

05/14/2023 NEWS

Music & the Mikdash, with Rabbi David Louis: The Flute of Moses

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4O301lbkiU&t=190s>

"Everybody is in favor of free speech. Hardly a day passes without its being extolled, but some people's idea of it is that they are free to say what they like, but if anyone says anything back, that is an outrage."

-- Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965) Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (1940-1945, 1951-1955)

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 BB – Severe sciatic Had surgery and doing well

Pray for EL – Had stroke – Now having coronary angiogram

Pray for KH – diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma

Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!

Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence

Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems

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

Exodus 18:⁸And Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the travail that had come upon them by the way, and how the LORD delivered them. ⁹And Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness which the LORD had done to Israel, in that He had delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians. ¹⁰And Jethro said: 'Blessed be the LORD, who hath delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh; who hath delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians.

US 'deeply disturbed' over images of Israeli police beating mourners; EU 'appalled'

Scenes of police using force against Jerusalem funeral procession, almost toppling casket of slain Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, draw widespread condemnation

By [Jacob Magid](#), [Aaron Boxerman](#) and [Agencies](#) Today, 10:31 pm



Israeli police confront mourners as they carry the casket of slain Al Jazeera veteran journalist Shireen Abu Akleh during her funeral in East Jerusalem, Friday, May 13, 2022. (AP Photo/Maya Levin)

Scenes of Israeli police rushing the funeral of the late Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, beating mourners who raised Palestinian flags and nearly toppling her casket drew widespread condemnation on Friday with the White House saying it was "deeply disturbing," while the European Union said it was "appalled."

Over ten thousand Palestinians paid their respects to Abu Akleh — killed during a firefight early

Wednesday between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen in Jenin — during a long, tense funeral procession that wound across the city from Sheikh Jarrah to the Mount Zion cemetery.

The clashes at Saint Joseph's Hospital erupted after Palestinians sought to carry Abu Akleh's coffin on foot, waving several Palestinian flags, to the Old City. Police had designated that the procession would begin at the Jaffa Gate, less than two miles away.

Officers rushed the crowd, beating mourners in an apparent attempt to force them to take down the Palestinian flags. Police fired stun grenades in an attempt to disperse the crowd, including towards those carrying Abu Akleh's casket, which almost toppled to the ground.

Police later claimed that mourners near the coffin had thrown rocks and objects at officers during "violent riots."

"Officers had to disperse and repel the rioters and make arrests in order to allow the funeral to take place," Israeli police said in a statement, adding that six people had been detained.

Another video showing ISF elements who stormed Saint Joseph Hospital beating a group of Palestinians carrying the body of late Journalist Shireen Abu Aqla who was shot dead by ISF during ISF operation in Jenin City three days ago. pic.twitter.com/RAhqpbxDGb

— Local Focus – Security Alerts (@LocalFocus1) [May 13, 2022](#)

In footage from the scene, no such stone-throwing is evident before police rushed the crowd, although some Palestinians were later filmed throwing objects during the clashes.

Israeli police later escorted the casket in a black van, ripping Palestinian flags off the vehicle as it made its way to the church.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki called the images "deeply disturbing."

The focus should be "marking the memory of a remarkable journalist who lost her life," Psaki told reporters. "We regret the intrusion into what should have been a peaceful procession."

WH Press Sec. Jen Psaki on "disturbing" images of Israeli police beating mourners who attended the funeral procession of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in Jerusalem:

"We regret the intrusion of what should have been a peaceful procession." pic.twitter.com/RZWWhTEQ9fL

— The Recount (@therecount) [May 13, 2022](#)

"We have urged respect for the funeral procession, the mourners and the family at this sensitive time," Psaki said. Asked if she condemned the Israeli forces' actions, she responded: "I think when we said they were disturbing, we obviously were not justifying them."

Biden officials also reached out privately to their Israeli counterparts to express their dismay over the police's conduct during the funeral, an Israeli official told The Times of Israel.

US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield also condemned the incident.

"Deeply distressed by the images from Shireen Abu Akleh's funeral procession. The tragedy of her killing should be handled with the utmost respect, sobriety, and care."

The police's conduct was also lambasted by several lawmakers in the US.

"This is awful to watch," said Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy. "I'm traveling in Connecticut today, but I have my team working to get answers about what happened here."

"Agree," Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen chimed in. "This simply adds trauma on top of a tragedy. Need immediate accountability for these attacks on people mourning the death of American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. And her killer must be brought to justice."



Israeli police confront mourners as they carry the coffin of slain Al Jazeera veteran journalist Shireen Abu Akleh during her funeral in Jerusalem, Friday, May 13, 2022. (AP Photo/Mahmoud Illean)

"This is sickening. Violent racism, enabled by \$3.8B in unconditional military US funds. For the Israeli apartheid government, Shireen's life didn't matter – and her dehumanization continues after death," tweeted Democratic Rep. Rashida Tlaib, calling on the State Department to issue a condemnation.

Criticism of Israeli police was also voiced by Democratic Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren along with Democratic Reps. Ilhan Omar, Sara Jacobs and Andy Levin.

The European Union also condemned the incident, saying it was "appalled."

"The EU condemns the disproportionate use of force and the disrespectful behavior by the Israeli police against the

participants of the mourning procession,” an EU statement said.

“Allowing for a peaceful farewell and letting mourners grieve in peace without harassment and humiliation, is the minimal human respect,” it said.

The **French consulate general said “police violence” at the hospital had been “deeply shocking.”**

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres “was deeply disturbed by the confrontations between Israeli security forces and Palestinians gathered at St. Joseph Hospital, and the behavior of some police present at the scene,” a spokesperson said

UN Special Envoy for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland tweeted, “there is no place for such acts at a mournful event.”

In Qatar, where Al Jazeera is based, the foreign ministry said: “The occupation forces were not content with killing Shireen... they also terrorized those who accompanied her to her last resting place.”

Al Jazeera said in a statement that the police action “violates all international norms and rights.”

“Israeli occupation forces attacked those mourning the late Shireen Abu Akleh after storming the French hospital in Jerusalem, where they severely beat the pallbearers,” it said. The network added that it remains committed to covering the news and will not be deterred.

This **case has drawn heavy scrutiny because Abu Akleh was so well-known in the region** and also a US citizen.

The White House has called for an “immediate and thorough” probe into Abu Akleh’s death.

Born in Jerusalem, Abu Akleh spent time in the United States as a child and held US citizenship along with her Jerusalem residency card.

Israel is insisting it cannot determine who shot her without examining the bullet removed from her neck, Channel 12 reported Friday, adding that Israel has asked the US for assistance in the case in persuading the Palestinian Authority to cooperate.

The Israel Defense forces said earlier Friday that the Palestinians had rejected offers to be present and take part in the inquiry alongside an American representative. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-deeply-disturbed-over-images-of-israeli-police-beating-mourners-eu-appalled/> **[This is most unfortunate and if the comments about rock throwing are not accurate, Israel will face a tremendous backlash. – rdb]**

Syria says five killed, 7 hurt in Israeli airstrikes in northwest

State media claims a large number of missiles launched by jets over Masyaf; footage shows fire at site in area thought controlled by Iran-backed forces

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) Today, 10:52 pm



A fireball rises after an alleged airstrike near the Syrian city of Masyaf, on May 13, 2022. (Screenshot/Twitter)

Five people were killed and seven others were hurt in an alleged Israeli airstrike on Friday night in northwestern Syria, the country’s state news agency said.

It was the second alleged Israeli strike on the country in days, after missiles were reportedly launched at a site just across the border from Israel in the pre-dawn hours of Wednesday.

The state-run SANA said a large number of missiles were launched by Israeli fighter jets over

Masyaf during the Friday night strike.

SANA quoted an unidentified Syrian military official as saying most of the missiles were intercepted.

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

According to **SANA, one of those killed is a civilian, meaning the other four were military forces. The network said seven other people, including a child, were hurt in the airstrikes.**

Damage was also caused to a site in the area, SANA said, without elaborating further. Footage posted to social media apparently showed a site that was hit multiple times by the Israeli missiles, with fire rising from the area.

Looks like the SSRC was targeted. pic.twitter.com/oxF838uSvR

— Aurora Intel (@AuroraIntel) [May 13, 2022](#)

The Masyaf area is thought to be used as a base for Iranian forces and pro-Iranian militias and has been repeatedly targeted in recent years in attacks attributed to Israel. The area was struck allegedly by Israel as recently as [last month](#).

The area is also home to a facility belonging to the Scientific Studies and Research Center, known as CERS, which itself has been struck several times in the past.

Western officials have long associated CERS with the manufacture of chemical arms. According to the United States, sarin gas was developed at that center, a charge denied by the Syrian authorities.

There was no immediate comment from the Israel Defense Forces, which does not normally comment on individual strikes.

Israel has carried out hundreds of sorties over Syria in the last decade, mostly to stymie attempts by Iranian forces to transfer weapons or establish a foothold.

Israeli strikes have continued in Syrian airspace, which is largely controlled by Russia, even as ties with Moscow have deteriorated in recent weeks. Israel has found itself at odds with Russia as it has increasingly supported Ukraine, while seeking to maintain freedom of movement in Syria's skies. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/syria-says-five-killed-7-hurt-in-israeli-airstrikes-in-northwest/>

‘One of the best’: Officers, officials mourn death of police commando Noam Raz

Veteran counterterrorism officer killed in clashes near Jenin; leaves behind a wife and six children; PM vows to continue to fight terrorism with an iron fist

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 6:10 pm



Police commando Sgt. Maj. Noam Raz, 47, who was killed in an operation in Jenin on May 13, 2022 (Police)

Noam Raz, a veteran police commando who was killed in an Israeli operation near Jenin in the West Bank on Friday, was hailed as a hero and beloved family man.

