent it or lead US authorities to the terrorist commander.  
 So nice that CNN had advanced notice of an eminent attack.  
 — John Adams (@John\_S\_Adams) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/John_S_Adams/status/1431461976631304192?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 Co- conspirator.  
 — Erastus X (@StymieSays) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/StymieSays/status/1431552033195233281?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 So was this information shared with or defense department?? Or was it just saved for a story?? Disgusting.  
 — 🇺🇸HitmanTwoTwo🇺🇸 (@HitmanTwoTwo) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/HitmanTwoTwo/status/1431615804978630660?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 But some found CNN’s explanation of the interview unbelievable, calling it *“quite fishy.”* As one commenter tweeted, *“‘Let’s fly to this place and meet with this terror group K that most people haven’t heard of and understand their intentions,’ said nobody ever. Very fishy.”* Another said, *“CIA tweets CIA interview with CIA.”*  
 Meeting w/ this group before anything happened in Afghanistan seems quite fishy!! 🤔 "Idea, let's fly to this place & meet w/ this terror group 'K' that most people haven't heard of & understand their intentions" said nobody ever. Very Fishy!!  
 — Jonathan Gaffney (@Gaaaffney) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/Gaaaffney/status/1431427364416798721?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 CIA tweets CIA interview with CIA.  
 — 山ellsII (@realPalmTree5G) [August 28, 2021](https://twitter.com/realPalmTree5G/status/1431444519153713152?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
 Adding to the irony, the CNN host who aired the interview was Anderson Cooper, the Vanderbilt heir who spent two summers as a CIA intern while he was a student at Yale University.  
 Other critics blasted CNN for giving airtime to a terrorist leader. *“Who are they trying to protect, our people or the terrorist?”* one observer [asked](https://twitter.com/ggastonw/status/1431622494071443456). *“These interviews seem odd to me as I think about the families of our fallen men and women.”* Another [said](https://twitter.com/Turk1471/status/1431656071249149960) CNN allowed ISIS-K to use the outlet as *“a no-fee fundraising campaign.”*  
 CNN has previously criticized other media figures for giving a platform to newsmakers whose political views its leaders find objectionable. For instance, CNN’s John Avlon earlier this month [accused](https://www.cnn.com/videos/media/2021/08/04/tucker-carlson-viktor-orban-hungary-avlon-reality-check-vpx.cnn) Fox News host Tucker Carlson of doing a *“week-long infomercial for authoritarian nationalism”* when he traveled to Budapest to interview Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. The ISIS-K interview was not Ward’s only strange encounter with Islamists in Afghanistan. She was mocked for an August 16 report in which she said of Taliban fighters behind her, *“They’re just chanting ‘death to America,’ but they seem friendly at the same time.”* [*https://www.rt.com/usa/533353-cnn-airs-isis-k-interview/*](https://www.rt.com/usa/533353-cnn-airs-isis-k-interview/)

**CDC study: School mask mandates don't work**

***Findings 'cast doubt on the most common mitigation measures'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published August 28, 2021 at 5:39pm*

Amid the intense battle over mask mandates, New York magazine noted noted a large-scale study published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that found no statistically significant difference in schools that required students to wear masks compared to schools where masks were optional.  
 The study analyzed some 90,000 elementary students in 169 Georgia schools from Nov. 16 to Dec. 11.  
 "The 21% lower incidence in schools that required mask use among students was not statistically significant compared with schools where mask use was optional," the CDC said.  
 "This finding might be attributed to higher effectiveness of masks among adults, who are at higher risk for SARS-CoV-2 infection but might also result from differences in mask-wearing behavior among students in schools with optional requirements."  
 New York magazine’s David Zweig pointed out that the findings, along with other mitigation efforts that have been shown to have statistically insignificant results, "cast doubt on the impact of many of the most common mitigation measures in American schools."  
 On Friday, meanwhile, COVID-19 data in Oregon showed the new statewide mask mandate has not flattened the rate of infection, according to a Oregon Health & Science University analysis.  
 "We’re seeing the number of people hospitalized going up at rates we’ve never seen before, said Peter Graven, the lead data scientist in OHSU's Business Intelligence unit, [KDRV-TV in Medford reported](https://www.kdrv.com/content/news/Coronavirus-Watch-Oregon-has-yet-to-bend-the-curve-on-COVID-19-surge-OHSU-says-575187901.html).  
 "We had hoped to see the new statewide masking mandate make a difference in flattening the rate of infection, but we’re not seeing that yet," he said.  
 Bottom of Form

