

**Camero Introduction & Product Overview**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwEVs173V7E>

"To be nobody but yourself -- in a world which is doing it's best, night and day, to make you like everybody else -- means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight, and never stop fighting."  
-- e. e. cummings (1894-1962) American poet, painter, essayist, author, and playwright

**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 JA – Complex Cardiac problem facing surgery

Pray for TI – Bad heart attack had surgery doing better

Pray for JEP – medical problem

Pray for CM – Passed out in car and had accident – health problems

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?

**Please NOTE: We have a new year coming and I have not had updates on a number of people. I would like to update this prayer list. If you asked for someone to be put on please let me know if they still need to be on or can be removed. rdb**

**2Samuel 21:13**And he brought up the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan from there, and they gathered up the bones of those hanged. **14**And *they* buried the bones of Saul and of his son Jonathan in the land of Benjamin, in Zelah, in the burying place of his father Kish, and did all that the king had commanded. **And afterward God heard prayer for the land.**

**Netanyahu to UN chief: Israel won't allow Iran to establish foothold in Syria**

*'They won't build their bases in Syria -- we'll act against that,' premier tells Guterres at Munich Security Conference*

By [Judah Ari Gross](#) Today, 4:52 pm

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday told United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that Israel would not allow Iran to entrench itself in Syria. "They won't build their bases in Syria — we'll act against that,"** the prime minister said during a meeting with the UN chief at the Munich Security Conference.

**Netanyahu also told Guterres that Israel would never give up the Golan Heights, which were conquered in the 1967 Six Day War and annexed in 1981, in a move never recognized** by the international community.

**He also thanked Guterres for his work to secure the release of Israeli citizens and slain soldiers who are being held captive by the Hamas** terrorist group in the Gaza Strip.

**On Thursday Netanyahu said Jerusalem will not accept any limitation on its activities in Syria,** and stated that he would emphasize this to world leaders in Munich.

The prime minister said he will present proof of Iran's involvement in last weekend's [clashes](#), during which Israel downed a drone said to be sent by Tehran, and struck multiple Iranian targets in Syria. An Israeli F-16 was downed by Syrian anti-aircraft fire in the course of the Israeli retaliatory strikes, and crashed in Israel. The two pilots ejected. Netanyahu also met in Munich with business leaders and [encouraged them](#) to invest in Israel.

His office said he will likely also meet with other senior figures on the sidelines of the conference, set to take place from February 16-18.

The prime minister is due to speak on Sunday morning.

British Prime Minister Theresa May, US Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif are also set to attend this weekend's conference. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-to-un-chief-israel-wont-allow-iran-to-establish-foothold-in-syria/> **[Stand firm Bibi because they won't like what they hear. – rdb]**

## **Netanyahu: Austrian leader intends to change voting pattern at UN**

*Kurz meets with PM amid cooling of relations over far-right party's entry into government, says he'll support Israel's Security Council candidacy*

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 8:05 pm

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference Friday, amidst conflict between the two countries over the entry of a far-right party into the government in December.**

**"I met Chancellor Sebastian Kurz at his request," Netanyahu said in a brief statement afterwards. "He told me about the various steps they are taking against anti-Semitism and in favor of Israel."**

**Netanyahu added that Kurz "means to change Austria's voting patterns at the UN and that he intends to support Israel's candidacy for the Security Council."**

**Israel has said it plans to vie for membership in the Security Council, but will have to be approved by two-thirds of the 193-member General Assembly. That body includes the 120-member Non-Aligned Movement, many of whose members would likely seek to keep Israel from sitting on the council.**

Netanyahu summarized the meeting as "very friendly" and said Kurz "spoke to the point."

The Freedom Party's entry into government in December prompted Israel to say it would not have direct contact with FPOe ministers, including Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl, who was nominated by the party even though she is not herself a member.

Austria's Jewish leaders have also shunned the far-right party.

**Vice Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache, leader of the FPOe, has said he hopes to eventually overturn the Israeli Foreign Ministry's ban on contacts, though he "fully respects" Jerusalem's decision.**

"We are striving for an honest, sustainable and friendly contact with Israel," he said. "I fully respect this decision. It will be our task to do a good job at home as well as to convince abroad. I am optimistic that we will dispel all concerns."

**An Israeli MK this week called the boycott of Austria's foreign minister "absurd" after meeting with Strache. Yehudah Glick, of Israel's ruling right-wing Likud party, said: "Many of the opinions about Mrs. Kneissl herself and about the Freedom Party are prejudiced."**

Israel suspended relations with Austria when the FPOe first entered the government in 2000, eventually normalizing relations again in 2003.

Strache, 48, has sought to soften the party's image and has visited Israel several times, the last time in April 2016, when he met members of Netanyahu's Likud. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-austrian-leader-intends-to-change-voting-pattern-at-un/>

## **Haley to address AIPAC conference; Trump-Netanyahu to meet March 5**

*Powerful pro-Israel lobby says envoy to UN will represent US administration at annual confab, with 'more speaker announcements to come'*

By [Eric Cortellessa](#) Today, 8:32 pm

**WASHINGTON — US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley will address the 2018 AIPAC Policy Conference as the Trump administration's representative, an official with the pro-Israel lobby told The Times of Israel on Friday. The source also said that "there will be more speaker announcements to come."**

The annual conference, hosted by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, is scheduled to kick off March 4 and last until March 6.

