

Iran Marks Nuclear Achievements, Threatens US

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2L0LPOLnMs>

"I would remind you that extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice. And let me remind you also that moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

-- Barry Goldwater (1909-1998) US Senator (R-Arizona)

Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!

That is the only hope of this nation!

Plead for Grace and Mercy

Please remember these folks in prayer- Check often – they change

Prayer Requests

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 RBH – cancer recurrence

Pray for SH and family – sister with major Stroke

Pray for JA – Complex Cardiac problem TAKEN a turn for the worse - ICU

Pray for MP – Very complex problems

Pray for Yonatan Ben Gladys – injured in a tank accident in Israel

Pray for Hillel ben Raizel Lea Rena – very ill and weak

Pray for DO – Hip replacement April 13

Pray for family of JH – JH passed away 3/18

Pray for JEP – medical problem

Pray for DN – life situation problems

Pray for MD – Has chronic progressive lung problem.

Pray for MS – family problems – doing better

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

1Kings 3:¹¹ And God said to him, Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked for yourself many days, nor asked riches for yourself, nor asked the life of your enemies, and have asked for discernment for yourself, to understand judgment, ¹²behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given to you a wise and understanding heart, so that there was none like you before you, and after you none shall rise up like you. ¹³And also, I have given you that which you have not asked, both riches and honor, that there shall not be a man like you among the kings all your days. ¹⁴And if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commands, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days. ¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, *it was a dream!* And he came into Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of Jehovah, and offered burnt offerings, and made peace offerings. And he made a banquet for all his servants.

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing a great friend of Israel and ETBPF, Mrs. Jodie Anderson י"ג. Jodie and a group of wonderful ladies began a work of the Holy One called the Battalion of Deborah whose purpose was to educate people concerning the Biblical and political importance of the Land of Israel and the Jewish people. Jodie and the group lead many exiting, extraordinary tours to the land and her efforts helped change the hearts of many people. She also spearheaded a number of amazing programs highlighting Israel. Jodie was named the Knesset Christian Zionist of the year some years ago.

Jodie's life was one of constant giving. She was a graduate of John Peter Smith School of Nursing and worked as a recovery room nurse for many years where she instituted a prayer group to pray for Israel and the Jewish people.

She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother and a wonderful Christian woman who lived out her faith and love of Jesus every day. She will be missed by her family and a myriad of friends.

זכר צדיק לברכה **May the memory of the righteous be a blessing**

Liberman: Israel would destroy Syrian S-300 if it attacked our jets

As Russia threatens to sell powerful air defense system to Assad, defense minister downplays reports, stresses ties with Russia remain solid

By [Judah Ari Gross](#) Today, 4:36 pm

Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman on Tuesday downplayed Israeli concerns over Russia's purported plans to outfit the Syrian military with its powerful S-300 air defense system, but stressed that Israel would retaliate if such a battery were used against its aircraft.

"What's important is that defense systems being supplied by Russia to Syria aren't used against us," Liberman said during a live interview with the Ynet news site.

"One thing needs to be clear: If someone shoots at our planes, we will destroy them. It doesn't matter if it's an S-300 or an S-700," he said.

On Monday, the Russian daily Kommersant reported that Moscow was getting closer to delivering the S-300 missile defense system to Syrian dictator Bashar Assad, despite Israel's efforts to prevent it.

The Russian Foreign Ministry later denied parts of the article, saying that a decision about the transfer of the S-300 had yet to be made.

Liberman said he had seen the reports, but that **"they don't have a grip on reality."**

The defense minister reiterated Israel's stated policy as it relates to Syria, namely that Israel will not get involved in the country's civil war, but will take military action to prevent advanced weaponry from reaching the Hezbollah terrorist group and to halt Iranian entrenchment in Syria.

Israel's focus is on ensuring that "Iran does not bring in a flood of advanced weapons systems aimed at Israel," he said.

Liberman denied that Israel's relationship with Russia was in peril following an airstrike against Iranian facilities on a Syrian air base earlier this month, which Moscow claimed Israel had conducted. Israeli officials refuse to comment on the strike.

"For several years, we have been coordinating with each other and succeeding in preventing direct conflict with the Russians," Liberman said.

"They understand that we won't get involved in internal Syrian matters and that we won't allow Iran to entrench itself [in Syria]," he said.



S-400 Triumph missile defense system at the Russian Hmeimin military base in Latakia province, in the northwest of Syria, on December 16, 2015. (Paul Gypteau/AFP)

The defense minister noted that Russia already has its own S-300 air defense system in Syria, along with the more advanced S-400 system, and that "hasn't limited our operations."

However, defense analysts have questioned whether an S-300 system in Syrian, not Russian, hands could threaten Israel's air power in the region and prevent it from being able to conduct strikes against targets in Syria.

Israel's former Military Intelligence chief Amos Yadlin, who currently heads the influential Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, said he assumed the air force would work quickly [to destroy the S-300](#), if it were indeed handed over to Syria.

"If I know the air force well, we have already made proper plans to deal with this threat. After you remove the threat, which is basically what will be done, we're back to square one," Yadlin told Bloomberg news last week. Russian military sources told Kommersant that if Israel tried to destroy the anti-aircraft batteries, it would be "catastrophic for all sides."

Moscow first announced that it was considering reversing its longtime policy against supplying the S-300 system to the regime following a series of airstrikes against Syrian targets by the United States, United Kingdom and France earlier this month in response to an alleged chemical weapons attack by Assad.

The apparent chemical attack against the then-rebel-held city of Douma in central Syria killed at least 40 people, including children. Western powers blame the attack on Assad's regime.

“A few years ago at the request of our partners, we decided not to supply S-300s to Syria,” Lavrov told the BBC last week. “Now that this outrageous act of aggression was undertaken by the US, France and UK, we might think how to make sure that the Syrian state is protected.”

Russia had originally agreed to sell the system to Syria in 2010, but scrapped the plan at Israel’s behest.

Lavrov’s comments to the BBC indicated that the impetus for Russia to reverse its decision and give Assad the S-300 was not the airstrike allegedly conducted by Israel on April 9, but the American-French-British attack on April 13.

According to Kommersant’s report, Russia will not be selling Assad the S-300 system, but rather providing it at no cost as part of a military aid package in order to hasten the delivery.

The Russian-made system, made up of radar arrays and missile launchers, offers long-range protection against both fighter jets and missiles. The system has been supplied by Moscow to Tehran, and deployed by the Russian army in Syria, alongside its more advanced iteration: the S-400.



In this August 27, 2013, photo, a Russian air defense system missile system Antey 2500, or S-300 VM, is on display at the opening of the MAKS Air Show in Zhukovsky outside Moscow, Russia. (AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev, file)

It was not immediately clear if Russia would bring in new S-300 systems to Syria or if it would simply give over control of the batteries already in the country.

The Kommersant report noted that in any case it would take at least several months from its reception before Syrian soldiers would be fully trained on the system and capable of using it.

In what many saw as a direct reaction to the looming proliferation of the S-300 and other missile defense systems throughout the Middle East — but especially in Iran — Israel purchased a fleet of F-35 stealth fighter jets from the American Lockheed-Martin defense contractor.

