

01/03/2022 NEWS

## Flashmob - Orchestra waiting for the train, Mozart - Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDdY46iAwHI>

"A man may be born a jackass; but it is his business if he makes himself a double one."  
-- Martin H. Fischer (1879-1962) German-born American physician and author

### 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 CB – Heart attack with stent.

Pray for TH - Knee and Blood pressure problems.

Pray for J P– sick with flu bad episode 5 years ago

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

Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations?

Exodus 2:<sup>1</sup>And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi.

<sup>2</sup>And the woman conceived, and bore a son; and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup>And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch; and she put the child therein, and laid it in the flags by the river's brink. <sup>4</sup>And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

### Anti-aircraft missiles fired at IDF helicopters during Gaza strike, but miss

*Military says attack caused no injury or damage; Bennett: We're not interested in Hamas's excuses about weather, 'whoever aims rockets at Israel must take responsibility'*

By [Judah Ari Gross](#) and [TOI staff](#) Today, 8:25 am Updated at 11:24 am

**In a rare incident, Gazan terrorists targeted Israeli military helicopters with shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles over the Strip early Sunday morning during airstrikes carried out by the Israel Defense Forces.**

During retaliatory airstrikes shortly after midnight, Hamas operatives fired two SAM-7 anti-aircraft missiles toward raiding helicopters west of Gaza City, Palestinian media outlets said.

The IDF confirmed that anti-aircraft missiles were fired at the helicopters, but would not comment on how many. The military said the missiles missed their mark and caused neither injury nor damage.

The SAM-7 missile, also known as 9K32 Strela-2, is a Russian-made shoulder-launched surface-to-air missile. They are relatively outdated, having been first made in the 1960s, but remain in use today.

**The Israeli airstrikes, which were carried out by both helicopters and fighter jets, were in response to two rockets that were fired from Gaza on Saturday morning,** which landed off the coast of central Israel.

Video footage showed one explode in the sea off the coast of Jaffa, next to Tel Aviv, while the second reportedly landed off the coast of Palmachim, south of the city of Rishon LeZion.

**Hamas has claimed that it did not fire the rockets intentionally, but that they were triggered by inclement weather.** Israeli military officials have said in similar cases in the past that due to the shoddy electrical work on Hamas's rockets, the projectiles could be set off prematurely by weather conditions, notably lightning strikes.

**At the outset of the cabinet meeting on Sunday, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Israel was not interested in such excuses.**

**"All of Hamas's stories about thunder and lightning, which we hear winter after winter, are not relevant anymore," said Bennett. "Whoever aims rockets at the State of Israel must take responsibility."**

**According to the Kan public broadcaster, Israeli officials believe the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group was responsible for the rocket fire, and not Gaza's rulers, Hamas.** The network said Hamas conveyed to Israel via Egyptian mediators that it was not responsible.

**The IDF said its strikes in the predawn hours of Sunday morning targeted "a rocket production facility belonging to the Hamas terror group." IDF tanks also targeted outposts in northern Gaza, the military said.**

Hamas media said Israeli warplanes struck a Hamas outpost west of Khan Younis, in the southern part of the Strip.

Video from Gaza reportedly shows the two rocket launches toward the coast of Tel Aviv this morning

[pic.twitter.com/EPoAQIpy6T](https://pic.twitter.com/EPoAQIpy6T)

— Emanuel (Mannie) Fabian (@manniefabian) [January 1, 2022](#)

**In addition to its military strikes, Israel also informed Egypt, which has served as a mediator between it and Hamas, that the incident was unacceptable, even if the rockets were launched by accident.**

"Hamas is responsible and bears the consequences for all activity in and emanating from the Gaza Strip," the IDF said in its statement early Sunday morning.

**On Sunday morning, security cabinet member Justice Minister Gideon Sa'ar told Army Radio that "all the pretexts of lightning and weather — it's systematic. The weather didn't fire the rockets, we view Hamas as responsible."**

Sa'ar argued that Israel's response was proportionate and represented a "far tougher" policy than that of the previous government.

The Ynet news website quoted unnamed Israeli security sources saying that if Hamas cannot prevent rocket fire toward Israel in bad weather conditions, the group should disarm itself of rockets entirely.

Defense officials said Israel had been seeking to respond in a way that would "not cause an escalation but convey the message that incidents on the border and rocket launches are unacceptable." **MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/anti-aircraft-missiles-fired-at-idf-helicopters-during-gaza-strike-but-miss/> If Hamas is as "powerful" as they claim then they need to keep a hand on Islamic Jihad and let them know that if there are rockets they will be adjudicated (which in Hamas-land means terminated. – rdb]**

## **Defense Ministry detonates Syrian munitions from decades-old Golan Heights bunker**

*National mine-clearing organization found the various bombs in an underground bunker in November, decided to blow them up for safety instead of moving them*

By [Judah Ari Gross](#) Today, 2:39 pm

**The Defense Ministry's mine-clearing outfit detonated hundreds of pieces of Syrian munitions on Sunday that were found recently in a bunker that had been abandoned following the 1967 Six Day War, when Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria, the Defense Ministry said.**

**The bunker was uncovered in November, with hundreds of pieces of ordnance inside, including "mortar shells of different calibers, flares, pyrotechnic munitions, explosives, hunting rifle ammunition and other types inside their original packages or spread out," the ministry said at the time.**

The Mine Action Authority, which led the effort, decided to detonate the munitions on site — instead of moving them to a blast site — out of safety concerns. In **total, the various explosives weighed hundreds of kilograms.**

As a safety measure, the authority closed off the surrounding areas and roadways during the blast.

**The bunker was uncovered and the munitions inside were detonated as part of an ongoing campaign by the Defense Ministry's Mine Action Authority** to open more and more parts of the Golan to hikers and tourists.

The bunker was found in an area of the western Golan that held a Syrian outpost, known as al-Murtafa, which was used by the Syrian military to shoot at Israeli communities in the Hula valley below prior to the war. The area is now home to the Mitzpeh Gadot memorial to the Alexandroni Brigade. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/defense-ministry->

[detonates-syrian-munitions-from-decades-old-golan-heights-bunker/](#) [Remnants of a 50 year old war that still haunt Israel and Syria. There are areas in the Golan that are definitely unsafe and a problem. You will see signs in multiple areas concerning mine fields. Syria still wants another war. – rdb]

## First phase of major reform in Israel's kosher certification system enters effect

*Businesses can now choose to be supervised by any local religious council in the country; Religious Services Minister Kahana says plan will boost competition, improve kashrut*

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 11:14 am

**The first phase of a major overhaul of Israel's kosher certification industry came into effect on Sunday, paving the way to greater competition and a weaker Chief Rabbinate monopoly over the matter.**

**The reform, spearheaded by Religious Services Minister Matan Kahana, will eventually enable private organizations to provide supervision services — with oversight by the Rabbinate — starting in 2023.**

**Legislation on the matter was approved in late October by the Knesset Committee for Religious Services, and passed its final readings in the Knesset in early November.**

**In the first stage, which has now taken effect, any restaurant, food store and factory can choose from among all religious councils nationwide to provide them kashrut supervision, rather than only being able to use their local council.**

**After the second and final stage enters effect on January 1, 2023, Kahana's proposal will establish a series of private agencies that can issue kosher certification, which currently can only be done by the Chief Rabbinate, though the private agencies will all be required to uphold religious standards established by the Chief Rabbinate. The move is aimed at increasing competition to reduce costs for businesses seeking certification.**

**The private agencies will be authorized to issue certifications that note they are "under the supervision of the Rabbinate." Each agency is expected to be headed by a rabbi who is certified by the city's local rabbinate. The agencies — which will also need to demonstrate financial viability — will make public the religious standards they are maintaining in their certification.**

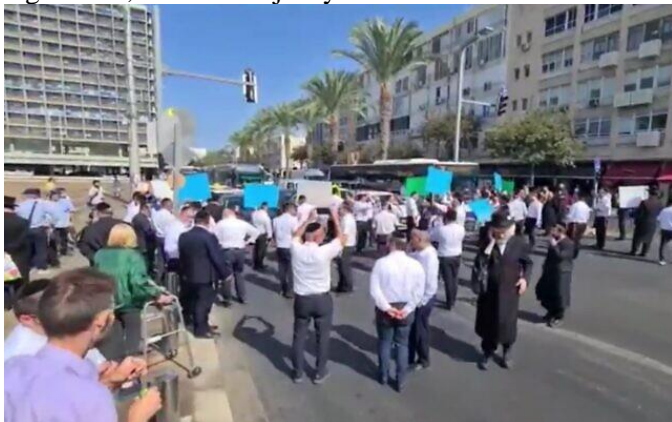


*Religious Services Minister Matan Kahana (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)*

**The proposed plan would also see the creation of an overarching supervisory body within the Chief Rabbinate to monitor the private agencies and ensure they uphold the standards** they have promised to meet. It will allow local religious councils to also provide kosher certifications as well as local municipal rabbis.

**According to a recent study by the Israel Democracy Institute (IDI), Israel's kosher certification system is riddled with inefficiencies and non-transparent processes that are costing taxpayers an approximate extra NIS 13.1 million (\$4 million) per year and leading to duplicate and sometimes triplicate certifications.**

**The reform plan has been vehemently rejected by the ultra-Orthodox community, and Haredi politicians have been fiercely fighting against it.** Opposition MKs submitted more than 1,000 amendments to the legislation, the vast majority of which were thrown out.