Raz, 47, was a founding member and resident of the settlement of Kida in the West Bank and leaves behind a wife and six children.

Police chief Kobi Shabtai said Raz, a 23-year veteran of the elite Yamam counterterrorism unit, was one of the best

officers in the force.

“We bow our heads in the memory of Noam Raz ז”ל who fell in an exchange of fire with terrorists,” said Shabtai. “Noam was a dedicated husband, an exemplary father, and one of the best fighters in the Israel Police.”

He revealed that Raz, who was a paramedic in the unit, saved the life of a seriously wounded comrade during a recent previous clash in Jenin.

“Heroism and values were inherent in his character and operational activity in the Yamam,” he said.

לוחם הימ"מ נעם רז שנהרג בפעילות בג'נין, היה מתנדב באיחוד הצלה, הכרתי אותו מאד טוב, הוא הציל חיים של מאות אנשים, הלב נשבר. יהיה זכרו ברוך. pic.twitter.com/wniEIrLugb

— חמי טרכטנברג (@CHAMiT1221) [May 13, 2022](#)

Raz was hit by gunfire during an operation that included raids on terror suspects' homes in the town of Burqin, near Jenin in the West Bank. He was evacuated to the Rambam Medical Center in Haifa.

Hospital officials said he arrived in a critical condition. They attempted prolonged efforts to resuscitate him, but he had complex wounds to his upper body and eventually, they were forced to declare him dead.

Raz was among the founders of the Kida settlement, according to a statement issued by the Mateh Binyamin Regional Council following his death.

“Noam was a pillar in his community. **A humble family man connected to the Land of Israel with every fiber of his being... He was loved by everyone,**” the statement said. “The community of Kida and the residents of Binyamin send their condolences to the family during this difficult time.”

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that Israel has lost a hero.

“During his 23 years of service in the unit, Noam participated in numerous counter-terror operations, risked himself, and saved lives, as his commanders would testify — with courage and humility,” Bennett said.



A masked Palestinian gunman fires an automatic weapon during clashes with Israeli security forces in the West Bank city of Jenin on May 13, 2022. (Jaafar Ashtiyeh/AFP)

“We will continue to fight terrorism decisively and with an iron fist until we overcome it and return security to Israeli citizens. This is Noam’s legacy,” the Israeli premier added.

President Isaac Herzog also sent “condolences from the depths of my heart to his grieving family,” saying he had participated in numerous special operations and saved many lives.”

Defense Minister Benny Gantz sent condolences to the family and said Israel would continue its relentless campaign

against terrorism.

“ We will continue to fight terrorists, those who send them, their accomplices, and anyone who attempts to harm Israel’s citizens,” Gantz tweeted.

Raz was shot during an operation that included raids on terror suspects’ homes.

The **Israel Defense Forces earlier acknowledged that forces from the military and Shin Bet as well as Yamam were operating in Burqin in order to arrest a number of** suspects.

During the **operation, Israeli forces fired at armed terrorists who opened heavy fire and threw explosives toward them... As part of the operation, forces used various special measures to arrest a suspect** who barricaded himself inside his home and eventually surrendered together with his brother,” a joint statement issued by police and the IDF read.

Footage on social media showed masked Palestinians firing rifles in the direction of Israeli soldiers, as heavy gunfire could be heard.

Palestinian reports said Israeli forces surrounded the home of a suspect and called on everyone inside to surrender. The Islamic Jihad terror group identified the suspect, Mohammad al-Dab’i, as a member of its military wing.



Smoke rises from a home during an Israeli military operation in the West Bank town of Jenin, Friday, May 13, 2022. (AP Photo/Majdi Mohammed)

Video showed an Israeli soldier firing a shoulder-launched missile at the home, with smoke then seen rising from the building.

A separate clip showed the house on fire. It was unclear if anyone was inside.

Raz’s death comes amid heightened tensions between Palestinians and Israeli forces in the West Bank amid a terror wave that has killed 19 Israelis since mid-March.

More than 30 Palestinians have been killed in recent weeks, most of them involved in attacks or clashes with Israeli forces. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/one-of-the-best-officers-officials-mourn-death-of-police-commando-noam-raz/>

Matan Kahana resigns Religious Affairs Ministry to ‘help strengthen the coalition’

Move will see Kahana returning to Knesset as an MK, bumping out Yomtob Kalfon who it was feared might be the next Yamina member to quit teetering government

By [Carrie Keller-Lynn](#) and [Shalom Yerushalmi](#) Today, 8:12 pm



Religious Affairs Minister Matan Kahana. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Religious Affairs Minister Matan Kahana announced Friday that he is resigning his post and will return to serve as a Yamia MK in the Knesset in order to “help strengthen the coalition,” in what is seen as the latest maneuver by the beleaguered party to stay in power.

Kahana said he had informed Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, also of Yamina, of his intention to resign which would take effect immediately.

The move is widely seen as preventing a further defection from the party that has already lost two lawmakers, leaving the eight-party coalition without a clear majority.

Sources said MK Yomtob Kalfon was the latest Yamina MK planning to defect and was the target of the maneuver.

Under the so-called Norwegian Law, Kahana — elected to the Knesset under Yamina's slate — resigned his parliamentary seat upon taking his position as minister. His vacated seat was then passed onto another candidate on Yamina's electoral slate.

Also under the law, Kahana's ministerial resignation immediately sends him back into the Knesset, bumping out Kalfon, who is the last MK on Yamina's current slate.

Bennett's right-wing Yamina party has been the weak link in a fragile coalition, with two of its MKs elected to the slate either never supporting the coalition or resigning from it.

The first of these two, now-independent MK Amichai Chikli, was ousted from Yamina last month, and now faces potentially career-ending electoral sanctions.

The second, former coalition whip MK Idit Silman, threw the coalition into a tailspin when she departed from it last month, reducing the coalition's thin 61-seat majority to a 60-60 seat parity with the opposition.

Party sources said the move was coordinated between Kahana and Bennett and deliberately announced late Friday afternoon just before the start of the Sabbath. The resignation goes into effect after 48 hours meaning that Kahana will be in the Knesset on Monday and Kalfon will remain home.

Kalfon raised concerns in the party that he was shifting his positions when he visited the Temple Mount on Independence Day.

"Happy Independence Day," he wrote in a tweet that included a photo of him during the visit.

Known as the Temple Mount to Jews and Haram al-Sharif, or the Al-Aqsa complex to Muslims, Jerusalem's most holy hilltop has been a crucible for violence in the weeks leading up to and during Ramadan, which coincided this year with Passover and Easter.

Kalfon could not be reached for comment after the start of the Sabbath.

Kahana, who has launched widespread reforms in the Religious Affairs Ministry, will likely be appointed a deputy minister their allowing him to continue with his efforts.

The **government has been struggling to survive** since losing its majority, amid tensions in Yamina and with the Islamist Ra'am party. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/matan-kahana-resigns-religious-affairs-ministry-to-help-strengthen-the-coalition/>

Shimrit Meir, top aide to Bennett, resigns after one year in position

Meir was reportedly the prime minister's closest aide but clashed with Bennett's political team and his right-wing party members

By [Michael Horovitz](#) and [Carrie Keller-Lynn](#) Today, 9:01 pm



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett speaks with his foreign policy adviser Shimrit Meir at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on January 26, 2022. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Shimrit Meir, a top diplomatic adviser to Prime Minister Naftali Bennett resigned from her position on Friday, in a move seen as a further blow to the premier.

Meir, who has served in the position since Bennett took office in June 2021, will leave her position on June 1, according to her resignation letter.

The resignation was seen as a further sign of instability in the government, which is struggling to

survive after losing its majority.

Meir was considered to be one of Bennett's closest aides. However, she reportedly repeatedly clashed with his political advisers who felt that she was trying to extend her influence into their spheres, including advising Bennett on his political strategy, and responses to crises such as the coronavirus and the departure of MK Idit Silman from the coalition, the Ynet site reported.

She was also seen as pulling Bennett toward the political center to the ire of his right-wing Yamina party.

“She did not get along well with Tal Gan-Tzvi,” a Yamina senior adviser, referring to Meir’s relationship with the prime minister’s chief of staff, told Ynet. “Shimrit tried to handle things that Tal handles, stuff outside of the realm of diplomatic areas.”

“Frankly, I don’t think she got along with any of the MKs or ministers in the party,” the source adds, while noting that Meir had a strong relationship with her handpicked staff, including the prime minister’s foreign media adviser and diaspora affairs adviser.

“I thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the State of Israel in such important areas and wish you good luck,” Meir wrote to Bennett. “It has been a busy year, from morning until night. The series of tasks you assigned to me required considerable sacrifices in my personal life. Towards the end of a year of close joint work, it’s time to leave,” she added.

MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/shimrit-meir-top-aide-to-bennett-resigns-after-one-year-in-position/>

Israel and world powers look to aid flailing Palestinian economy

Semi-annual Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting puts Israeli and Palestinian Authority officials in same room with international representatives; Palestinians say PA, Israeli economies directly intertwined

The Media Line | Published: 05.13.22, 09:38

With no political process involving the Palestinians seen on the horizon, Israel’s government and the international community have made efforts instead to strengthen the Palestinian economy, which is struggling from a lack of sufficient revenue and an increased absence of donor funding.