New York magazine noted that many European nations have exempted students from mask mandates, including the U.K., the Netherlands, France, Italy and the Scandinavian countries.  
 “Conspicuously, there’s no evidence of more outbreaks in schools in those countries relative to schools in the U.S., where the solid majority of kids wore masks for an entire academic year and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future," wrote Zweig.  
 "These countries, along with the World Health Organization, whose child-masking guidance differs substantially from the CDC's recommendations, have explicitly recognized that the decision to mask students carries with it potential academic and social harms for children and may lack a clear benefit."  
 [The Foundation for Economic Education, which spotlighted the New York magazine story](https://fee.org/articles/cdc-schools-with-mask-mandates-didn-t-see-statistically-significant-different-rates-of-covid-transmission-from-schools-with-optional-policies/), commented that the CDC's findings "are not helpful to politicians and bureaucrats who continue to argue that students must be masked during school."  
 President Biden's top health advisor, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said during a recent panel discussion streamed online that whether students "are vaccinated or not, they need to wear a mask."  
 FEE noted that in the CDC's summary of its report -- which has received little media attention -- it neglected to include its finding that "required mask use among students was not statistically significant compared with schools where mask use was optional."  
 The Biden administration recently directed Education Secretary Miguel Cardona to employ "all of his oversight authorities and legal actions" against governors such as Ron DeSantis of Florida who have supported legislation to prevent schools from implementing mask mandates.  
 CDC statistics, meanwhile, show children generally do no spread COVID-19 and have little risk of any adverse effects. The seasonal flu is more deadly among children than COVID-19, and the swine flu one decade ago was six times more deadly.  
 The 2009-10 Swine Flu was 6x more deadly for children than 2020-21 Covid-19. [pic.twitter.com/ddZYtrt5t2](https://t.co/ddZYtrt5t2)  
 — Clarity (@covid\_clarity) [August 26, 2021](https://twitter.com/covid_clarity/status/1430940352408600582)  
 **CDC used to say masks 'usually not recommended'**  
 [A recent study by the University of Louisville](https://www.wnd.com/2021/05/4919325/) found that state mask mandates did not help slow the spread of COVID-19.  
 The researchers found that "masks may promote social cohesion as rallying symbols during a pandemic, but risk compensation can also occur."  
 Among the risks:  
 Prolonged mask use, more than four hours a day,  
"promotes facial alkalinization and inadvertently encourages dehydration, which in turn can enhance barrier breakdown and bacterial infection risk."  
 British clinicians have reported masks to increase headaches and sweating and decrease cognitive precision.  
 By obscuring nonverbal communication, masks interfere with social learning in children.  
 Likewise, masks can distort verbal speech and remove visual cues to the detriment of individuals with hearing loss.  
 [The first large, randomized controlled trial of its kind showed no statistically significant difference](https://www.wnd.com/2020/11/major-peer-reviewed-study-finds-masks-dont-work/) in COVID-19 cases between people who wore masks and those who did not.  
 A study by the Centers for Disease Control in October indicated that [Americans were adhering to mask mandates, but the requirements didn't appear to have slowed or stopped the spread of the coronavirus](https://www.wnd.com/2020/10/4861690/). And further, it found, mask-wearing has negative effects.  
 [The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons has compiled a page of "Mask Facts"](https://aapsonline.org/mask-facts/) showing that the consensus prior to the coronavirus pandemic was that the effectiveness of mask-wearing by the general public in slowing the spread of a virus is unproven, and there's evidence it does more harm than good.  
 The most recent [CDC guidelines still recommend mask use for anyone 2 years or older in public settings](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html) and when around people who don’t live in their household.​ However, in March 2020, the CDC said masks "are usually not recommended" in "non-health care settings."  
 The same month, [the World Health Organization recommended](https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/30/world/coronavirus-who-masks-recommendation-trnd/index.html) people not wear face masks unless they are sick with COVID-19 or caring for someone who is sick.  
 "There is no specific evidence to suggest that the wearing of masks by the mass population has any potential benefit. In fact, there's some evidence to suggest the opposite in the misuse of wearing a mask properly or fitting it properly," said Dr. Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO health emergencies program in March 2020.  
 **Censorship**  
 In April, [YouTube censored a video](https://www.wnd.com/2021/04/4906816/) featuring an exchange hosted by Gov. Ron DeSantis featuring Oxford, Stanford and Harvard scholars saying children don't need masks.  
 YouTube didn't like an exchange in which Harvard epidemiologist Martin Kulldorff, responding to a question by DeSantis, said "children should not wear face masks, no. "  
 "They don’t need it for their own protection and they don’t need it for protecting other people, either," he said.  
 Stanford's Jay Bhattacharya said it is "developmentally inappropriate" for children to wear masks and it "just doesn’t help on the disease spread."  
 "I think it’s absolutely not the right thing to do," he said.  
 Bhattacharya said that "if we went back a year, a lot of experts would say that wearing masks for the general public is not evidence-based."  
 Later, Stanford's Scott Atlas said "there’s no scientific rationale or logic to have children wear masks in schools." <https://www.wnd.com/2021/08/cdc-study-school-mask-mandates-dont-work/>