**It will mark Haley's second time speaking before the gathering since she took up her post in New York. Last year, she thrilled the crowd of roughly 18,000 by promising a new era at the world body and declaring that the "days of Israel-bashing at the UN are over."**

"I wear heels. It's not for a fashion statement — it's because if I see something wrong, we're going to kick 'em every single time," the South Carolina native said, deploying a whiff of Southern swagger to thunderous applause.

**Since then, she has become a favorite of the American right and its pro-Israel community.** Indeed, the Trump administration has brought forth policy changes toward the US-Israel relationship that marked dramatic departures from presidents past.

On December 6, US President Donald Trump formally recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and set in motion plans to move the US embassy there from Tel Aviv. The decision ignited a furious response from the Palestinians and the international community. Later that month, 128 countries voted for a General Assembly resolution condemning the US's recognition.

Their votes came despite repeated threats from Trump and Haley, who intimated that voting against the US would result in reduced aid to those countries.

**Before the vote took place, Haley said the US would be "taking names,"** hinting at punitive measures. **The White House's 2019 budget proposal, however, left foreign assistance to those nations untouched.** "There's nothing specific just tied to that because that is only one factor, Hari Sastry, director of the Office of US Foreign Assistance Resources, [told reporters](#) when asked if those threats were followed through and whether any specific assistance was reduced based on December's UN vote.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is also planning to speak at this year's AIPAC confab. The past several years he had not travelled to Washington and addressed the summit via satellite.

The White House announced this week that Trump will meet with the Israeli premier at the White House while he is in town. On Friday, officials said the meeting is set for March 5 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/haley-to-address-aipac-conference-trump-netanyahu-to-meet-march-5/>

## **TV report claims 'dramatic' developments in Case 4000, involving PM's associates**

*Days after police recommend indicting Netanyahu in cases 1000 and 2000, Hadashot analyst says Bezeq probe may be 'the strongest case of them all'*

By [TOI staff](#) Today, 9:45 pm

**Days after police recommended indicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in two separate graft probes, Hadashot news on Friday reported "dramatic" developments in another criminal case involving Netanyahu associates, known as Case 4000.**

**In the case, police suspect that Shaul Elovitch, owner of the Walla news site and the controlling shareholder of national telephone company Bezeq, swayed coverage of Netanyahu on the news site in exchange for benefits for Bezeq.**

**The director-general of Israel's Communications Ministry, Shlomo Filber, is accused of illicitly allowing Bezeq to buy shares of YES, a satellite cable provider. Filber was appointed by Netanyahu, who also serves as communications minister.**

Netanyahu has not been named as a suspect in the probe, but Hadashot analyst Amnon Abramovich reported that the case involves "surprises" and that it appears to be "the strongest case of them all, with explosive potential."

**Haaretz has reported that Walla CEO Ilan Yeshua is a key witness in the case, and has said he faced intense pressure to bury negative reporting about Netanyahu and encourage positive reporting about his wife Sara.**

Yinon Magal, a former lawmaker who once edited the Walla news site, also said [Thursday](#) that he was pressured to cover Netanyahu and his family in a positive light.

Hadashot reported that a strong body of evidence has accumulated, pointing to numerous messages exchanged between suspects in the case, including an associate of Netanyahu.

Meanwhile Channel 10 reported that a top state prosecution official overseeing the criminal probes into Netanyahu agrees with police assessments that the premier took a bribe in case 2000, involving an alleged deal with Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper publisher Arnon Mozes, Hadashot news reported Friday.

Liat Ben Ari, in charge of the prosecution's Taxation and Finance department, was said to concur with police recommendations that Netanyahu should be indicted in the case, though other officials in the state prosecution are less certain of the prime minister's culpability. **MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/tv-report-claims-dramatic-developments-in-case-4000-involving-pms-associates/> [The garbage goes on and on and never seems to stop. These people have an over inflated view of what payola amounts to and a real agenda to take down Bibi even though it could mean a catastrophe for Israel considering the world situation. – rdb]**

**Heavy rainfall, flooding hit Israel on a stormy Saturday**

**Tour bus with 50 Ukrainian tourists extracted from Tze'elim Stream after it got stuck; parts of highways 31 and 90 closed due to inclement weather conditions.**

*Ilana Curiel, Matan Tzuri, Sahar Hess/Last update: 02.17.18, 12:42*

Heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and hail hit Israel Friday night, continuing into Saturday morning.

**The Israel Police's Ein Gedi rescue unit, with the help of the Arad Police, extracted a bus with some 50 tourists from Ukraine around 5:30am after it got stuck in the Tze'elim Stream.** No one was hurt.

Because of the stormy weather, highway 90 has been closed from the Dead Sea hotels area to the David's Stream area in both directions.

Meanwhile, highway 31 was blocked for traffic between Arad and the Dead Sea after rocks fell onto the road. The road has since been cleared and reopened.



*Hail at the Lakhish Regional Council (Photo: Yoav Dahan)*



*Hail in Kiryat Malachi (Photo: Elad Zohar)*

Some 36 millimeters of rain fell in Tel Aviv by 10am, 15 mm of which fell within one hour, while Haifa said 18 mm.