*Activists protest in Tel Aviv on October 27, 2021, against the kosher industry reform proposal. (Screenshot)*

**In October, dozens of activists and kosher supervisors protested in Tel Aviv against the reform, charging that it will put hundreds of them out of work. A separate demonstration saw some activists cook shrimp and other non-kosher seafood in a protest outside Kahana's home in the Beit Gamliel moshav. Protesters believe that the legislation will lead to the establishment of kosher certifying agencies without sufficiently stringent oversight or regulation.**

פעילים נגד רפורמת הכשרות מקפיצים שרימפסים כמחאה מול הבית של שר הדתות מתן כהנא

[pic.twitter.com/qg1TkWBIZg](https://pic.twitter.com/qg1TkWBIZg)

— עקיבא ווייס Akiva Weisz (@AkivaWeisz) [October 25, 2021](#)

But Kahana hailed his reform on Sunday in a Facebook post, saying it will “march the kashrut system forward toward better, more organized and more supervised kashrut.”

**“The option for every city rabbi, via a religious council, to provide kosher certificates in every area of Israel... opens the kashrut market to competition,”** Kahana wrote, arguing that this will lead to “better, more serious, more meticulous and more convenient service to business owners.”

He argued that the reform would in fact strengthen the Chief Rabbinate, since it would become “a supervising body with robust authority.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/first-phase-of-major-reform-in-israels-kosher-certification-system-enters-effect/> **[This will continue to cause a huge stink in Israel. Kashrut is a critical piece of Jewish religious process and having kosher certification is essential for a business to have a full compliment of customers. Even under the current state system there are many products with special certifications by certain Rabbinic Authorities that are the primary certificates some will use. – rdb]**

## Government set to pass electricity bill into law Monday

*Coalition crisis threatened over imported fruit.*

By [GIL HOFFMAN](#) Published: JANUARY 2, 2022 19:08 Updated: JANUARY 2, 2022 21:09

**Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's governing coalition will face a challenge on Monday night when it attempts to pass the controversial [electricity law](#). The bill would enable tens of thousands of illegally built homes to be [hooked up to the national electricity grid](#), as well as to water and to telephone lines.**

**Coalition MK Michael Biton (Blue and White) was diagnosed with COVID-19 on Sunday, which will make it harder for the narrow coalition to pass the bill.**

The bill's sponsor, Ra'am (United Arab List) MK Waleed Taha, told the Knesset plenum it would save lives and “finally do justice for tens of thousands of people who were not given permits to build and were not permitted to be hooked up to the grid.”

**But Likud MK David Amsalem has called the bill “the most dangerous step since the state was founded.”**



*MK DAVID AMSALEM addresses the Knesset plenum during a debate last month. (credit: YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90)*

**The coalition is also facing a challenge over the decision of Agriculture Minister Oded Forer (Yisrael Beytenu) to remove taxes on imported fruit.**

**Labor, Meretz and Blue and White MKs from three kibbutzim and moshavim have vowed to stop voting with the coalition over the decision. They are also mad at Forer for setting limits on eggs without consulting with farmers.**

**“If these steps are taken, there will be a coalition crisis,”** Blue and White MK Alon Schuster, who is a former agriculture minister, told Army Radio. “There are MKs who are angry at these unilateral steps, and we just won't come to vote. I don't recommend challenging the farmers.”

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-690387>

## Government approves planning and construction reform in business sector

*PM Bennett and Economy and Industry Minister Orna Barbivai announce shortened approval process, new center to issue building permits*

By [David Brummer](#) Today, 7:49 pm

**The government approved a number of reforms on Sunday aimed at easing and shortening bureaucratic processes in the planning and construction sector for non-residential structures.**

**Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Economy and Industry Minister Orna Barbivai said in a joint announcement that the move will “strengthen Israeli industry” and allow business owners and entrepreneurs to get their operations off the ground more quickly.**

**The reforms include shortening the amount of time it takes to approve and build factories and establishing a “licensing and permits center” to reduce the lengthy approval process involving various government agencies and local authorities.**



“This **is wonderful news for the planning and construction sector in Israel,**” said **Bennett** in the statement. “For the economy to grow and prosper, the state needs to allow business owners to run forward and to bother them as little as possible. Entrepreneurs are the living spirit and we need to assist them, not hinder them with unnecessary and complicated procedures. For years, the state made these connections more difficult. Now we are removing the blockage and taking another step for the business sector in Israel.”

**Barbivai said that “improving the business environment and reducing the regulatory burden is a national goal designed to significantly shorten timeframes** to allow industry and the business sector to compete fairly and lead the economy to substantive growth.”

After an **initial contraction in 2020 due to the COVID-19** pandemic, [Israel’s economy grew some seven percent in 2021](#), outstripping a global 5.9% average.

According **to the government announcement, the reforms aim to shorten the amount of time required to set up factories from four to five years to two years, and reduce red tape related** to the allocation of land and initial planning stages. The changes were proposed by an inter-ministerial committee led by the Economy and Industry Ministry, the Prime Minister’s Office, and the Interior Ministry’s Planning Administration.

**The government will also pilot a first-of-its-kind licensing and permits center in northern Israel that is “expected to reduce the time necessary for issuing construction permits for new and existing factories** by 50%.”

The **licensing center will include representatives from the Environmental Protection Ministry, the Fire and Rescue Authority, and** the IDF Home Front Command in cooperation with the local committees on behalf of the Federation of Local Authorities.

“This is a unique model that combines all government and local authority elements in order to cooperate and work together in a manner that puts the entrepreneur in the center and saves [them] maximum time and effort vis-à-vis the various elements, reduces unnecessary costs, provides certainty and shortens timeframes,” read the government announcement.

In addition, the reforms would address planning issues for proposed industrial zones and resolve “widespread impediments in industrial planning in Israel, with an emphasis on environmental regulation,” the statement said.

The announcement came a week after the cabinet [approved a NIS 1 billion \(\\$317 million\) development plan](#) aimed at encouraging demographic growth in the Golan Heights by setting up new residential areas and industrial zones.

The plan involves a number of agricultural technology projects, including agro-voltaic projects where solar panels are mounted over crop fields to facilitate crop growth and generate electricity at the same time.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) said the plan was [riddled with planning and environmental problems](#). <https://www.timesofisrael.com/government-approves-planning-and-construction-reform-in-business-sector/>

## **Hamas threatens to kidnap Israelis in absence of prisoner swap deal**

*Terrorist group's political leader Haniyeh wants exchange to include the six prisoners who escaped Gilboa Prison in return for Israeli prisoners and bodies of troops held in Gaza*

i24NEWS / Published: 01.02.22, 22:18

**Top Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh warned on Sunday that the militant faction will kidnap Israelis if a prisoner exchange between the parties was to hit a dead end.**

“The Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades are holding four prisoners inside Gaza, and if Israel is not convinced to reach a deal, Hamas and the al-Qassam battalions will force them” by kidnapping others, official Hamas media announced.

**Haniyeh also reiterated that Hamas wants the swap to include the six prisoners who escaped from the maximum-security Gilboa Prison in September** [before being recaptured](#).



Tensions are high between Israel and Gaza following [a Saturday strike from the territory](#), in which two Hamas rockets landed fell off the coast of central Israel.

No casualties were reported, and a Hamas official said that the incident was the result of an electrical malfunction, according to The Washington Post.

*Smoke rising off the coast of Tel Aviv after Hamas rockets crash in the ocean, January 1, 2021*

Israel’s armed forces released a subsequent statement disputing the militant group’s excuse, arguing that “Hamas is responsible and bears the consequences for all activity in and emanating from the Gaza Strip.”

Following the launch, [Israel’s military responded by striking a number of Hamas targets in Gaza](#). <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/bk1xrokfnf>

## IDF issues demolition order for home of Hamas terrorist who killed Eli Kay

*Move comes a month and a half after the attack in Jerusalem's Old City, following attempts by Abu Shkaydam's family to block it*

By [Judah Ari Gross](#) Today, 10:19 pm



*Fadi Abu Shkaydam, the terrorist who killed an Israeli civilian and wounded four others in a shooting attack in East Jerusalem's Old City on November 21, 2021. (Facebook)*

**The military on Sunday issued a demolition order for the home of a Palestinian terrorist behind a deadly terror attack in November in Jerusalem's Old City.**

**On November 21, Fadi Abu Shkaydam opened fire at a number of Israeli men in the alleyways of the Old City, killing Eliyahu Kay and injuring four others, two of them seriously. Border Police officers returned fire, killing Abu Shkaydam.**

**The military initiated the process of demolishing Abu Shkaydam's home in East Jerusalem's Shuafat refugee camp shortly after the attack. His family appealed the decision in court, but their requests were rejected.**

**The seizure and demolition order for Abu Shkaydam's home was signed by the head of the Israel Defense Forces' Home Front Command, Maj. Gen. Ori Gordin, as he is the relevant officer within Israeli territory, including East Jerusalem, which Israel annexed in 1967 following that year's Six Day War. In the West Bank, the head of the IDF Central Command issues demolition orders.**

Israel defends the contentious practice of razing the family homes of attackers as a deterrent against future assaults, and officials have argued that speed is essential, claiming that the deterrent factor degrades over time.

Over the years, however, a number of Israeli defense officials have questioned the efficacy of the practice, and human rights activists have denounced it as unfair collective punishment. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-issues-demolition-order-for-home-of-hamas-terrorist-who-killed-eli-kay/>

## More aid for El Al Airlines amid COVID travel bans

*Israel's flag carrier will receive tens of millions of dollars from the state and El Al's controlling shareholders.*

By *REUTERS* Published: JANUARY 2, 2022 16:30 Updated: JANUARY 2, 2022 16:57

**The government said last week it would give additional aid to El Al Airlines to help compensate for the reimposition of a COVID-19 entry ban on foreign tourists and restrictions on overseas travel by Israelis.**

**Israel's flag carrier will receive tens of millions of dollars from the state and El Al's controlling shareholders to help it weather the pandemic, and the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, according to a Finance Ministry statement.**

**The aid will be given over the next few months, and Israel's other main airlines, Arkia and Israir, will also be offered a similar deal, the ministry said.**

**El Al has been pressing the government for another aid package, with Israelis barred by the government from traveling to dozens of countries, including the United States and Britain, and an entry ban on foreigners back in force.**

**"The new outline will allow (airlines) to overcome the pandemic while maintaining the principle that state aid will be provided along with external capital to strengthen their capital structure," said Finance Minister Avigdor Lieberman. [The airlines and entire 'hospitality industry' including are areas of tourism have been devastated by the actions taken to try to quell the COV which really have not be very successful, even when they try to claim that they have been. – rdb]**

**"I hope that in the coming month we will open the skies to those entering and leaving."**

Israel had closed its borders in March 2020 at the outset of the pandemic. In November 2021, foreigners were briefly allowed in but the rapid spread of the Omicron variant led Israel's government to [tighten travel restrictions](#).