**Commentary:**

**Know at Least These Five Things to Survive**

*By* [*Andrew Wallace*](https://newswithviews.com/author/andrew/)*|August 28th, 2021*

**First**, you must know that our federal government is Faux and has absolutely no authority to govern after the unconstitutional election insurrection.

Many governors, mayors, prosecutors, flag officers, corporate officers, bureaucrats, other elected officials, et al. should be prosecuted and hung for treason.

**Second**, you must learn that even before this Communist usurpation, a majority of federal laws were unconstitutional because they were based on powers reserved by the states. A majority of federal executive departments and the related laws are unconstitutional, such as Agriculture, Education, Energy, Transportation, Labor, Health and Human Services, et al. Mostly the federal government’s authority is limited to subjects relating to defense, immigration, foreign relations, currency and post office. To gain power and wealth the parasitic super rich are concentrating unconstitutional power in Washington.

**Third**, you must know that our most deadly enemies are the parasitic super rich who are the real ruling class.

They tell corporate officers, bureaucrats, elected officials, DOJ, FBI, SCOTUS, POTUS, CIA, military flag officers et al. exactly what to do or suffer severe consequences. They Own major equity in Corporate America and use our largest corporations as cash cows to influence members of the foregoing groups and to fund think tanks like Council on Foreign Relations and many others used to manipulate the people. Corporations for political reasons very actively supported the burning, looting and destruction of our cities by the Communist Democrat thugs of Antifa and BLM.

**Fourth**, you must learn that the parasitic super rich hate our Constitutional Republic and detest the average American.

This parasitic ruling class and the Communists have been attempting to take over our country since its founding. Using their monetary control of elected officials they have been robbing the people and our government blind. Everything done by government was designed to enrich the ruling class by impoverishing the people. Afghanistan is a perfect example of a 20 year money pit for the parasitic ruling class, a war that did not protect any vital security interests of America, military flag officers who have not won a war in more than 75 years, troops who fought valiantly and Americans who paid for the war and got their sons and daughters back in body bags.