Meanwhile, Kibbutz Eilon in the Western Galilee experienced 33 mm of rain, Ein Afek saw 25 mm, and Safed had 28 mm.

Be'er Sheva recorded 10 mm in one hour, and a total of 12 mm, while Samakh near Tiberias had 18 mm, Kibbutz Negba saw 30 mm and Ashkelon 11 mm.

The settlement of Ariel measured 25 mm, while Beit Dagan in the Shfela Region registered 23 mm.

The rainfall, possibly accompanied by hail, is expected to continue throughout the day Saturday. Temperatures are expected to drop, and snowfall is forecasted on Mount Hermon. <https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5117745,00.html>

**[Rain and storms in Israel is a "mixed blessing" sometimes. They need the rain but in a more moderate flow. – rdb]**

## **Polish PM: There were also Jewish perpetrators of the Holocaust**

*Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki tells Munich Security Conference it won't be punishable to say there were Polish perpetrators of the Holocaust 'as there were Jewish perpetrators, as there were Russian perpetrators, as there were Ukrainian; not only German perpetrators.'*

Associated Press/Published: 02.17.18, 14:04

**Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said Saturday there were also Jewish perpetrators of the Holocaust.**

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, Morawiecki said it won't be punishable to say that there were Polish perpetrators under a [controversial new law](#) in the country outlawing public statements that falsely and intentionally attribute Nazi crimes to Poland under the German occupation **"Of course it's not going to be punishable, not going to be seen as criminal to say that there were Polish perpetrators, as there were Jewish perpetrators,** as there were Russian perpetrators, as there were Ukrainian; not only German perpetrators," he said.

Morawiecki further noted that Polish embassies had to respond 260 times last year to statements that there were "Polish death camps."

As written, the legislation calls for prison terms of up to three years for falsely attributing the crimes of Nazi Germany to Poland. The law takes effect 14 days after it's officially published, but it wasn't immediately clear when that will be.

Poland's authorities have described it as an attempt to protect the country's reputation from what it believes is confusion about who bears responsibility for Auschwitz and other death camps Nazi Germany set up in occupied Poland. They say it was modeled on anti-defamation laws in many other countries, including laws criminalizing Holocaust denial. **MORE -** <https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5118011,00.html> **[Poland keeps digging a hole deeper and deeper on this issues. Everyone is aware of the fact that there were people like Soros who helped the Nazis and they admit that there were bad actors but the way Poland is going about**

this is just foolish. There were many Poles who collaborated with the Nazis against the Jews and their response to the returning families after the war was abominable. – rdbj

## **Nasrallah: Shooting down Israeli jet 'a very big military achievement'**

By [Eytan Halon](#) February 16, 2018 20:15

*Netanyahu on Friday expressed Israel's readiness to continue striking Iranian targets in Syria should it prove necessary.*

**Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah praised Friday the shooting down of an Israeli fighter jet last Saturday by Syrian anti-aircraft fire, describing it as "a very big military achievement."** The leader of the Iran-backed Lebanese terrorist organization made the comments during a televised address to a Beirut rally commemorating the death of senior Hezbollah commanders.

**Nasrallah emphasized that the decision to shoot down the plane was a purely Syrian decision,** taken by Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and other high-ranking Syrian officials, without Iranian influence.

The F-16 fighter jet was shot down after Israeli aircraft targeted a series of Iranian and Syrian military targets located in Syria. The strikes came in response to an Iranian drone flown from Syria into Israeli territory earlier in the day. The drone was intercepted by an Israeli Air Force Apache helicopter.

The F-16's two Israeli airmen ejected from the aircraft, parachuting to safety inside Israel.

Netanyahu on Friday [expressed Israel's readiness](#) to continue striking Iranian targets in Syria should it prove necessary. "Iran should not build its military bases there — we'll act against it," Netanyahu said during a meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference.

**Nasrallah also addressed rising border tensions between Israel and Lebanon amid furious Lebanese reactions to a new border wall being built by Israel and a dispute over maritime borders** between the countries.

**Israel states that the new border wall is to be constructed entirely on its side of the UN-recognised ceasefire line. Lebanese officials have argued, however, that the wall represents an intrusion into Lebanese territory.**

The IDF told *The Jerusalem Post* last month that work on the border fence was continuing as normal.

**Lebanon has also stated its intention to explore for offshore energy near the disputed maritime border. Assistant US Secretary of State David Satterfield has been mediating between the two countries regarding both the border wall and maritime issues.**

**Nasrallah stated that the US must ensure compliance with Lebanese demands** regarding the disputes in order to "hold Hezbollah back from Israel."

"In the oil and gas battle, the only power [the Lebanese] have is the resistance," the Hezbollah leader said regarding the maritime dispute. <http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Nasrallah-Shooting-down-Israeli-jet-a-very-big-military-achievement-542833> **[Give an inch and they take a mile. Back Hezbollah and Hamas to the wall and pen them there. Give nothing into them because every concession is a win for them and with Islamic politics you can allow no wins because it will simply enable them further. – rdbj]**

## **Sources: Russian toll in Syria battle was 300 killed and wounded**

By *REUTERS* February 16, 2018 10:56

*Russian officials downplayed the casualties*

**About 300 men working for a Kremlin-linked Russian private military firm were either killed or injured in Syria last week, according to three sources familiar with the matter.**

**A Russian military doctor said around 100 had been killed, and a source who knows several of the fighters said the death toll was in excess of 80 men.**

**The timing of the casualties coincided with a battle on February 7 near the Syrian city of Deir al-Zor where, according to US officials and associates of the fighters involved, US-led coalition forces attacked forces aligned with Moscow's ally, Syrian President Bashar Assad.**

Russian officials said [five citizens may have been killed](#) but they had no relation to Russia's armed forces.