**El Al has laid off 1,900 employees - nearly one-third of its staff - as part of a recovery plan mandated by the government to receive a \$210 million aid package earlier in the year. It also reduced its fleet to 29 from 45.**

The airline also was set to receive another \$30 million in aid due to the restrictions over the summer.

**El Al lost a net \$136.2 million in the third quarter**, a period that is typically its strongest, compared with a \$146.6 million loss a year earlier. Revenue jumped to \$253 million from \$39.2 million a year ago, when borders were largely shut.

It had initially believed sales for the fourth quarter would be higher in the wake of the government's approval for tourists vaccinated within the prior six months to enter Israel as of November 1. <https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/article-690376>

## Knesset member tests positive for COVID-19

*Michael Biton, chairman of the Knesset Economic Affairs Committee, spent hours in the parliament on Thursday holding multiple hearings and meetings*

By [Amy Spiro](#) Today, 9:13 am



*Knesset Economic Affairs Committee Chairman Michael Biton leads a meeting of the committee at the Knesset on December 7, 2021. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)*

**Blue and White MK Michael Biton has tested positive for COVID-19, the Knesset spokesman announced on Sunday morning.**

**Biton, the chairman of the Knesset Economic Affairs Committee, was last present in the Knesset on Thursday.**

**The head of the Knesset Guard said that, following the news, "an epidemiological investigation will be carried out in conjunction with professionals in the Health Ministry."** It was not

immediately clear how many other members of Knesset would be affected.

Under **the current guidelines, any individual who has been exposed to a COVID patient must immediately enter quarantine. Those who are fully vaccinated with a booster shot can exit quarantine after testing negative.** Anyone who is not considered fully vaccinated must observe 14 days of quarantine, or 7 days with two negative tests.

**Biton, who has three vaccine doses, is reportedly not suffering from any symptoms.** The MK spent hours in the Knesset on Thursday, holding a series of long committee hearings as well as meeting with Agricultural Minister Oded Forer as well as local farmers.

Last week, all attendees at Sunday's cabinet meeting were required to undergo a COVID test before the meeting. During the cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett [exited halfway through](#) after receiving a call informing him that his daughter had tested positive for COVID.

Bennett later exited quarantine after testing negative multiple times.

Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu also tested negative for COVID on Wednesday after coming in contact with a man whose daughter had tested positive.

Earlier this month, [more than 100](#) people including [nine Knesset members](#) were sent to quarantine after a COVID outbreak in the Knesset. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/knesset-member-tests-positive-for-covid-19/>

## Bennett announces approval of 4th vaccine doses for over-60s, medical workers

*PM says travel restrictions likely to be lifted in coming week; ministers okay temporary Green Pass for anyone who gets 1st vaccine shot*

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 10:33 pm



*Prime Minister Naftali Bennett speaks during a press conference at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on January 2, 2022. (Kobi Gideon/GPO)*

**Prime Minister Naftali Bennett announced Sunday that the Health Ministry has approved the distribution of a fourth coronavirus vaccine dose to Israelis over the age of 60, along with medical workers who have gone at least four months since receiving their booster shot.**

**The premier made the declaration during a primetime press conference, amid growing concern over the government's handling of the ongoing Omicron wave, which has seen extremely long lines at testing centers across the country.**



**Bennett used the opportunity to justify his government's decision-making thus far, including the early closing of the skies at the end of November.**

**“We’ve been first in the world [with the] booster shots and that** policy has protected Israel’s citizens well,” the premier said, adding that Israel’s death rate was among the lowest in the world — 50 times lower than the UK’s, 100 times lower than Germany’s and 130 times lower than that of the United States. **HUMMM? So since the Omicron is a mild flu and in light of the fact that CDC said they are developing a test that will distinguish between the COV and the flu since the current one doesn’t???? so what have they been testing for???? Why are you still JABBING people with a treatment that is experimental and if you look at the real statistics doesn’t work. – rdb]**

**He argued that the economy was still functioning well, even while the government was taking steps to protect the most vulnerable. [In this functioning economy how much are you giving the airlines to salvage them? – rdb]**

Israel is **currently seeing over 5,000 new cases a day**, will likely reach 20,000 new daily cases by the end of the week, and could hit 50,000 daily cases at the height of the wave, Bennett warned, adding that the only effective antidote to the spike was the vaccine. **[HUNNN? So the JAB is working well??? I don’t think so. – rdb]**

**“Here’s what we need you to do: Get vaccinated;** get boosted; get the children vaccinated,” he said.

Bennett encouraged Israelis to wear masks in crowded spaces, particularly indoors, and for elderly populations to avoid crowds entirely.

**“The vaccination protects you from serious illness... and from quarantine,”** he said, acknowledging the vast number of Israelis who have been forced to isolate due to exposure to COVID carriers. **[If he were a doc he should be sued for medical malpractice. There is no real statistical evidence this stuff is working as they said. He is breaching the Nuremburg Code every day. – rdb]**

In an effort to address the problem of tens of thousands of Israelis who have been forced into quarantine, Bennett announced that all vaccinated Israelis above the age of 5 — once they receive a negative COVID test — do not have to isolate upon exposure to a COVID carrier.

The premier suggested that long lines at testing centers were an unavoidable reality of the current wave that countries around the world have been coping with and that there simply weren’t enough resources to cope with such large numbers of active cases all at once. However, he indicated that the government would weigh changing testing requirements in the coming days.

Separately Sunday evening, the Magen David Adom emergency service announced that it would be extending its hours at testing sites, expanding the number of medical staff at the centers and adding new testing stations across the country.

**“Be patient,”** Bennett said. **“We know there are lines at the testing centers... We’re preparing to change the criteria for tests in order to reduce the crowding.”**



*A health worker takes swab samples from Israelis at a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site in Jerusalem on January 2, 2022. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)*

**According to Channel 12, one of the options being considered would be to not require Israelis exposed to a COVID carrier to get tested unless they are experiencing symptoms. [This is probably the first thing in this report that actually makes logical sense. – rdb]**

When a reporter accused Bennett’s government of flip-flopping in its response to the pandemic, the premier responded, **“We could have just imposed a lockdown like the last government did,”** with all the dire economic consequences that such a step would have brought with it.

In comments likely to please foreigners abroad, Bennett said travel restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of the Omicron variant of coronavirus would soon likely be lifted.

**“I closed the skies five weeks ago when everything was fine, and in the coming week, it is likely that we will reopen the skies,”** he said.

Bennett acknowledged that such a move may seem counterintuitive, but explained that when there are fewer active infections, the spread of the virus from abroad has a much more significant effect on morbidity in the country. However, when there are already tens of thousands of cases in Israel, another 50 infections among travelers from overseas are



“meaningless.”

Earlier Sunday, the ministerial forum guiding the government’s COVID-19 response approved granting a temporary Green Pass to anyone who gets a vaccine shot.

The temporary certificates will be valid for 30 days after someone gets a first vaccine dose and will allow entry to all venues and events that require proof of immunization.

The passes will begin to be issued on January 6. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-announces-approval-of-4th-vaccine-doses-for-over-60s-medical-workers/>

**Up to a third of Israelis predicted to get COVID in next 3 weeks; tests running out  
PM says government trying to find solutions amid huge lines at testing sites, while some health officials say  
Omicron herd immunity is likeliest outcome of current wave**

By [Michael Bachner](#) Today, 1:45 pm



*People shop at the Mahane Yehuda Market in Jerusalem on December 24, 2021. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)*

**A leading health expert advising the government predicted Sunday morning that one out of every three or four Israelis will be infected with the Omicron variant of the coronavirus over the next three weeks, cautioning that most won’t know they’ve been infected because the country is quickly running out of test kits.**

**Testing facilities across the country were inundated with huge crowds** on Sunday as thousands of Israelis lined up on foot or in cars to get tested, with many

waiting hours to be swabbed.

**Health Ministry figures published Sunday morning showed that 4,197 new cases were confirmed on Saturday, a figure representing reduced testing on weekends, with the rate of positive tests rising to 4.57 percent.** Daily infections in Israel have spiked from under 1,000 new cases some 10 days ago to almost 5,500 on Friday, and active cases have almost tripled in a week to 31,958. The total confirmed infections since the start of the pandemic stand at close to 1.4 million.

However, serious cases have seen a far more moderate increase, from 77 on December 22 to 110 on Sunday. The death toll remained at 8,244. There have been four COVID-related deaths in the country since December 21.

**Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Sunday at the outset of the weekly cabinet meeting that there will soon be tens of thousands of daily infections.** He hailed far-reaching travel restrictions imposed in recent weeks, saying they delayed Omicron’s arrival and enabled Israel to study the outbreaks in South Africa, Britain, the United States and other places, effectively “seeing into the future.”

“Our goal is always the same goal: to enable the economy to function as fully as possible, while protecting the most vulnerable among us,” Bennett said, adding that the government was discussing potential solutions to the heavy strain on testing sites and reported shortage of testing kits.