However, the Palestinian Authority says, the economies of the PA and Israel are directly intertwined, and one cannot exist without the other.

This was the context for Tuesday’s meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) in Brussels. Born of the Oslo process meant to bring peace between Israel and the Palestinians, the semi-annual meetings of the AHLC serve as the principal policy-level coordination mechanism for development assistance to the Palestinian territories.

The AHLC is chaired by Norway and co-sponsored by the European Union and the United States. In addition, the United Nations participates, together with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The AHLC seeks to promote dialogue between donors, the Palestinian Authority and the government of Israel.

On Tuesday, representatives from the U.S., the EU, the UN, the World Bank, the IMF and other Arab and donor countries took part.

“I say, frankly, that it’s in our interest and in the international interest to have a strong Palestinian Authority,” Israel’s **Regional Cooperation Minister Isawi Frej** said immediately following Tuesday’s meeting. He attended the meeting along with Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh. The meeting was hosted by EU Foreign Affairs head Josep Borrell and chaired by Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt. **[Does this fellow have any idea of the concept of history and what has transpired over the past 50 years?**
- rdb



Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh during cabinet meeting held in Nablus (Photo: EPA)

“We discussed all of the achievements in the six months since the last (AHLC) conference,” Frej said, adding that Israel **“supported the Palestinian economy with more than 20,000 worker permits for the Gaza Strip, which is the highest number in the last 15 years”.**

“We are working on developing the eVAT (electronic Value Added Tax), which will digitize the invoices between us and the Palestinians and will increase the income tax of the PA, which is

very important. The import and export of goods increased to the West Bank, thanks largely to an agreement we signed with Jordan. Gaza reconstruction, water, electricity, an Allenby Bridge expansion – we’re working on all of it.

“The financial situation of the PA is very bad, and this is a critical moment for the Palestinians and the region,” Frej added.

Prior to Tuesday’s meeting, Huitfeldt offered her assessment of the situation between Israel and the Palestinians.

Regional Cooperation Minister Isawi Frej (Photo: Hadar Yoavian)

“There has been increased cooperation between Israel and [the Palestinians] in recent months to find solutions to key issues relating to the



economy, infrastructure and trade. However, there are still no political negotiations between the parties. Violence must end and the parties must take steps to resume negotiations of a two-state solution,” Huitfeldt said.

Since the last meeting held in Oslo in November 2021, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom have headed individual working groups. The three countries are working together to promote progress in areas such as water, trade and the Palestinian economy. This has created a new dynamic in the AHLC. The Israelis and Palestinians are discussing relevant issues more constructively than has been the case for years, Huitfeldt added.

The AHLC is one of the few forums in which Israelis and Palestinians jointly participate in meetings with major allies to discuss how best to assist the Palestinians.

The World Bank reported on Monday that foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority plummeted from 27% of gross domestic product in 2008 to just 1.8% of GDP in 2021. During the nearly two years of COVID-19 restrictions, when the critical tourism sector was paralyzed, more than 110,000 Palestinians slipped below the poverty line, with the World Bank reporting that income fell in more than 60% of Palestinian households, and 20% of the previously employed workforce found itself jobless. **MORE -** <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/bjra9vq89>

UAE ruler Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan dies at 73

Country declares 40 days of mourning for its leader; Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed, long the de facto ruler, is expected to succeed

By [Agencies](#) and [TOI staff](#) Today, 1:47 pm Updated at 3:24 pm



In this 2013 file photo, President of the United Arab Emirates Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrives to meet Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in Windsor in England (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth, pool)

The United Arab Emirates' President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan died aged 73 on Friday, state media said, after battling illness for several years.

Sheikh Khalifa's rule since 2004 saw his country's meteoric rise on the international scene.

"The Ministry of Presidential Affairs condoles the people of the UAE and the Islamic world... on the passing of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on Friday, May 13," the official WAM news agency said.

The ministry announced a 40-day period of

mourning and a three-day suspension of work in all ministries and the private sector beginning Friday, including flags to be flown at half-staff.

The late head of state was rarely seen in public since a stroke in January 2014, and the country has largely been ruled by his half-brother Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, known colloquially as MBZ.

MBZ, who led the country's normalization process with Israel in 2020, is expected to ascend to the presidency of the small Gulf nation.



Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019. (Alexei Nikolsky, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)

Israeli leaders expressed their condolences to the UAE over the president's death.

"Sheikh Khalifa's legacy and tremendous deeds are greatly admired in Israel," Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said in a statement. "The State of Israel stands alongside the United Arab Emirates at this difficult time."

President Isaac Herzog called the Emirati ruler's death "a great loss for our friends in the UAE and for the whole region."

"Sheikh Khalifa's bold leadership contributed so much to the advancement of the UAE and its people and to the growing partnership between our countries and is a great legacy for his successors," he said.

Sheikh Khalifa took over as the UAE's second president in November 2004, succeeding his father as the 16th ruler of Abu Dhabi, the richest of the federation's seven emirates. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/uae-ruler-sheikh-khalifa-bin-zayed-al-nahyan-dies-at-73/>

German police: 5 stabbed and wounded on train in suspected Islamic terror attack

Iraqi-born man stabs five passengers on train near city of Aachen before being overpowered by a police officer and two other passengers

By [AP](#) Today, 5:31 pm

VIENNA — **Police have arrested an Iraqi-born man and are investigating a possible Islamic extremist motive after five passengers received knife wounds on a regional train in western Germany, authorities said** Friday.

The train was traveling near the western city of Aachen Friday morning when a man began attacking fellow passengers “randomly and arbitrarily,” state interior minister Herbert Reul said, according to the news agency dpa.

There were approximately 270 passengers on the train, Reul said. A police officer who happened to be among the passengers overpowered the 31-year-old suspect with the help of two other passengers, state police confirmed.

Reul described the incident as “a gruesome crime that was stopped in an enormous act of courage.”

In total, five people were wounded, Reul said. Police confirmed the casualties were being treated at local hospitals and that none of them was in critical condition.

Reul said the suspect was already known to authorities. However, he added that authorities suspected, but have not confirmed that he had an Islamist motive for the attack. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/police-five-stabbed-and-wounded-on-german-train-in-suspected-islamic-terror-attack/>

Germany detects Hitler fans in its security ranks

Government report shows that over 300 members of German security services have links to ‘right-wing’ extremism
13 May, 2022 21:15

A German government investigation has revealed that more than 300 members of the country’s security agencies have links to “right-wing” extremism, including officers who were found to have joined in “Heil Hitler” chants and Nazi salutes.

“We will not allow our democratic constitutional state to be sabotaged from within by right-wing extremists,” Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said in a [statement](#) on Friday. **“Every case of extremism must have clear consequences.”** She added that Berlin will exhaust all current legal options to deal with extremists in the country’s security ranks, and she will propose legislation to help “remove enemies of the constitution from the public service more quickly.”

The probe examined 860 suspected cases of extremist behavior dating as far back as July 2018 and revealed “concrete evidence” against 327 employees of security services at federal and state levels. Germany’s military intelligence service (MAD) was most rife with offenders, with 83 employees found to have been involved in activities “against the free democratic basic order,” the report said. The federal police ranked second, with 18 such employees.

The Interior Ministry identified 138 extremists working at federal agencies and 189 at the state level. More than 640,000 people work in Germany’s security services.

“Each of these cases is one too many,” Faeser told reporters, adding that more than 500 disciplinary actions have been taken against security workers with confirmed links to extremism.

Friday’s report comes nearly two years after Germany’s first nationwide study of far-right extremism in the country’s security agencies found hundreds of cases of alleged misconduct involving soldiers, police officers and other officials. Although the number of cases was small relative to the size of Germany’s security workforce, the 2020 report’s authors acknowledged that “it can basically be assumed that there is also a dark field” of undetected extremists.

Many of the cases involved the sharing of extremist symbols or pictures, such as swastikas. The latest review found a “diverse” range of verboten activities, such as joining extremist chat groups, spreading extremist propaganda and making “politically motivated insults.” Some employees were suspected of being members of the “Reichsbürger” movement, which denies the legitimacy of the modern German state.

Concerns over extremism within Germany’s security ranks increased in recent years, amid a string of high-profile cases involving police officers and members of the military. Those cases included prosecution of an army officer who was accused of [plotting](#) a terrorist attack in which he would pose as a Syrian refugee.

<https://www.rt.com/news/555460-germany-reports-extremists-in-security-services/> [You may recall that just last week a Lufthansa employee blocked all obvious Jews from a flight because 2 orthodox refused masks. There is a huge problem with anti-Semitism in Germany. - rdb]

Russia warns of ‘military-technical’ retaliation as Finland moves toward NATO

Finnish president tells Moscow to blame itself for Helsinki’s decision to seek membership in alliance: ‘Look in the mirror’; Kyiv holds war crimes trial for Russian soldier

By [OLEKSANDR STASHEVSKYI](#) Today, 12:47 pm



In this photo from October 25, 2021, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg (L) meets with Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin during the The North Atlantic Council's (NAC) visit in Helsinki. (Jussi Nukari/Lehtikuvä/AFP)

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The Kremlin warned it may take retaliatory “military-technical” steps after Finland’s leaders said they favor joining NATO, and Sweden could do the same within days, in a historic realignment triggered by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the first war-crimes trial of a Russian soldier since the start of the conflict was set to open Friday in Kyiv. A 21-year-old captured member of a tank unit

is accused of shooting to death a civilian in the war’s first week.

