

05/15/2023 NEWS

PLEASE NOTE: News will be suspended for a few days.
We will be away from our computer for a few days - RDB

The Original 3000 Year Old Melody of Psalm 27 - Revealed?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cW4pNx4FjXo>

"To prevent inquiry is among the worst of evils."

-- Thomas Holcroft (1745-1816) English dramatist, miscellanist, poet and translator

Source: The Adventures of Hugh Trevor, 1794

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 18:¹¹Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods; yea, for that they dealt proudly against them.' ¹²And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt-offering and sacrifices for God; and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God. ¹³And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood about Moses from the morning unto the evening.

Some police critical of force after violence at journalist's funeral in Jerusalem

But others accuse public security minister of not backing officers and pressuring police chief to open probe after widespread international condemnation

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 9:26 pm Updated at 9:59 pm



Police and mourners are seen during the funeral procession of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in Jerusalem, on May 13, 2022. (AHMAD GHARABLI/AFP)

Some officials in the Israel Police have criticized the force over its handling of the funeral for Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, while others accused Public Security Minister Omer Barlev of not backing officers and pressuring police chief Yaakov Shabtai to launch an investigation.

Abu Akleh, 51, was killed by gunfire Wednesday morning while covering clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen during an Israeli military operation in the West Bank city of Jenin.

Following violent scenes at her funeral on Friday which prompted widespread international

condemnation of Israel, Shabtai ordered an internal investigation of the events. Videos from the funeral showed officers [charging Palestinians](#) who were holding and surrounding the casket, while beating them with batons and nearly toppling the coffin.

“The **Jerusalem District Police should have realized that this event needs to be allowed to take place, especially because of the ramifications and the international aspects of it,**” an unnamed police source quoted by Channel 12 said.

“Even **if Palestinian flags were waved and even if anti-Israel statements were heard and even if several stones were thrown, the commanding officers should have thought carefully before ordering officers to rush with batons and reach coffin carriers,**” the source added.

Meanwhile, **senior police officials cited by Hebrew media argued Saturday that the probe was a result of political pressure applied by Barlev.**

“If it was up to the police, the probe would never have been opened,” senior officials told the Ynet news site, accusing the minister of not backing the police.



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

According to a report by Channel 13, there is “a lot of anger” against Barlev among the police force, with some officials insisting that he “forced” Shabtai to launch a probe.

Police officers involved in the incident have maintained the violent clashes were the result of rioters throwing rocks toward them.

Senior police officials have stated that all efforts were made to allow a peaceful and respectful funeral, including coordinating the event’s logistics with the [deceased reporter’s family](#).



Palestinian mourners wave national flags as they carry the casket of slain Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, during her funeral procession outside the walls of Jerusalem’s Old City, on May 13, 2022. (Ronaldo Schemidt/AFP)

“On the other hand,” the officials argued, “hundreds of rioters sought to interfere with the ceremony and hurt police officers.”

“As is the case in any operational incident, and especially one that saw officers exposed to violence by rioters and forced to resort to using force, the Israel Police will investigate the incident,” they added.

The officials also vowed not to let officers “be scapegoats in the most complex security situation seen in the last few years.”

“These are officers who sacrifice their own safety to protect Israeli citizens from terrorism,” they said.

Also Saturday, Kan public broadcaster reported that despite ordering the probe, Shabtai has indicated no disciplinary steps will be taken against any officers involved.

Video released by Israel Police showed at least one Palestinian hurled an object at Israeli officers before the dispersal began. The footage then showed Palestinians throwing objects at police after officers had moved in to disperse the crowd.

מיידיים אבנים וחפצים לעבר כוחות הביטחון: המשטרה מפרסמת תיעוד נוסף מהעימותים בבית החולים [VeredPelman](#) הצרפתי בירושלים, בזמן יציאת ארונה של העיתונאית שירין אבו עאקלה [@pic.twitter.com/ggLDiG38IL](#)

— כאן חדשות (@kann_news) [May 14, 2022](#)

Barlev announced the probe into the incident earlier Saturday, saying it was important to “draw conclusions” from the conduct of police during the ceremony.

Results will be presented to officials in the coming days, according to the minister.

A statement issued by the police read: “The Israel Police supports its police officers, but as a professional

organization that seeks to learn and improve, it will also draw lessons from the incident.”

Responding to images from the funeral, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said they were “deeply disturbing.”

US President Joe Biden said he did not know the details surrounding that incident but noted that it “has to be investigated.”

The **European Union said it was “appalled.”**

The clashes erupted at Saint Joseph’s Hospital 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.

Police instructed the crowd to return the coffin to the hearse, “but the mob refused,” police said. “Police intervened to disperse the mob and prevent them from taking the coffin, so that the funeral could proceed as planned in accordance with the wishes of the family.”

The crowd seized the coffin, leading the Palestinians gathered in the hospital square to cheer, carrying her casket forward.

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](#)

After a brief standoff, police officers rushed the crowd, beating mourners and firing stun grenades. Abu Akleh’s casket almost toppled to the ground during the skirmish.

Abu Akleh’s body was then taken by van, surrounded by a police escort, to the Greek Melkite Church near Jaffa Gate.

Officers tore Palestinian flags off of the van as well before escorting it to the ancient sanctuary, according to footage. Israel Police later said that six people had been detained after riots “that had included stone-throwing.”

In an interview with the BBC on Friday, Abu Akleh’s brother appeared to dispute the Israel Police version of events, saying that the family and mourners hoped to hold a “small procession” but were “bombarded” by officers as they left the hospital. He did not clarify if the planned procession was on foot or by car.

Abu Akleh was one of the most beloved Palestinian journalists working in Arabic media. A longtime correspondent for the pan-Arab network Al Jazeera, many also saw her as a trailblazing model for women in a field dominated by men.

On Saturday, the Palestinian Authority said that while international bodies could “participate” in the investigation, Israel would not be permitted to join the probe into Abu Akleh’s death.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/some-police-critical-of-force-after-violence-at-journalists-funeral-in-jerusalem/>

Erez Crossing with Gaza set to reopen following two-week closure

In first public appearance amid Israeli threats, Hamas chief in Strip Yahya Sinwar visits Al Jazeera offices: ‘I’m not hiding’

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 9:37 pm



Palestinian workers are seen at the Erez crossing in the northern Gaza Strip, as they wait to enter Israel for work, on March 13, 2022. (Attia Muhammed/Flash90)

The Erez Crossing with the Gaza Strip is slated to reopen on Sunday nearly two weeks after it was shuttered, Israel’s military liaison to the Palestinians announced on Saturday evening.

“The continuation of the civil policy will be possible in accordance with situational assessments and the preservation of security stability,” the Defense Ministry body, known as COGAT, said in a statement.

Reopening the crossing will enable the 12,000 Palestinians in the Hamas-ruled enclave who hold Israeli work permits to once again enter Israel.

The Erez Crossing has been closed since May 3, when Israel shut down crossings to both Gaza and the West Bank during Memorial Day and Independence Day. It was due to reopen on May 6, but Israel [kept it shuttered](#) in the wake of a [deadly terror attack](#) in Elad on Independence Day.

Justice Minister Gideon Sa'ar spoke out against the move.

“Renewing the entry of workers from Gaza into Israel at this time is not justified or correct,” Sa’ar said. “Sinwar and Hamas, who are engaged nonstop in terror and incitement, should be removed from their comfort zone.”



Yahya Sinwar, Hamas leader in Gaza, visits Al Jazeera’s offices in the coastal enclave on May 14, 2022. (Screen capture: Twitter)

Sa’ar was referring to Hamas in Gaza chief Yahya Sinwar, who made a public appearance on Saturday for the first time since calls began to echo in Israel for his assassination following the Elad terror attack.

On Independence Day, two Palestinian terrorists used an axe and a knife to kill three Israelis in Elad before fleeing the scene and [being captured](#) only 60 hours later. The attack came days after Sinwar [gave a speech](#) urging

Palestinians to strike Israelis with whatever they had — including axes.

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“Let everyone who has a rifle, ready it. And if you don’t have a rifle, ready your cleaver or an axe, or a knife,” Sinwar said at the time.

Following the attack, Israeli officials [reportedly warned](#) Sinwar that he could face retaliation if he continues his incitement.