עומסים כבדים גם היום במתחמי בדיקות קורונה ברחבי הארץ. תור ארוך נרשם במתחם בית אריאלה

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— כאן חדשות (@kann\_news) [January 2, 2022](#)

**Bennett suggested that Israel may need to change the criterion for who can be tested due to the shortage of testing kits, a phenomenon he said was being experienced worldwide.**

In an official report handed to the coronavirus cabinet and in a series of media interviews, Prof. Eran Segal of the Weizmann Institute estimated that 2-4 million out of Israel’s total population of some 9.5 million will end up catching Omicron, but the number of simultaneous serious cases won’t surpass the current record of approximately 1,200.

**MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/up-to-a-third-of-israelis-predicted-to-get-covid-in-next-3-weeks-tests-running-out/> This is what happens when you simply use terror fear porn to control your people and the situation is one in which “mother nature” actually has control. – rdb**

**Thousands march to honor WWII Nazi collaborator (VIDEO)**

2 Jan, 2022 12:53

**Ukrainian nationalists paraded in torchlight procession in Kiev with portraits of Hitler ally**

**Ukrainian far-right ultra nationalists held a torchlight procession in Kiev on Saturday night,** celebrating a controversial WWII-Nazi collaborator. Israeli diplomats said the march “insulted” the memory of the Holocaust.

**The activists chanted “Glory” and “Our land” as they marked the birthday of Stepan Bandera, a former leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), which was aligned with Adolf Hitler's Germany.**

Some carried portraits and banners with images of the controversial figure and shouted “*Bandera, come and restore order.*” One person was filmed wielding what appeared to be a ceremonial sword.

The procession ended with a rally in front of the office of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The Israeli Embassy in Kiev condemned the procession. “*The glorification of those who supported Nazi ideology, insults the memory of the victims of Holocaust in Ukraine,*” diplomats said in a statement on Facebook, demanding that Kiev investigate “*manifestations of anti-Semitism*” during the march.

Bandera collaborated with the Nazi regime in Hitler’s war against the USSR, and his followers were responsible for massacres of Poles and Jews. In 1959, he was assassinated, in reprisal, by a Soviet agent in Munich, Germany.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/545001-nationalists-march-torches-kiev/> **[The ideology never dies. – rdb]**

## **'Essentially traitors': China has 'thousands' of U.S. professors on payroll**

**'Inflicted incalculable damage on America'**

By [Bob Unruh](#) Published January 2, 2022 at 11:44am

**China's Communist Party, the controlling power in the repressive nation, probably has "thousands" of American professors on its payroll, according to China expert Gordon Chang.**

He noted at [the Gatestone Institute](#), where he is a distinguished senior fellow, **the recent guilty verdicts on six felony counts against Charles Lieber, who is the former chair of Harvard's Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology.**

The **New York Times** called him one of the nation's "top research chemists" but then he lied to the **FBI about participating in Beijing's "Thousand Talents Program," and getting paid for that.**

The **payments were something in the range of \$50,000 per month, and to make matters worse, he reportedly did not pay income taxes.**

"The case against the Harvard academic was airtight," Chang explained. **"Nonetheless, members of America's academic elite are up in arms that the Department of Justice prosecuted Lieber, and many are campaigning against law enforcement efforts."**

He **said that's because, "China's regime has bought America's academic community and turned it against America."**

He continued, **"Justice did not go after Lieber for espionage or intellectual property theft. Instead, it hit him with relatively minor charges in order to obtain convictions. Yet make no mistake: Lieber's activities were deeply injurious to the United States. The Harvard professor recruited American talent to work in China. In 2011, Lieber had agreed to become a 'strategic scientist' at the Wuhan University of Technology and consequently a part of the Thousand Talents Program, an effort to attract foreign specialists for Beijing."**

Chang explained, **"For his efforts, Beijing rewarded Lieber handsomely: \$50,000 a month, among other payments. As Charles Burton, once a professor at Brock University and now a leading expert on China's infiltration of Canada, tells Gatestone, 'Scientists around the world, identified as leaders in areas of advanced research that are strategic priorities, are targeted by a well-funded sophisticated engagement that plays on their vanity, naiveté, and greed.'"**

Not only did **China offer money to tempt Lieber, he apparently was in it for his ego as well, as China apparently offered support for him to win the Nobel Prize.**

Now allies of China's communists are blaming the DOJ for the case, he said.

"They accuse this law-enforcement effort of 'racial profiling,' 'selective prosecution,' and 'prosecutorial overreach.'"

Chang explained it's likely Lieber lied because he knew what he was doing was wrong, "that he was aware he was taking money to harm the United States."

That would be money from China's Communists, who have engaged for years in taking intellectual property from the U.S., an industry estimated to be worth perhaps \$500 billion a year.

Experts told Chang the Chinese Communists have worked for years to infiltrate American academia.

"The effort has been successful. I am told there are 'thousands' of professors on Beijing's payroll in California

universities," Chang reported.

Xi Jinping, in fact, has said it is regime priority to attract foreign professionals to give state-of-the-art know-how to China.

Chang explained, **"China's regime believes that the competition for talent is a war. In that war, China's military has access to all technology in nominally civilian Chinese institutions and companies, and the Chinese military is planning to use this tech to develop the means to kill Americans by the hundreds of millions."**

But, he said, "Americans working for Beijing, whatever their intention, are essentially traitors. Lieber, a traitor, has inflicted incalculable damage on America." <https://www.wnd.com/2022/01/essentially-traitors-china-thousandsof-u-s-professors-payroll/>

## Thousands gather to oppose Dutch virus measures despite ban

By ALEKSANDAR FURTULA and MIKE CORDER yesterday



*Police clash with demonstrators as thousands of people defied a ban Sunday to gather and protest the Dutch government's coronavirus lockdown measures, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022. The municipality of the Dutch capital banned the protest, saying police had indications some demonstrators could be attending "prepared for violence." (AP Photo/Peter Dejong)*

**AMSTERDAM (AP) — Thousands of people in the Netherlands defied a ban on assembling and demonstrated Sunday against the Dutch government's coronavirus lockdown measures, gathering on a central square before marching toward a park in Amsterdam.**

**A small group of demonstrators briefly clashed with riot police as officers worked to clear the crowd from Museum Square based on an order from Amsterdam Mayor Femke Halsema. Reporters at the scene saw at least one person being detained.**

**The local government had outlawed the protest, saying police had indications some demonstrators might be planning to attend "prepared for violence." The municipality later issued an emergency order for people to leave the square, and riot police marched across the grass to clear the area, sending the demonstrators into nearby streets.**

**Before officers moved in, some participants unfurled a banner that read, "Less repression, more care" near the Van Gogh Museum. A group of people in white overalls and white masks held up signs, including one that said: "It's not about a virus, it's about control" on one side and "Freedom" on the other. One person walked through the crowd carrying a "Trump 2024" flag.**

There was a heavy police presence on the square and in nearby streets. The municipality designated the area as a security risk region, giving police the authority to frisk people preventatively.

**After marching through the city, demonstrators began gathering at a western Amsterdam park for a rally of the populist Forum for Democracy party.**

**The demonstration came on the same day Dutch police said they would take action to protest the increasing demands of their work.** Union representatives have said riot police would continue to work, if necessary.

**Coronavirus infection rates have been gradually decreasing for weeks in the Netherlands,** which re-introduced lockdown measures in November and tightened them further during the holiday season.

The 7-day rolling average of new daily cases edged slightly lower over the past week to 85.55 new cases per 100,000 people even as the omicron mutation became the nation's dominant variant.

Under the lockdown, all non-essential shops are closed along with bars, restaurants and venues such as museums, theaters and cinemas.

In November, a coronavirus demonstration erupted into violent [rioting in Rotterdam](#) and demonstrations on Museum Square have ended in confrontations between police and protesters who ignored orders to leave the area.

<https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-health-europe-riots-netherlands-22d23ceea93fb5d2d5d03eb08dc6bddf>



## Austrian activist: 'Faith is what keeps people fighting' state COVID tyranny

Takes WND behind the scenes of resistance to world's first national vaccine mandate

By [Art Moore](#) Published January 2, 2022 at 10:40am



*Austria Prays is a movement of public prayer processions in response to COVID-19 measures (Video screenshot)*

**Four centuries ago, the Gates of Vienna became a symbol of the defense of Western Civilization when the Polish king Jan Sobieski came with his 23,000 troops to help stave off the advancing Ottoman Empire.**

**Vienna once again was at the center of civilizational conflict when Austria was seized by**

**Adolf Hitler in 1938** and then, after the defeat of the Nazi empire, a sector of the city and the country's eastern region were occupied by the Soviet Union.

**After the war, with Austria teetering between a future of communist tyranny and Western democracy, it was a Catholic priest of Slavic heritage who began leading public prayer processions, asking God to save the nation. By 1955, when the Soviet Union pulled out of Austria, the processions drew as many as half-a-million Austrians, about one-tenth the country's population.**

**Alexander Tschugguel, a devout Catholic activist, believes Austria is once again at the center of a civilizational moment.** His country is poised to become the first in the world to make being unvaccinated illegal, punishable by fines and potentially a jail sentence.