On the ground, Russian forces were pounding areas in central, northern and eastern Ukraine, including the last pocket of resistance in Mariupol, as part of their offensive to take the industrial Donbas region. Ukraine recaptured some towns and villages in the northeast.

Two and a half months after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine sent a shiver of fear through Moscow’s neighbors, Finland’s president and prime minister announced Thursday that the Nordic country should apply right away for membership in NATO, the military defense pact founded in part to counter the Soviet Union.

“You (Russia) caused this. Look in the mirror,” said Finnish President Sauli Niinistö.

Finland’s Parliament still has to weigh in, but the announcement means it is all but certain to apply — and gain admission. The process could take months to complete. Sweden, likewise, is considering putting itself under NATO’s protection.

That would represent a major change in Europe’s security landscape: Sweden has avoided military alliances for more than 200 years, while Finland adopted neutrality after its defeat by the Soviets in World War II.

Public opinion in both nations shifted dramatically in favor of NATO membership after the invasion, which stirred fears in countries along Russia’s flank that they could be next.



Donetsk People Republic Emergency Situations Ministry employees clear rubble at the side of the damaged Mariupol theater building during heavy fighting in Mariupol, in territory under the government of the Donetsk People’s Republic, eastern Ukraine, May 12, 2022. (AP Photo)

Such an expansion of the alliance would leave Russia surrounded by NATO countries in the Baltic Sea and the Arctic and would amount to a stinging setback for Russian President Vladimir Putin. He had hoped to divide and roll back NATO in Europe but is instead seeing the opposite happen.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has said the alliance would welcome Finland and Sweden with open arms. [They are backing the bear into a corner

and the NATO group which is poorly done and poorly managed is simply inviting a nuclear conflict with Russia. Stupid move. They think they are winning but in reality they are simply setting up the prophetic scenario of a global conflict with no winners. – rdb]

Russia’s Foreign Ministry warned that Moscow “will be forced to take retaliatory steps of military-technical and other characteristics in order to counter the emerging threats to its national security.”

NATO's funneling of weapons and other military support to Ukraine has been critical to Kyiv's surprising ability to stymie the invasion, and the Kremlin warned anew that the aid could lead to direct conflict between NATO and Russia.

"There is always a risk of such conflict turning into a full-scale nuclear war, a scenario that will be catastrophic for all," said Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of Russia's Security Council.

As the fighting and Russian strikes persisted, teachers were trying to restore some sense of normalcy after the war shuttered Ukraine's schools and devastated the lives of millions of children. In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, lessons are being given in a subway station used as a bomb shelter that has become home for many families.

"It helps to support them mentally. Because now there is a war, and many lost their homes ... some people's parents are fighting now," said teacher Valeriy Leiko. In part thanks to the lessons, he said, "they feel that someone loves them." Primary school-age children joined Leiko around a table for history and art lessons in the subway station, where children's drawings now line the walls.

An older student, Anna Fedoryaka, was monitoring lectures on Ukrainian literature being given by Kharkiv professor Mykhailo Spodarets online from his basement.

Internet connections were a problem, Fedoryaka said. And, "it is hard to concentrate when you have to do your homework with explosions by your window."



An elderly woman walks inside a metro station being used as a bomb shelter in Kharkiv, Ukraine, May 12, 2022. (AP Photo/Mstyslav Chernov)

At least two civilians were killed on the outskirts of Kharkiv on Thursday, authorities said. The attacks also damaged a building housing a humanitarian aid unit, municipal offices and hospital facilities, Vyacheslav Zadorenko, the mayor of the suburban town of Derhachi, wrote in a Telegram post. **[How many civilians were killed in Chicago or Baltimore or NY on Thursday? We have an internal war because the leftist 'leadership' refuses to hold people accountable. – rdb]**

None of the sites "had anything to do with military

infrastructure," Zadorenko said.

The Ukrainian military chief for the eastern Luhansk region said Friday that Russian forces opened fire 31 times on residential areas the day before, destroying dozens of homes, notably in Hirske and Popasnianska villages, and a bridge in Rubizhne.

Russia's advance in the Donbas has been slow, but its forces have gained some ground and taken some villages.

Britain's Defense Ministry said Russia's focus on the Donbas has at the same time left its remaining troops around Kharkiv vulnerable to counterattack from Ukrainian forces, which recaptured several nearby towns and villages.

In other developments, Ukrainian officials said their forces took out another Russian ship in the Black Sea.

The Vsevolod Bobrov logistics ship was badly damaged but not thought to have sunk when it was struck while trying to deliver an anti-aircraft system to Snake Island, said Oleksiy Arestovych, an adviser to the Ukrainian president.

A spokesman for the Odesa regional military administration said the vessel caught fire after the strike. There was no confirmation from Russia and no reports of casualties. **MORE -**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/russia-warns-of-military-technical-retaliation-as-finland-moves-toward-nato/>

Key NATO member against Sweden and Finland in bloc

Turkey has opposed the alliance intentions of the Scandinavian nations, claiming they are like 'a guesthouse for terrorists'

13 May, 2022 16:34

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan declared on Friday that Ankara opposes the possibility of Sweden and Finland's accession to NATO because he believes the two Scandinavian nations harbor 'terrorists'.

By ‘terrorists’, the Turkish leader meant militants of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), a separatist movement operating in southeastern Turkey, and members of the Revolutionary People’s Liberation Front (DHKP/C), an outlawed Turkish communist party.

The statement came after Helsinki and Stockholm demonstrated their intention to join the US-led military alliance.

“We are currently following the developments regarding Sweden and Finland [joining NATO], but we are not favorable towards it. At this point, it is not possible for us to have a positive approach,” the Turkish president told journalists.

“Scandinavian countries are unfortunately almost like guesthouses for terrorist organization.s. PKK and DHKP/C are nested in Sweden and the Netherlands. And I’m going even further, in their parliaments,” he added.

In April, concerned with Russia’s military action in Ukraine, Sweden and Finland started to consider dropping their neutral status and joining NATO. Top Finnish officials have already supported the initiative.

Sweden is set to decide on its accession to the military bloc on May 15. **MORE -** <https://www.rt.com/news/555455-turkey-sweden-finland-accession-nato/>

US may have to suspend weapons shipments to Ukraine

Aid to Kiev may be disrupted if Congress doesn’t pass \$40 billion spending package by May 19, Pentagon says
3 May, 2022 22:29

The flow of US weapons to Ukraine might be cut off, at least temporarily, unless Congress quickly approves nearly \$40 billion in new spending to help Kiev repel Russia’s offensive in the former Soviet republic, the Pentagon has warned.

“May 19 is the day we really, without additional authorities, we begin to not have the ability to send new stuff in . . .,” Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters on Friday. *“By the 19th of May, it’ll start impacting our ability to provide aid uninterrupted.”*

Weapons shipments to Kiev wouldn’t immediately stop on May 20 without new funding because there would still be some supplies in the pipeline purchased under the approximately \$100 million in spending authority that the Pentagon currently has remaining for Ukraine aid, Kirby said. However, he added, but by losing its ability to source new cargoes, the Pentagon would face *“a period of time with nothing moving”* if there’s an extended delay in the new funding approval.

“We’ve been moving at a fairly fast clip here, both in terms of the individual packages that have been approved and how fast that stuff is getting into Ukrainian hands,” Kirby said. *“Literally, every day, there are things going in, and we would like to continue to be able to continue that pace for as long as we can.”*

Washington’s latest Ukraine aid package, valued at \$39.8 billion, was overwhelmingly approved by the House on Tuesday night, but the Senate failed in an effort to fast-track the bill for approval on Thursday. Senator Rand Paul (R-Kentucky) objected to unanimous consent – a provision that allows for bills with strong bipartisan support to go to a quick vote without debate – after Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York) refused to add language to the aid legislation requiring that an inspector general be appointed to oversee how the money is spent. **[Thank heavens for Rand Paul. He is one of the few in DC that actually tries to mind the dollars and cents and watch over the finances. Unfortunately with the other idiots in DC they could care less. Ukraine is not our biggest problem and neither is Russia. Russia simply doesn’t want a reverse Cuban missile situation on their borders but the US wants to keep their KICKBACK scheme working. – rdb]**

Schumer excoriated Paul for standing in the way of quickly approving the massive aid package and argued that Washington has a *“moral obligation”* to help Ukraine fight Russian forces. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) also pressed for an immediate vote on the bill, but Paul’s objection meant that passage would be delayed to next week at the earliest. **[Schumer like the vast majority of the “long timers’ in DC needs to go away permanently and it should have happened long ago. He is a crooked as a dog’s hind leg just like PEEEElosi and the rest of them. – rdb]**

Paul argued that Americans are already “feeling the pain” of an inflation crisis, which he said was driven by excessive deficit spending, “and Congress seems intent on only adding to that pain by shoving more money out the door as fast as they can.” He added, *“We cannot save Ukraine by dooming the US economy.”*

Kirby reiterated a Pentagon request to provide new Ukraine funding by the third week of May. *“Obviously, we continue to urge the Senate to act as quickly as possible so that we don’t get to the end of May and not have any additional authorities to draw upon.”*

Although the aid bill passed the House with support from all Democrats and all but 57 Republicans, the vote revealed increasing division over the issue on the GOP side of the aisle. Representative Dan Crenshaw (R-Texas) praised the bill as a way to fund a proxy war against Russia, *“investing in the destruction of our adversary’s military without losing a single American troop.”* **[Every GOP rino in DC needs to be replaced. All those who voted in the House for this and those in the Senate that vote for it need to go away. – rdb]**

Critics, including Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Georgia), countered that anti-Russia sanctions are only exacerbating a US inflation crisis, and prioritizing aid to Ukraine is distracting from more important domestic issues.