On Saturday afternoon, paying a visit to the Gaza offices of Al Jazeera, Sinwar said he was not afraid of such threats. “I’m not hiding,” he said.



Palestinian mourners wave national flags as they escort the casket of slain Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, during her funeral procession near Jaffa Gate, in the Old City of Jerusalem, on May 13, 2022. (Ahmad Gharabli/AFP)

Sinwar visited the TV station’s offices in a show of support following the death of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh on Wednesday during clashes between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli troops during a military raid in the West Bank.

“Abu Akleh was killed more than once: First when they shot her and the second time with the attempts to prevent the funeral,” Sinwar said during his visit, referring to [violent scenes](#) at her funeral on Friday for which Israel has faced [widespread condemnation](#).

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/erez-crossing-with-gaza-set-to-reopen-following-two-week-closure/>

Hamas warns against Jews visiting Temple Mount on Nakba Day: ‘Will lead to a clash’

Gaza-ruling terror group urges ‘masses’ to foil ‘occupation’s evil plans’ as Jewish activists plan to tour Jerusalem holy site for Second Passover on Sunday

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 5:34 pm



Palestinians wave Palestinian and Islamic flags as they rally at the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, following the last Friday prayers of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, on April 29, 2022. (Ahmad Gharabli/AFP)

The Gaza-ruling Hamas terror organization on Saturday warned Israel of a “clash” as it urged Palestinians to flock in mass to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem’s Old City for Nakba Day on Sunday.

May 15 marks the 74th anniversary of what the Arab world calls the “Nakba” or “catastrophe” surrounding the establishment of Israel, referring to the displacement and dispossession of Palestinians during the Israel’s War of Independence in 1948-1949.

This year, **Nakba Day coincides with Pesach Sheni, or Second Passover, during which Jews who**

were unable to participate in the religious festival observe it a month later.

Appearing **to respond to calls on social media by Temple Mount activists for Jews to visit the holy site on Sunday, Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem warned of a “clash” for** which he said the “Zionist occupier” would be responsible.

“The extremist statements calling on [Jews] to storm the Al-Aqsa Mosque tomorrow on Nakba Day and the approval of the ‘occupation forces’ to do so are a dangerous escalation that constitutes a provocation toward our people and our feelings that will lead to a clash that the ‘Zionist occupier’ will be held responsible for,” the spokesman warned in a statement.

“We call on the masses of our people in Jerusalem, the West Bank and occupied Israel to come to the Al-Aqsa Mosque and foil the occupation’s evil plans,” he added.

The **warning following weeks of increased tensions** and frequent clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops in the capital, with Passover, the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and the Christian holiday of Easter all intersecting last month.

Under **the prevailing status quo at the Temple Mount, Muslims are allowed to visit and pray at the site, while Jews are only allowed to visit during limited time slots and cannot pray.** The site is the most sacred place for Jews as the location of the biblical temples, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which sits atop the Temple Mount, is the third-holiest site for Muslims.

During Passover in April, a plan by Jewish extremists to sacrifice a goat at the Temple Mount roiled Palestinians and was stopped by police, who have repeatedly reiterated their commitment to maintaining the status quo at the flashpoint site.

In **an attempt to limit clashes in the Temple Mount compound last month, Israel barred non-Muslims from visiting the Temple Mount during the last roughly ten days of Ramadan,** a policy that has been in place for years.

Israel **has also highlighted a campaign of incitement led by Hamas and other extremist groups that falsely claim Israel aims to violate the** status quo at the Temple Mount.

The Hamas warning also comes amid ongoing tensions between Palestinians and Israel following the death of Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh earlier this week in the northern West Bank city of Jenin amid clashes between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli forces during an Israeli arrest raid. Palestinians blame Israel, which has said it remains unclear who fired the shot that killed her.

Abu Akleh’s death has further hindered an already shaky relationship between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, with the latter [refusing to hold a joint investigation](#) with Israel and rejecting its request to share findings from the reporter’s autopsy, which may prove vital in finding out who shot the fatal bullet.

An interim report issued by the IDF earlier on Friday set out two likely scenarios regarding who fired the fatal shot — an instance of Palestinian terrorists’ gunfire and of Israeli sniper fire — in neither of which Abu Akleh was deliberately targeted. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-warns-jews-visiting-temple-mount-on-nakba-day-will-lead-to-a-clash/>

‘Edge of Tomorrow’: Israeli program set to 'revolutionize' combat soldiers

Developers say cutting-edge program will enable infantry teams to work seamlessly together, using networked warfare tech, and will improve 'soldiers' lethality, survivability, situational awareness, stamina and more'

The Media Line, Ynet | Published: 05.14.22, 18:40

Israel earlier this week unveiled an innovative program, called “Edge of Tomorrow,” which is set to revolutionize the concept of combat soldiers.

Defense Ministry's Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D) developed the program along with Elbit Systems, one of the main companies producing defense electronic devices in Israel.

The program incorporates networked warfare technologies for each and every soldier on an infantry team, and aims to improve the combat team’s modern urban warfare, according to the Defense Ministry.

“‘Edge of Tomorrow’ is an innovative program that is extremely unique thanks to our change in perspective,” Lt. Col. Shlomi Buskila, head of the LWSOF Branch in the DDR&D, said in a statement.

“The program aims to enable optimal operational value for the ground forces combat soldiers by strengthening the synergy between them and their team. The program incorporates a wide array of advanced technologies used by the soldiers and their teams, leading to a whole much greater than the sum of its parts.”



An IDF soldier using Elbit technology (Photo: Elbit Systems)

Mayan Lazarovich, spokesperson for the Defense Ministry, said the program has been “a multiple-year effort that has continually improved the infantry soldiers’ lethality, survivability, situational awareness, stamina and more”.

An industry source, who provided an in-depth explanation of the plan, described it as a suit which consists of a set of wearable technologies that include many connected subsystems.

He said that there will be specialized suits for every kind of soldier on a team. “There are different roles within a team, so everyone gets his specific suit and it’s all connected. There is going to be a soldier suit, a commander suit, a sharpshooter suit, etc.,” he said.

Illustration, IDF intelligence officer (Photo: Uri Bareket)



The source added that this set of technologies includes many different devices such as display goggles, a sleeve that helps with transmitting information within the group, computerized rifles, night vision systems, a component that can help with carrying weight, and fire detection capability. “The soldier can carry a very small device that can detect the direction of hostile fire so it can be spawned very quickly and very effectively,” he said.

He added that looking back between 50 years and 100 years ago, there was only incremental change in the technological capabilities that were provided to an infantry soldier.

Now, he said, “what we are talking about is actually a step change trying to bring about, you know, real transformation technologically speaking. We’re looking at the infantry soldier and at the team level.”

IDF forces on the Gaza border (Photo: IDF Spokesperson's Unit)

He said that the plan will improve the individual infantry soldier and the team as a whole: “Not just a better rifle, a better weapon, better night-vision goggles, but we look at it as a comprehensive capability.”

Lazarovich said that the plan is still in development, and the timing of the launch of the program is still uncertain.



“The Edge of Tomorrow is a program focused on development. Decisions regarding the program’s launch will be made in the future,” she said. <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/by2ojp585>

European nations urge Israel to scrap plans for new settlement homes

In joint statement, 15 countries say construction of over 4,000 planned units ‘would constitute an additional obstacle to the two-state solution’

By [AFP](#) and [TOI staff](#) Today, 4:45 pm

A view of construction work in the Jewish settlement of Givat Ze'ev, between Jerusalem and Ramallah, in the West Bank on May 10, 2022. (Ahmad Gharabali/AFP)



BERLIN — **Fifteen European nations on Friday implored Israel to drop newly approved plans for more than 4,000 settler homes in the West Bank, cautioning that the construction interferes with developing peace between Israelis and Palestinians.**

“The new housing units would constitute an additional obstacle to the two-state solution,” said the countries in a statement issued by their foreign ministries. **[Still hallucinating over an irrational and unworkable concept that has been dead for years. – rdb]**

“Israeli settlements are in clear violation of international law and stand in the way of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between Israelis and Palestinians,” they added.

The 15 European countries signing up to Friday’s statement include France, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Poland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden.