**In a video interview with WND from Vienna, he tells how the post-World War II priest, Fr. Petrus Pavlicek, has inspired the current effort to resist COVID-19 measures he believes have implications much bigger than the pandemic and far beyond the borders of his nation.**

**Austrians, in 250 cities, again are proceeding through the streets of their cities in prayer in a movement called Austria Prays. And it's spread to Germany and Northern Italy as well.**

*See the WND interview:*

### Bottom of Form

**Tschugguel, 28, is the founder of the Vienna-based [St. Boniface Institute](#), a non-profit that addresses issues such as abortion and marriage with the belief that "humanity can only be saved through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church."**

**He believes Austrians are being used as "lab rats" for the Western world, noting the "terrible idea of a vaccine mandate" is now being copied by Germany despite the admission that the vaccines don't prevent infection and transmission, and the evidence that the vaccinated are equally susceptible to hospitalization and death from COVID-19.**



**He discussed the impending law, to be implemented Feb. 1, which punishes the unvaccinated with fines of up to 3,600 Euros — about \$4,000 — at a time. Under a separate law, anyone who resists vaccination can be jailed for up to a year.**

*Police in Austria on the prowl for unvaccinated people. (Video screenshot)*

**If such laws are tolerated, Tschugguel warned, the next logical steps are that, among other things, unvaccinated parents could lose their children**

**Noting that one-third of population of Austria is what he described as "vax-free," he observed that small countries often serve as models for other countries that can say, "Look they did it, we can do it as well."**

**He pointed to the European Union's digital "green passport" verifying vaccine status, which effectively serves as a "surveillance system" that allows the government to "scan everyone."**

### 'Step-by-step Machiavelli'

**In May 2020, a consultant of then-Chancellor Sebastian Kurz told the Financial Times that nations must get used to tools that are "on the borderline of the democratic working model."**

**Tschugguel argues that if something is on the border, it can be "on either side."**

**"This thing," he said of the universal vaccine mandate, "is definitely on the other side. It is definitely not in our democratic model."**

Significantly, the chancellor's consultant, Antonella Mei-Pochtler, [told the Financial Times](#) that the government won't need to do the enforcing, contending the people "will want to control themselves."

"So, what **the government said," Tschugguel commented, "is we are going to create an atmosphere which pushes the people so that they go along and be their own secret service for each other."**

It's **"step-by-step Machiavelli," he said,** of the "plan to create social pressure."

He cited the example of Austrian restaurants being fined \$30,000 euros (about \$34,000) if they don't police their customers and remove anyone who is unvaccinated.

**'God saved us'**

But **the "resistance is huge" among the Austrian populace, he said, like nothing that has been seen in the lifetime of his parents.**

He recounted the many times over the past two centuries that Austria has faced oppression or a threat to its existence, from the Gates of Vienna, to the Napoleonic era, to the Nazi occupation to the threat of communism.

**"Always what brought us to a solution to the problems was prayer," he said, asking God, "Please save us, we need your help now.**

"And what happened? **God saved** us."

And it's no different now, he said, as typically reserved Austrians fill streets across their nation.

"Faith is what keeps people fighting," he said. "If you go to our demonstrations, hundreds of thousands of people there. You see signs with Bible quotes."

But going forward, the Austrian activist said, "those people need to understand that if you follow Christ, Christ expects that you are ready for a sacrifice."

"You don't have to bring the sacrifice he brought. That's impossible. But he gives you your little cross to carry."

At the moment, he continued, it's a matter of sacrificing one's reputation or money.

**"But we have to be ready," he said. "Who knows? If we don't stop this movement, in the future we will have to sacrifice our lives — our public lives at the beginning, so that we live underground, and maybe then our physical lives."**

In any case, he said, "God prepares us as always, and he shows us and he helps us."

"And I believe that whatever is going to happen in the next weeks and months, at the end of the time you will see good people coming out of this, you will see saints coming out of this ... you will see a strong and good and working society come out of this," said Tschugguel.

He invited Americans to engage by writing to the U.S. ambassador in Austria and expressing concern about what is happening in the Central European nation and its implications for the Western world and beyond.

Advertisement - story continues below

"We need the pressure from everywhere," he said. "The Austrian government has to understand that this is really wrong." <https://www.wnd.com/2022/01/austrian-activist-faith-keeps-people-fighting-state-covid-tyranny/> [The man is correct. The EU and globalist cabal is hell bent on making sure Everyone is JABBED. Why? Is there something in the jab? I truly think that something

## **Dr. Peter McCullough: Vaccine Mandates Should Be Repealed**

By [Tammy Hung](#) and [Jan Jekielek](#) December 29, 2021 Updated: January 2, 2022

**COVID-19 vaccine mandates "have to be repealed" as the vaccines are "still in research" and "people cannot be mandated to participate in research," says Dr. Peter McCullough.**

**McCullough, a cardiologist, epidemiologist, and internist who manages COVID-19 patients with heart-related complications and patients who become ill after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine,** contends that COVID-19 vaccine mandates violate the Nuremberg Code.

**"When it comes to research, research can only be voluntary. And under no circumstances can anyone receive any pressure, coercion, or threat of reprisal—cannot. It violates the cornerstone of ethics; it's unethical, it's immoral to do that," he says.**

McCullough notes that the CDC and FDA have yet to publish "their first monthly safety report" on the vaccines, and that as of Dec. 17, the CDC's VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System) has reported 20,622 deaths post-vaccination and over 983,000 adverse events.

**While VAERS has issued a disclaimer discouraging the interpretation of its data "to reach conclusions about existence, severity, frequency, or rates of problems associated with vaccines," McCullough says that the system's death reports deserve serious attention.**

He cites a [June 2021 analysis](#) of VAERS COVID-19 vaccine death reports led by the University of London's Scott McLachlan. McLachlan found that "contrary to claims that most of these reports are made by lay-people and are hence clinically unreliable," **health service employees were the reporters at least 67 percent of the time, and "there were only 14 percent of the cases for which a vaccine reaction could be ruled out as a contributing factor in their death."**

**COVID-19 vaccines commonly used in the United States use genetic mechanisms to install genetic material into cells**, and then the cells produce the spike protein of the virus, says McCullough. "That's the mechanism of the spike protein, it's the dangerous and lethal part of the virus."

The **"uncontrolled quantity and duration of spike protein" produced by the vaccine in the human body "almost certainly is the proximate cause of death," according to McCullough.**

**McCullough said that the data satisfy all five of the Bradford Hill criteria, a framework scientists use to work out whether one thing is causing another.** In this case, because COVID-19 vaccination data satisfies the Bradford Hill principles, McCullough says that reported deaths are highly likely caused by COVID-19 vaccinations.

McCullough also mentioned the "non-fatal events that just go right along" with COVID-19 deaths which makes it more plausible that the vaccines are causing adverse reactions and in turn, deaths.

**VAERS has recorded more than 20,000 reports of death post-vaccination according to its [database](#).** Between January 2021 and October 2021, more than 1,000 deaths were reported per month, with over 3,000 deaths reported as having occurred on an unknown date.

The [CDC](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) reported 10,483 deaths to VAERS between Dec. 14, 2020, and Dec. 13, 2021.

**A lawsuit was recently filed against the FDA by a medical transparency group, Public Health and Medical Professionals for Transparency (PHMPT) formed by a group of doctors and scientists, including Harvey Risch, a professor of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health.**

The FDA has asked a judge to grant it 75 years to fully release the documents in its possession tied to the approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

#### **Related Coverage**

[PART 1: Dr. Peter McCullough—The Inexplicable Suppression of Hydroxychloroquine, Ivermectin, and Other COVID-19 Treatments](#)

Aaron Siri, a lawyer working on the case, on Dec. 8 [wrote](#), "If you find what you are reading difficult to believe—that is because it is dystopian for the government to give Pfizer billions, mandate Americans to take its product, prohibit Americans from suing for harms, but yet refuse to let Americans see the data underlying its licensure."

Since its initial announcement of vaccine mandates in both the federal and private sectors, the [Biden administration](#) has emphasized that "vaccines are safe, free, and the most effective way for workers to be protected from COVID-19 transmission at work."

The Epoch Times reached out to the CDC and the White House for comment.

[https://www.theepochtimes.com/mkt\\_morningbrief/dr-peter-mccullough-vaccine-mandates-should-be-repealed\\_4167066.html](https://www.theepochtimes.com/mkt_morningbrief/dr-peter-mccullough-vaccine-mandates-should-be-repealed_4167066.html)

### **Dr. Robert Malone responds to big tech censoring him.**

<https://rumble.com/vrpyk7-dr-robert-malone-responds-to-big-tech-censoring-him.html>

**The man who invented mRNA vaccine technology 2 minutes – rdb**

**Full interview on Rumble concerning the COV is 3 hours and amazing!**

## **The Doctor's Office Becomes an Assembly Line**

*Consolidation is wiping out private practices and making medical care costlier and worse.*

*By Deborah Goldman Dec. 29, 2021 12:04 pm ET*

**Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, my dad's rheumatology practice has been flooded with new patients, including many from far-flung cities or out of state. This isn't thanks to a new marketing strategy or to a notable spike in arthritis sufferers. One** elderly woman who had traveled from New Jersey to my father's Brooklyn, N.Y., office explained that many practices near her home had closed. Those that remained open were so overwhelmed that she would have had to wait eight months for an appointment.

This shouldn't be surprising. [According to a 2020 survey by the Physicians Foundation](#), **12% of all U.S. doctors either closed their offices during the pandemic or were planning to do so within the year. Some 59% agreed that the pandemic would "lead to a reduction in the number of independent physician practices**



**in their communities,”** and half agreed that “hospitals will exert stronger influence over the organization and delivery of healthcare as a result” of the pandemic.

But **the pandemic merely accelerated a decadeslong trend. In 1983, more than 75% of physicians owned their own practices, according to American Medical Association physician surveys. By 2018 that figure had dropped to 46%.** Many practices have been purchased by hospitals or have merged to form larger clinics, while local hospitals have been subsumed into large health systems. Consolidation is the trend. An AMA report earlier this year found that for the first time, less than half of doctors work in private practices. This is a problem for patients like those who went in search of my father—there are simply fewer places to seek care, and many of those that are available are bureaucratic mega-facilities.

This **doesn’t bode well for medical care. Doctors aren’t—or shouldn’t be—natural subordinates.** A substantial portion of their training consists in learning to make independent judgments rooted in hard-earned authority. Writing [in City Journal in 2012](#), Theodore Dalrymple lamented the U.K. government’s influence over medicine, which he argued “is becoming ever firmer; it now dictates conditions of work and employment, the number of hours worked, the drugs and other treatments that may be prescribed.” Doctors “are less and less members of a profession; instead, they are production workers under strict bureaucratic control.”