**The clashes show Moscow is more deeply involved in Syria militarily than it has said,** and risks being drawn into direct confrontation with the United States in Syria.

**The casualties are the highest that Russia has suffered in a single battle since fierce clashes in Ukraine in 2014 claimed more than 100 fighters' lives.** Moscow denies sending soldiers and volunteers to Ukraine and has never confirmed that figure.

**The wounded, who have been medically evacuated from Syria in the past few days, have been sent to four Russian military hospitals,** according to five sources familiar with the matter.

The military doctor, who works in a Moscow military hospital and was directly involved in the treatment of

wounded men evacuated from Syria, said that as of Saturday evening there were more than 50 such patients in his hospital, of which around 30 percent were seriously wounded.

**The doctor, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not allowed to disclose information about casualties, said at least three planeloads of injured fighters were flown to Moscow** between last Friday and Monday morning.

He said they were flown back on specially equipped military cargo planes which can each accommodate two or three intensive care cases and several dozen less severely wounded patients.

Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for the Russian foreign ministry, said initial information was that five Russian citizens in the area of the battle may have been killed, but they were not Russian troops. She said reports of tens or hundreds of Russian casualties were disinformation inspired by Russia's opponents.

The **Russian defense ministry did not respond to Reuters questions about casualties in Syria**. A Kremlin spokesman, asked about Russian casualties on Thursday, said he had nothing to add to previous statements. The Kremlin said earlier this week it had no information on any casualties.

**Reuters was unable to make direct contact with the contractors' employers, the Wagner group,** whose fallen fighters have in the past received medals from the Kremlin.

**The military doctor said that a fellow doctor who flew to Syria on one of the recent medevac flights told him that around 100 people in the Russian force had been killed as of the end of last week, and 200 injured.**

The doctor who spoke to Reuters said most of the casualties were Russian private military contractors.

Yevgeny Shabayev, leader of a local chapter of a paramilitary Cossack organization who has ties to Russian military contractors, said he had visited acquaintances injured in Syria at the defense ministry's Central Hospital in Khimki, on the outskirts of Moscow, on Wednesday. He said the wounded men had told him that the two units of Russian contractors involved in the battle near Deir al-Zor numbered 550 men. Of those, there are now about 200 who are not either dead or wounded, the wounded men had told him.

Shabayev said the ward he visited contained eight patients, all evacuated from Syria in the past few days, and there were more in other wards in the hospital. "If you understand anything about military action and combat injuries then you can imagine what's going on there. That's to say, constant screams, shouts," Shabayev told Reuters. "It's a tough scene."

A source with ties to the Wagner organization, and who has spoken to people who took part in the February 7 clashes, told Reuters his contacts told him more than 80 Russian contractors were killed.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the total of about 300 killed or injured was broadly correct.

He said many of the injured had shrapnel in their bodies that was not showing up on X-rays, making treatment difficult. "The prognosis for most of the wounded is dismal," he said.

### **PROXY WAR**

Other military hospitals treating the contractors are the Third Vishnevskiy hospital in Krasnogorsk, near Moscow, the Burdenko hospital near Moscow city center, and the Military Medical Academy in St. Petersburg, according to the doctor, Shabayev, and three other people who know dead or wounded fighters.

When Reuters contacted those hospitals by phone on Thursday, staff either declined to comment or denied having any patients evacuated from Syria.

A Reuters reporter visited the Burdenko hospital on Wednesday and spoke briefly to patients who said they knew nothing about anyone evacuated from Syria. Reporters also visited the hospital in Krasnogorsk, and a fifth military hospital, at Balashikha near Moscow, but were denied entry.

Russia launched a military operation in Syria in September 2015 which has turned the tide of the conflict in favor of Assad.

**Russian officials deny they deploy private military contractors in Syria,** saying Moscow's only military presence is a campaign of air strikes, a naval base, military instructors training Syrian forces, and limited numbers of special forces troops.

**But according to people familiar with the deployment, Russia is using large numbers of the contractors in Syria because that allows Moscow to put more boots on the ground without risking regular soldiers** whose deaths have to be accounted for.

The contractors, mostly ex-military, carry out missions assigned to them by the Russian military, the people familiar with the deployment said. Most are Russian citizens, though some have Ukrainian and Serbian passports.

The United States and Russia, while backing opposite sides in the Syria conflict, have taken pains to make sure that their forces do not accidentally collide. But the presence of the Russian contractors adds an element of unpredictability.