The state-of-the-art planes are meant to offer a solution to the challenges posed by the S-300, whose radar systems can detect aircraft from some 300 kilometers (186 miles) away.

Israel also worked diplomatically to attempt to stop Russia’s sale of the S-300 system to Iran, which after being halted for nearly a decade went through in 2016. Last year, Tehran announced that the system was fully functional and connected to the rest of the country’s air defenses.

In addition to the American-led coalition’s strikes against Assad targets, Israel has increasingly carried out air raids in Syria, which it says are meant to prevent the transfer of advanced weaponry to the Hezbollah terrorist group and halt the military entrenchment of Iran in the country.

While Israeli officials acknowledge that these strikes are carried out in general, Jerusalem rarely takes responsibility for specific attacks. **MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/liberman-israel-would-destroy-syrian-s-300-if-it-attacked-our-jets/> [If Russia wants to start WWII then let them bring in the S-300 and give it over to Syria and then strike at Israel if they take the system out. That would be perhaps the dumbest move ever made by a ‘world leader’ – rdb]**

Russia says it will soon deliver new air defense systems to Syria

Defense Ministry in Moscow doesn’t specify model, though officials have recently said S-300 could be transferred to Assad

By *TQI staff* Today, 1:45

Russia will supply the Syrian regime with new air defense systems in the near future, the RIA news agency reported Wednesday, citing the Russian Defense Ministry.

The report did not specify what type of systems Moscow will give its Damascus ally.

On Monday, the Russian daily Kommersant reported that Moscow was getting closer to delivering its S-300 missile defense system to Syrian dictator Bashar Assad, despite Israel’s efforts to prevent it. Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman responded by saying that if the powerful **[S-300 was used against Israeli jets](https://www.timesofisrael.com/russia-says-it-will-soon-deliver-new-air-defense-systems-to-syria/)**, the system would be destroyed. **MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/russia-says-it-will-soon-deliver-new-air-defense-systems-to-syria/> [a very foolish move by Russia. – rdb]**

Israel, US concerned by recent Iranian cargo flights to Syria — report

Officials said to fear the planes are transporting weapons which could be used to attack Israel

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 12:39 pm

US and Israeli intelligence officials are concerned over a number of cargo flights that have flown from Iran to Syria in recent weeks, CNN reported on Wednesday.

A US administration official confirmed to the network that the US and Israel fear the planes are being used to transport weapons for troops loyal to Syrian President Bashar Assad or Iranian forces operating in the country, which could then be used to attack Israel.

Although there have been shipments from Iran to Syria in the past, these recent flights were said to have been noted as they arrived in the wake of the April 13 US-led strikes on Syrian military targets in response to an alleged chemical gas attack on the town of Douma that killed dozens.

A Twitter account tracking air traffic around the world recently published details of at least two Syrian Air Force IL-76 cargo flights between Iran and Syria, and the US official told CNN that other flights including at least one Iranian cargo plane have also been monitored by intelligence services.

The news network also reported concerns that the transports were replenishing anti-aircraft missiles depleted when Syria targeted Israeli jets carrying out a raid in February.

Israel carried out strikes on targets in Syria after an [explosives-laden drone](#) was flown into Israeli airspace on February 10. The Israeli military said at the time that between one-third and one-half of Syria's air defenses were destroyed during the strikes.

During a Syrian counterattack against the Israeli jets, one F-16 was hit by anti-aircraft fire and crashed in a field in northern Israel after the pilot and navigator ejected from it.

Western officials have accused Iran of using seemingly civilian airlines as fronts for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps to conduct military transport missions to Syria from Tehran's Mehrabad Airport.

Pouya Airlines, for instance, was subjected to US sanctions in 2014 for "transporting illicit cargo, including weapons, to Iran's clients in the Levant," according to the US Treasury Department.

Over time, the IRGC began setting up its own facilities on Syrian military bases and air fields. [MORE - https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-us-concerned-by-recent-iranian-cargo-flights-to-syria-report/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-us-concerned-by-recent-iranian-cargo-flights-to-syria-report/)

Israel scraps deportations of all African asylum seekers, extends visas

In dramatic turnaround, state tells High Court 'no possibility' to expel migrants at this time after officials fail to reach deal with Uganda

By [Tamar Pileggi](#) Today, 6:43 pm

The Israeli government informed the High Court of Justice Tuesday it had scrapped its controversial plan to deport tens of thousands of African migrants from the country, after Israeli authorities failed to cement an emigration deal with a third country.

"At this stage there is no possibility of implementing involuntary deportations to a third country. Therefore, as of April 17, 2018, [the state] has ceased to hold hearings as part of the deportation policy, and no more deportation decisions will be made at this time," the state said.

The admission marked a dramatic setback for the government in its years-long attempts to expel the asylum-seekers, most of them from Eritrea or Sudan, and a triumph for activists who appealed to the court against the government plans.

The government statement said existing deportation orders were canceled and said migrants with expired temporary residency permits will be able to get their visas renewed.

The High Court has demanded the government present a deportation plan that would safely resettle the migrants in a third country, or set them free from detention.

Last week, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's special emissary to Uganda returned without a signed agreement after 11 days of negotiations in Kampala, the court ordered the release of 200 African migrants from the Saharonim Prison, where they had been held since refusing to leave Israel voluntarily.

Earlier in April, 58 migrants were freed from Saharonim after a similar reported deal with Rwanda fell through.

A wide coalition of critics in Israel and in the Jewish American community had called Israel's deportation plans unethical and a stain on the country's image as a refuge for Jewish migrants. Several mass protests against it have taken place in several Israeli cities in recent months. [\[The idea that it is unethical to protect your borders from illegal immigrants who show up at your fence is the epitome of ignorance and a lack of knowledge about government. The primary function of government is to secure your borders and protect your citizens. There is nothing that implies you owe anyone entrance to your country. To enter a country is a privilege not a right. – rdb\]](#)

The initial deportation plan, which offered each migrant \$3,500 and a plane ticket to third-party countries, has been condemned by the United Nations as chaotic, poorly executed, and unsafe. Asylum seekers previously deported to Uganda and Rwanda have told the Times of Israel they faced serious danger and even imprisonment after arriving in Africa without proper documents. **MORE** - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-scraps-deportations-of-african-asylum-seekers-extends-visas/>

Home Front Command to use rescue drones

Command's search and rescue units are being outfitted with camera equipped drones to produce 3-dimensional images of disaster scenes allowing for faster, more efficient rescue operations.

Yoav Zitun/Published: 04.24.18, 17:57



Drone image of a disaster scene

Search and rescue units belonging to Home Front Command have recently been outfitted with drones equipped with hi-tech cameras. The cameras will produce real-time three dimensional images of disaster zones, such as structures hit by missiles or ones damaged during an earthquake.

The civilian-manufactured drone, which can remain in the air for up to 30 minutes, will enable rescue units to scan the desired area from above and help them navigate among the rubble in order to locate the people who may be trapped inside.

"With the new drone, we can understand the extent of the destruction and the nature of the collapse and its main points, as well as the attack's focal points—thereby allowing us to get to the trapped people more quickly," said Maj. Oz Gino.

"In the past year, we have conducted a series of experiments with civilian companies in search of a three-dimensional mapping system, as the main goal of units that arrive at a disaster site is to know where to focus their rescue efforts in the first moments, considering that we do not always receive quality information from the populace. We are ordering a new, very specific scanning system for the drones to enable units to get an accurate picture of the destruction," he added.