Former AMA President Barbara McAneny, who co-owns a private cancer center, echoed this [idea in a 2019 article](#). When she and her colleagues wanted to add new services for their patients, she wrote, they “didn’t have to go through 27 hospital committees and ask permission from a bunch of vice presidents for various things.”

The **shift from the small doctor’s office to big-box medical care can be attributed to many factors. Cuts in Medicare reimbursement for private-practice services have pushed doctors out of business or into new business models.** For a long time, Medicare funding mechanisms also encouraged hospitals to purchase private practices, so that the hospitals could bill Medicare for more lucrative outpatient hospital services.

**Medicare also reimburses hospitals at higher rates than private practices for a variety of drugs and services—and hospital systems have more administrative resources to negotiate payment** from insurers and the government. More recently, rules pushing doctors to adopt onerous, time-consuming electronic health records have interfered with their capacity to attend to patients. The rise in EHRs reflects a tension between companies interested in accumulating health data, and doctors, who prefer to focus on individual needs.

For a **long time, the AMA and other medical establishments such as the American Association of Medical Colleges quietly celebrated the turn away from small medicine. They assumed that larger, more consolidated health systems would also be more efficient. On the whole, this has not turned out to be the case.** Kathleen Blake, AMA’s vice president of healthcare quality, [earlier this year](#) cited studies showing that hospital acquisitions of private practices—which doubled from 2012 to 2018—have led to “modestly worse patient experiences and no significant changes in readmission or mortality rates.”

Flawed **electronic health record systems in hospitals have resulted in ghastly medical errors and millions in settlements. And while physicians** in a variety of settings struggle with administrative and regulatory burdens, independent doctors are significantly more satisfied with their work than are their hospital-employed counterparts. [In a 2018 survey](#) by the Physicians Foundation, only 13% of doctors agreed that “hospital employment of physicians is likely to enhance quality of care and decrease costs.”

The AMA has begun to acknowledge this as a problem. In April 2021, the group launched a new initiative to support private practices. Among other things, the association is lobbying against the impending Medicare cuts that could elbow doctors out of business. While important, this doesn’t address deeper problems with the evolution of medicine in recent decades.

Bureaucratic structures often suffer from inflexibility. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, medical bureaucracies at the national level have struggled to adapt to sudden changes in medical information in the way that frontline physicians can. Doctors must operate with a clear sense that they are serving the patients in front of them, not the government, data-collection systems, insurance companies or hospital directors.

When Amazon took on the independent bookstore, it inspired outrage of the sort captured in the 1998 film “You’ve Got Mail.” Unlike the book business, however, the replacement of the small doctor’s office with large-scale facilities hasn’t made medicine cheaper or access to it easier. It threatens to remove a core advantage of the small, privately owned practice: the sense of personal, immediate responsibility between physician and patient.

*Ms. Goldman is a visiting fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center and a senior editor at Mosaic magazine.*  
<https://archive.fo/Gy01B#selection-3929.5-3994.0>

**Third of Americans ready to justify violence against government - poll**

*A violation of rights or a military coup were cited as justifications of violence*

*2 Jan, 2022 13:44*

**Every third American – the largest number in more than two decades - believes violence against the government can be justified, especially when the violation of rights is involved, a new poll has found.**

**According to a Washington Post and University of Maryland poll, 34% of respondents were prepared to justify violent action – up from 23% in 2015 and only 16% in 2011.** The number of those who said violence was “*never justified*” dropped significantly to 62% from 76% in 2011.

Among those prepared to accept violence, the most cited justifications were circumstances in which the US government “*violates or takes away rights or freedoms*” or “*oppresses people*” (22%). In the event that the country is “*no longer a democracy*,” “*becomes a dictatorship*” or experiences a military coup, 15% said violence would be justified.

“*People’s reasoning for what they considered acceptable violence against the government varied, from what they considered to be overreaching coronavirus restrictions, to the disenfranchisement of minority voters, to the oppression of Americans*,” the Washington Post explained. It added that responses to an open-ended question about hypothetical justifications included “*autocracy*,” “*tyranny*,” and “*corruption*.”

Despite an increase in people seemingly condoning violence, more than half of the 1101 respondents (51%) said they believed the legal punishments for people who broke into the Capitol building in Washington on January 6 last year have not been harsh enough. Just 19% thought they were too harsh and 28% said they were fair.

Commenting on the general state of American democracy, 54% said they were proud of how it works, while 46% thought there was nothing to be proud of. The poll was conducted between December 17 and 19, with a margin of error of +/- four percentage points. The majority of respondents, 33%, identified as independents, while 30% were Democrats and 26% were Republicans. <https://www.rt.com/news/545008-poll-americans-violence-increase/> **[The USA was born out of revolution against tyrants and every day it is looking more and more like DC is filled with tyrants. If it persists sooner or later people will say enough is enough. – rdb]**

## **Commentary:**

### **Two Wrong Archbishops Don’t Make a Right**

[Jonathan Feldstein](#) Posted: Jan 02, 2022 12:01 AM

A few days before Christmas, I got a message from a friend asking what I thought about [an article in which “Church leaders” in Jerusalem warned of “radical” groups being responsible for driving Christians from the Holy Land.](#) I hadn’t heard about this so I read the article. Other than an occasional incident by Jewish people who disparage and even might assault a Christian, or vandalizing a church property which is unacceptable and repugnant on all levels, I’d never heard of such organized “radical groups” doing so. What did the “Church leaders” mean?

My friend is a respected Christian journalist and was asking to see if maybe he missed something. As he tried to discern if there was anything to this allegation, I asked around as well. None of my friends - Jews or Christians - thought, or were aware, anything new that would give reason to raise this issue as was done. Some cynically noted that it’s “in the spirit of the season” where those who try to find fault with Israel do so in ways that are most egregious, and will get the most press.

Most of those who I asked and work in the sphere of building bridges between Jews and Christians just shrugged it off in the vein of dishonest “church leaders will be church leaders.” Most of us know that not only is the Christian population in Israel increasing, that Arab Christians in Israel are integrating more and more into Israeli society, and that Israel is the only place in the Middle East where Christians can freely practice and live without fear of persecution. Most also know that the reality is that Christians in the Palestinian Authority are far more persecuted, and in most cases, persecution of Christians within Israel or the Palestinian Authority is from Moslems and the PA itself. But that’s not the kind of “radical groups” about which the noble local “Christian leaders” wrote.

It’s too bad that their allegations weren’t just a bad Christmas gift that could be returned. Rather than going away, other “Christian leaders” decided to regift the allegations, with no evidence.

Leading the charge, and embarrassment, was the [Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, who co-authored an article with Hosam Naoum,](#) the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem. Armed with the gospel of the “Christian leaders” who made the initial allegations, this dynamic duo claimed Christians were being “systematically” driven out of the Holy Land.

While attacks that have occurred by Jewish extremists are reprehensible and widely condemned by the vast majority in Israel, the truth remains that the safest place for Christians in the Middle East to be today is the Jewish State of Israel.

While the “Christian leaders” presented no evidence or actual numbers to back their claims, actual numbers reported by Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) show the opposite. Rather than being driven out, in Israel, the Christian

population grew by 1.4 percent. Christians do suffer persecution by their Moslem neighbors, and Israel needs to do more to address that. Nevertheless, on the whole, Christians in Israel are prospering, and according to the CBS, 84 percent of them are “satisfied” with their lives.

What made the allegations from the “Christian leaders” so bad is that their claims were so egregious that they were hard not to believe. That’s what left me and my friends scratching our heads. If the claims were real, surely we’d have heard something. But the claims were made without any evidence. A great tactic to get people to be upset, but not one based in truth or that can fix the actual source of Christian persecution.

The “Christian leaders” claimed that there have been “countless incidents of physical and verbal assaults against priests and other clergy, attacks on Christian churches – with holy sites regularly vandalized and desecrated... (to) drive Christians out.” I’m no expert, but “countless” means too many to count. It suggests so many incidents that they blur together and are indistinguishable from one another, and that they are all the scheme of “radical groups” with the nefarious agenda to persecute and drive out Christians.

What groups are these exactly? Addressing their assumption that only Jewish radicals are responsible for persecuting Christians, and that’s the cause for the (alleged) decrease in Christian population, the “Christian leaders” deliberately and dishonestly blur reality. The “Holy Land” consists of all of Israel as well as what’s known as the West Bank, the majority of which is under Palestinian Authority (PA) control. Let’s be clear, any Jewish attacks on Christians or Christian property in Israel is unacceptable. It does happen, and is dealt with according to Israeli law. Maybe it needs to be dealt with more, along with the wave of Arab-on-Arab crime. But as a Jewish phenomenon, it is isolated, and does not represent Israeli society.

There’s no question that the “Christian leaders” meant Jewish groups as the reason for Christians being driven out of the Holy Land. But if the numbers in Israel don’t bear this allegation out, one must ask if in fact Christians are being driven out at all. Looking at the Christian population of the PA, among Christians in the “West Bank” or Gaza, is where you see the actual suffering and the phenomena of Christian persecution taking place.

Where Bethlehem used to be 80 percent Christian before the Palestinian Authority came into existence, today it is estimated to be in the low double digits. Christian friends there tell another story about why there has been an exodus, and it has nothing to do with Israel and Jews. When Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, there were an estimated 5,000-7,000 Christians. Today, there remain only about 1,000 Christians under Hamas where they are subject to persecution from Islamic extremists.

Of course, if the number of Christians in the Holy Land is decreasing, and Israel’s Christian population is the largest part of that and it is growing, then there’s a vastly disproportionate number of Christians being driven out from the Palestinian Authority. That’s the source of the problem. Yet, the “Christian leaders,” and Archbishops Welby and Naoum, could not be bothered to mention the PA or Hamas even once.

The trend of declining Christian population thought the Middle East is not new, nor unique to the Holy Land. A 2019 report published by then British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, someone with whom the Archbishop of Canterbury should be familiar, depicted a huge drop in the Christian population of the Middle East over the last century, from 20 percent then to 5 percent then.