### **PROBING MISSION**

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said last week that a force aligned with Assad, backed with artillery, tanks, rockets and mortars, had on Feb. 7 attacked fighters with the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces near Deir al-Zor. **MORE -** <http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Sources-Russian-toll-in-Syria-battle-was-300-killed-and-wounded-542810> **[This is most interesting and you can easily see here the 'process' of Pootie Poot and the Russian military with their subterfuge and trying to hide the degree of their involvement. Admitting such a casualty figure would be a huge loss for their 'prestige' and a slap in the face. – rdb]**

## **5 years later, Syrian wounded no longer surprised to be let into Israel**

*IDF continues providing medical assistance to Syrians arriving at the border seeking help, with the focus being on children. 'Only last year, we treated some 1,000 Syrian children,' Northern Command officer says; Ziv Medical Center to provide hearing aids and glasses to Syrian kids.*

*Yoav Zitun/Published: 02.17.18, 12:18*

**Despite mounting tensions between Israel and Syria in the wake of last weekend's border incidents, the IDF continued this week to provide medical care to seven Syrians who fled the fighting in the war-torn country.**

Over the past five years, Israel has opened its gates to 4,071 Syrians who sought help from the country they were taught to hate.

It began five years ago, when several Syrians arrived at the Israel-Syria border and asked for medical assistance from the Golani troops who were stationed there at the time. Then-GOC Northern Command, Maj. Gen. Yair Golan, made the unprecedented decision to permit their entry.

"I remember the first time the wounded Syrians came in," recounted Dr. Salman Zarka, the director of the Ziv Medical Center in Safed. "I just finished a term as the Northern Command's Chief Medical Officer, and I'm glad that when facing this dilemma, there were strong voices of doctors who supported bringing the wounded in."

After receiving life-saving treatment, these Syrians said they were convinced they would be shot dead by the IDF upon their arrival at the border, but decided to try and ask for help regardless out of desperation. **MORE -** <https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5117904,00.html>

## **Syrian air defenses spread out to target US as well as Israeli overflights**

[Feb 16, 2018 @ 8:08](#)

**Both US and Syria (plus pro-Iranian allies) are massing strength in the south and east for military clashes in the continuing confrontation.**

**Assad's army with Hizballah and other pro-Iranian forces backed by Russia are massing for two objectives: a major offensive to capture Daraa on Syria's southern border with Jordan; and at the Deir ez-Zour region in the east for another attempt to cross the Euphrates from west to east.** US forces and allies are building up to ward off the two offensives. This time, Syria has positioned its Russian anti-air weapons for targeting incoming air strikes by US as well as Israeli air force planes. Syrian Foreign Minister Fayssal Mikdad articulated this threat when he said Wednesday, Feb. 14: "Syria will down any warplane that launches an airstrike on the SAA [Syrian Arab Army]."

**US military officials are cited by DEBKAF's military sources as estimating on Thursday that the combined Russian, Syrian, Iranian and Hizballah army massing on the western bank of the Euphrates** in the Deir ez-Zour region will make another attempt to transfer troops to the eastern bank. They are expected to go for one of the oil or gas fields held by the US-backed SDF (Syria Democratic Forces), which is composed mainly of Kurdish YPG militiamen. Their particular targets are the CONICO gas facility and the al-Omar oil fields.

That's in the east. In the south, the Syrian, pro-Iranian, Russian-backed coalition is preparing to grab Daraa. In both operations, they are determined to come off best after major defeats in the last few days. On the night of Feb. 7, massive US air and artillery strikes thwarted a Russian-assisted Syrian, Hizballah attempt to cross the Euphrates; and on Feb. 10, after an Israeli F-16 jet was downed by a Syrian SA-17 air defense missile, Israeli warplanes bombed a dozen military positions in Syria. They included air defense emplacements, but also struck the secret Iranian Revolutionary Guards command posts that were preparing the combined assault on Daraa. Those preparations were resumed in the interim, with boosted protection against attacks from the air.

<https://www.debka.com/syrian-air-defenses-spread-target-us-well-israeli-overflights/>

## **Rouhani slams US recognition of Jerusalem as capital**

*Iranian President Rouhani slams US recognition of Jerusalem as capital in visit to India, urges Muslims to support Palestinian cause; discord in Middle East fomented by the West, Rouhani adds; Rouhani to meet Indian PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Saturday.*

*Associated Press/Published: 02.16.18, 15:05*

**Iran's president on Friday strongly criticized the Trump administration's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and urged Muslims to support the Palestinian cause. Hassan Rouhani also lashed out at the United States for imposing a ban on travelers from six largely Muslim countries.** He was addressing a congregation after Friday prayers at Mecca Masjid in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad during a three-day visit to India.

**Rouhani called for unity between the Sunni and Shia sects of Islam. He said the Shiites, Sunnis and people of other ethnicities coexisted peacefully in Iraq and Syria for centuries until the West created discord there.**

Rouhani is to meet on Saturday with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. He said India and Iran were the cradles of Asian civilization, and that this century and the next would belong to Asia.

**Rouhani also referred to the fatal shooting of 17 people at a Florida high school and said this showed that material progress alone cannot guarantee peace in the United States.** He urged Muslims to follow Islam's moral code of conduct.

**Rouhani's visit to India comes at a time when US President Donald Trump has threatened to scuttle an international deal reached with Iran** in 2015 over its nuclear program that ended economic sanctions imposed on the country.

The uncertainty puts India in a difficult position with its growing ties with the United States.