“While you spend \$40 billion for your proxy war against Russia, I’m focused on baby formula for American babies,” she told Crenshaw.

Paul noted that the latest spending package will bring total US aid to Ukraine to \$60 billion since the conflict began in February, nearly as much as Russia earmarks annually for its entire defense budget. <https://www.rt.com/news/555462-us-ukraine-aid-may-be-delayed/>

Vast majority of Chinese have positive view of Russia – poll

A new survey claims nearly 80% of respondents in China have a favorable attitude towards Russia but views on the US have worsened

13 May, 2022 18:38

A recent survey has revealed that a majority of Chinese citizens hold a favorable view of Russia, while most respondents named the US as the least positively perceived out of a list of 25 countries.

The online survey was conducted by the Central European Institute of Asian Studies think tank in March, shortly after Russia launched its military operation in Ukraine, and was published earlier this week. Researchers questioned more than 3,000 residents in mainland China to evaluate their perception of the world at a time of war, presenting them with a list of 25 countries which they were asked to rank in terms of favorability.

“This is a unique survey which gives broad and detailed insights into Chinese people’s attitudes at a crucial time in international relations, just after the Russian invasion of Ukraine,” said Dr. Richard Q. Turcsanyi, who led the survey. *“Our findings show that the Chinese public was not disturbed by the Russian moves and actually seems to support Russia in the war,”* he added.

Of the 25 countries that respondents were asked about, Russia was revealed to be the most positively perceived nation, while the US was the most negatively viewed one. Researchers found that nearly 80% of respondents had positive feelings about Russia, and around the same proportion said their view of the country had improved over the past three years.

Asked why their view of Russia had improved, many cited their admiration for the country’s leadership. Some of the common responses were *“Trust Putin,” “Putin has guts,”* and *“Strong leadership.”* Many Chinese people also stated that they felt a *“brotherly love”* between Russia and China, while some said they believed that *“the enemy of an enemy is our friend.”*

During the same three-year period, Chinese views of the US seem to have significantly worsened as less than a third of respondents claimed to have a favorable view of the country. The US was ranked the most negatively viewed country of the 25 mentioned, with some participants stating that while they perceive the US as an advanced and powerful state, they feel it is hostile to China, untrustworthy and has a tendency to interfere in other countries’ affairs.

Other countries that were favorably perceived by respondents included Pakistan, Singapore, North Korea and Germany. Meanwhile, countries like India, Japan, Vietnam, South Korea and Ukraine were the most negatively perceived. The report suggests that Chinese people’s views of foreign countries seem to correspond to their perception of those countries’ views of China. Nearly 60% of participants stated that they believed Americans had a generally negative view of China, while only about 10% thought that Russians were ill-disposed towards Chinese people.

The researchers stated that while the view of the US is generally negative in China, there is still a long way to go before tensions spill out into a Cold War.

“The tense diplomatic relations have not significantly damaged the Chinese public’s admiration for American culture, and a majority of Chinese still considered the US culturally attractive. We are not in a full-fledged Cold War yet,” Tao Wang, research associate at Manchester China Institute and co-author of the report, said in a statement. <https://www.rt.com/news/555449-china-russia-us-survey/> **[It would be very interesting to see the**

attitudes of the general populations of multiple other countries of Russia and the US. I am not so sure that we would be very positively perceived by many of them. While there are many from very poor and criminally dominated countries that want to come here the issue is always purely money and what they can get, not really that much "leadership" abilities. – rdb]

Testimony warns China's 'organ harvesting' is killing 50,000 per year

Those ages 28-29 disappear as that's the 'exact stage' of development executioners want

By [Bob Unruh](#) Published May 13, 2022 at 3:31pm

China may be killing as many as 50,000 concentration camp victims each year to surgically remove – and sell – their organs, according to one of the world's leading experts on China's forced organ harvesting industry.

A report in Breitbart documents the testimony from Ethan Gutmann, who said each concentration camp victim could yield as many as two or three organs from the Chinese Communist Party regime to sell.

Gutmann testified, "There are two kinds of people who leave the camps early: The first are young people, about 18 years old. The announcement that they are 'graduating' is often made during lunch. Sometimes light applause is encouraged. 'Graduation' is a euphemism for forced labor, often at a factory out east," he said.

The second group is those in the age of 28 or 29 because that's the "exact stage of physical development that the Chinese medical establishment prefers for organ harvesting."

Those, he said, vanish in the middle of the night.

"If we assume that at any given time since 2017, there are approximately a million Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz and Hui in the camps, my estimate is that 25,000 to 50,000 camp detainees are being harvested every year," he said.

Gutman is a senior research fellow in China studies at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. He's also co-author of "Bloody Harvest" and "The Slaughter."

The hearing was assembled by Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., who heads the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and focused on the evidence of China's "forced organ harvesting."

Also testifying on Enver Tohti, a surgeon from East Turkistan who said he had been forced to "harvest organs from a political prisoner in 1995."

A study published by the Australian National University also focused on the massacres, accusing China of "execution by heart removal."

The Breitbart report said, "China has built a network of upwards of 1,000 concentration camps in occupied East Turkistan, its westernmost region and home to the majority of members of the Uyghur ethnic group, in the past half-decade, using them to torture, indoctrinate, enslave, rape, and kill Uyghurs and other members of religious and ethnic minorities. Chinese officials do not deny the existence of the camps, but claim they are 'vocational training centers' where indigenous people Beijing perceives as backwards learn trade skills to compete in the modern Chinese economy."

Gutman said the free world needs to shun the Chinese transplant industry.

He explained, "We need to abolish all Western contact with the Mainland Chinese transplant industry. No Chinese transplant surgeons in our medical journals, our universities, and our conferences. And a freeze on all sales of surgical equipment, pharmaceutical development, and testing in China."

The [Daily Caller News Foundation](#) said the panel follows the release of an American Journal of Transplantation paper that focused on "the intimate involvement of transplant surgeons in China in the execution of prisoners via the procurement of organs."

"Doctors in China performed organ transplants without following the standard procedures for establishing brain death," Smith told the hearing, citing the paper which analyzed almost 3,000 Chinese medical journal articles.

The Chinese Embassy did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Daily Caller News Foundation, it reported.

[WND has been reporting on the Chinese effort to harvest organs from prisoners long before 2013 when the Israeli Knesset held a conference to expose China's practice of executing dissidents by harvesting their organs.](#)

The Chinese regime denied then it was engaged in organ harvesting aimed at dissidents, but experts and survivors said evidence of the practice was overwhelming.

WND's reports date to 2004 when the issue of coercive organ harvesting appeared. Multiple reports [have](#) been published on the issue of [coercive organ harvesting in China](#). **MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2022/05/testimony-warns-chinas-organ-harvesting-killing-50000-year/>**

Judge rules Durham can have most of the Fusion GPS emails

Investigation includes Democrats' scheme to deliver disinformation about Trump's 2016 campaign

By [Bob Unruh](#) Published May 12, 2022 at 7:14pm

A federal judge has ruled that special counsel John Durham, who is investigating the Democrats' scheme to create and deliver disinformation to the American public about the 2016 Trump campaign, can have most of the emails involving Fusion GPS that he sought.

The company, which hired a British agent to create the "Steele Dossier" of unfounded claims about then-candidate Donald Trump, claimed the information all was protected from disclosure by attorney-client privilege.

The judge said a few were, but 22 were not, and ordered them turned over to the prosecutor who already has obtained the conviction of one former FBI lawyer and has charges pending against a former Clinton campaign lawyer for lying.

The New York Post reported Judge Christopher Cooper ruled that Fusion must turn over 22 documents – of the 38 that Durham had requested. The remaining 16 are not required to be turned over now, although that does not mean they could be required at some time in the future.

The communications mostly involve discussions among Fusion workers, and aren't protected, according to the ruling, because they reveal Fusion agents were planning to push their findings to the press.

"Because these emails appear not to have been written in anticipation of litigation but rather as part of ordinary media-relations work, they are not entitled to attorney work-product protection," the judge said.

The Hillary Clinton campaign claimed it hired Fusion for legal consulting related to defamation and libel during the campaign, Cooper noted.

But Cooper said, "It is clear that Fusion employees also interacted with the press as part of an affirmative media relations effort by the Clinton Campaign. That effort included pitching certain stories, providing information on background, and answering reporters' questions."

Democrats before and during the 2016 election created all sorts of claims about Trump, and pressed for their friends in the liberal media to publicize them – to Trump's detriment. Evidence shows that even Barack Obama was briefed on a plot by Hillary Clinton to create – and publicize – unfounded claims of the Trump campaign's links to Russia in order to deflect the public's attention from her own email scandal.

At a Substack report, it was revealed the disclosures will include, "Internal Fusion GPS e-mails discussing the Alfa Bank data and e-mails circulating draft versions of the Alfa Bank white papers that were 'ultimately provided to the press and the FBI.'"

The unfounded allegation was that the Trump campaign had a secret computer link to Alfa Bank in Russia.

The emails that Durham will not get, at least for now, include eight that are internal communications among Fusion workers, and eight that are among several Fusion executives and others.

The judge also said, "Court takes no position on the other approximately 1500 documents that Fusion GPS withheld as privileged."