As the number of Christians in the Middle East has dwindled, Israel is the only place the Christian population can live and practice freely, and where the population is growing. It’s sad that “Christian leaders” in the Holy Land would not seek to identify the true sources of why Christians feel threatened and are leaving. It’s dishonest to suggest that Israel and Jewish extremists are the sole cause of the challenges Christians face in the Holy Land. The Archbishop of Canterbury should know better. He should know his facts in the first place. He should also know to “fact check” such outrageous allegations, and not misrepresent the truth, mislead the world, or miss the target when addressing the actual source of persecution of Christians in the Holy Land in specific, and the Middle East in general.

If the Archbishop had just reached out to me, or any of my friends who care about and have been discussing the issue, we could have helped paint a picture that’s based on reality and not deceit.

<https://townhall.com/columnists/jonathanfeldstein/2022/01/02/two-wrong-archbishops-dont-make-a-right-n2601187>

## **Government Corruption**

By [Roger Anghis](#)/January 2nd, 2022

America is drowning in debt not just individually but the government can’t seem to stop spending. The waste in government is shocking, to say the least. It seems to be in every area of government. In an interview by Jim Jordon concerning the CDC, the NIAID, and the NIH we find that the budget for the CDC is \$9 billion. NIAID has a budget of \$6 billion and the NIH has a budget of \$42-43 billion. There are about 31,000 employees at the CC and NIH but in all of that, they have never done a study on natural immunity. Most of these studies are done overseas primarily by Israel. Their



studies show that natural immunity is about twenty-seven times more effective than any form of a vaccine. One would think that if natural immunity is that effective we should spend a good portion of that \$58 billion on studies about natural immunity. But the problem is natural immunity doesn't make Big Pharma any money. Vaccines do. Follow the money.

The government also wastes an unbelievable amount of money on stuff that should be left to private industry. There also seems to be no sense nor accountability for some of the spending government does. In a report from 2009: *The Pentagon recently spent \$998,798 shipping two 19-cent washers from South Carolina to Texas and \$293,451 sending an 89-cent washer from South Carolina to Florida.*[2] I'm a big fan of our military but this is ridiculous. They seem to have a blank check sometimes for certain items. A GAO audit found that 95 Pentagon weapons systems suffered from a combined **\$295 billion** in cost overruns.[3]

We've all heard about the infamous 'earmarks' our members of Congress slip into a spending bill. These are pet projects for members of Congress in their districts that help get them re-elected. *Despite trillion-dollar deficits, last year's 10,160 earmarks included \$200,000 for a tattoo removal program in Mission Hills, California; \$190,000 for the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming; and \$75,000 for the Totally Teen Zone in Albany, Georgia.*[4]

This corruption goes far beyond just money. We have learned that the largest contributor to autism is a product called glyphosate which is the main ingredient in agent orange, heavily used in Viet Nam in the 1960s and 1970s, but it is the main ingredient in the weed killer

Lead	Methylmercury
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	Organophosphate pesticides, including glyphosate
Organochlorine pesticides	Endocrine-disrupting chemicals
Automotive exhaust	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
Brominated flame retardants	Perfluorinated compounds

Roundup. Another 25%, the interaction of toxic exposures and genetic factors is thought to be causative.<sup>14-15</sup> In 2012, scientists identified 10 chemicals suspected of causing learning disabilities and ASD:<sup>16</sup>

Of these, glyphosate is a top suspect<sup>17-18</sup> for the simple reason that exposure to it is so widespread. Research<sup>19</sup> published in 2019 found women exposed to 11 commonly used pesticides — including glyphosate — during pregnancy have a higher risk of having a child diagnosed with autism.

Pregnant women who lived within a 2,000-meter (1.24 miles) radius of a highly-sprayed area were 10% to 16% more likely to have children diagnosed with autism than those who lived farther away. As reported by Time:<sup>20</sup>

*“When they looked at diagnoses of autism spectrum disorder that also came with intellectual disabilities, they found on average 30% higher rates among children who were exposed to the pesticides while in utero. Exposure in the first year of life increased the risk of autism by up to 50% compared to those not exposed to certain pesticides.”*[5]

Keep in mind the government, the FDA, and the EPA, have approved the use of this product on the food we eat! We stopped using DDT because of the negative effects on birds and animals but we've ignored the effect of this deadly chemical that is put on AND in our food. *The team – led by Paul Winchester, medical director of the neonatal intensive care unit at the Franciscan St. Francis Health System and professor of clinical pediatrics at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Ind. – found glyphosate residues in 90 percent of the women, and high levels of those residues appeared to correlate with shortened pregnancies and below-average birth weights adjusted for age. The findings alarmed the researchers because such babies are at increased risk of diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, and lower cognitive abilities. “Gestational age maximizes the size of your brain at birth, and any shortening is essentially a reduction of IQ points,” Winchester said in an interview with FERN’s Ag Insider. “It has not just health, but lifetime achievement implications.”*[6] I wonder how much in political contributions companies like Bayer, Monsanto and others make to members of Congress? The original manufacturer of glyphosate is Monsanto and they lost a \$10.9 billion lawsuit[7] because of the cancers that this product causes but you can still walk into any Home Depot, Lowe's, or Ace Hardware and buy Roundup by the gallons. It is shameful that animals are considered more valuable than humans specifically our children. In my opinion, only corrupt politicians would take bribes in the form of political contributions to allow this product to be used in our food production. My brother died from exposure to agent orange

while a Sea Bee in Viet Nam. His family was never compensated but it is obvious that our politicians have been well compensated by the pharmaceutical companies.

Another blatant violation of the Constitution that our federal government has done, specifically the Biden administration, is completely ignoring Article 4 Section 4: "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them from Invasion . . ." Both of these provisions have been violated specifically the invasion article. Our southern border has blown up and the Biden administration is doing nothing to fix it. Trump was building the wall which Biden stopped on his first day in office and we are being overrun by illegals to the tune of over 6500 a day **that we catch!** The worst part is the Republicans aren't demanding, very hard, that something be done. But then George W Bush refused to do anything, George HW Bush left it open and, Jeb Bush wouldn't have done anything either so this shouldn't be a big surprise.

This column doesn't even scratch the surface of how corrupt just the federal government is. The State governments have proven just as bad. California, Illinois, New York, New Jersey and, the majority of all Democrat-run states prove that point.

It is time to pay attention to who we put into office. A lot of attention. The ones we have put in are destroying our nation.

Foot Notes

[Jim Jordan blows the lid off the cdc corruption](https://www.heritage.org/budget-and-spending/report/50-examples-government-waste)

<https://www.heritage.org/budget-and-spending/report/50-examples-government-waste>

<https://www.heritage.org/budget-and-spending/report/50-examples-government-waste>

<https://www.heritage.org/budget-and-spending/report/50-examples-government-waste>

<https://www.lewrockwell.com/2021/12/joseph-mercola/us-autism-rate-is-now-1-in-44/>

[Researchers find glyphosate pregnant women worry impact infants](#)

[Roundup Search B Lawsuit Generic Cases](#)

<https://newswithviews.com/government-corruption/>

## **Is Biden's Legacy Really Going to Be the Dismantling of Democracies and the Free World?**

by [Richard Kemp](#) January 2, 2022 at 5:00 am

When US President Joe Biden took office, he removed a bust of Winston Churchill from the Oval Office. He should have replaced it with one of Neville Chamberlain. After Chamberlain's infamous appeasement of Hitler at Munich in 1938, Churchill told him: "You were given the choice between war and dishonour. You chose dishonour, and you will have war."

The first year of Biden's presidency has been marked by appeasement upon appeasement. Appeasement of Russia, appeasement of Iran, appeasement of jihadists. China also — and we may now be witnessing his most dangerous appeasement so far: helping Beijing cover up the origins of the most consequential harm unleashed on the globe since the Second World War.

Biden inflicted untold damage on the free world by his catastrophic surrender in Afghanistan, demonstrating to America's enemies and friends alike that, under his administration, the US was no longer willing to stand by its allies nor to protect its own vital national interests.

Biden's decision to capitulate to the Taliban revealed a failure of one of two key elements of strategic deterrence: credible political will. Failure of the second element, military capability, was exposed by the shambolic and irrational manner of the withdrawal, in which crucial terrain and assets were abandoned first, American citizens and dependents left to their fate and US and allied forces placed at needless risk. Watchers were rightly shocked by such exposure of the most powerful military in the world.

There is no doubting the relish with which Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin and lesser dictators such as Ali Khamanei and Kim Jong-Un witnessed this humiliation of the guarantor of Western security. It not only gratified them, it also emboldened them; as we have since seen graphically illustrated by Putin massing forces along Ukraine's borders and Khamanei repudiating previous undertakings on Iran's nuclear capabilities while abrogating recent agreements in the Vienna re-negotiations.

Afghanistan represented not only miscalculation and weakness but also appeasement. China wanted the strategically vital territory of Afghanistan to dominate and exploit its [trillions](#) in natural minerals including rare earths and to use as a land bridge to Pakistan and Iran, both already important allies for which President Xi has long-term plans. Biden handed it to him on a plate and he is now busy carving it up for lunch.

The withdrawal also appeased jihadists everywhere by awarding them the greatest victory since the 1979 Iranian

revolution, meanwhile pusillanimously pretending the Taliban and Washington were on the same side against the Islamic State.