Home Front Command further noted that the amount of time it takes to reach trapped persons is critical since even those who survived a structure's collapse may die in the first few hours from dehydration, being crushed and shock injuries if they do not receive help.

Once deployed, the new drone can help locate hollow pockets underneath ruins within minutes, showing forces where to tunnel in order to reach trapped victims without wasting precious time.

Another drone is currently undergoing testing and is in the advanced development stages. The second iteration will be smaller and able to penetrate said hollow spaces between ruins, photograph what is happening therein in real time and even communicate with the trapped.

The testing phase is expected to be completed this summer and after a process of additional tests, it is expected to be operational in Home Front Command units by the end of the year.

Currently, every Home Front Command [commander](#) has access to a drone used for routine security operations in the West Bank. <https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5238827,00.html>

Trump's Mideast envoy: Peace not possible when Palestinians celebrate violence

Jason Greenblatt tells American Jewish Committee Hamas is solely to blame for Gaza violence and should turn its attention to helping Gaza residents

By [Eric Cortellessa](#) Today, 1:31 am

WASHINGTON — **The Trump administration's Mideast envoy Jason Greeblatt lambasted the Palestinians before a Jewish audience on Tuesday, casting both Hamas's "hostile actions" at the Israel-Gaza border and the Palestinian Authority's support terrorism as detrimental to peacemaking efforts.**

"You can't make peace in an environment where violence is practiced and celebrated," he said to an American Jewish Committee luncheon reception in New York.

Over the last month, tens of thousands of Gazans, with the encouragement of the Hamas terror group that rules Gaza, have been undertaking weekly protests at the border. Some rioters have tried to damage and break the security fence and infiltrate Israel, while others have thrown petrol bombs and rocks, and burned tires.

The Israel Defense Forces has so far killed at least 40 Palestinians in the border clashes, according to the Hamas-run Gaza health ministry. Israel does not confirm the numbers.

In his remarks, Greenblatt firmly blamed Hamas for the chaos and violence that has ensued. He did not direct any criticism toward Israel, which much of the international community claims has responded excessively to the protests.

“Astoundingly, Hamas, the de-facto administrator of Gaza, can find no better use for its money than violence,” Greenblatt said. He also said Hamas could serve its people better by spending that money by “addressing the dire situation in Gaza, where unemployment is high, electricity service is sporadic, and sewage is flowing.”

He also castigated certain elements of Fatah’s rule over the West Bank.

The former Trump Organization lawyer said the Taylor Force Act, which Trump signed into law last month, “dramatically reduces US funds to the Palestinian Authority until they stop the abhorrent practice of paying stipends to terrorists and their families.”

The legislation is named after a former US army officer who was [stabbed to death](#) by a Palestinian terrorist while visiting Tel Aviv.

Beyond passage of that bill, Greenblatt extolled the ties between Washington and Jerusalem under the current president.

“The revitalization of US-Israel relations culminated in President Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital,” he said. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/trumps-mideast-envoy-peace-not-possible-when-palestinians-celebrate-violence/>

Donors said to nix funding for Israeli program to avoid aiding Arab doctor

Swiss family reportedly freezes \$5 million payment to outstanding young physicians, says it has 'no intention' of donating to non-Jewish recipient

By [Michael Bachner](#) Today, 10:49 am

Donors to an Israeli medical excellency program have reportedly refused to continue funding it because one of the doctors selected this year to receive the money is Arab.

The Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, near Tel Aviv, has for the last 13 years chosen eight to 10 young, aspiring doctors and medicine students per year to receive the money, as part of its Talpiot program. There are typically about one hundred candidates a year to choose from.

Recipients get tens of thousands of dollars that help them fund studies and research papers and attend education programs and conferences.

But this year, the project’s primary donor, a Swiss Jewish family, refused to give the money after receiving the list of winners, the Yedioth Ahronoth daily reported Wednesday

The unnamed donors, said in the report to be a “family of Holocaust survivors,” have been giving \$5 million every year, effectively funding the project.

But they immediately canceled their donation upon learning that an Arab medical intern was selected this year, saying they have “no intention” of donating money to a doctor who isn’t Jewish. **MORE -**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/donors-said-to-nix-funding-for-israeli-program-to-avoid-aiding-arab-doctor/> **[GASP! Someone is being nationalistic and politically incorrect in choosing where they want their financial resources to go! How terribly shocking. More power to them. When Arabs stop trying to destroy Israel and kill Jews then they might think about reassessing their actions. – rdb]**

Egypt says it will allow Hamas rocket expert’s body into Gaza — report

Cairo said to convey to Jerusalem it remains committed to ensuring the return of Israeli captives held by terror group

By [TOI staff](#) and [Agencies](#) Today, 6:21 pm

Egypt reportedly informed Israel on Tuesday it will allow the passage of the body of a Hamas rocket and drone expert, assassinated in Malaysia over the weekend, into the coastal enclave for burial.

According to Hadashot news, officials in Egypt spoke to their Israeli counterparts and confirmed that the remains of Palestinian rocket engineer Fadi Mohammad al-Batsh, gunned down in Malaysia on Saturday, will be transported to the Gaza Strip through Egypt, despite requests from Jerusalem not to comply with the request.

The Egyptian officials also stressed that they remain committed to the return of the Israelis held by the Hamas terrorist group in Gaza, the TV report said.

Batsh’s family said the body would be flown to Egypt and enter the Palestinian enclave Wednesday at 2 p.m. through the Rafah crossing. Batsh’s wife and three children would also be granted access, according to the claim.

However, Kuala Lumpur University, where Batsh was a senior lecturer, posted on its Facebook page that his body would only depart on a 7:30 p.m. flight, which means it would not arrive in Cairo until 4:40 a.m. on Thursday at the earliest. It invited colleagues, friends, and students who want to pay their last respects in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday afternoon. **MORE** - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/egypt-says-it-will-allow-hamas-rocket-experts-body-into-gaza-report/>

Trump: US seeks to leave 'strong and lasting footprint' in Syria

Softening tone on military withdrawal, US president says 'we don't want to give Iran open season to the Mediterranean'

By [TOI staff](#) and [AFP](#) Today, 10:09

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday appeared to dial back a promise to withdraw US troops from Syria immediately, saying it was important to not allow Iranian influence to grow in the country.

Stating that troops would be coming home soon, Trump nonetheless said that the United States wanted to "leave a strong and lasting footprint" in the country. "We don't want to give Iran open season to the Mediterranean," Trump told a joint press conference with his visiting French counterpart Emmanuel Macron.

"We're going to be coming home relatively soon," he said. "We finished at least almost our work with respect to ISIS in Syria, ISIS in Iraq, and we have done a job that nobody has been able to do."

"But with that being said, I do want to come home, but I want to come home also with having accomplished what we have to accomplish," he added.

The US has more than 2,000 military personnel in eastern Syria, working with local militia groups to defeat the extremist Islamic State group while trying to keep out of Syria's broader civil war.

A US withdrawal from Syria has raised fears in Israel of Iran's continued efforts to expand its foothold in Syria, where Jerusalem worries it is setting up bases for use in attacks against Israel.