The Substack report said, "We can assume based on this ruling that the majority of those documents would not be privileged. Durham will likely get most of them." **MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2022/05/judge-rules-durham-can-fusion-gps-emails/>**

Nearly 30,000 Deaths After COVID Vaccines Reported to VAERS, CDC Data Show

VAERS data released Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show 1,261,149 reports of adverse events from all age groups following COVID-19 vaccines, including 27,968 deaths and 228,477 serious injuries between Dec. 14, 2020, and May 6, 2022.

By [Megan Redshaw](#) 05/13/22

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) today released new data showing a total of 1,261,149 reports of adverse events following COVID-19 vaccines were submitted between Dec. 14,

2020, and May 6, 2022, to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). VAERS is the primary government-funded system for reporting adverse vaccine reactions in the U.S.

The data included a total of 27,968 reports of deaths — an increase of 210 over the previous week — and 228,477 serious injuries, including deaths, during the same time period — up 1,774 compared with the previous week. There were 5,794 additional total adverse events reported to VAERS over the previous week.

Excluding “[foreign reports](#)” to VAERS, [815,384 adverse events](#), including [12,899 deaths](#) and [81,830 serious injuries](#), were reported in the U.S. between Dec. 14, 2020, and May 6, 2022.

[Foreign reports](#) are reports foreign subsidiaries send to U.S. vaccine manufacturers. Under U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations, if a manufacturer is notified of a foreign case report that describes an event that is both serious and does not appear on the product’s labeling, the manufacturer is required to submit the report to VAERS.

Of the 12,899 U.S. [deaths reported](#) as of May 6, 16% occurred within 24 hours of vaccination, 20% occurred within 48 hours of vaccination and 59% occurred in people who experienced an [onset of symptoms](#) within 48 hours of being vaccinated.

In the U.S., 578 million COVID-19 vaccine doses had been administered as of May 6, [including](#) 341 million doses of Pfizer, 218 million doses of Moderna and 19 million doses of Johnson & Johnson (J&J).



National Vaccine
Information Center
Your Health. Your Family. Your Choice.




Search Results

From the 5/6/2022 release of VAERS data:

Found 1,261,149 cases where Vaccine is COVID19

[Government Disclaimer on use of this data](#)

Table

|  Event Outcome |   Count | Percent |
|---|---|------------------|
| Death | 27,968 | 2.22% |
| Permanent Disability | 51,996 | 4.12% |
| Office Visit | 191,870 | 15.21% |
| Emergency Room | 120 | 0.01% |
| Emergency Doctor/Room | 128,777 | 10.21% |
| Hospitalized | 155,258 | 12.31% |
| Hospitalized, Prolonged | 375 | 0.03% |
| Recovered | 339,885 | 26.95% |
| Birth Defect | 1,071 | 0.08% |
| Life Threatening | 31,190 | 2.47% |
| Not Serious | 569,649 | 45.17% |
| TOTAL | † 1,498,159 | † 118.79% |

† Because some cases have multiple vaccinations and symptoms, a single case can account for multiple entries in this table. This is the reason why the Total Count is greater than 1261149 (the number of cases found), and the Total Percentage is greater than 100.

Every Friday, [VAERS](#) publishes vaccine injury reports received as of a specified date. Reports submitted to VAERS require further investigation before a causal relationship can be confirmed.

Historically, VAERS has been shown to report only [1% of actual vaccine adverse events](#).

U.S. VAERS data from Dec. 14, 2020, to May 6, 2022, for 5- to 11-year-olds show:

- [10,560 adverse events](#), including [272 rated as serious](#) and [5 reported deaths](#).
- [20 reports](#) of myocarditis and pericarditis (heart inflammation).

The CDC uses a [narrowed case definition](#) of “myocarditis,” which [excludes cases](#) of cardiac arrest, [ischemic strokes](#) and deaths due to heart problems that occur before one has the chance to go to the emergency department. The Defender has noticed over previous weeks that reports of myocarditis and pericarditis have been removed by the CDC from the VAERS system in this age group. No explanation was provided.

- [43 reports](#) of blood clotting disorders.

U.S. VAERS data from Dec. 14, 2020, to May 6, 2022, for 12- to 17-year-olds show:

- [31,504 adverse events](#), including [1,812 rated as serious](#) and [43 reported deaths](#). VAERS [reported](#) 44 deaths in the 12- to 17-year-old age group last week.
- [65 reports](#) of anaphylaxis among 12- to 17-year-olds where the reaction was life-threatening, required treatment or resulted in death — with 96% of cases attributed to [Pfizer's vaccine](#).
- [650 reports](#) of myocarditis and pericarditis with [638 cases](#) attributed to Pfizer's vaccine.
- [166 reports](#) of blood clotting disorders with all cases attributed to Pfizer.

MORE - <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/deaths-covid-vaccines-vaers-cdc-data>

Child protective services promotes drag queen story time, drag show for 'Kiddie Korner' 'Pride' events also include burlesque

By [WND Staff](#) Published May 13, 2022 at 5:58pm



"Pride" promoters in Illinois have moved far beyond promoting alternative sexual lifestyle choices to adults now with a "Kiddie Korner" announced for an upcoming "Pride" celebration that will feature "affirming books," "drag queen story time," "face painting" and a "family friendly drag show."

The [Daily Herald](#) said the Lake County promotion of "LGBTQA+ Pride Month" in Waukegan in June will have all the festivities: "music and performances, food trucks, a beer and beverage tent, craft and artisan vendors,

a resource fair, games and entertainment for children, multiple drag shows, a dance tent and more."

It's sponsored by, among others, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Director Nikki Michele said it's important that the community provide "this safe and inclusive space for our LGBTQ+ family to celebrate our joy."

The report said, "The Kid Korner will be open at the fest from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m., featuring affirming books, drag queen story time, face painting, an inflatable soccer field, kids' dress up, and arts and crafts. A family-friendly drag show will take place at 4 p.m."

There also will be burlesque.

At the [Twitchy](#) site, comments included that "anti-critical race theory warrior Christopher Rufo has recently been smeared as homophobic for some of his recent posts and that critical queer theory is his latest grift."

But the report pointed out leftists are accusing conservatives of casting aspersions by being concerned over "groomer" activities, and Discovery+ was launching plans for a show about teens on a "drag journey."

Online reactions to the Waukegan events included, "Wow, this is horrible," and "This is parody right?"

Another demanded, "Why do they insist on sexualizing our children? Sickos."

Actually, WND already has reported on ["Drag" events for children at a Montana Air Force Base](#), the "drag" ["performance art" on PBS](#), related [events](#) in churches, those drag queen story times in libraries and schools, and of course, [when a drag queen making an appearance in Houston actually was a convicted child-sex offender](#).

<https://www.wnd.com/2022/05/child-protective-services-promotes-drag-queen-story-time-drag-show-kiddie-korner/>

[Good heavens – Talk about an abomination. The Fact the Illinois DCF is cosponsoring this? I well recall when practicing in the ER in Illinois having dreadful problems with the DCF group and apparently they were just beginning their long road into perverse incompetence then. – rdb]

Commentary:

Better Questions to Ask Americans on Abortion

[David Harsanyi](#) Posted: May 13, 2022 12:01 AM

With the leak of a Supreme Court draft opinion by Justice Samuel Alito overturning Roe v. Wade, the media has gone into hyperdrive trying to obscure the real contours of the debate. One of the most obvious ways they do it is by highlighting politically motivated surveys and conducting push polling.

Take Politico's recent Morning Consult poll, which informs us that 53% of voters say Roe should not be overturned. Even among Republican voters, only 48% support overturning Roe. First of all, who cares? It's a completely irrelevant query, really. The court exists not to care what polls tell them. And, really, on what constitutional grounds do these 53% of Americans maintain the decision should be upheld? There is tons of evidence illustrating that, other than in the broadest terms, most Americans have no idea what Roe entails.

If you want to delve into the topic, a far more worthwhile line of inquiry would be: "Do you believe the issue of abortion should be a protected constitutional right, or should voters be able to decide the issue on a state level?" This properly lays out the reality of choices that voters face. And I suspect the numbers would look quite different when the issue is framed properly. But, of course, that would mean informing those being questioned that overturning Roe doesn't necessarily mean an abortion ban. That would be inconvenient.

The Morning Consult poll also finds that 41% of voters say it is "very important" for them to vote for a candidate in the 2022 midterms who supports "abortion access." Every Republican-led law that's been enacted on the issue of abortion in recent years, including the Mississippi bill that sparked the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* case, provides "access" to abortion. Maybe some future bill won't, but these do. Do you think those 41% understand this reality, one that is purposely obscured by the question? I don't.

And anyway, why are pollsters posing inexact theoretical questions about abortion when they can ask precise ones that would properly gauge where the public stands on the debate that does exist? Democrats run Washington, and Chuck Schumer, who runs the Senate, has already brought the Women's Health Protection Act bill to the floor. This bill had tangible policy components that properly reflect the Democratic Party's position on abortion, so pollsters don't have to guess.