India is helping Iran develop Chabahar Port on the Gulf of Oman for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan, which has refused to provide New Delhi access through a land route.

In 2016, India, Afghanistan, and Iran decided to establish a trade route for land-locked Afghanistan and Central Asian countries. India committed up to \$500 million for the development of Chabahar along with associated roads and rail lines. **India shipped its first consignment of wheat to Afghanistan by sea through Chabahar last October.** <https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5116804,00.html>

## **U.S. grand jury indicts 13 Russian nationals in election meddling probe**

By REUTERS February 16, 2018 20:51

**Russia's Internet Research Agency "had a strategic goal to sow discord in the US political system, including the 2016 US presidential election," the indictment states**

**WASHINGTON - A Russian Internet agency and more than a dozen Russians interfered in the US election campaign from 2014 through 2016 in a multi-pronged effort with the aim of supporting then-businessman Donald Trump and disparaging his rival Hillary Clinton, the US Special Counsel said in an indictment on Friday.**

The 37-page indictment filed by Special Counsel Robert Mueller described a conspiracy to disrupt the US election by people who adopted false online personas to push divisive messages; traveled to the United States to collect intelligence; and staged political rallies while posing as Americans.

**Russia's Internet Research Agency "had a strategic goal to sow discord in the US political system, including the 2016 US presidential election," the indictment states.**

"Defendants posted derogatory information about a number of candidates, and by early to mid-2016, Defendants' operations included supporting the presidential campaign of then-candidate Donald J. Trump... and disparaging Hillary Clinton."

The indictment broadly echoes the conclusions of a January 2017 US intelligence community assessment, which found that Russia had meddled in the election, and that its goals eventually included aiding Trump.

President Trump has been briefed on the indictment announced on Friday, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said

Trump has never unequivocally accepted that report, and has denounced Mueller's probe into whether his campaign colluded with the Kremlin as a "witch hunt."

Facebook and Twitter both declined to comment on the indictment.

The court document appeared likely to provide ammunition to Democrats and others arguing for a continued aggressive probe of the matter. **[If the Post would report accurately they would also report that the Deputy AG said specifically that they also provided and supported negative actions against Trump and that the purpose was a generalized political discord not simply a pro Trump action. He also said that their actions had no ultimate effect on the election outcome. I heard his statement and this is again the liberal presses biased and selective reporting even in the Israeli news outlet which is supposed to be more conservative and accurate – DUH! The comments by the Deputy AG took much wind out of the donkeys sails. – rdb]**

The indictment names the Internet Research Agency, based in St. Petersburg, Russia; 13 Russian nationals; and two other companies.



The 2017 intelligence agency finding has spawned investigations into any ties between Republican Trump's campaign and Moscow. Russia denies interfering in the election. Trump denies any collusion by his campaign.

Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats told the Senate Intelligence Committee on Tuesday that he had already seen evidence Russia was targeting US elections in November, when Republican control of the House of Representatives and Senate are at stake, plus a host of positions in state governments.

"Frankly, the United States is under attack," Coats said at an annual hearing on worldwide threats.

Russia would try to interfere in the 2018 US midterm elections by using social media to spread propaganda and misleading reports, much as it did in the 2016 campaign, intelligence chiefs said at the hearing. <http://www.jpost.com/Us-Elections/US-grand-jury-indicts-13-Russian-nationals-in-election-meddling-probe-542836> **[To be very honest this is not unusual and has been going on in various forms for years. You should also be aware that the US has done similar things in multiple elections around the world as well. – rdb]**

## **Calls for FBI director to resign following missed tips on Florida shooter**

*Florida governor calls for Christopher Wray to quit as lawmakers demand answers as to what went wrong*

By [SADIE GURMAN](#) Today, 4:48 am

WASHINGTON (AP) — **The revelation that the FBI botched a potentially life-saving tip on the Florida school shooting suspect is a devastating blow to America's top law enforcement agency at a time when it is already under extraordinary political pressure.**

Even before the startling disclosure **that the FBI failed to investigate a warning that the suspect, Nikolas Cruz, could be plotting an attack, the bureau was facing unprecedented criticism from US President Donald Trump and other Republicans, who have accused it of partisan bias.**

**The agency and its supporters had been able to dismiss past criticism as just politics, but this time it had no option but to admit it made a disastrous mistake.**

The FBI's acknowledgment that it **mishandled the tip prompted a sharp rebuke from its boss, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and a call from Florida's Republican Gov. Rick Scott, a Trump ally, for FBI Director Christopher Wray to resign.**

**Wray, on the job for just six months, had already been in a precarious position defending the bureau from relentless attacks by Trump and other Republicans.** They are still dissatisfied with its decision not to charge Hillary Clinton with crimes related to her use of a private email server, and they see signs of bias in special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of possible Trump campaign ties to Russia.