The Defense Ministry body that authorizes West Bank construction [green-lit plans](#) Thursday for 4,427 new settlement homes.

All 25 plans on the docket were advanced by the Civil Administration’s High Planning

Subcommittee. More than half of the homes received final approval for their construction.



This picture taken on May 10, 2022, shows construction work in the West Bank settlement of Givat Ze’ev, near Jerusalem. (Ahmad Gharabli/AFP)

The projects for both the Palestinians and the Israeli settlers will be located in Area C, where Israel maintains civilian control. Roughly 330,000 Palestinians and 450,000 Israeli settlers live in the 60 percent of the West Bank that makes up Area C, according to figures from the UN and Israeli authorities respectively.

In addition to approving thousands of new homes, the plans retroactively legalized the Mitzpeh Dani

and Oz V’gaon outposts. The former is a neighborhood of the Ma’aleh Michmash settlement in the heart of the West Bank, while the latter is a nature reserve and education center that was built following the kidnap and murder of Israeli teens Gil-ad Shaer, Eyal Yifrach and Naftali Fraenkel in the summer of 2014.

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On Thursday, the UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process condemned the Israeli approvals. “I condemn today’s decision by Israeli authorities to advance plans for over 4,000 housing units in settlements in the occupied West Bank. These include the retroactive approval of two illegal outposts and a park,” Tor Wennesland said in a statement. “Continued settlement expansion further entrenches the occupation, encroaches upon Palestinian land and natural resources, and hampers the free movement of the Palestinian population.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/european-nations-urge-israel-to-scrap-plans-for-new-settlement-homes/>

Biden assures Abdullah US recognizes Jordan as custodian of holy places

“The President recognized the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan’s crucial role as the custodian of Muslim holy places in Jerusalem,” the White House says.

By [OMRI NAHMIA](#) Published: MAY 14, 2022 20:39 Updated: MAY 14, 2022 21:24

WASHINGTON – **US President Joe Biden met on Friday with King Abdullah II of Jordan “and reaffirmed the close and enduring nature of the friendship between the United States and Jordan,”** the White House said.

According to a readout of the conversation, Jordan is a critical ally and force for stability in the Middle East, “and the President confirmed unwavering US support for Jordan and His Majesty’s leadership.”

“The leaders consulted on recent events in the region and discussed urgent mechanisms to stem violence, calm rhetoric and reduce tensions in Israel and the West Bank,” the White House said.

The statement goes on to say that Biden affirmed his “strong support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and cited the need to preserve the historic status quo at the [Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount](#).”



“The president also recognized the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan’s crucial role as the custodian of Muslim holy places in Jerusalem,” the White House said.

JORDAN’S KING ABDULLAH II speaks after being welcomed by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the US Capitol in Washington earlier this month. (credit: REUTERS/ELIZABETH FRANTZ)

The two discussed several other issues, including the political and economic benefits “of further regional integration in infrastructure, energy, water and climate projects, with Jordan a critical hub for such cooperation and investment.”

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-706692> [**Has the dolt in the oval**

office ever looked or reviewed what happened to Jerusalem and the Holy sites when it was under complete Jordanian control for for about 19 years? All the Holy sites were trashed except the Islamic ones. – rdb]

US Embassy in Jerusalem to hold walk-in day for children’s passport services May 19

From 7:45 a.m. to noon next Thursday, those without appointments can apply at American diplomatic mission, avoid extended wait times for appointments

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 4:42 pm

The US Embassy in Jerusalem said Friday that it will allow walk-ins for consular services for one day, on May 19, to make it easier for kids to get their passports this summer.

From 7:45 a.m. to noon next Thursday, those without an appointment can apply for their children’s passports at the embassy’s consular section on David Flusser Street in Jerusalem.

Consular services for US citizens in Israel and for those applying for a US visa have been profoundly affected by lockdowns and other safety measures since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, according to an embassy spokesperson.

Processing time of a new passport is seven weeks, according to the Bureau of Consular Affairs website. Some consular services can be completed through the mail, but children’s passports must be renewed in person.

The open day could help accelerate the process for many parents who are waiting for appointments to renew or apply for children’s passports.

The walk-in day will not include applications for adult renewals, lost passports or reports of birth abroad. While there is no need to sign up in advance, the embassy said those with an existing appointment in Jerusalem or at the embassy’s branch office in Tel Aviv should not attend.

The embassy also said it expects for wait times during the open day to range from one and six hours, warning it does not have facilities such as shade, bathrooms, chairs or water outside the compound, which will only be available upon entry.

The Jerusalem Embassy and its extension in Tel Aviv drastically have reduced their in-person services since the beginning of the pandemic in Israel starting in March 2020.

Because of the heavy backlog, finding appointments for passport applications have taken longer than usual. Last year, [US citizens living in Israel formed a petition that was sent to US lawmakers](#), the White House and the embassy in Israel.

The petition had over 1,000 signatures. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-embassy-in-jerusalem-to-hold-walk-in-day-for-childrens-passport-services-may-19/>

Secret UK propaganda campaign stoked Israel hatred to appear authentic — documents

Declassified files show Britain attempted to sow division between Moscow and its Arab allies using fake reports

blaming both sides for Egypt’s defeat in the 1967 Six Day War

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 11:43 pm



Illustrative: Egyptian prisoners of war are shown during the Arab-Israeli Six Day War in June 1967. Exact date and location unknown. (AP Photo)

The British government ran a secret propaganda campaign aimed at destabilizing the country’s enemies during the Cold War by inciting violence, supporting racial tensions and encouraging hatred toward Israel, according to newly declassified documents.

The documents, which were reported on by The Guardian, highlighted a “black propaganda” campaign from the mid-1950s to late 70s that mostly targeted

African countries, the Middle East and parts of Asia with fake reports that were ultimately intended to spread anti-communist sentiment.

The term refers to the creation of false news reports meant to appear as if written by those the pieces were meant to discredit — in this case, foes of the Western alliance during the Cold War.

According to the documents, the extensive campaign attempted to turn Muslims against Moscow and occasionally used anti-Israel propaganda in order to appear authentic.

It was led by the UK's Information Research Department (IRD), which was established after World War II as a response to Soviet propaganda targeting Britain and was coordinated with the CIA's war propaganda operations.

Rory Cormac, an expert in the history of subversion and intelligence, told the Guardian the declassified papers were "the most important of the past two decades."

"It's very clear now that the UK engaged in more black propaganda than historians assume and these efforts were more systemic, ambitious and offensive. Despite official denials, [this] went far beyond merely exposing Soviet disinformation," Cormac argued.

Cormac had stumbled upon the declassified documents when researching material for a book. His study of the documents constitutes the most extensive insight yet into the IRD's disinformation operations to date, according to the report. **MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/secret-uk-propaganda-campaign-stoked-israel-hatred-to-appear-authentic-documents/> [It would seem that the Brits are as bad with their biased and targeted propaganda as the toads in DC. – rdb]**

Hezbollah's weapons divide Lebanon as it holds parliamentary elections Sunday

Calls to dismantle terror group have dominated campaigns of rival factions ahead of vote, the first since economic collapse and deadly Beirut port blast

By [Agencies](#) Today, 6:20 pm



Hezbollah supporters wave portraits of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and their group flags, during an election campaign, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, May 10, 2022. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

BAALBEK, Lebanon — It was a sea of yellow as thousands of men, women and children waving Hezbollah flags and wearing the group's trademark yellow caps rallied on a giant plot of land in the ancient eastern city of Baalbek in support of the heavily armed terrorist group.

One after another, many attendees vowed to vote Sunday for the Shiite Muslim Hezbollah and its allies in Lebanon's closely watched parliamentary

elections, rejecting any attempt to disarm the powerful group.

Despite a devastating economic collapse and multiple other crises gripping Lebanon — the culmination of decades of corruption and mismanagement — the deeply divisive issue of Hezbollah's weapons has been at the center of the vote for a new 128-member parliament.

Disarming the group has dominated political campaigns among almost all of the group's opponents. Those include Western-backed mainstream political groups and independents who played a role in nationwide protests since the start of the economic meltdown in October 2019.

"This is the biggest misinformation campaign. Why? Because they are implementing America's policy against the resistance weapons," senior Hezbollah official Hussein Haj Hassan told The Associated Press on Friday ahead of the rally in Baalbek.