Some easy questions might be:

- Do you support the Democratic Party's effort to legalize abortion through all nine months of pregnancy in all 50 states?
- Do you support the Democrats' efforts to prohibit states from passing laws that forbid abortions after viability?
- Do you support the Democrats' efforts to prohibit states from passing laws against sex-selective abortions?
- Do you support the Democrats' efforts to overturn existing laws that require parental or guardian notification for minors?
- Do you agree with Democrats that non-doctors should be given the right to perform abortions?
- Do you agree with the Democratic Party's efforts to strip medical workers of conscience rights and compel them to participate in abortion procedures or lose their jobs?
- Democrats, including President Joe Biden, want to eliminate the Hyde Amendment so that the federal government can fund abortions with taxpayer dollars. Do you agree?
- Do you agree with the Biden administration that more abortions are vital in keeping down the poor population, increasing labor force participation and helping the economy?
- A few years back, Republicans in Congress attempted to pass a 20-week limit on abortion. Do you think such a limit is reasonable?
- In Florida and Mississippi, Republican governors have signed laws limiting legal abortion to the first 15 weeks of pregnancy. Would you support similar limits in your state?

Rather, Politico asks about the prospect of prison for women who obtain abortions, which 73% oppose. Not only has there never been a serious anti-abortion bill that proposes jail time for women who get abortions -- Texas, for instance, specifically exempts women from homicide charges for abortions -- but it has never been part of the anti-abortion policy agenda. Why would you ask this particular question and not any of the others? To fearmonger and mislead participants.

It is undeniable that American attitudes regarding abortion are complex and often contradictory. But media outlets have further obfuscated the issue to protect Democrats. It is perhaps most obvious in the questions they ask.

<https://townhall.com/columnists/davidharsanyi/2022/05/13/better-questions-to-ask-americans-on-abortion-n2607145>

Umbrella Tree

By [Guest Writer](#)/May 13th, 2022 By Paul Cappadona

Hello everyone. I have been looking into worldwide corruption for 45 years. Why do we keep choosing corruption over liberty? Especially with all the evil going on today. As it gets worse and worse, I was brought to remember something I read years ago in "Occult Theocracy" by Lady Queenborough. Yes, we are in a battle of Truth vs Opinion but more important this is a spiritual war, a battle to the death, for the flesh and blood of humanity. The lie starts out with a gang of Nimrods caring and offering help to make life easier as a mighty provider in the face of God.

Come all ye that are tired and hungry enjoy our abundance, and our (second to none) protection, Enjoy the shade of

easy living. We will keep you safe from all harm just make US rulers over you. So went the temptation of men ruling over men and away from God's rules for Liberty. The base of the Umbrella Tree feed the false world empires. It starts with the "something for nothing" fraudulent (money system) that feeds all their delusions. Below that is evil that directs which gang is needed in their destructive scheme.

There are many governments, gangs, perverts, and thieves of all kinds among the branches some seeming very good. Enjoy the vice of your choice all will be fine. This Marvelous scheme to control and live off of man is to offer their Occult tree of life for your fealty and ever-increasing cost of the labor of your life. All that they promise is what they take from us and it never stops. Everything under the Umbrella Tree is designed to keep you an un-aware slave of the theocracy. Along with real wolves there are very many wolves wearing sheep's clothing none of which care about you or liberty. One of their goals is to grow this Umbrella tree to cover the earth concealing truth of another way, the way of truth. The Way of truth is the only way where men do not rule over other men.

Well, it's time to get to the meat of the matter. The definitions given are here to make things clearer for all involved.

OCCULT: Hidden from the eye or understanding; being concealed. (If you knew what was going on they would be brought before the people's bar.)

THEOCRACY: Government by direction of God or by the assumed direction of a supposititious divinity, or the state thus governed. (They tell you it's we the people but each day proves the people have NO say.)

OCCULT THEOCRACY: By concealment claiming or bearing authority over men from God or some god or from men as in WE THE PEOPLE. The power of theocracy or exercise of government rule over the masses by a hierarchy of priests or adepts with rules from the leaders of the particular secret society.

Part of their concealment is to have their branches set in degrees. Like the pagans of old they have temple virgins and temple whores. Some people join one or more of these secret cults to network, do good as a group and for better lives. Others join to get into the upper workings of the group. If you or anybody you know is in such a group beg them to get out.

Wars are a way to keep people in line and keep other cults from growing larger to heights of power beyond their scope. All cults are part of the team of deceptions and will work together to control and feed off the masses, which sometimes for the elite its pronounced with a silent m. Most financial aid is directed to the occult branches to keep their people in line. From below, deep in the roots they will build up the sect needed to implement the next wicked goal. See Georgia Guild Stones erected in 1990 but being carried out now right before our eyes.

LICENTIOUS, *a.* [L. *licentiosus*.] Using license; indulging freedom to excess; unrestrained by law or morality; loose; dissolute; as a *licentious* man.

Exceeding the limits of law or propriety; wanton; unrestrained; as *licentious* desires. *Licentious* thoughts precede *licentious* conduct.

LICENTIOUSLY, *adv.* With excess of liberty; in contempt of law and morality.

LICENTIOUSNESS, *n.* Excessive indulgence of liberty; contempt of the just restraints of law, morality and decorum. The *licentiousness* of authors is justly condemned; the *licentiousness* of the press is punishable by law.

Law is the god of wise men; *licentiousness* is the god of fools.

Now here are the words from the book mentioned earlier.

"Miss Mayo, in her book Mother India, published in 1927, gives an interesting description of a temple of Kali. "Kali Ghat" — place of Kali — is the root-word of the name Calcutta." Kali is a Hindu goddess, Heckethorn, Secret Societies of all Ages and Countries, vol. II, p. 307. 62 OCCULT THEOCRACY wife of the great god Siva, whose attribute is destruction and whose **thirst is for blood and death-sacrifice.**" (*Doesn't that reminds you of Hillary.*) Kali has thousands of temples in India, great and small. Heckethorn further explains that "the association of Thugs, after having existed in India for centuries, was only discovered in 1810. The names by which the members were known to each other, and also to others, was Funsiegeer, that is, 'men of the noose'. The name **Thug** is said to be derived from **thaga**, to deceive, because the Thugs get hold of their victims by luring them into false security. One common mode of decoying young men having valuables upon them is to place a young and handsome woman by the wayside, and apparently in great grief, who, by some pretended tale of misfortune, draws him into the jungle, where the gang are lying in ambush, and on his appearance strangle him. The gang consists of from ten to fifty members; and they will follow or accompany the marked-out victim for days, nor attempt his murder until an opportunity, offering every chance of success, presents itself. After every murder they perform a religious ceremony, called Jagmi; and the division of the spoil is regulated by **old-established laws** — the man that threw the handkerchief gets the largest share, the man that held the hands the next largest proportion, and so on. In **some gangs their property is held in common**. Their crimes are committed in honor of Kali who hates our race, and to whom the death of man is a pleasing sacrifice. 24 "Kali, or Bhowany, for she is equally well known by both names, was, according to the Indian legend, born of the burning eye which Shiva has on his forehead,

24. Heckethorn, op. cit., p. 318, vol. II. BRAHMINISM 63 •whence she issued, like the Greek Minerva, out of the skull of Jupiter, a perfect and full-grown being. **She represents the Evil Spirit, delights in human blood, presides over plague and pestilence, and directs the storm and hurricane, and ever aims at destruction.** She is represented under the most frightful effigy the Indian mind could conceive; her face is azure, streaked with yellow; her glance is ferocious; she wears her disheveled and bristly hair displayed like the peacock's tail and braided with green serpents. Her purple lips seem streaming with blood; her tusk-like teeth descend over her lower lip; she has eight or ten arms, **sometimes a human head dripping with gore.** (*Does that not remind you of sweet Cathy holding Trump's head.*) With one foot she stands on a human corpse. She has her each hand holding some murderous weapon, and temples, in which the people sacrifice cocks and bullocks to her, but her priests are the Thugs, the ' Sons of Death ', who quench the never-ending thirst of this divine vampyre." 25 As regards the sect of Kali's worshippers, Hecke-thorn gives the following details: "A newly admitted member takes the appellation of Sahib-Zada. He commences his infamous career as lughah, or gravedigger, or as belhal, or explorer of the spots most convenient for executing a projected assassination, or bhil. In this condition he remains for several years, until he has given abundant proof of his ability and good will. He is then raised to the degree of Bhuttotah, or strangler, which advancement, however, is preceded by new formalities and ceremonies. On the day appointed for the ceremony, the candidate is conducted by his guru into a circle, formed in the 25. Heckethorn, op. cit, vol. II, p. 318 and, for recent corroboration, see Katherine Mayo, Mother India. 64 OCCULT THEOCRASY sands and surrounded by mysterious hieroglyphics, where prayers are offered up to their deity. The ceremony lasts four days, during which the candidate is allowed no other food but milk. He occupies himself in practicing the immolation of victims fastened to a cross erected in the ground. On the fifth day the priest gives him the fatal noose, washed in holy water and anointed with oil, and after more religious ceremonies, he is pronounced a perfect bhuttotah. **He binds himself by fearful oaths to maintain the most perfect silence on all that concerns the society, and to labor without ceasing towards the destruction of the human race.** He is the rex sacrificulus, and the person he encounters, and Bhowany places in his way, the victim. Certain persons, however, are excepted from the attacks of the Thugs. " 26 **The political significance** of such a sect in any Theoc-rasy can be easily understood when one realizes what it means to the rulers of a land to have at their disposal a staff of fanatics trained to kill anyone on the order of a priest! The utility of such organizations is obvious in a hierarchy where the rulers are also priests reigning by "Divine Right".