As Biden ceded Afghanistan to communist China and jihadist fanatics, he now seems ready to deliver Ukraine to Putin's Russia. His waiver of US sanctions against the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline between Russia and Germany undoubtedly encouraged the latest round of Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Russia's gas supply to Europe — which is crucial to Moscow's economy — currently passes through Ukraine, with critical infrastructure in the country. A major factor that deterred Putin from taking over more of Ukraine than it seized in 2014 while Biden was vice president has been the likelihood that Ukrainian forces defending against Russian invasion would destroy key elements of this infrastructure, cutting off the gas flow. Nord Stream 2 bypasses Ukraine and removes that obstacle to Putin's ambitions. Attempting to deflect criticism of his green light for Nord Stream 2, Biden made an agreement with Germany. If Russia attempts to use energy as a weapon against Ukraine, Berlin will take "[unspecified action](#)" -- likely to be none.

In his early December call with Putin, Biden made it clear that the US would not use military force to defend Ukraine, thereby helpfully confirming something Putin already guessed. Biden did lay out economic sanctions that would be imposed if Russia invaded Ukraine, but as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy [pointed out](#), "If they were applied after the conflict would happen, this would basically make them meaningless."

Now Biden is planning discussions in early 2022 between Russia and selected NATO members to "defuse" the situation. Can he really believe that any negotiations short of capitulation to Russian demands would satisfy Putin or achieve anything? So-called diplomacy down the barrel of [110,000](#) Russian guns looks a lot like even more appeasement.

Since he took office, Biden, in his desperation to restore the fundamentally flawed JCPOA nuclear deal negotiated when he was vice president, has been intent on appeasing Iran. This is as much about reversing President Donald Trump's policies as it is about salvaging Obama's legacy. It certainly is not about denying nuclear weapons to Iran. Instead of capitalising on the leverage of Trump's maximum pressure sanctions which were undermining the terrorist regime in Tehran, Biden — with his European collaborators — is intent on reconstructing the deal that paved Iran's path to nuclear weapons.

He will apparently stop at nothing to do it, meanwhile betraying Israel and the Arab states, the immediate targets of Iran's nuclear and non-nuclear aggression. Even as Iran accelerated its nuclear programme throughout the first year of Biden's presidency he has shown only desperation and impotence. Iran, smelling weakness, is demanding fewer nuclear concessions while insisting on more sanctions relief.

Biden has failed to respond to Iranian attacks on Saudi Arabia, Iranian aggression against Israel and even attacks on US forces in Syria and Iraq. Instead he revoked the US terrorist designations of Iran's Houthi proxies, which encouraged them, and withdrew support for Saudi's war against them. Iran's contempt for Biden was further displayed last week in the [launch](#) of multiple ballistic missiles during manoeuvres that Iranian commanders explicitly said were intended to threaten Israel.

In the face of Iranian nuclear provocation, Biden's officials have refrained from any threat of military action — taking [off the table](#) the only truly effective [deterrent](#) against a regime that respects strength alone.

Biden's policies of appeasement towards Iran and Russia are bad enough. But the greatest threat to the free world today comes from China. Biden has a long record of appeasing Beijing. In 2000, when a US senator, he vigorously supported legislation to make China a normal trading partner, insisting this would make it a "responsible member of the world community".

In 2011, Biden admitted that since 1979 he had believed -- as did many others -- that a rising China was a positive development for the world and still did. He said that creating closer ties with China was a top priority for the administration in which he was vice president. His craven words at a [speech](#) in China must have been music to the ears of the Chinese Communist Party:

"In order to cement this robust partnership, we have to go beyond close ties between Washington and Beijing, which we're working on every day, go beyond it to include all levels of government, go beyond it to include classrooms and laboratories, athletic fields and boardrooms."

We know how China answered his and others' appeasement: with theft of intellectual property, espionage, subversion, anti-American propaganda, oppression of minorities, seizure of territory in the South China Sea and elsewhere, threats and punitive action against US allies, likely creating and certainly exacerbating a global pandemic and intensifying aggression against Taiwan.

Biden's administration has projected only confusion over China's ambitions against Taiwan. The president twice suggested the US might be willing to defend the country in the event of Chinese invasion, with his comments immediately walked back by officials. This kind of mixed messaging does not contribute to deterrence or conflict prevention but the



diametric opposite. Similarly mixed messages coming from London led the Argentinian junta to believe Britain, despite its vast military superiority, would not fight to defend the Falkland Islands on the other side of the world, and actually encouraged the 1982 invasion.

Meanwhile we appear to be witnessing the most dangerous and far-reaching act of appeasement of Biden's presidency so far, which will also play into Beijing's calculations on Taiwan and its global strategic ambitions. In August the US Director of National Intelligence released an unclassified summary of a time-limited assessment conducted on Biden's orders on the roots of Covid-19; and in October produced an "Updated Assessment". Both documents — characterised by low confidence judgements — concluded that Covid-19 was most likely caused by natural exposure.

Yet the previous US Director of National Intelligence (from 2020-21), John Ratcliffe, [describes](#) the likelihood of the virus emanating from a lab leak at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) as "probably a certainty". He says there is compelling intelligence that has not been declassified and has called on the Biden administration to do so.

Former FBI Assistant Director John Brock noted that the US intelligence community can get at the truth about the origins of Covid but questions whether there is the will to do so. He [suggests](#) concerns over US-China relations may have led the administration in the August report to "downplay" intelligence which they have access to.

Two US congressional committees have formally questioned the credibility of the DNI's assessment, with one of them describing it as "unacceptable".

[According](#) to Dr David Asher, who spearheaded the State Department task force investigating the origins of Covid-19 and the role of the Chinese government:

"One of [Biden's] first acts on assuming the presidency was to shut down the investigations into the origins of Covid-19 — including the one I led at the State Department in 2020, which presented troubling scientific and circumstantial evidence on the secret activities of the WIV that bolster the lab-leak theory".

In a December 2021 [report](#) analysing the US intelligence assessments for the Journal on Chemical and Biological Weapons, former senior Israeli intelligence officers, Brigadier General Yossi Kupperwasser and Lieutenant Colonel Dr Dany Shohan, whose speciality was biological and chemical warfare, also suggested that the US assessments may have been constructed "to help avoid increasing tensions with China".

Kupperwasser and Shohan highlight a WIV project planned around 18 months before the first Covid cases emerged. The intention was to genetically engineer coronaviruses that were more infectious to humans and then conduct [experiments](#) on live bats at Mojiang mine in southwest China. It is worth noting that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has close involvement with WIV. We do not yet know whether this project went ahead. The report observes that even though US authorities were aware of the plan, which is clearly consistent with the lab leak scenario, it is not even mentioned in the released US intelligence assessments.

We do not know the truth behind all of this. If, however, it does indeed amount to deliberate efforts to obfuscate the origins of Covid-19 in order to placate Beijing, it forms part of the dangerous pattern of appeasement perpetrated by the Biden administration. It clearly has deep implications for US policy decisions on prevention of future pandemics and countering PLA plans for using biological weapons that are [even more deadly](#) in future conflicts. The strategic consequences of Beijing's recognition that the US is willing to cover up its own knowledge of the truth about Chinese culpability for a pandemic that has wracked the world could be incalculable.

None of Biden's acts of appeasement are isolated to their targets alone; they are widely observed and cumulative in effect. They embolden America's enemies and unnerve its friends, potentially fracturing alliances that are vital to defending democracy. So much damage has already been done in just one year that even were Biden to change course, his legacy might well be the dismantling of democracies and the free world.

*Colonel Richard Kemp is a former British Army Commander. He was also head of the international terrorism team in the U.K. Cabinet Office and is now a writer and speaker on international and military affairs.*

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/18089/biden-legacy-dismantling-democracies>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Jerusalem Post website hacked**

*Jerusalem Post website replaced with image of a rocket coming out of a ring, alongside the text, "We are close to you where you do not think about it".*



#### Jerusalem Post Hackers

Jerusalem Post website hacked  
Screenshot

The website of the Jerusalem Post was hacked on Sunday night and replaced with an image of a rocket coming out of a ring on a person's finger.

Next to the image was the text, "We are close to you where you do not think about it" and a similar text in Hebrew.

The Twitter account of the Maariv newspaper, which has the same ownership as the

Jerusalem Post, was briefly hacked as well and the account tweeted the same image. However, that tweet was subsequently deleted.

The Jerusalem Post tweeted, "We are aware of the apparent hacking of our website, alongside a direct threat of Israel. We are working to resolve the issue & thank readers for your patience and understanding." It is unclear who is behind the hacking, but it took place on the second anniversary [of the US air strike](#) in Baghdad which eliminated top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani.

Two weeks ago, an Arabic language Twitter account associated with Iran published an image that threatens to eliminate Israel in 2022.

The image, posted to the @iraninarabic\_ir Twitter account, shows Israel made up of nails and matches. A book of matches is shown as well, with the words "Ballistic matchstick" and an Iranian regime flag on it.

The text which accompanied the image reads, in both English and Hebrew "Just try and you will see."

The threatening tweet came days after the front page of the *Tehran Times* newspaper [threatened Israel](#) with an attack. Under the heading "Just one wrong move", the front of the newspaper showed a map of Israel marked with "targets" which Iran supposedly could hit.

"An intensification of the Israeli military threats against Iran seems to suggest that the Zionist regime has forgotten that Iran is more than capable of hitting them from anywhere," the article said.

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/319730>

## US Defense Secretary tests positive for COVID-19

*Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin says he will quarantine for five days after testing positive for COVID-19.*

Elad Benari 03.01.22 03:24 א' בשבט תשפ"ב

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has tested positive for COVID-19, he announced on Sunday.

Austin, who has been vaccinated and received a booster shot, said in a statement he would quarantine for five days.

"I tested positive this morning for COVID-19. I requested the test today after exhibiting symptoms while at home on leave," said the statement. "My symptoms are mild, and I am following my physician's directions."

"In keeping with those directions, and in accordance with CDC guidelines, I will quarantine myself at home for the next five days," added Austin.

"I have informed my leadership team of my positive test result, as well as the President. My staff has begun contact tracing and testing of all those with whom I have come into contact over the last week," he continued.

Austin noted that his last meeting with President Joe Biden occurred on December 21 and that he had tested negative that morning.