Hezbollah was the only group officially allowed to keep its weapons after the 1975-90 civil war because it was fighting Israeli forces occupying parts of south Lebanon. In 2000, Israel withdrew from Lebanon but Hezbollah and others in the small Mediterranean nation insisted its weapons were necessary to defend it against Israel, which has one of the strongest armies in the region.

A Hezbollah supporter holds up an Arabic banner that reads, "At your service Nasrallah," as he attends an election campaign, in Baalbek, east Lebanon, May 13, 2022. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

Hezbollah has since fought a monthlong war with Israel in 2006 that ended in a draw and after the start of the conflict in neighboring Syria, the Iran-backed group sent thousands of fighters to fight alongside Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces helping him tip the balance of power in his favor.

Hezbollah's rivals say its weapons and its backing of regional forces such as Assad's and the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have harmed Lebanon's relations with oil-rich Persian Gulf nations.

Those nations have categorized the Lebanese group as a terrorist organization and withheld crucial financial support for the country.

Haj Hassan, a legislator since 1996 and a cabinet minister three times, said claims that Hezbollah is responsible for Lebanon's collapse were "a big lie."

"They forgot the political system, economic system, corruption, the war in Syria and its effects on Lebanon and they forgot the American sanctions," he said at his home near Baalbek.

The bespectacled 62-year-old lost two brothers who fought for Hezbollah during Lebanon's civil war and a nephew in Syria.

Hezbollah maintains its weapons are to defend Lebanon and not for internal use. But the group used them against rivals in May 2008 in the worst fighting at the time in many years. The Hezbollah offensive came after the government of then-Hezbollah opponent Fouad Saniora decided to dismantle the terror group's military telecommunications network.



Hezbollah lawmaker Hussein Haj Hassan, speaks during an interview with the Associated Press, at his house, in Baalbek, east Lebanon, Friday, May 13, 2022. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

"No Lebanese group should have the right to be armed while other Lebanese are not," said Samy Gemayel, head of the right-wing Kataeb party, in comments to the local LBC station Friday night.

The vote this year is the first after the economic collapse, described by the World Bank as one of the worst the world has witnessed in more than 150 years. It is also the first since the August 2020 blast at Beirut's port that killed more than 200, injured thousands and caused largescale damage in the capital.

Three former cabinet ministers allied with Hezbollah were charged in the port blast investigation but have refused to show up for questioning by the investigative judge. Hezbollah's leader has blasted the judge and called for his replacement, and the investigation has been suspended for months following legal challenges by politicians.

Parliamentary elections are held once every four years and the last vote in 2018 gave a majority of seats to Hezbollah and its allies with 71 legislators.

As **Lebanon sinks deeper into poverty, many Lebanese have been more openly critical of Hezbollah.** They blame the group — along with the ruling class — for the devastating, multiple crises plaguing the country, including a dramatic currency crash and severe shortages in medicine and fuel.

Some expect its main Christian ally, the Free Patriotic Movement founded by Lebanese President Michel Aoun, to lose seats. Others have expressed disappointment at Hezbollah's unshakable alliance with Nabih Berri, Lebanon's longtime parliament speaker seen by many as the godfather of Lebanon's corrupt sectarian-based and elite-dominated political system.



Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, in Beirut, Lebanon, May 11, 2018. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

Still, a win by Hezbollah is not in doubt. The group has a solid base and masterfully maneuvers its alliances and the electoral system. Intimidation ensures no Shiite threat emerges: Three Shiite candidates allied with the Saudi-backed Lebanese Forces group withdrew from the race in the Baalbek region within days.

In a Shiite village in southern Lebanon, residents were attacked last month as they headed to attend a rally for candidates running against Hezbollah. Weapons were fired in the air to disrupt a gathering by a Shiite cleric running against the Hezbollah-led alliance in Baalbek.

Hezbollah was blamed for intimidating the Shiite candidates, a claim Haj Hassan denied.

“They don’t want opposition within the [Shiite] sect. This is clear,” said Hilal Khashan, a political science professor at the American University of Beirut. Khashan added that Hezbollah and its Shiite ally the Amal group of Berri are trying to maintain control of the 27 seats allocated for the sect.

Little change is expected from the election as mainstream political parties and politicians remain strong while opposition candidates are fractured. Still, Western-backed mainstream parties are hoping to strip the parliamentary majority from Hezbollah, while many independents are hoping to break through traditional party lists and candidates.



Hezbollah supporters wave their group flags, as they attend an election campaign, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, May 10, 2022. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

The vote comes after a powerful Sunni leader, former Lebanese prime minister Saad Hariri, suspended his work in politics. Some have warned this may help Hezbollah’s Sunni allies to win more seats.

“I consider the ballot box as a line of defense for us,” said nurse Hoda Falah during the rally in Baalbek. Falah said Hezbollah’s weapons have defended eastern Lebanon from attacks by the Islamic State group and

al-Qaeda-linked militants over the years.

Top Hezbollah official Nabil Kaouk said in a speech last month that the elections will show that his group enjoys the most support in the small nation. He claimed that money flowing from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and the US to their “tools” in Lebanon will not change results.

“May 15 will prove that the American project to target the resistance is sterile and they will only harvest disappointments,” Kaouk said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollahs-weapons-divide-lebanon-as-parliamentary-elections-to-be-held-sunday/>

Crown prince, longtime de facto ruler Mohamed bin Zayed elected UAE president

Succeeds half-brother Sheikh Khalifa day after his death; MBZ led push for Gulf nation’s normalization with Israel
By [Agencies](#) and [TOI staff](#) Today, 2:05 pm

ABU DHABI — The UAE’s long-time de facto ruler Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was elected as president on Saturday, official media said, a day after the death of former leader Sheikh Khalifa.

Sheikh Mohamed was elected by the Federal Supreme Council, WAM news agency said, becoming the ruler of the oil-rich country founded by his father in 1971.

WAM described the vote as unanimous among the rulers of the country’s sheikhdoms, which also includes the skyscraper-studded city of Dubai.

“We congratulate him, and we pledge allegiance to him, and our people pledge allegiance to him,” Dubai’s ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, said on Twitter after the vote. “The whole country is led by him to take it on the paths of glory and honor, God willing.”

Sheikh Mohamed, often known as “MBZ,” met members of the Federal Supreme Council, made up of rulers of the UAE’s seven emirates, as the oil-rich country enters a period of mourning for his half-brother Sheikh Khalifa.

His ascension, which was widely expected, formalizes his position as leader of the desert state of 10 million after years of calling the shots while Sheikh Khalifa was sidelined by poor health.



This photo made available by the Ministry of Presidential Affairs, shows Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, ruler of Abu Dhabi, front left, and Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, front right, carry the body of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, with other members of royal family at Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed The First mosque, in Abu Dhabi, May 13, 2022. (Hamad Al Kaabi/Ministry of Presidential Affairs via AP)

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.

He has rarely been seen in public since 2014, when he had surgery following a stroke, although he has continued to issue rulings. The cause of death was not immediately released.

The UAE, a former British protectorate, has gone from a desert outpost to a booming state in its short history, fueled by its oil wealth and Dubai's rise as a trading and financial center.

Under Sheikh Mohamed's low-key direction, the United Arab Emirates has put a man in space, sent a probe to Mars and opened its first nuclear reactor, while using its oil-funded clout to develop a more assertive foreign policy.

In 2020, Sheikh Mohamed led the process to normalize diplomatic relations with Israel.

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."

Closely allied with Saudi Arabia, it has emerged as a leader of a reshaped Middle East since the retreat of traditional powers and the reduced involvement of the United States, joining a war against Iran-backed militants in Yemen and urging the West to take a harder line toward Tehran over concerns about its nuclear program.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/crown-prince-longtime-de-facto-ruler-mohamed-bin-zayed-elected-uae-president/>

Herzog to represent Israel at funeral of late UAE leader

President to meet new Abu Dhabi ruler 'alongside other leaders' during brief trip to Gulf state; Lapid congratulates MBZ on selection as president

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 11:56 pm

President Isaac Herzog is scheduled to travel to the United Arab Emirates on Sunday to attend the funeral of Emirati leader Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

According to a statement issued by his office Saturday, Herzog will be in the United Arab Emirates for several hours and "alongside other leaders" will meet with the new president, Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, commonly known by his initials as MBZ.