As evidence, they've cited the former deputy director's connection to Clinton allies, and they've publicized anti-Trump text messages exchanged between an FBI agent and a bureau lawyer. Democrats have said the accusations are aimed at damaging Mueller's investigation and protecting Trump. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/calls-for-fbi-director-to-resign-following-missed-tips-on-florida-shooter/>

## **Only 6% of Washington's booming Jewish community identify as Republican**

*New wide-ranging survey of US capital shows many area Jews are observant, though few affiliate with religious institutions*

By [Ben Sales](#) 16 February 2018, 11:03 pm

**JTA — Jews in and around the nation's capital do plenty of Jewish things. Many of them just don't do those things as members of Jewish institutions.**

That's one of the main takeaways from a [wide-ranging survey of Washington, DC-area Jews](#) published this week by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Much of the metro DC Jewish community travels to Israel and follows the news there. Its members may take part in services and observe key Jewish cultural rituals more than the national average. And its young people attend Jewish cultural events.

**But fewer than average DC-area Jews belong to synagogue. And only a fraction say Judaism is a part of their daily life.**

**"There's a lot more program participation and synagogue attendance than there is membership in synagogues and institutions,"** said lead author Janet Krasner Aronson. "One way to view that is that the community offers a lot of ways for people to participate without membership. Another way is that the institutions have not kept up with what people are looking for."

Conducted by the Steinhardt Social Research Institute and commissioned by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, the survey of more than 6,000 took place from May to August of 2017. Aronson's co-authors are Len Saxe, Matthew Brookner and Matthew Boxer.

Here are five of its biggest takeaways.

### ***The Washington DC area has nearly 300,000 Jews***

The Washington DC metropolitan area — defined as the District of Columbia and its Maryland and Virginia suburbs — has seen its Jewish population grow 37 percent over 14 years. In 2003, the area had 215,000 Jews. As of

2017, it has close to 300,000. **MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/only-6-of-washingtons-booming-jewish-community-identify-as-republican/> [Very interesting and since most are probably liberal reformed or reconstructionist leaning Jews they will vote for the liberal candidate as well. This would not likely be the case for orthodox Jewish communities. – rdb]**

## **Pentagon looks to counter rivals' hypersonic missiles**

Thomas WATKINS [AFP](#)•February 15, 2018

Washington (AFP) - Even as the Pentagon hustles to ensure that its defenses keep pace with North Korea's fast-growing rocket program, US officials increasingly are turning attention to a new generation of missile threat.

These weapons under development by China and Russia -- as well as by the United States -- can fly at many times the speed of sound and are designed to beat regular anti-missile defense systems.

The hypersonic missiles could change the face of future warfare, as they can switch direction in flight and do not follow a predictable arc like conventional missiles, making them much harder to track and intercept.

**"China's hypersonic weapons development outpaces ours... we're falling behind," Admiral Harry Harris, who heads the military's Pacific Command, warned lawmakers on Wednesday.**

"We need to continue to pursue that and in a most aggressive way in order to ensure that we have the capabilities to both defend against China's hypersonic weapons and to develop our own offensive hypersonic weapons," he added.

In its proposed \$9.9 billion requested budget for 2019, the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is asking for \$120 million to develop hypersonic missile defenses, a big increase from the \$75 million in fiscal 2018.

MDA Director of Operations Gary Pennett **told Pentagon reporters this week that the potential deployment by America's rivals of hypersonic weapons -- which could be launched from planes, ships or submarines and carry either nuclear or conventional payloads -- would create a "significant" gap in US sensor and missile interceptor capabilities.**

"The key challenge to US national security and the security of US friends and allies is the emergence of new threats designed to defeat the existing" ballistic missile defense system, Pennett said.

So, why the sudden alarm?

**According to reports in the Japan-based Diplomat magazine, China has developed -- and last year tested -- a new type of hypersonic missile called the DF-17.** The US Office of the Director of National Intelligence this week stated China "has tested a hypersonic glide vehicle." <https://www.yahoo.com/news/pentagon-looks-counter-rivals-hypersonic-missiles-201258607.html>

## **ICE arrests 212 illegals, targets 122 businesses in LA sweep**

By [Stephen Dinan](#) - The Washington Times - Friday, February 16, 2018

Federal deportation officers staged one of the biggest enforcement actions in years against businesses in Los Angeles this week, arresting 212 people and serving audit notices to 122 businesses who will have to prove they aren't hiring illegal immigrants.

**Nearly all of those arrested were convicted criminals, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.**

**ICE said it targeted Los Angeles because it's a sanctuary city, meaning it refuses to fully cooperate with federal authorities on deportations from within its jails.**

**That means agents and officers have to go out into the community,** said Thomas D. Homan, the agency's deputy director.

"Fewer jail arrests mean more arrests on the street, and that **also requires more resources**, which is why we are forced to send additional resources to those areas to meet operational needs and officer safety," Mr. Homan said.

"Consistent with our public safety mission, 88 percent of those **MORE -**

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/feb/16/ice-arrests-212-illegals-la-sweep/> **[The sum and substance of this account is that the US congress should pull all funding from LA and the state of CA which calls itself a sanctuary state. If their actions are causing more expense and danger for the government INS forces they should pay for it by losing funding/ - rdb]**

## **Media watchdog to ABC: Apologize for Christian bashing or else Threatens to unleash millions of grassroots activists on advertisers**

Published: 13 hours ago [Bob Unruh](#)

**Media Research Center President Brent Bozell released an open letter Thursday to ABC News President James Goldston warning him and two talk-show personalities that if they don't apologize for bashing Christians, he will ask his group's millions of grassroots activists to contact advertisers.**

It was Joy Behar and Sunny Hostin, co-hosts of “The View,” who made the offensive statements, with Hostin characterizing Vice President Mike Pence’s practice of his Christian faith as “dangerous” and Behar equating it to “mental illness.”