Israel sees Iran, which has vowed to destroy the Jewish state, as its central enemy in the region. Israeli officials have repeatedly stated that Israel will not allow Iran to entrench itself in Syria, marking it as a "red line" that it will fight for militarily if necessary.

While the US has said it supports Israel's efforts to thwart Iranian expansionism, officials in Jerusalem have quietly expressed fears that the arena is being ceded by Washington to Russia, which is allied with Iran and Assad.

Trump's Tuesday remarks come amid a period of high tensions between Israel, Syria, and Iran, following a deadly airstrike on an alleged Iranian facility in central Syria, which has been attributed to the Israeli Air Force. Israel officially will not comment on the strike. **MORE** - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-us-seeks-to-leave-strong-and-lasting-footprint-in-syria/> **[Hopefully Macron made enough of an impression to convince The Donald not to do the Obamination mistake and leave the area to a different group of terrorists. – rdb]**

Report: Israel presses Italy to stop blocking sanctions against Iran

The consent of all 28 member states of the European Union is necessary in order to approve the new sanctions against the Islamic republic, and Italy is the only country opposing the program.

By [Juliane Helmhold](#) April 24, 2018 18:28

Israel has been pressing Italy in recent weeks to stop blocking new EU sanctions against Iran, Channel 10 reported on Tuesday. Senior officials told the Israeli broadcaster that earlier in April, Foreign Ministry Director General Yuval Rotem invited Italian Ambassador to Israel Gianluigi Benedetti for a meeting in Tel Aviv to express his dissatisfaction with the Italian position which prevents the implementation of further sanctions on the Iranian regime.

According to the report, the consent of all 28 member states of the European Union is necessary in order to approve the new sanctions against the Islamic republic and Italy is the only country opposing the program.

This new package of sanctions was introduced by Britain, France and Germany, aiming to stifle the Iranian missile program as well Iranian activities in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen. The program was intended to show the Trump government that the EU is serious in its activity against Iran and thus persuade the American president not to withdraw from the nuclear agreement.

The Italian ambassador, in the meeting with the Foreign Ministry Director General, clarified that his country was blocking sanctions against Iran because they believed the timing was not suitable.

A senior Israeli official commented that Italy's hesitations stemmed from a series of business contracts signed by Italian companies in Iran which are estimated to be worth billions of euros and could help Italy overcome its economic crisis.

In the meeting, Rotem told the Italian ambassador that Israel expected Italy to re-consider their position and it was

agreed that a delegation of the Foreign Ministry and representatives of the Israeli security establishment would make a trip to Rome in order to discuss Israel's information on Iran's activities in the region and the missile program and try to persuade the Italians to change their position. **MORE - <http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Report-Israel-presses-Italy-to-stop-blocking-sanctions-against-Iran-552614> [Obviously Italy is more concerned about their economics rather than their long term survival. – rdb]**

Iran's Rouhani questions US 'right' to seek new nuclear deal

Trump is 'just a businessman' with no experience of international agreements, says Iranian president; EU urges preserving 2015 pact

By [Agencies](#) Today, 12:58 pm

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday questioned the legitimacy of demands for a fresh nuclear agreement with Tehran, after the leaders of the US and France called for a "new" deal.

"Together with a leader of a European country they say: 'We want to decide on an agreement reached by seven parties.' What for? With what right?" Rouhani said in a speech. **[What Right? Perhaps if you stop and think that this is NOT a treaty which was approved by Congress and was an illegitimate agreement between Obamination and his lackeys and Iran and was not even signed by Iran it will explain what his right is. Once again you have the Islamic terrorists distorting events and trying to manipulate things to their own advantage and ignoring the real facts of the situation. – rdb]**

US President Donald Trump has fiercely criticized a three-year-old deal reached by world powers to curb Iran's nuclear program, and threatened to pull the US out of the agreement.

Trump is eyeing a broader pact that also limits Iran's ballistic missile program and support for armed groups across the Middle East.

European signatories to the 2015 deal have been scrambling to salvage it, though French President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday after talks with Trump that he wished "for now to work on a new deal with Iran."

Following Trump and Macron's comments, European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said the current deal with Iran is working effectively and should be preserved for the future. **[Mogherini is a very evil and foolish woman who can't see nor think beyond the end of her nose. – rdb]**

Mogherini, speaking in Brussels, said that "on what can happen in the future we will see in the future. But there is one deal, existing, it is working, It needs to be preserved."

Iran has repeatedly insisted it is sticking to the nuclear deal and will not negotiate over its missile program. **<https://www.timesofisrael.com/irans-rouhani-questions-us-right-to-seek-new-nuclear-deal/> [Europe's history has shown that it has always been very short sighted and eager to jump at the quick fix and ignore the essence of the problems. – rdb]**

Germany says every state can name capital, but not Jerusalem

Replying to far-right MP's query, Berlin argues that Israel's 1980 declaration of the united city as its capital violated international law

By [Raphael Ahren](#) Today, 3:00 pm

The German government affirmed last week that every country has the right to name its own capital, but argued that the status of Jerusalem can only be settled through Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

"As **a matter of principle, every state has the right to determine a city in its territory to be its capital,**" Niels Annen, a minister of state in Germany's Foreign Ministry, stated in response to a query by a lawmaker from the far-right Alternative for Germany party.

Annen cited Israel's 1980 Basic Law: **Jerusalem, which declares that the "complete and united" city is the Jewish state's capital, and added: "Since the eastern part of Jerusalem that Israel occupied in 1967** contrary to international law is not part of Israel's sovereign territory, the international community, including Germany, has not recognized this declaration." **MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/germany-says-every-state-can-name-capital-but-not-jerusalem/> [For ONLY 19 years the eastern part of Jerusalem was OCCUPIED by a terrorist country named Jordan who held the land only because they were trying to drive all the Jews into the sea and didn't do it but held that piece of territory. So how does that give them the right to claim the land when the land was a Jewish land grant for thousands of years and has now held it for 51 years since the 67 war? HMMMMM? This makes about as much sense as most of the ignorant anti-Semitic garbage that comes from Germany. – rdb]**

Israel's chief rabbi orders German Jews to keep skullcaps

Despite potential danger of falling victim to hate crime, Chief Rabbi Lau says kippah is 'Jewish symbol,' orders Jews to 'keep wearing it proudly'; 'Hiding Jewish identity not the solution,' agrees Berlin's rabbi; MFA official: 'Sad testament to Jewish communities' grim lot in Europe.'

Kobi Nachshoni and Itamar Eichner|Published: 04.24.18, 21:17

Israel's Chief Rabbi David Lau called on German Jewry to refrain from removing skullcaps from their heads while out in public, despite the danger of being targeted for anti-Semitic hate crimes as a result.

Following a recommendation by the chairman of the Central European country's Jewish council, Rabbi Lau published a call contradicting his European colleague, saying, "The kippah is a Jewish symbol, keep wearing it proudly."

A source close to Israel's preeminent rabbinical authority said he was contacted by German citizens who appealed to him for a ruling on how to act, and he responded by calling on them to come to Israel.



Rabbi Lau said Jews in Europe should wear kippahs with pride

He did, however, clarify that "so long as they are in Germany and other countries abroad, they must wear the Jewish symbol of the kippah proudly and not remove it", and that the same pertained to tourists visiting those countries.