The visit will be the president's second to the UAE since he took office last year.

Herzog on Friday called the late 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. **MORE -**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/herzog-to-represent-israel-at-funeral-of-late-uae-leader/>

Ukraine says Russian troops pushed out of Kharkiv as war enters 'long-term' phase

Meanwhile, Russia's offensive in Donbas appears to be turning into a village-by-village, back-and-forth fight with no major breakthroughs on either side

By [OLEKSANDR STASHEVSKYI](#) and [david keyton](#) Today, 3:02 pm

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian troops are withdrawing from Ukraine's second-largest city after weeks of heavy bombardment, the Ukrainian military said Saturday as Kyiv and Moscow's forces engaged in a grinding battle for the country's east.

Ukraine's general staff said the Russians were pulling back from the northeastern city of Kharkiv and focusing on guarding supply routes, while launching mortar, artillery and airstrikes in the eastern Donetsk region to "deplete Ukrainian forces and destroy fortifications."

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said the country was "entering a new — long-term — phase of the war."

As the country's top prosecutor put a Russian soldier on trial for war crimes, the first of dozens that could face charges, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukrainians were doing their "maximum" to drive out the invaders and that the outcome of the war would depend on support from Europe and other allies.

"No one today can predict how long this war will last," Zelensky said in his nightly video address late Friday.

Russia's offensive in the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, appeared to be turning into a village-by-village, back-and-forth slog with no major breakthroughs on either side. After failing to capture Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, the Russian military decided to concentrate on the Donbas, but its troops have struggled to gain ground.

Zelensky said Ukraine's forces made progress, retaking six Ukrainian towns or villages in the past day. Western officials said Ukraine had driven Russian forces back around Kharkiv, which was a key target for Moscow's troops.



A special task force policeman inspects a site after an airstrike by Russian forces in Lysychansk, Luhansk region, Ukraine, on May 13, 2022. (AP Photo/Leo Correa)

“The Russians really haven’t made much in the way of tactical gains recently,” one Western official said, describing the war’s front line as **“oscillating.”**

“The Ukrainians continue to launch counterattacks, particularly around Kherson and Kharkiv. We expect this to settle into a long attritional battle,” the official said on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence.

The Ukrainian military chief for the Luhansk region of the Donbas said Friday that troops had nearly full control of

Rubizhne, a city with a prewar population of around 55,000.

Fighting was fierce on the Siversky Donets River near the city of Severodonetsk, where Ukraine has launched counterattacks but failed to halt Russia’s advance, said Oleh Zhdanov, an independent Ukrainian military analyst.



People walk past part of a rocket that sits wedged in the ground in Lysychansk, Luhansk region, Ukraine, on May 13, 2022. (AP Photo/Leo Correa)

“The fate of a large portion of the Ukrainian army is being decided — there are about 40,000 Ukrainian soldiers,” he said.

However, Russian forces suffered heavy losses in a Ukrainian attack that [destroyed a pontoon bridge](#) they were using to try to cross the river in Bilohorivka, Ukrainian and British officials said, in another sign of Moscow’s struggle to salvage a war gone awry.

Ukraine’s airborne command released photos and video of what it said was a damaged Russian pontoon bridge over the Siversky Donets River and at least 73 destroyed or damaged Russian military vehicles nearby.



In this handout photo provided by the Ukraine Armed Forces, on May 12, 2022, a ruined pontoon crossing with dozens of destroyed or damaged Russian armored vehicles on both banks of Siverskyi Donets River after their pontoon bridges were blown up in eastern Ukraine. (Ukrainian Presidential Press Office via AP)

Britain’s Defense Ministry said Russia lost “significant armored maneuver elements” of at least one battalion tactical group in the attack. A Russian battalion tactical group consists of about 1,000 troops. It said the risky

river crossing was a sign of “the pressure the Russian commanders are under to make progress in their operations in eastern Ukraine.”

In other developments, a move by Finland and, potentially, Sweden to join NATO was thrown into question when Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan [said](#) his country is “not of a favorable opinion” toward the idea. He accused Sweden and other Scandinavian countries of supporting Kurdish militants and others Turkey considers terrorists.

Russian President Vladimir Putin undertook the war aiming to thwart NATO’s eastward advance. The invasion of Ukraine has other countries along Russia’s flank worried they could be next.

Zelensky said in his nightly video address to the nation that Ukrainians were doing everything they could to drive out the Russians, but “no one today can predict how long this war will last.”

“This will depend, unfortunately, not only on our people, who are already giving their maximum,” he said. “This will depend on our partners, on European countries, on the entire free world.”

With Ukraine pleading for more arms to fend off the better-equipped Russians, the European Union’s foreign affairs chief announced plans to give Kyiv an additional 500 million euros (\$520 million) to buy heavy weapons.

Reznikov, Ukraine’s defense minister, welcomed the heavy weapons making their way to the front lines but also said no quick end to the war was in sight.

“Extremely difficult weeks await us. How many there will be? No one can say for sure,” he wrote in a Facebook post.

In the ruined southern port of Mariupol, Ukrainian fighters holed up in a steel plant faced continued Russian attacks on the last stronghold of resistance in the city. Sviatoslav Palamar, deputy commander of Ukraine’s Azov Regiment, said his troops will hold out “as long as they can” despite shortages of ammunition, food, water and medicine.

And in **Kyiv, Ukrainian soldiers dressed in white protective suits loaded bodies of Russian soldiers onto refrigerated train cars. The bodies were wrapped in white body bags and stacked several layers deep.**

Col. Volodymyr Lyamzin, who supervised the operation, said several hundred bodies were being stored on the trains in the **capital and in several other storage trains elsewhere. He said Ukraine was ready to hand the bodies over to Russia, but so far there was no agreement to do so.**

Journalists packed a small courtroom in Kyiv on Friday for the trial of a captured Russian soldier accused of killing a Ukrainian civilian in the early days of the war — the first of dozens of war crimes cases that Ukraine’s top prosecutor said her office is pursuing.

Shyshimarin could get life in prison if convicted of shooting a 62-year-old Ukrainian man in the head through an open car window in a village in the northeastern Sumy region on February 28, four days into the invasion.

Shyshimarin, a member of a tank unit that was captured by Ukrainian forces, admitted that he shot the civilian in a video posted by the Security Service of Ukraine, saying he was ordered to do so. The trial, which resumes Wednesday, will be closely watched by international observers to ensure its fairness.

Ukrainian Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova said she is readying war crimes cases against 41 Russian soldiers for offenses including bombing civilian infrastructure, killing civilians, rape and looting.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/ukraine-says-russian-troops-pushed-out-of-kharkiv-as-war-enters-long-term-phase/>

Russia warns of response if NATO moves nuclear forces closer

UK defense ministry: Ukraine's Kherson region to request accession into Russia • Moscow has "no hostile intentions" towards Finland, Sweden

By REUTERS Published: MAY 14, 2022 09:19 Updated: MAY 14, 2022 13:20

Moscow will take adequate precautionary measures if NATO deploys nuclear forces and infrastructure closer to Russia's border, Russian news agencies quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko as saying on Saturday.

"It will be necessary to respond ... by taking adequate precautionary measures that would ensure the viability of deterrence," Interfax agency quoted Grushko as saying.

Moscow has no hostile intentions towards Finland and Sweden and does not see "real" reasons for those two countries to be joining the NATO alliance, Grushko added.

He also reiterated the Kremlin's earlier statement that Moscow's response to NATO's possible expansion will depend on how close the alliance moves military assets toward Russia and what infrastructure it deploys. Read full story

Finland's plan to [apply for NATO membership](#), announced on Thursday, and the expectation that Sweden will follow, would bring about the expansion of the Western military alliance that Russian President Vladimir Putin aimed to prevent.

Kherson region to join Russian Federation?

The Russian-imposed military-civilian administration in Ukraine's Kherson region said it will ask Russia to include it in the Russian Federation, the British defense ministry said on Saturday.

If Russia carries out an accession referendum in Kherson, it will almost certainly manipulate the results to show a clear majority in favor of leaving Ukraine, Britain said in a regular Twitter bulletin.