Just a few additional examples of this treason are unconstitutional private Federal Reserve Bank, unconstitutional fiat currency, tax free foundations, useless wars for profit, donations to foreign countries with kickbacks, taking away American Dream of home ownership, stock market manipulation, replacing American workers with foreign workers here and overseas, a dual justice system, etc, etc, etc. But the biggest scam of all was the Great Depression of the thirties caused by private Federal Reserve Bank (which chairman admitted). Most everything of value owned by the people was then stolen by the ruling class.

As an Economist I can tell you with absolute certainty that the ruling class, has caused another great depression for their benefit, due any day, tomorrow morning would not surprise me. I know of no knowledgeable person who disagrees with this conclusion.

**Fifth**, everything this unconstitutional administration has done violates our laws, the constitution, morality, logic, and common sense.

Everything they have done and plan to do will destroy our Republic, the American Dream, our living standard, Constitutional Rights, freedom, equal protection under the law, et al. The Democrat Communists and ruling class have made us the laughing stock of the world.  
Just one of these moronic and hair brained actions are Open Borders spreading diseases, drugs, crime, lowering wages and employment, destroying social security ,medical care and all government programs. But the most important result is the destruction of the sovereignty of our citizens. All of which is simple treason.

Green new deal is destroying energy independence thus raising the cost of everything with hyper inflation.

Electric cars to replace all gasoline powered cars. We don’t have capacity to produce electricity required to charge them or the means to distribute it.

Wind and solar power kills the birds and cannot power our cities without blackouts as in California and Texas.

Critical Race theory is contrary to federal laws on equal rights. This is not a racist society even though we elected a Black racist for two terms as President.

Large amounts of Fiat currency being put into the system in excess of productivity to initiate a Communist national income program is reducing employment and raising prices from severe inflation. Value of the dollar is dropping like a rock which will lead to a depression. The stock market and the wealthy parasitic ruling class will benefit while the people suffer inflation as long as they keep printing the fiat money. When the printing stops the market collapses in free fall. It is absolutely impossible for government to continue printing, raising taxes and spending without a total meltdown.

People on fixed incomes like Social Security will starve and die from lack of medical care. Blacks and the poor living in inner city plantations will have no way to get food so they will riot, burn and loot forcing their Communist politicians to use deadly force just like all dictators do. After all they are communists who rule by fear, brutality and the barrel of a gun.

**Conclusion**

I welcome anyone to take issue with my writing using facts and not name calling. Our founders came to America to escape life in Europe, now our cities are Europe. Sadly, I don’t expect the Patriots, ruling class, minions of the ruling class or Lenin’s useful idiots to surrender or give quarter. So, you should be prepared for Economic Collapse, a French style Reign of Terror, Guerrilla Warfare and a Pyrrhic Victory. Nothing else is possible unless the compromised Supreme Court does its duty under the Constitution. <https://newswithviews.com/know-at-least-these-five-things-to-survive/>

**Biden Is Not Up to the Task**

[*Katie Pavlich*](https://townhall.com/columnists/katiepavlich/) *Posted: Aug 27, 2021 5:35 P*

While many of the political pundits in Washington, D.C., and New York City have deemed this week's suicide bombing against U.S. troops in Afghanistan "the worst day of Biden's presidency," we should be focused on how dangerous the situation is for the future of our country. It wasn't just a bad day for Joe Biden and his political standing. It was the worst day for American forces since August 5, 2011, when the Taliban shot down a Chinook helicopter carrying 31 U.S. service members, the majority of whom were Navy SEALs. At the time, Biden was vice president.

In early July, Biden stood in front of the country and the world to proclaim it was "unlikely" the Taliban would take over Afghanistan once the United States military left the country. Three weeks before his self-imposed August 31, 2021, exit date, the Taliban owned the country, took over the capital city and was doing "security" for U.S. Marines at the airport. As a result, a suicide bomber was sent to the front of the line, detonated a vest and killed 10 of them, in addition to two Army soldiers and a Navy corpsman.