"Jews should not be demanded to remove their skullcaps from their heads," Rabbi Lau stated, "but Germany's law enforcement authorities should be appealed to in order to ensure the safety of Jews in Germany."

The chief rabbi added he intended to contact the Berlin government himself to discuss the matter.

Rabbi of the Berlin Jewish community Yehuda Teichtal lent his support to Rabbi Lau, saying, "Hiding and disavowing one's Jewish identity is not the solution." "We should keep walking as proud Jews while simultaneously doing everything to fight anti-Semitism," the Berlin rabbi added.

A Foreign Affairs Ministry official told Ynet Tuesday, "We cannot interfere with the judgment of the head of the community, but it is odd and sad that a call to obscure religious characteristics is coming out of Germany, of all places." **MORE - <https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5240029,00.html>**

Ukrainian neo-Nazis mark Hitler's birthday with anti-Semitic incidents

Anti-Semitic incidents abound across Eastern European country, with a mass grave defaced, Holocaust monument sprayed with 'Heil Hitler' and posts praising Nazi leader by Lviv school teacher, local lawmaker.

Edward Doks, Ukraine|Published: 04.25.18, 11:52

Neo-Nazis in the Ukraine were out in force last Friday, Adolf Hitler's birthday, and desecrated monuments, spray painted memorials and made anti-Semitic Facebook posts.

The "Grieving Mother" monument, a memorial in Poltava in eastern Ukraine to 8,000 of the city's Jews murdered by the Nazis in 1941, was desecrated with the writing "Heil Hitler" and a swastika. **MORE -**

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5240624,00.html> [More anti-Semitism and glorification of a monster in the EU. Do you wonder why these creeps continually sit on the side of the modern Islamic Nazis? – rdb]

Algeria sentences 'spies for Israel' to death, prison

Interior minister for North African country announces capture of 'international spy ring' comprised of 7 Africans, proving Mossad attempts to undermine state security; head of group sentences to death, remaining defendants to prison terms.

Elior Levy|Published: 04.24.18, 22:22

Algeria has handed down death and prison sentences to seven defendants who stood accused of spying for Israel. The head of the alleged group was sentenced to death, whereas its remaining six members were given ten-year jail sentences.

The group was headed by a Lebanese national with a dual Liberian citizenship, an Algerian news agency reported Tuesday, whose aim was said to be "crippling Algeria's security."

The remaining defendants held various African citizenships. In addition to the prison sentence they received, an Algerian criminal court ordered them to pay fines.

Algeria's Interior Minister Nouredine Bedoui said the exposure of the "international spy ring" working for Israel was clear proof that the Mossad and other foreign entities were trying to undermine the country's security and stability.

The interior minister's remarks came days after a Malaysia [assassination](#) in which a Palestinian was shot in the capital of Kuala Lumpur. [Fadi Albatsh](#) was a Hamas engineer, and the terror group—and [Malaysia itself](#)—claim he was assassinated by the Mossad.

Other Muslim countries frequently accuse either locals or foreigners of spying for Israel. The most notable example, perhaps, is Lebanon. This past November, the country was in turmoil over the Ziad Itani affair, when the actor-director was [arrested](#) on suspicion of colluding with Israel.

It was revealed last month, however, that a former senior Lebanese intelligence services official had a hacker fabricate the supposedly damning phone calls served up as evidence of Itani's treachery. The official was [arrested](#), and Itani was consequently [released](#). **MORE - <https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5240086,00.html>**

US justices rule Israeli victims cannot sue terror-financing Arab Bank

Human rights lawyers tried to use 1700s Alien Tort Statute against Jordan-based bank for distributing payment to suicide bombers

By [Agencies](#) Today, 7:04 pm

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Tuesday that foreign businesses cannot be sued in US courts by foreign victims of human rights abuses and extremist attacks.

The justices voted 5-4 in favor of the Jordan-based Arab Bank. It was sued by Israeli victims of attacks in the West Bank and Gaza who claim that the bank helped finance the attacks. The victims had tried to use the 18th-century Alien Tort Statute to hold the bank accountable for its role. But the court's conservative justices rejected that attempt.

“As demonstrated by this litigation, foreign corporate defendants create unique problems. And courts are not well suited to make the required policy judgments that are implicated by corporate liability in cases like this one,” Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the majority.

The decision continues the court's paring back a three-decade-old strategy by human rights lawyers to use civil suits to pursue individuals who may be responsible for torture and other atrocities, as well as companies with operations in countries with poor records in the area of human rights.

Victims in the case alleged that the bank, through the involvement of its New York branch, knowingly distributed millions of dollars to finance suicide bombings and make “martyrdom” payments to reward the families of terrorists who killed civilians.

The bank denied the allegations and argued that allowing the victims' claims to go forward would interfere with US foreign policy and lead to diplomatic friction. Kennedy noted that friction in his opinion, writing that: “For 13 years, this litigation has ‘caused significant diplomatic tensions’ with Jordan, a critical ally in one of the world's most sensitive regions.”

The Alien Tort Statute, adopted in part to deal with piracy claims, went unused for most of American history until rights lawyers dusted it off beginning in the late 1970s. The Supreme Court cautiously endorsed the use of the law in 2004, but left unanswered precisely who could be held liable and in what circumstances.

In 2013, the justices ruled that people or entities sued under the Alien Tort Statute must have a real connection to the United States. The court declined then to decide whether businesses could be sued.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in a dissent for herself and three liberal colleagues that the majority's decision “absolves corporations from responsibility” under the Alien Tort Statute for “conscience-shocking behavior.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-justices-rule-israeli-victims-cannot-sue-terror-financing-arab-bank/>

House passes bill to help Holocaust survivors obtain restitution, seized assets

The measure requires State Department to report on progress of certain European countries toward the return of wrongfully confiscated Holocaust-era assets

By [JTA](#) Today, 3:41 am

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The US House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill to help Holocaust survivors and the families of victims obtain restitution or the return of Holocaust-era assets. The measure approved Tuesday requires the State Department to report on the progress of certain European countries toward the return of or restitution for wrongfully confiscated or transferred Holocaust-era assets, including property, art and other movable property. It also requires a report specifically on progress on the resolution of claims for US citizen Holocaust survivors and family members.

The Senate unanimously approved its version of the bill in December. Lead sponsors are Sens. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc. and Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

The World Jewish Restitution Organization praised the bill's passage. “This is a powerful statement of America's unwavering commitment to supporting Holocaust survivors in their quest for justice,” Gideon Taylor, the WJRO chairman of operations, said in a statement.

The bill now goes to President Donald Trump for his signature. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/house-passes-bill-to-help-holocaust-survivors-obtain-restitution-seized-assets/>

The Central American Caravan That Angered Trump Has Reached The US Border

The arrival of the group, made up primarily of Central Americans, sets up a confrontation over US asylum laws.

Originally posted on April 24, 2018, at 12:43 p.m. Updated on April 24, 2018, at 2:47 p.m. [Adolfo Flores](#)

A migrant caravan that began its journey through Mexico a month ago is nearing the US border, where its arrival will set up a confrontation between the Trump administration's anti-immigration policies and US laws that require the United States to grant asylum to people with valid persecution claims.