Economic pressure

Group of Seven foreign ministers vowed on Saturday to reinforce Russia's economic and political isolation, continue supplying weapons to Ukraine and work to ease global food shortages stemming from the war.

After meeting at a 400-year-old castle estate in the Baltic Sea resort of Weissenhaus, senior diplomats from Britain, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and the European Union also pledged to continue their military and defense assistance for "as long as necessary."

They would also tackle what they called Russian misinformation aimed at blaming the West for food supply issues around the world due to economic sanctions on Moscow and urged China to not assist Moscow or justify Russia's war, according to a joint statement.

The key to putting more pressure on Russia is to ban or phase out buying Russian oil, with EU member states expected next week to reach an agreement on the issue even if it remains opposed by Hungary.

"We will expedite our efforts to reduce and end reliance on Russian energy supplies and as quickly as possible, building on G7 commitments to phase out or ban imports of Russian coal and oil," the statement said.

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-706659>

Russia's oil revenue soars despite sanctions – Bloomberg

The country has earned roughly \$20 billion per month from crude exports this year

14 May, 2022 13:08

Russia's oil export revenue has jumped some 50% since the beginning of 2022, Bloomberg reports, citing data from the International Energy Agency (IEA).

According to the agency's monthly market report, Moscow has earned some \$20 billion each month this year from sales of crude oil and oil-related products.

The earnings growth came despite Western sanctions over Russia's military operation in Ukraine. As part of these penalties, the US banned all Russian oil imports, the EU and UK announced plans to scrap all purchases of Russian crude by the end of the year, and international oil giants such as Shell and TotalEnergies vowed to stop buying oil from the country.

However, according to the IEA, Russian shipments have only increased – by some 620,000 barrels per day compared to March to 8.1 million in April, returning to their average before the Ukraine crisis and the ensuing sanctions. Due to increased demand, more shipments were directed toward Asia, with China and India claiming supplies that were previously destined to go elsewhere, according to the agency. In addition the EU, despite its stance, has so far remained the largest market for Russian fuel with 43% of the country's oil exports going to the bloc in April, the IEA said.

According to the agency, global energy markets, already tight due to uncertainty over Russian crude, may encounter further headwinds, with the combination of a European embargo on Russian oil and a demand rebound from China as Covid-19 lockdowns are lifted. The agency estimates that global supplies, which were already down by around 1 million barrels a day last month, might lose three times as much in the second half of the year.

<https://www.rt.com/business/555418-russia-oil-revenues-soar/>

Fauci denies to Congress he smeared top scientists as 'fringe'

Parses words under oath when confronted by lawmaker

By [Art Moore](#) Published May 14, 2022 at 2:39pm

In a House hearing, Dr. Anthony Fauci denied that he ever characterized the Oxford, Harvard and Stanford epidemiologists who authored the Great Barrington Declaration as "fringe" scientists.

The exchange took place Thursday with Rep. Ben Cline, R-Va., in a hearing of a House Appropriates subcommittee broadcast by CSPAN 2 (Cline begins speaking at the 127:50 mark).

"On what basis did you identify these scientists as fringe?" Cline asked, referring to Dr. Martin Kulldorf of Harvard, Dr. Jay Bhattacharya of Stanford and Dr. Sunetra Gupta of Oxford.

"I never characterized them as fringe scientists, if you look at the record. That is incorrect," replied Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984.

"I never called them fringe scientists," he said.

However, the available evidence indicates Fauci agreed with Collins' characterization, regardless of whether he used the term.

In an Oct. 8, 2020, email to Fauci, Collins said the Great Barrington Declaration came from "three fringe epidemiologists" and told the NIAID director there needs to be a "quick and devastating published takedown."

Five days later, Collins made his viewpoint public when he was quoted in a Washington Post story saying the Great Barrington Declaration is a "fringe component of epidemiology."

Collins emailed to Fauci a link to the Post story and wrote, "My quotes are accurate, but will not be appreciated in the [Trump White House]."

Fauci replied: "They are too busy with things to worry about. What you said was entirely correct."

From: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Tue, 13 Oct 2020 22:43:53 +0000
To: Collins, Francis (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: RE: Story online on "focused protection" and the Great Barrington Declaration

They are too busy with other things to worry about this. What you said was entirely correct.

Collins wrote in his Oct. 8, 2020, email that the Great Barrington Declaration was a "proposal from three fringe epidemiologists" who met with then Health and Human Services Secretary

He noted it even had a co-signature from Nobel Prize winner Mike Leavitt at Stanford.

"There needs to be a quick and devastating published takedown of its premises," the NIH chief continued. "I don't see anything like that on line yet – is it underway?"

The Great Barrington Declaration criticized universal lockdowns, calling for focused protection of the vulnerable older population based on data showing they are more than a thousand times more likely to die from COVID infection than the young.

"As immunity builds in the population, the risk of infection to all – including the vulnerable – falls," the epidemiologists wrote. "We know that all populations will eventually reach herd immunity – i.e. the point at which the rate of new infections is stable – and that this can be assisted by (but is not dependent upon) a vaccine.

Our goal should therefore be to minimize mortality and social harm until we reach herd immunity."

Fauci, shortly after the declaration came out, condemned the idea of relying on herd immunity to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus as "nonsense and very dangerous."

The declaration has been signed by 15,316 medical and public health scientists, and 45,154 medical practitioners.

Levitt, mentioned by Collins in the email as a declaration signatory, is a biophysicist and professor of structural biology at Stanford University. He was recipient of the 2013 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Among other Great Barrington signatories are Dr. David Katz, the founder of the Yale University Prevention Research Center, and Dr. Cody Meissner, a professor of pediatrics at the Tufts University School of Medicine who is known as an expert on vaccine development, efficacy and safety.

Early in the pandemic, then-New York Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo mentioned Katz on several occasions in his daily briefing, openly wondering if his advice against the universal lockdowns should be heeded.

See the email:

Stanford's Bhattacharya is a physician, epidemiologist, health economist and public health policy expert focusing on infectious diseases and vulnerable populations.

"So now I know what it feels like to be the subject of a propaganda attack by my own government," he said in response to the Collins email.

"Discussion and engagement would have been a better path."

Harvard's Kullendorff has since left Harvard as a professor of medicine. He is a biostatistician and epidemiologist with expertise in detecting and monitoring infectious disease outbreaks and vaccine safety evaluations.

Oxford's Gupta is an epidemiologist with expertise in immunology, vaccine development and mathematical modeling of infectious diseases. <https://www.wnd.com/2022/05/fauci-denies-congress-smear-top-scientists-fringe/>

Total 'Blood Moon' eclipse to rise over US this weekend

The moon will turn red during an eye-popping spectacle unlike any other in the night sky in 2022 -- as long as it isn't cloudy.

By Brian Lada, AccuWeather meteorologist and staff writer Published May 11, 2022 3:09 PM CDT | Updated May 14, 2022 9:39 AM CDT

The East Coast will be able to see the entire five-hour event. The West Coast will be able to see totality, which will last around an hour and a half.

The moon will plunge into darkness this weekend to create a celestial spectacle that has not been seen in the sky over the entire contiguous United States since the turn of the decade.

Just as the sun sets over North America on Sunday evening, the sun, Earth and moon will begin to align to create a total lunar eclipse.

Folks may have to stay awake later than usual for a chance to see Sunday night's eclipse as it unfolds throughout the first half of the night. However, losing some sleep will be worth it as the eclipse could be [the top astronomy event of 2022](#).

This weekend's event will be the first total lunar eclipse visible from the entire contiguous U.S. since Jan. 21, 2019. There was a total lunar eclipse visible from the country on May 26, 2021, but it could be seen from only the western U.S., Alaska and Hawaii. **MORE** - <https://www.accuweather.com/en/space-news/blood-moon-total-lunar-eclipse-sunday-night/1185955>

Commentary:

Humanizing the Most Vulnerable Promotes Life for All

By [Guest Writer](#) | May 13th, 2022 by Rolaant McKenzie

More than a decade ago, I was doing IT support work at a local Jewish Community Center. The Jewish librarian, knowing I was a Christian, asked me a question regarding what I thought of the abortion issue. She was in favor of keeping this practice legal. I think I gave her an answer that she did not expect, because it was not really a political one.