Thanks to Biden's weakness, the Taliban took advantage and showed no fear in taking over the country even before the U.S. withdrawal. The results have been catastrophic, stranding countless Americans and Afghan allies behind enemy lines. Top U.S. officials have been forced to admit privately and state publicly that the Taliban is in control and that the only thing stopping them from slaughtering more Americans, for now, is that they want us out of the country.

But if a group of medieval terrorists, now armed with more weaponry than most countries in the world with U.S. equipment Biden left behind, can embarrass an American president this way and put the national security of the homeland at risk, how will Iran, China and Russia — countries with ballistic missiles — move to exploit the situation.

The same State Department team in charge of the Afghanistan withdrawal is in charge of reentering the disastrous Iran nuclear agreement. It's no coincidence Hamas, an Iranian-backed and funded terrorist/proxy organization in the Gaza Strip, launched a vicious rocket attack on Israel, our closest and Western Middle East ally, in May. It was a test of consequences. There were none, and nuclear negotiations continued unabetted.

When Russian hackers took down a major oil pipeline earlier this year with a cyber attack, Biden rewarded President Vladimir Putin with the completion of Nord Stream 2 and control of Europe's energy. China, which is also ramping up its nuclear arsenal, has yet to be punished for unleashing the Wuhan coronavirus pandemic on the world. Biden continues to rely on so-called "inconclusive" assessments about whether the disease was engineered in a lab. The evidence, combined with the outrageous yet typical behavior from the Chinese Communist Party, shows it most certainly was.

The number one responsibility of the Commander-in-Chief is to protect Americans from foreign threats. After the Afghanistan catastrophe, Biden faces the challenge of protecting the homeland from Islamic terrorism. He has to do the same against powerful regimes intent on removing America as the world's dominant power. Weakness is prey, and the wolves are on the prowl. Based on his performance just seven months in, the president isn't up to the task.

<https://townhall.com/columnists/katiepavlich/2021/08/27/americas-enemies-prey-on-bidens-weakness-n259489>1

**The Truth About Inequality**

[*John C. Goodman*](https://townhall.com/columnists/johncgoodman/) *Posted: Aug 28, 2021 12:01 A*

Inequality is almost universally condemned by the intellectual elite. But most of the rest of the world doesn’t think inequality is such a bad thing.

According to polling by Gallup, there are [138 million people](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2013/03/22/a-revealing-map-of-who-wants-to-move-to-the-u-s/) in the world today who would like to immigrate to the United States. Most of these people are poor. They tend to live in egalitarian surroundings – they and their neighbors are all equally poor. (The country with the highest percentage of would-be immigrants is Liberia.)

Yet they want to come to a country with a great deal of inequality, knowing they would start out at the bottom of the income ladder.

The attitude of these people isn’t all that different from the way the average American thinks.

Whether you are raising capital for a startup company, or selling an antique car, or raising money for a nonprofit organization, or just seeking a new job – common sense suggests you are better off if the person you are having lunch with has a lot more money than you have.

So, what is the intellectual elite complaining about? Most of the time, they are unclear.

Let’s walk through some of the issues.

**Inequality of pre-tax income.**

In a reasonably free market economy, you can get really rich if you are really good at meeting other people’s needs. J. K. Rowling became one of the world’s richest self-made women by meeting people’s needs for entertainment. Bill Gates became one of the world’s richest men by meeting our IT needs. If you invented a cure for Alzheimer’s, you would become one of the world’s richest people almost overnight.

If you are a[utilitarian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utilitarianism) and you think it’s good to meet as many human needs as possible, it’s hard to object to this type of inequality.

**Inequality in the disposition of pre-tax income.**

Once income is earned, does it matter what is done with it? LeBron James is one of the sports world’s highest income earners. He has a choice of consuming what he earns, or saving and investing it. To [Paul Krugman](https://townhall.com/columnists/johncgoodman/2015/06/06/how-much-does-paul-krugman-want-to-tax-lebron-james-n2009096), that choice doesn’t matter. Krugman would take 90 percent of James’ earnings regardless. But if you are a utilitarian, that position is impossible to defend.