A group of about 130 women and children from the migrant caravan are expected to arrive in Mexicali, on the Mexican side of the US border, sometime Tuesday after an overnight bus trip from Hermosillo, in Mexico's Sonora state.

While media attention to the caravan has dropped in recent weeks, the Trump administration has been keeping a watchful eye on the caravan's progress. Kirstjen Nielsen, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, said Monday that her agency was monitoring "the remnants" of the caravan.

"If members of the 'caravan' enter the country illegally, they will be referred for prosecution for illegal entry in accordance with existing law," Nielsen said in a statement. "For those seeking asylum, all individuals may be detained while their claims are adjudicated efficiently and expeditiously, and those found not to have a claim will be promptly removed from the United States."

Attorney General Jeff Sessions also issued a statement Monday, saying the migrants and "their smugglers" had ignored the willingness of the Mexican government to allow them to stay in Mexico.

"Our nation has the most generous immigration system in the world, but this is a deliberate attempt to undermine our laws and overwhelm our system. There is no right to demand entry without justification," Sessions said in a statement. "Promoting and enforcing the rule of law is essential to protecting a nation, its borders, and its citizens. But, as President Trump has warned, the need to fix these loopholes and weaknesses in our immigration system is critical and overdue." **MORE** - https://www.buzzfeed.com/adolfoflores/the-central-american-caravan-that-angered-trump-is-nearing?utm_term=.xiB1yjxrb#.bcBag2yq6

ICE busts 225 people during sweeping six-day raid in New York

BY [Janon Fisher](#) NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 4:00 AM

Federal immigration officials arrested 225 people in a sweeping six-day raid in the five boroughs and surrounding counties, officials said.

Operation Keep Safe, as the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency called it, netted 163 people in the city between April 9 through April 14 — 45 of whom had no outstanding criminal issue.

ICE officials said that 180 of those arrested were convicted criminals or had criminal charges pending against them, but refused to release their names. Those people now face deportation.

The feds grouched that the city refused to cooperate in the arrests, claiming that it only increases the amount of people arrested who pose no public safety threat. **MORE** - <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ice-busts-225-people-sweeping-six-day-raid-new-york-article-1.3950760>

56 illegal immigrants found in south Laredo stash house

Special to the Times Updated 9:20 am, Monday, April 23, 2018

Border Patrol agents along with the Laredo Police Department responded Thursday to a request for assistance from Homeland Security Investigations regarding suspicious activity at a residence on San Luis Street.

A total of 56 undocumented immigrants, including men, women and children, were found inside the residence. They were determined to be from Guatemala, Mexico and Honduras. All were processed accordingly. Homeland Security Investigations has the lead in the investigation.

"The partnerships in Laredo between the United States Border Patrol, Homeland Security Investigations and the Laredo Police Department continue to show results in disrupting criminal organizations from operating in South Texas. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to prosecute those responsible and prevent individuals from being subjected to deplorable conditions," said Laredo Sector Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Gabriel Acosta. **MORE** - <https://www.lmtonline.com/local/crime/article/56-illegal-immigrants-found-in-south-Laredo-stash-12856477.php>

The Southern Poverty Law Center Is Sitting on \$477 Million

[Jeryl Bier](#)

The Trump era has been very good for the group's fundraising efforts.

If its balance sheet is any indication, Donald Trump's presidency has been very good for the Southern Poverty Law Center. **The SPLC's already impressive endowment grew a staggering 35 percent in fiscal year 2017 to more than \$432 million. Including operating funds, total assets topped \$477 million as of October 31, 2017.** Total revenues and gains in fiscal 2017 exceeded \$180 million, more than triple the organization's expenses for the year, of just under \$60 million.

The SPLC has long been considered a fundraising powerhouse, but 2017's take was mind boggling by any standard. Donations were up 164 percent over 2016: The group took in \$132 million between November 2016 and October 2017, compared with \$50 million in the preceding 12 months.

While direct contributions produced the lion's share of the 2017 increase, a booming stock market led to astounding growth in the SPLC's investment portfolio. In fiscal 2016, unrealized gains came to less than \$1 million; a year later they totaled nearly \$45 million. **MORE - <https://www.weeklystandard.com/jeryl-bier/endowment-of-southern-poverty-law-center-nears-500-million> [Not bad for what is essentially a totally illegitimate leftist peddler of bias garbage. One more indication of the total leftist stupidity and insanity. – rdb]**

Snopes 'sneaky liar' about California's anti-Christian plan

Legislature considering ban on all sex orientation change counseling

Published: 24 mins ago [Bob Unruh](#)

WND reported recently when Liberty Counsel, a highly respected legal team that has addressed some of the most contentious religious issues in the country, warned that a legislative proposal in California effectively would ban the sale of Bibles.

It's because the proposed law forbids counseling that a man is a man, not a woman. The law calls such counseling consumer fraud and bans it.

The bill, which advocates for transgenderism, specifically declares “advertising, offering to engage in, or engaging in sexual orientation change efforts with an individual” is fraudulent business practice.

“If approved, victims of sexual abuse can no longer get counseling if they develop (as often happens) unwanted urges to engage in same-sex behavior or become gender confused,” Liberty Counsel said.

“This bill would also make it unlawful for any person to sell books, including the Bible, counseling services, or anything else that directs people to trust in Jesus Christ to help them overcome unwanted same-sex attraction or gender confusion,” Liberty Counsel said.

It took only hours for Snopes, the online “fact-check” site, to blast such comments as “False,” in huge red lettering. It admitted the bill relates to “gay conversion therapy” but states the bill “does not mention the Bible, Christianity, or religion at all.”

It admitted analysts were “not clear whether the text of A.B. 2943 would amount to a blanket prohibition on any and all [Sexual Orientation Change Efforts],” and quoted the homosexual sponsor of the bill saying the Bible itself is not a “gay conversation therapy” manual.

However, a longtime professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Robert A.J. Gagnon, the author of “The Bible and Homosexual Practice,” got a little blunt in a description of Snopes' efforts to legitimize the counseling restrictions.

In a column at The Federalist, he said, “Snopes is a Sneaky Liar about California's Bill to Ban Christian LGBT Talk.”

“If you haven't already lost significant respect for Snopes as an impartial fact-checker, its analysis of a bill that bans all transactions involved in stating Christian beliefs about homosexual behavior should,” he said. **MORE - <http://www.wnd.com/2018/04/snopes-sneaky-liar-about-californias-anti-christian-plan/> [Snopes is simply a biased leftist piece of garbage with a real political agenda. Always check some other source before you rely on them. – rdb]**

What is Civilization Jihad?
<https://player.vimeo.com/video/174076001>

Macron: France, US wish to work on ‘new nuclear deal’ with Iran

French president says revised treaty would tackle Tehran's ballistic missile program, its influence across the Middle East, and what happens after 2025

By [AFP](#) Today, 9:05 pm



French President Emmanuel Macron holds a joint press conference with US President Donald Trump and at the White House in Washington, DC, on April 24, 2018. (AFP PHOTO / LUDOVIC MARIN)

WASHINGTON — French President Emmanuel Macron and his American counterpart Donald Trump called jointly Tuesday for a new nuclear deal with Iran, after the US leader denounced the three-year-old accord as “insane.”