I told her that 150 years ago people that looked like me were considered less than fully human. Therefore, it was permissible to enslave people like me and dispose of us when we were no longer considered useful or convenient. More than 65 years ago in much of Europe, people like her were declared to be less than human, the cause of the ills of society, and inconvenient to be allowed to exist. Therefore, it was permissible and mandated that they be exterminated. Today, there is another group that has been similarly dehumanized because they were not considered useful or convenient. Tens of millions of this group have been killed already. They are babies in the womb.

I went on to say that when a society dehumanizes and exterminates the weakest and most vulnerable among them, no one is safe from being similarly treated. Where there is no sanctity of human life, when society deems us to be inconvenient, then we will likewise be dehumanized and eliminated.

I do not know if she ever changed her mind regarding abortion, but I could tell that what was said gave her something to seriously consider.

One of the reasons God found so many of the inhabitants of Canaan so detestable that He sent the children of Israel to utterly destroy them was because they practiced, among other evil things, passing their children through the fire. That is, they sacrificed children as burnt offerings to their false pagan gods (such as Molech). They were able to do this because they adopted a view of human life that allowed them to see their own children as a sacrificial commodity by which they could "purchase" benefits from their gods.

As Israel prepared to enter the Promised Land, the Lord through Moses gave strict warnings not to imitate the detestable things of the nations they were commanded to drive out.

"When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God will drive them out before you." (Deuteronomy 18:9-12)

If the Lord so judged those nations that were engaged in child sacrifice, I wonder what will become of nations today that do so on a far greater scale through abortion?



Much of Western society, however imperfect, previously had a strong Judeo-Christian foundation. It held to a belief in God and our accountability to Him. There was a general belief in the Biblical view of humanity. In addition to being God's special creation made in His image, human beings were more than physical bodies plus breath. There was an immaterial aspect to each person formed from the womb that made human life unique and sacred, consistent with being made in the image of God (Genesis 9:6). But

when Western society centuries later adopted Darwinian evolution and rejected God, materialism became the prevailing view. Human beings were no longer made in God's image but were just body plus breath with no spirit formed by random chance. In time this view has contributed to the idea that a person is not alive until birth. Children in the womb could be sacrificed when deemed inconvenient or profitable. Today, there are even some in society openly promoting and working to pass laws to kill babies after they are born.

Of all the kings of Judah and Israel, Manasseh of Judah was probably the evilest one of all. His story can be found in 2 Kings 21 and 2 Chronicles 33. He engaged in the kind of evil that characterized the abominations of the nations that God had driven out before Israel. He erected altars to pagan gods, worshiped the host of heaven and built altars for them in the temple courts, shed much innocent blood from one end of Jerusalem to the other, practiced witchcraft and divination, and took part in sorcery and consulted mediums. He even made his own sons pass through the fire. His reign of evil misled the people of Judah to sin more than the nations that the Lord destroyed before Israel.

Even though God spoke to Manasseh and the residents of Judah, they refused to listen and turn back from their downward spiral into depravity. In response, the Lord sent the nation of Assyria against Judah. Manasseh was captured, bound, and carried off in humiliation to Babylon.

But in Manasseh's affliction, something wonderful happened.

"When he was in distress, he entreated the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. When he prayed to Him, He was moved by his entreaty and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God." (2 Chronicles 33:12-13)

The rich grace and forgiveness of God led Manasseh to genuine repentance (Romans 2:4). For the remainder of his reign he worked to undo all the evil he had done. He destroyed the pagan idols and altars and called upon the people of Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel (2 Chronicles 33:15-16). This return to the Lord set the stage for the great national revival that took place under his grandson King Josiah.

"Josiah removed all the abominations from all the lands belonging to the sons of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel to serve the LORD their God. Throughout his lifetime they did not turn from following the LORD God of their fathers." (2 Chronicles 34:33)

"Then the king commanded all the people saying, 'Celebrate the Passover to the LORD your God as it is written in this book of the covenant.' Surely such a Passover had not been celebrated from the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and of the kings of Judah. But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was observed to the LORD in Jerusalem. Moreover, Josiah removed the mediums and the spiritists and the teraphim and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might confirm the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD. Before him there was no king like him who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him." (2 Kings 23:21-25)

Many of us may have previously in life held to false religious or philosophical worldviews that over time developed into acceptance of, or participation in, some very evil things. But thanks be to God for the grace and forgiveness that is found in Jesus Christ. Just how big is God's forgiveness? It is big enough to forgive the worst of sins and the worst of sinners. How great is the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus' blood? It can make the most deeply embedded crimson stain of sin whiter than snow. (Isaiah 1:18)

"For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." (Romans 5:6-1)

[BIO: Rolaant McKenzie operates Gospel Outreach Ministries Online, a Christian apologetics ministry dedicated to the proclamation of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ online, and discussing important contemporary issues from a Biblical perspective. <https://newswithviews.com/humanizing-the-most-vulnerable-promotes-life-for-all/>

The EU and the Biden Administration Give in to Iran's Mullahs

by [Majid Rafizadeh](#) May 14, 2022 at 5:00 am

The Biden administration and the European Union are [trying](#) hard to appease the Iranian regime in order to revive a nuclear deal that will provide the ruling mullahs of Iran with additional billions of dollars of revenue, enhance the regime's legitimacy on the global stage, and actually [open](#) the path for Iran to have a nuclear arsenal.

The EU recently dropped its own bomb when it unabashedly said that it wanted new nuclear deal so that EU countries could buy oil from Iran -- one of only four countries on the US State Department's list of [state sponsors of terrorism](#) (the

other three are Cuba, Syria and North Korea). Josep Borrell, the EU's foreign affairs representative, recently [said](#):

"We Europeans will be very much beneficiaries from this [nuclear] deal, the situation has changed now. For us it was something . . . 'well we don't need it', [but] now it would be very much interesting for us to have another [crude] supplier."

The EU is basically admitting that it views the nuclear deal with Iran's ruling clerics from the perspective of economic opportunity. That should not be the objective of the nuclear talks. Instead, European leaders ought to be seeking a strong deal that will prevent the Iranian regime from acquiring nuclear weapons, especially -- as they should have learned from Russia by now -- because those nukes may soon be aimed at their countries.

In addition, by revealing its desperation to buy oil, the EU is empowering Iran's ruling clerics to gain the upper hand in the nuclear talks and obtain even more concessions to revive the nuclear deal. Desperation, to the Iranian regime, means weakness.

The recent statement by Borrell has also made the Iranian regime more determined to [cling](#) to its top demand: removing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Quds Force from the lists of terrorist organizations. The designation of the IRGC as a foreign terrorist organization has nothing to do with Iran's nuclear program, but is linked to the IRGC and Quds Force terror activities across the world.

Now, however, the EU appears to have given in to the Iranian leaders' demand. The EU suggested recently that it is offering a compromise to delist the IRGC from the terror list as a last attempt to revive the nuclear deal. "At a certain moment," Borrell [pointed](#) out this week, "I will have to say, as coordinator [of the Vienna talks] I make this proposal on the table, formally... the only equilibrium point possible would be this one."

When it comes to the US position, the Biden administration, on the other hand, seems to be looking for a foreign policy achievement or a diplomatic win amidst the crisis. The nuclear talks have been dragging on for a long time and the Biden administration has been facing criticism over its handling of the [Ukraine crisis](#), [China](#), [Russia](#), [Afghanistan](#) and [Iran](#). According to the latest [Quinnipiac poll](#), a majority of the American people disapprove of the Biden administration's handling of foreign policy.

To appease Iran's mullahs, the EU and the Biden administration are also turning a blind eye to China's violating the sanctions on Iran. China has been steadily ramping up its oil [imports](#) from Iran, to currently nearly 1 million bpd, and global oil prices have increased. Reportedly, the Iranian regime is [exporting](#) more than 1.5 million bpd. The ruling mullahs of Iran are exporting approximately 80% of the oil they used to export before the sanctions. Iran's revenues heavily [rely](#) on oil exports; the sale of oil accounts for more than 50% of the regime's export revenues.