Reportedly, Warren Buffet lives a very [modest lifestyle](https://www.investopedia.com/financial-edge/0412/the-everyday-lives-of-frugal-billionaires.aspx). So did Sam Walton, creator of Walmart. If you were concerned about inequality of consumption, you wouldn’t impose an extra tax on either one of them.

Moreover, when Warren Buffet is consuming, he is benefiting Buffet. When he is saving, he is benefiting all the rest of us.  When he puts his funds into the capital market, he is increasing the capital stock. That means higher productivity, higher output and higher economic growth.

You can justify a consumption tax (even a progressive consumption tax) on utilitarian grounds.

But it is really hard to justify a tax on capital that is used to fund consumption, a policy often advocated by those on the left. [Economic growth is the most successful antipoverty mechanism](https://econofact.org/poverty-reduction-and-economic-growth) the world has ever known.

**How government policy reduces inequality.**

If you care about inequality of consumption, then government taxation and entitlement spending is where your focus should be. For this we should be thankful to Lawrence Kotlikoff, Alan Auerbach and their colleagues for [doing the hard work](https://www.goodmaninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/BA_101.pdf). They have analyzed the lifetime effects of all federal and state and local taxes along with more than 30 different entitlement programs.

It is generally recognized that the United States has one of the most progressive income tax systems in the world. Kotlikoff and Auerbach have discovered that we probably have one of the most progressive fiscal systems in the world. [The main finding](https://www.goodmaninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/BA_101.pdf): because of taxes and entitlement programs, there is a big difference between earnings inequality and spending inequality.

For example, among people in their 40s, the difference between the top 20 percent and the bottom 20% in terms of resources earned over their remaining lifetime is 14 to 1. But the difference in lifetime spending is only 7 to 1. In other words, government policies cut inequality in half. Moreover, because of government taxes, the richest 1% in this age group will get to spend only one-third of what they earn.

**How government policy increases inequality.**

Thanks to the pioneering work of Kotlikoff and Auerbach, we now know that there is a great deal of inequality created by the government – maybe more than what is created by the private sector for some age groups.

To address the government’s role in creating inequality, the two economists looked at people at different ages and income levels and measured their lifetime [marginal net tax rate](https://kotlikoff.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/U.S.-Tax-Reform-and-the-Labor-Supply-Incentives-of-the-Elderly-7-29-17.pdf).  That’s the amount an individual sacrifices in taxes and lost entitlement benefits from earning an extra dollar of income over their remaining years of life.

In a [Goodman Institute Brief Analysis](https://www.goodmaninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/BA-115.pdf) Kotlikoff explains:

There is . . .  an enormous dispersion in marginal net tax rates among households with the same level of resources. For example, nearly one fifth of elderly in the lowest one-fifth face marginal net tax rates above 60 percent. Yet, almost a quarter face marginal net tax rates below 20 percent. In the top fifth, a full third of elderly are in 60 percent or higher marginal net tax brackets, whereas 14 percent are in brackets below 40 percent . . . .

In the case of the poorest 65–69-year-olds, those who earn an additional $20,000 (say, by taking a full or part-time job) face a marginal net tax rate that ranges from 8.8 percent to 627.9 percent!

These incentives are the result of a highly complex system of taxes and entitlement benefits that interact in very strange and unproductive ways.  They also affect behavior in unequal ways. Someone who gets to keep 91% of everything they earn is a lot more likely to participate in the labor market than someone at the same income level who loses more than $6 for every dollar they earn.

In the name of reducing inequality, government policies already intervene heavily in the private sector. Instead of a bigger role for the government, we should focus on making those interventions fairer and less disruptive.