“I can say that we have had very frank discussions on that, just the two of us,” Macron told a joint press conference with Trump at his side.

“We therefore wish from now on to work on a new deal with Iran.”

Trump’s European allies have repeatedly tried to persuade him not to walk away from the 2015 deal, which gave Iran massive sanctions relief and the guarantee of a civilian nuclear program in return for curbs on programs that could be used to develop an atomic weapon.

It did not tackle western complaints about Iran’s ballistic missile programs or support for terror groups across the Middle East.

Trump faces a May 12 deadline to decide on its fate and is demanding changes that many in European capitals believe would represent a legal breach.

“I think we will have a great shot at doing a much bigger, maybe, deal,” said Trump, stressing that any new deal would have to be built on “solid foundations.” “This is a deal with decayed foundations. It’s a bad deal, it’s a bad structure. It’s falling down,” the US leader said. “We’re going to see what happens on the 12th.”

When asked to clarify if he meant he was pushing for a new accord, or an add-on agreement, Macron said: “I’m not saying that we move from one agreement to another.”

The French president said a new deal would have to include three additional elements: Tehran’s ballistic missile program, its influence across the Middle East, and what happens after 2025 — when under the current accord Iran would be able to progressively restart part of its nuclear program.

He called the initial 2015 deal only the “first pillar” of an eventual wider deal.

For months, American and European officials have been working behind the scenes to try to find a compromise over Trump’s demands to change the agreement.

Officials have toyed with the idea of a separate joint declaration: promising to tackle non-nuclear issues, while searching for a tougher successor accord.

Iran, meanwhile, has warned it will ramp up enrichment activities if Trump walks away from the accord, prompting Trump to issue a blunt warning.

“They’re not going to be restarting anything. If they restart it, they’re going to have big problems, bigger than they ever had before. And you can mark it down,” the US president said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/macron-france-us-wish-to-work-on-new-nuclear-deal-with-iran/>

Trump warns Iran against restarting nuclear program, calls deal ‘insane’

Before meeting Macron, US president says Tehran will have ‘bigger problems than they ever had before’ if it revives nuclear development

By [Eric Cortellessa](#) Today, 6:34 pm

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump warned Iran on Tuesday against reviving its nuclear program if the United States walks away from the 2015 nuclear deal next month.

“If they restart their nuclear program, they will have bigger problems than they ever had before,” Trump said Tuesday morning, sitting alongside French President Emmanuel Macron in the Oval Office.

Before the two leaders were set to have a bilateral meeting, Trump called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as the deal is formally known, a “terrible deal” that was “insane” and “ridiculous.”

The US president criticized the accord for failing to address Iran’s ballistic missile testing or regional activities in Syria or Yemen.

As a P5+1 member and signatory of the international agreement, France has urged Trump not to leave the deal. Two days ago, Macron said he had “no plan B” if the United States exits the pact and throws its sustainability into doubt.

The American president said the two leaders would discuss the Iran deal in their private meeting.

“We made this terrible deal but we’re going to discuss it,” he said.

Macron, for his part, said the deal must be considered in its regional context and broader ramifications for the Middle East.

Trump is threatening to tear up the 2015 agreement aimed at curbing Iran's nuclear efforts unless European capitals agree to supplement it with tougher controls on Tehran's missile program and future ability to return to nuclear fuel enrichment.

Iran has been upping the rhetoric in return, with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif warning Saturday that Tehran was ready to “vigorously” [resume uranium enrichment](#) if the US ditched the accord.

Zarif told reporters in New York that Iran is not seeking to acquire a nuclear bomb, but that its “probable” response to a US withdrawal would be to restart production of enriched uranium – a key bomb-making ingredient.

Trump has set a May 12 deadline for the Europeans to “fix” the agreement, which provided for curbs to Iran's nuclear program in exchange for relief from financial sanctions.

Macron's visit is to be followed by talks between the US president and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday on the Iran deal. **MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-warns-iran-against-restarting-nuclear-program-calls-deal-insane/>**

Commentaries:

Should Robert Mueller Be Investigated for Violating Civil Liberties?

by [Alan M. Dershowitz](#) April 24, 2018 at 3:00 am

Just as the first casualty of war is truth, so, too, the first casualty of hyper-partisan politics is civil liberties. Many traditional civil libertarians have allowed their strong anti-Trump sentiments to erase their long-standing commitment to neutral civil liberties. They are now so desperate to get Trump that they are prepared to compromise the most basic due process rights. They forget the lesson of history that such compromises made against one's enemy are often used as precedents against one's friends. As Robert Bolt put it in the play and movie *A Man for all Seasons*:

Roper: So now you would give the Devil benefit of Law!

Thomas Moore: Yes, what would you do? Cut a great road through the law to get after the Devil?

Roper: I'd cut down every law in England to do that?

Thomas Moore: And when the last law was down, and the Devil turned round on you, where would you hide, Roper, the laws all being flat? This country's planted thick with laws from coast to coast — man's laws, not God's — and if you cut them down — and you're just the man to do it — d'you really think you could stand upright in the winds that would blow then? Yes, I'd give the Devil benefit of law, for my own safety's sake.

But today's fair weather civil libertarians are unwilling to give President Trump – who they regard as the devil -- the “benefit of law” and civil liberties.

Consider the issue of criticizing Robert Mueller, the Special counsel. Any criticism or even skepticism regarding Mueller's history is seen as motivated by a desire to help Trump. Mueller was an Assistant US attorney in Boston, the head of its criminal division, the head of the criminal division in Main Justice and the Director of the FBI during the most scandalous miscarriage of justice in the modern history of the FBI. Four innocent people were framed by the FBI in order to protect mass murdering gangsters who were working as FBI informers while they were killing innocent people. An FBI agent, who is now in prison, was tipping off Whitey Bulger as to who might testify against him so that these individuals could be killed. He also tipped off Bulger allowing him to escape and remain on the lam for 16 years.

What responsibility, if any, did Robert Mueller, who was in key positions of authority and capable of preventing these horrible miscarriages, have in this sordid incident? A former member of the parole board – a liberal Democrat who also served as mayor of Springfield, Massachusetts – swears that he saw a letter from Robert Mueller urging the denial of release for at least one of these wrongfully convicted defendants. When he went back to retrieve the letter, it was not in the file. This should surprise no one since Judge Mark Wolf (himself a former prosecutor), who conducted extensive hearings about this entire mess, made the following findings:

“The files relating to the Wheeler murder, and the FBI's handling of them, exemplify recurring irregularities with regard to the preparation, maintenance, and production in this case of documents damaging to Flemmi and Bulger.

First, there appears to be a pattern of false statements placed in Flemmi's informant file to divert attention from his possible crimes and/or FBI misconduct....

Second, contrary to the FBI's usual policy and practice, all but one of the reports containing Halloran's allegations against Bulger and Flemmi were not indexed and placed in an investigative file referencing their names. Thus, those documents were not discoverable by a standard search of the FBI's indices. Similar irregularities in indexing and, therefore, access occurred with regard to information that the FBI received concerning an extortion by Bulger of Hobart Willis and from Joseph Murray concerning the murder of Brian Halloran, among other things.