All this and there's so much more, is not intended to frighten, but so that you realize you're under the wrong tree or covering. We are fallen beings, and if you seek peace and liberty, you must repent and get out from under the accursed umbrella tree. Don't expect the Lord to pull you off of your perches, you must repent and turn to Him. We have been living under the biggest satanic con of all time. Please be aware that the republicans, although look good, are just another branch of the tree, a fallback position, they can't and won't save you! All the false leaders need you more than you need them. Come out from among them and be ye separate, as for me and mine we will follow the Lord. Here are three pastors that explains just how the Kingdom of God works with-in this sinful world.

godsendusmen.com

hisholychurch.org suggest free download of The Covenants of the gods

bibleversusconstitution.org

If you would like a part two, (this could be a book), or if you have any questions, please let me know.

<https://newswithviews.com/umbrella-tree/>

Can We Take Back Our Election Process?

By [Tom DeWeese](#)/May 12th, 2022

What If We Just Said None of the Above!

The clamor is growing louder every day. "They don't listen." "We have no real choice of candidates." "The system is rigged for the elite." "There's no difference between the two parties."

You hear it every election. Endless talk about the need to create jobs, build the economy, make the nation a "better place to live for our families," and, my favorite, "restore trust!"

Who's not for those wonderful things! The slogans work for Democrats and Republicans alike. These so-called issues are interchangeable. They are, in fact, nothing more than empty rhetoric.

Meanwhile, do we hear any serious discussion about how to stop our money from becoming more worthless every day from government spending and rampant inflation? The last serious statement I heard was from Biden, telling us to avoid inflation by not buying things! What about the destruction of our education system as it's used for behavior modification while true academics are eliminated from the curriculum? Has any elected representative from either party taken the lead to stop schools from simply becoming factories that produce global village idiots?

Does any candidate dare mention the hopelessness taking over our inner cities as federal welfare policies enslave

whole generations to the ever-expanding government plantation? As the hopelessness grows in these government compounds, invaded by drug dealers and violent gangs, as disinterested bureaucrats ignore broken windows, trash pileups, and broken air conditioning, government policy is demanding more government control of housing in the name of environmental protection. When have we heard these issues ever mentioned in local, state, or federal campaigns? Never! Any candidate who would try would be immediately labeled an extremist!

Our political parties choose candidates that are “acceptable,” middle of the road, not rocking the boat, and not too extreme. In short, they force us to choose between two equally bad evils. Election after election the drone goes on. And what are we to do? These are the candidates the power mongers have chosen for us for city council, county commission, state legislature, Congress, and President. Yes, we have primaries to choose from, but I think we all know they have rigged just about all elections to assure the powers in charge get whom they want. Open primaries assure that.

Is it any wonder millions of Americans don’t vote or participate in our nation’s debate because they think it doesn’t matter anyway? The “average voter” increasingly feels that the decisions have been made for them. Worse, those who hold conservative points of view that our nation should live within the Constitution now believe socialism is inevitable, so why bother going to the polls. The Republic is lost, they say. The poor understand they are simply pawns in a vice grip between big money and special interests that control the elections.

And the growing proof of massive cheating in the last Presidential election has increased the feeling of helplessness which now rules the world’s once greatest democratic Republic. What political party is currently leading the charge to fix the election system? Meanwhile, as people stay home or trudge to the polls to hold their noses to vote for the next lesser of two evils, 93% of incumbents are routinely returned to office – year after year after year.

The instant a candidate is elected and joins the ranks of the incumbents, they begin the dance. Get the money for the next campaign. How? Special interest groups, corporations, and foreign interests flood into their offices to make deals, promote their agendas and show the way to fame, fortune and perpetual office – if only the incumbents go along. They have the whole process well in hand. Campaigns become little more than big PR projects, promoted in positive platitudes, specifically designed to assure nothing negative sticks. Just get through it and keep the gravy train running.

Above all, do not talk about controversial subjects like dollar values, global trade, or immigration; just stick to issues like health care, and the environment – coincidentally, two issues bought and paid for by the special interests. See how it works?

So year after year, we officially hold elections and politicians pontificate about how our going to the polls is a revered right, a valued tradition, underpinning a free society. And they wonder why there is such division in the nation! How did we end up in such a mess? We voted for these guys. But did we enjoy it? Are we satisfied with the results? Would we like to demand a do-over?

Is it hopeless? Is there any way to change it? Do you want the people to have control of the election process and the choice of candidates offered? Do you want to force the power elites to listen to you? I’ve got a solution.

Don’t despair. Don’t give up. There is a logical, effective way out of this. But it won’t happen by depending on political parties to lead the way. We have to take things into our own hands. We need an effective, binding form of protest to say “NO” to bad candidates. There is such a way.

Imagine going into the voting booth and looking down the list of candidates offered. None really appeal. None seem to offer satisfaction as an answer to the issues that concern you. If only there was something else you could do. A write-in won’t help. It would be a difficult and very expensive effort. It rarely works.

Then you look further down the ballot. Something new. It says “NONE OF THE ABOVE.” It’s a final choice at the bottom of the list of the candidates in every category, from president, to congress to the city council. What does it mean?

It means you have the power to decide who will hold office – not the power brokers. When the votes are tallied, if “NONE OF THE ABOVE” gets a majority of votes over any of the candidates listed, then “NONE OF THE ABOVE” wins. And that means none of those candidates will win the office. The office will remain vacant until a new election is held. To set up another election and fill the spot would work exactly like the process provided in the Constitution when an incumbent dies or resigns, and a special election is held. Now new candidates will have to try to win the public’s support.

Fixing the election process could be that simple. You, the voter, would be completely in the driver’s seat with the power to reject candidates, forcing a new election with new choices. The political parties would be forced to provide candidates the people want — or face being rejected. They would have to talk about real issues – or face being rejected. Incumbents would have to answer for their actions in office – or face being rejected. “NONE OF THE ABOVE.” Period. The power of labor unions and international corporations would be broken.

Think of the consequences. No longer would voters have to settle for the lesser of two evils. If all the candidates are bad – none would be able to force their way into office. It would mean that powerful special interests could no longer rely on their money to buy elections. They could buy all the ads they wanted, spend millions on “volunteers” going door to

door and slinging their dirt, but if the voters aren't buying, none of it will save their candidate from being rejected by "NONE OF THE ABOVE."

Moreover, the power of entrenched incumbents who have been unbeatable because of their massive war chests and party ties would be broken. Picture McConnell or Pelosi unable to run for office because they were rejected by "NONE OF THE ABOVE."

However, to work, "NONE OF THE ABOVE" would have to be binding. It would have to have the power of law behind it. It cannot be just a "protest" vote that has no other meaning. "NONE OF THE ABOVE" is completely non-partisan. There is no way to control its outcome. There is no need for a massive campaign chest to support "NONE OF THE ABOVE," although it could certainly be done. But the option, once permanently placed on the ballot, would always be there. America's representative system would be restored.

To get the job done, activists in every state would have to begin a campaign to demand that "NONE OF THE ABOVE" be given a permanent spot on the ballot. It would not require a Constitutional Amendment. It would have to be done state by state. Some states have ballot referendums and initiatives using petition drives to get an issue on the ballot, so the people can decide. It's difficult and expensive to do, but popular ideas have a chance.

In other states, "NONE OF THE ABOVE" advocates would have to find a friendly state representative or senator to introduce the idea before the state legislature and then get enough votes to pass it in both houses and then have it signed by the governor. The main drawback to that effort is obvious – in that it has to pass in state legislatures where, if successful, then every one of those incumbent legislators will have to face "NONE OF THE ABOVE" on the ballot for their re-election. They probably won't be too excited about the idea.

So why would they support the idea? It would be only because supporters succeed in creating a strong movement of voters which demand it. No one is saying this will be an easy process. But such movements have succeeded before. For example, local activists could begin by demanding that candidates support the measure, much like they now sign "no tax" pledges. In short, they would support it because there is strong popular support, and they simply have no choice. We must change the political debate – why don't elected officials support my right to have a "citizen's choice?"

Of course, one of their main objections to the "NONE OF THE ABOVE" idea would be the requirement for holding a new election, should it win. Too expensive, our responsible public servants would say, as they dismissed the idea. However, if it means getting better candidates, isn't it worth it to hold a new election, especially considering how much a very bad candidate would cost us if he got into office? The fact is, such a need for a new election would probably not arise often once political power brokers began to understand that they must offer candidates acceptable to the people rather than to the special interests. That's all they really must do. It's all we want. It only takes a couple of "None of the Above" victories to see that the electorate is back in charge.

The idea of "NONE OF THE ABOVE" has been around for a long time. Over the years, most states have had legislation introduced supporting the concept. Nevada actually has it on the ballot – but it is not binding. It doesn't force a new election. It is just a measure of protest. That's not good enough to make it effective.

One of the reasons it has not been successful is because there has never been a serious national drive to promote the idea. However, with the growing dissatisfaction voters are feeling with the lack of quality candidates seeming to get worse every election, perhaps there has never been a better time to start a national discussion on the issue.

The best part is that "NONE OF THE ABOVE" isn't a conservative or liberal idea. It's not a Republican or Democrat proposal. Republican leadership might see it as a good way to break the back of big labor's influence over elections. Equally, Democrats could see it as a way to stop the power and influence of the Republican's big business money. However, the parties want to look at it, the bottom line is that the voters win.

This will be a long-term process, and is primarily aimed at local, state, and congressional candidates. The real power comes from rejecting the candidates at ever level.

But all of that depends on the voters. Do you want to take back control, or are you satisfied to have your choices made for you behind closed doors? Because that's what we have now. How's that working for you?

<https://newswithviews.com/can-we-take-back-our-election-process/>

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