<https://townhall.com/columnists/johncgoodman/2021/08/28/the-truth-about-inequality-n2594795>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Prime Minister Bennett's temporary synagogue**

***PM Bennett and his delegation spent Shabbat at a hotel near the White House. A synagogue was set up on the spot, in one of the hotel rooms.***

*Yoni Kempinski, Washington , Aug 28 , 2021 9:16 PM*



The temporary synagogue at the hotelCourtesy of the photographer

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On Friday evening, Shabbat services were held in the Willard Intercontinental Hotel near the White House, attended by Israel's Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett.  
 Attending the event were members of the Israeli government delegation, journalists, security personnel, and Embassy employees.  
 The event included candle-lighting at sundown, to welcome Shabbat, prayers, and the festive Friday night Shabbat meal.  
 Prior to the start of Shabbat, a synagogue was set up on one of the hotel's rooms, and members of the delegation were invited to join the prayer services.  
 The Israeli Embassy in Washington invested great efforts in the event, aided by Consul Doron Aboudi and the Embassy staff. A Torah scroll was brought for the synagogue by Chabad of Rockville.  
 Earlier on Friday, Bennett met with US President Joe Biden, in what was described as an ["excellent"](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312579) meeting.



Photos:ערוץ 7

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312582>

**Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked promises: 'No lockdown over Rosh Hashanah'**

***Interior Min. Ayelet Shaked promises there won't be a lockdown for Rosh Hashanah. 'We will all celebrate with our families.'***

*Hezki Baruch , Aug 28 , 2021 10:09 PM*



Ayelet ShakedOlivier Fitoussi/Flash90

Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked (Yamina) on Saturday evening promised that there will not be restrictions or a lockdown on Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year).  
 "I want the public to know: There will not be a lockdown on Rosh Hashanah," Shaked said. "We will spend the holiday with our whole families, together."  
 Shaked added that new restrictions are not expected to be imposed, including in synagogues.  
 "The plan to fight coronavirus has worked until now," she told *Channel 13* in an interview. "There was a very organized plan, which some of the media and political world chuckled at."  
 She added: "A person who is going to meet his parents, grandfathers, and grandmothers - it is appropriate that he receive the third dose of the vaccine."  
 Admitting that the government knows that starting the [school year](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312219) will bring an increase in coronavirus infections, Shaked said that "it is recommended that unvaccinated children undergo a coronavirus test prior to the holiday meal" held with extended family. She also said that next week, third doses of the vaccine will be available to everyone.  
 "I am working to change the Green Pass, so that only those who have been vaccinated in the past six months with the third dose, will be able to receive a Green Pass," she added.

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312586>

**33 pedophiles arrested in massive bust**

***Police pose as 13-year-old girls online to find and arrest sexual predators.***

*Arutz Sheva Staff , Aug 29 , 2021 2:14 PM*

Two police agencies arrested 33 suspects who tried to hunt down young girls on social media in a complex operation.

For four months, the agency impersonated 13-year-old girls who operated on social networks such as Tik Tok, Instagram and more.

From the moment they entered social networks under the names "Lee" and "Kim," they were exposed to hundreds of offers by men that included sexual content such as genital picture and, pictures and videos of a blatantly sexual nature, offers to pay for sex, offers for meetings to satisfy their sexual lust and more.

This morning (Sunday) the signal was given and hundreds of police officers accompanied by cyber investigators raided the homes of the 33 suspects from north to south in the localities of Rahat, Elad, Jerusalem, Tuba, Nazareth, Deir al-Assad, Eilat, Beer Sheva, Haifa, Givatayim, Turan, Shefar'am and Petah Tikva.

During the operation, laptops and smartphones were seized that were allegedly used to conduct calls and distribute pedophilia materials. A substance suspected to be a cannabis-type drug was also seized.

Among the suspects were arrested were a 51-year-old resident of Petah Tikva who had previously served 8 years in prison for sexual offenses, a 20-year-old resident of Haifa, and a 75-year-old resident of Givatayim. All will be brought to the Magistrate's Court in Nazareth for a hearing on the police's request to extend their detention. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/312629>

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