Third, when documents damaging to the FBI were found by the Bureau, they were in some instances not produced to the defendants or the court at the time required by the court's Orders." [1]

Judge Wolf also made a finding that directly references Mueller's state of knowledge regarding the "history":

"The source also claimed to have information that Bulger and Pat Nee had murdered Halloran and Bucky Barrett. The source subsequently said that there was an eyewitness to the Halloran shooting who might come forward, and elaborated that: "there is a person named John, who claims he talked to Whitey and Nee as they sat in the car waiting for Halloran on Northern Avenue. He sits in a bar and talks about it. He saw the whole operation". The source added that the person providing the information to the source "will be willing to talk to you (authorities) soon." On February 3, 1988, Weld directed Keeney to have the information that he had received sent to the United States Attorney in Boston, Frank McNamara, and to the Strike Force Chief, O'Sullivan. Weld added that: "Both O'Sullivan and [Assistant United States Attorney] Bob Mueller are well aware of the history, and the information sounds good." [2] It is not the beyond the realm of possibility therefore that Mueller wrote this letter, even if it is no longer in the files. If in fact Mueller wrote such a letter, without thoroughly investigating the circumstances, he surely bears some responsibility. Moreover, it is widely believed among Boston law enforcement observers that the FBI was not really looking for Whitey Bulger during the years that Mueller was its Director. It is believed that the FBI was fearful about what Bulger would disclose about his relationship with agents over the years. It took a member of the US Marshall's office to find Bulger who was hiding in plain view in Santa Monica, California.

Recently, a former federal judge, who used to be a civil libertarian, [rushed to Mueller's defense](#), declaring "without equivocation" that Mueller "had no involvement" in the massive miscarriage of justice. Her evidence is the lack of evidence in the files. But no civil libertarian should place such great trust in government files, especially in light of Judge Wolf's findings. They should join my call for an objective investigation by the Inspector General of the Justice Department before they assure the public "without equivocation" that Mueller had absolutely "no involvement." But these "Get Trump At Any Cost" partisans have rejected my call for an investigation, out of fear that it may turn up information that might tarnish the image of the Special Counsel who is investigating Trump. Instead they criticize those of us who point out that Mueller was "at the center" of the Justice Department and FBI, while this miscarriage of justice occurred. All civil libertarians should want the truth about this sordid episode -- and Mueller's possible role in it -- regardless of its impact, if any, on the Trump investigation. Mueller too should welcome an objective investigation, which might eliminate any doubt about his role in this travesty. But too many former civil libertarians are prepared to sacrifice civil liberties and the quest for truth on the altar of "Get Trump."

This is all too typical of the about-face many civil libertarians have taken since Trump became president. I have [previously written](#) about the ACLU's abdication of its traditional role in challenging governmental overreaching. For the new ACLU getting Trump trumps civil liberties.

It is ironic to see many right-wingers being the ones to criticize overreach by law enforcement, while many left-wingers now defend such overreaching. Hypocrisy and selective outrage abounds, as neutral principles take a back seat. Conservatives used to say that "a conservative is a liberal who has been mugged." I would respond that "a liberal is a conservative who is being audited or whose kid was busted for pot." Today a civil libertarian is a conservative whose candidate is being investigated, while a law-and-order type is a liberal who wants to see Trump charged or impeached.

I am a liberal who voted against Trump but who insists that his civil liberties must be respected for all of our sake. *Alan M. Dershowitz is the Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law Emeritus at Harvard Law School and author of Trumped Up, How Criminalization of Political Differences endangers Democracy. This article first appeared in The Hill.*

[1] *United States v. Salemme*, 91 F. Supp. 2d 141, 154 n.3 (D. Mass. 1999).

[2] *Id.* at 256-57.

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/12215/mueller-investigation-civil-liberties>

Prayer for the IDF - Mi Sheberach, Yaakov Shwekey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJEplUlULs0>

THE SHORASHIM BIBLICAL GIFT CATALOG 005

<http://mad.lv/7f9f64?pact=20013931524&fe=1>

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ARUTZ SHEVA

George Washington U student Senate passes BDS resolution

Student government at George Washington U calls on university to divest from 9 companies that do business with Israel

JTA, 24/04/18 21:30

The student government at George Washington University passed a nonbinding resolution calling for the school to divest from nine companies that do business with Israel.

The Student Association Senate approved the measure in an 18-6 vote on Monday night in a secret paper ballot. There were six abstentions.

The resolution calls on the university to divest from companies that the measure says contribute to the human rights abuses in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. They are Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Elbit Systems Ltd., Caterpillar, CEMEX, General Electric, Northrop Grumman, the Raytheon Company and Motorola Solutions. **[Just one more demonstration of the problems that you engender when you allow foreign funds to come in and spread propaganda in their ME studies programs and when you encourage foreign student matriculation. – rdb]**

Prior to the vote, the student Senate heard three hours of public comment from 80 students on both sides of the issue, *The GW Hatchet* student newspaper reported. The student Senate then voted to debate the resolution in executive session, which is closed to the public.

It is not known if the university has holdings in any of the companies in its \$1.7 billion endowment. University officials have declined to provide information about its investment portfolio, according to the Hatchet.

Divest This Time GW, a student-led anti-Israel campaign, pushed the resolution, which was introduced by four senators. Seven student groups endorsed the measure in support of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement targeting Israel: Queer Radicals; GWU Students for Justice in Palestine; GWU Muslim Students' Association; Jewish Voice for Peace GWU; Young Democratic Socialists of America GW; GWU Students for Indigenous and Native American Rights; and the Association of Queer Women and Allies.

On April 16, a vote on the resolution was canceled just minutes before the scheduled start of the student Senate meeting due to security concerns.

Last spring, a similar version of the proposal failed by one vote in the student Senate.

Also at the Monday night meeting, a censure hearing was held for a student senator who faced accusations of anti-Semitism over a 2014 Facebook post in which he called for a boycott of a multicultural event for including pro-Israel student groups. The student senators did not have the two-thirds majority needed to censure Brady Forrest, according to the Hatchet. <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/244925> **[Did these twits come to GWU to learn or to try to run the institution? – rdb]**

Unprecedented: Haredi to do National Service in the Mossad

Haredi National Service volunteer joins the Mossad, with a second volunteer expected to join him next year.

Arutz Sheva Staff, 25/04/18 14:08

A 22-year-old Lithuanian-haredi young man will perform his National Service in Israel's Mossad, *Kikar Hashabbat* reported.

While haredim have been performing National Service for years, this is the first time a haredi volunteer will serve in the Mossad.

According to the National Civic Service Authority, a second haredi volunteer, age 21, is slated to join the first next year, *Kikar Hashabbat* noted.

National Civic Service Authority Director General Sar Shalom Jerbi said, "We congratulate the Mossad on opening its gates to National Service volunteers. I have no doubt that this is just the first part of the volunteers' security activities in the Mossad, and that the organization will know how to recognize the qualities and abilities of haredi volunteers."

Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel (Jewish Home), who is also in charge of National Service, said, "The National Service is the State of Israel's social commando unit. Among the volunteers are the best of our sons and daughters, who serve in key positions, as well as leadership positions, in every field."

"The fact that this volunteer joined the ranks of an elite organization such as the Mossad is proof of his talents and of the personal development the Authority provides its volunteers with. I wish him and all the volunteers much success." <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/244959>

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