The EU, moreover, has yet to join the US in imposing sanctions on the Iranian regime. In fact, European countries are still [trading](#) with Tehran in spite of the US sanctions. *Tehran Times* [reported](#):

"The value of trade between Iran and the European Union reached €4.863 billion in 2021, registering a nine-percent growth compared to the previous year.... According to the data released by the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), Iran exported €554 million worth of commodities to the union during the said nine months, while importing goods valued at €2.7 billion".

It seems clear that the nuclear deal was never about stopping the predatory regime of Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. For the EU, the nuclear deal is about trade, making money and buying oil from the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism; for the Biden administration, it is about a "diplomatic win". In return, the ruling mullahs will have a legal path to blackmail the world, using nuclear weapons and missiles, into sending Iran's regime billions for their terror and militia groups to torment everyone.

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<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/18531/eu-biden-iran-mullahs>

Has the U.S., U.K., E.U., AND NATO Objective in Ukraine Evolved?

[Douglas MacKinnon](#) Posted: May 14, 2022 12:01 AM

Shockingly -- at least to some conservatives -- 149 Republicans in the House joined with every single Democrat to pass a bill being cheered-on by Nancy Pelosi to send another \$40 Billion in U.S. taxpayer money to Ukraine. Money which has zero accountability once it is delivered to the Ukraine leadership.

Let's all agree that Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine was illegal, reprehensible, and tragic. That settled, can we now ask what is ultimately in the best interests of the citizens of the United States? Especially in the face of record high fuel prices, inflation, and growing food shortages.

To this very point, Republican Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky said in part during a floor speech in the Senate: "My oath of office is to the U.S. constitution, not to any foreign nation and no matter how sympathetic the cause, my oath of office is to the national security of the United States of America.

“We cannot save Ukraine by dooming the U.S. economy. In March, inflation hit a 40-year high. Gasoline alone is up 48%, and energy prices are up 32% over the last year. Food prices have increased by nearly 9%. Used vehicle prices are up 35% for the year, and new vehicle prices have increased 12% or more.”

Indeed. The last time I checked, as citizens with our tax-money and increased risk to ourselves in the game, we still have the right to strongly oppose the invasion of Ukraine by Russian President Vladimir Putin while questioning some of the tactics or personalities involved.

To this very day, much of the narrative “reported” about the Ukraine-Russia war begins with: “As Ukraine reported...,” or “As Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and his team observed...” Maybe that’s all accurate. That said, there seems to be very little independent and verifiable reporting coming out of the country.

Knowing that, and understanding that in the collective fogs of war, politics, self-interest, and even war-time profiteering, things are often not how they seem, the strategy for leaders from the west should always be to take certain claims coming out of Ukraine with a grain of salt.

In the days after Putin invaded Ukraine, a number of politicians, pundits, academics, celebrities, and even journalists were calling for the Ukrainians to take up arms and take to the streets to fight the massive Russian war machine. Ten weeks later, as the countries supporting the innocent people of Ukraine continue to pour collectively tens of billions into the conflict, should we at least reevaluate how that advised strategy is actually helping Ukraine as more and more of its citizens are killed and more and more of its infrastructure gets reduced to rubble?

That tragic situation aside, we come to an exponentially more important question. That being: Has the U.S., U.K., E.U., NATO strategy “evolved” since the beginning of this war? Meaning, where initially, the only objective seemed to be about helping the innocent people of Ukraine. But now, as least to some, it appears that the ground has shifted dramatically under that initial objective.

An objective which now may have now morphed into: Destabilizing Russia and Vladimir Putin. Should that be the case, that shift in objectives would represent the single largest Neon-Red-flashing warning sign of our time.

If our politicians are open to embracing such an objective, it then becomes a moral imperative that the citizens of the nations they lead be informed of that policy shift. A policy shift which immediately and exponentially exposes the very real trip-wires in and around Ukraine which could be stepped upon to trigger a nuclear strike.

A nuclear strike list which might very well be topped with targets in Europe and the United Kingdom. A nightmare scenario Russian officials have been hinting at with growing frequency.

I recently spoke with a high-level intelligence official here in the United States regarding such a horrific possibility. He point-blankly stated: “When Putin first invaded, we put the odds of him using one of his tactical nuclear weapons at about thirty-percent. Today, our estimate is now up to sixty-percent.”

Insanely – at least to me – the rising possibility of a nuclear warhead actually being launched seems to be like a piece of lint to be brushed off the suit of those demanding the U.S. and Europe dial up the aggression against Putin and Russia.

Putin is unpredictable. As are his most loyal Generals. Even if the chance of a nuclear strike is only one-percent, it is the highest order of political and governmental malpractice not to factor that unpredictable risk into every single discussion regarding this war.

“Risk” being the bureaucratic-speak for “hundreds of thousands to millions of lives lost.”

Every sane and caring person in our country wants to help the innocent people of Ukraine. But, as our economy continues to unravel here in the United States, those same people have the right to ask – and know -- if the objective in Ukraine has “evolved” into one which dramatically increases the risk to them and their families.

<https://townhall.com/columnists/douglasmackinnon/2022/05/14/has-the-us-uk-eu-and-nato-objective-in-ukraine-evolved-n2607234>

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Germany: Explosives, far-right literature, found at teen suspect's home

Explosives, antisemitic literature found at home of German teenager suspected of planning school attack.

Cnaan Liphshiz, JTA 14.05.22 20:57

German police found explosives and antisemitic, far-right literature at the home of a teenager they suspect of planning a terrorist attack at a school.

Federal officers took the 16-year-old suspect, who was not named in the German media, into custody on Thursday, the Tagesschau news site reported. He is suspected of planning to bomb a high school in Essen, a city about 250 miles west of Berlin.

Separately, German police are investigating a suspected arson at a Jewish cemetery near Cologne. Both incidents closely followed the release of a report indicating a 28% rise in antisemitic hate crimes in 2021.

In the incident in Cologne on Wednesday evening, an unidentified person poured a flammable substance on the wall around the Jewish cemetery of Bocklemünd, a western suburb of Cologne, *Rundschau Online* reported. Police are investigating whether the incident was an antisemitic hate crime, the report said.

The report published Tuesday by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community recorded 3,027 antisemitic incidents in 2021 — a 28% increase over the 2020 tally.

That increase occurred amid a drop in other forms of hate crimes, according to the report, titled “Politically-motivated Criminality in the Year 2021.”

In the same report, the ministry recorded a decrease in the number of other types of hate crimes, including anti-Muslim crimes (a decrease of 28% to 732 incidents); anti-Christian crimes (down 22% to 101 cases) and anti-foreigner hate crimes (down 10% to 4,735 cases).

Also on Thursday, the office of Berlin’s police commissioner declined to authorize a protest rally planned by pro-Palestinian activists seeking to commemorate what they call Nakba Day. Nakba in Arabic means catastrophe, and is used to describe the aftermath of the Arab defeat during Israel’s independence war of 1948.

Hundreds of thousands of Arabs left or were driven out of their homes in what is today Israel in that war.

The police said they blocked the gathering due to the likelihood of antisemitic speech and incitement at the event, based on previous rallies. The organizers are appealing the police’s decision with the court system, the *Der Tagesspiegel* newspaper reported Friday. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/327526>

Ten dead in mass shooting at Buffalo supermarket

Shooter entered synagogue[SIC ???? – not a synagogue] wearing military-style gear, report says.

Israel National News 14.05.22 22:49

Multiple people have been injured in a mass shooting in Buffalo, New York, WIVB reported.

The shooting took place at Tops Markets, and the conditions of the victims are not known at this time, the report said, According to Buffalo Police, the shooter is in custody.

BNO News put the number of people shot at nine, and claimed that several had been shot in the head.

Later, **NBC Chicago said according to sources, the suspect "entered the store carrying a rifle and wore military-style gear or a type of body armor." It added that the gunman was among the dead.**

AP said that the gunman shot and killed at least ten people before being taken into custody.

According to AP, investigators believe the man had been livestreaming the shooting and are investigating whether he posted a manifesto online.

Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz tweeted: "I have been advised of an active multiple shooting event at the Tops Markets on Jefferson Street in Buffalo. Police are on scene. Please stay away from the area."

New York State Governor Kathy Hochul said, "I am closely monitoring the shooting at a grocery store in Buffalo. We have offered assistance to local officials. If you are in Buffalo, please avoid the area and follow guidance from law enforcement and local officials." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/327533>

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