Behar and Hostin, **Bozell wrote, reacted to an interview in which Omarosa Manigault-Newman “trashed Pence as an ‘extreme Christian’ who has conversations with Jesus.”**

Bozell said the panel “then took turns taking shots at the vice president’s faith.”

Hostin said: “When you have a Mike Pence who now puts this religious veneer on things and who calls people values voters, I think we’re in a dangerous situation. Look I’m Catholic. I’m a faithful person, but I don’t know that I want my vice president, um – speaking in tongues and having Jesus speak to him.”

Behar turned her attack directly on the vice president, stating: “Like I said before, it’s one thing to talk to Jesus. It’s another thing when Jesus talks to you. ... That’s called mental illness, if I’m not correct. Hearing voices.” **MORE - <http://www.wnd.com/2018/02/media-watchdog-to-abc-apologize-for-christian-bashing-or-else/> [These pagans need to be bootied off the air. They have no concept of the reality of God at all. As one of my very good orthodox Jewish friends says, “God is always talking and communicating with us but we rarely actually listen.” Those are the words of a man who comprehends and understands the reality of the Divine. – rdbj]**

## **Magnitude-7.2 earthquake slams south, central Mexico**

*PETER ORSI and CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN Associated Press*•February 16, 2018

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A powerful magnitude-7.2 earthquake shook south and central Mexico Friday, causing people to flee swaying buildings and office towers in the country's capital, where residents were still jittery after a deadly quake five months ago.

Crowds of people gathered on Mexico City's central Reforma Avenue as well as on streets in Oaxaca state's capital,

"It was awful," said Mercedes Rojas Huerta, 57, who was sitting on a bench outside her home in Mexico City's trendy Condesa district, too frightened to go back inside. "It started to shake; the cars were going here and there. What do I do?"

She said she was still scared thinking of the Sept. 19 earthquake that left 228 people dead in the capital and 369 across the region. Many buildings in Mexico City are still damaged from that quake.

Mexican Civil Protection chief Luis Felipe Fuente tweeted that there were no immediate reports of major damages from Friday's quake. **MORE - <https://www.yahoo.com/news/magnitude-7-5-earthquake-slams-south-central-mexico-235802537.html>**

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

## **CIA Argues The Public Can’t See Classified Information It Has Already Given To Favored Reporters**

*Will Racke 4:36 PM 02/15/2018*

Intelligence officials can selectively release classified information to trusted journalists while withholding the same information from other citizens who request it through open records laws, CIA lawyers argued Wednesday.

In a [motion](#) filed in New York federal court, the CIA claimed that limited disclosures to reporters do not waive national security exemptions to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Intelligence and law enforcement agencies frequently deny records requests on the basis of protecting sensitive national security information, one of nine exemptions written into the federal FOIA law.

The case stems from lawsuit against the CIA by New York-based independent journalist Adam Johnson, who had used FOIA to obtain emails between the agency’s public information office and selected reporters from the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post and The New York Times. The emails the CIA provided to Johnson were redacted, leading him to question why he was not allowed to see the same information that had been given to uncleared reporters.

Johnson challenged the redaction in court, arguing that the CIA, once it has selectively disclosed information to uncleared reporters, cannot claim the same information is protected by a FOIA exemption.

The judge in the case appeared to find Johnson’ argument compelling. In a court order last month, Chief Judge Colleen McMahon of the Southern District of New York said FOIA laws do not authorize limited disclosure, to favored journalists or otherwise. **MORE - <http://dailycaller.com/2018/02/15/cia-argues-the-public-cant-see-classified-information-it->**

[has-already-given-to-favored-reporters/](#) [This is totally absurd! This is one more indication of the out-and-out collusion between the CIA/FBI government agencies and the media which has been going on for some time. The media are not subjected to a security clearance and anything released to them is by definition unclassified. The DOJ needs to come down like a rock on top of these groups and if Sessions isn't willing he needs to go bye bye. – rdb]

## Romney running for Senate

**Former GOP presidential candidate says he'll take his state's values to Washington**

Published: 1 hour ago **MORE** - [http://www.wnd.com/2018/02/romney-running-for-senate/?cat\\_orig=us](http://www.wnd.com/2018/02/romney-running-for-senate/?cat_orig=us) [another item for your prayer list is that Romney will not win that election. He is another rino that should have gone long ago. – rdb]

### Commentaries:

## Caroline Glick: Israel's 'Deep State' Targets Netanyahu with Bogus Charges

by [Caroline Glick](#) 13 Feb 2018 [3585](#)

*The Israeli police investigation against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shows remarkable similarities with the Special Counsel probe against President Donald Trump in the United States.*

During the prime time news broadcasts Tuesday evening in Israel, the dramatic news was announced that Israel Police investigators are recommending that Israel's Attorney General, Avichai Mandelblit, indict Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on bribery and breach of trust charges in two investigations.

The news raises a number of obvious questions about Netanyahu's political future. But it also raises an equal, if not greater, number of questions about the purity of the police service's intentions and its trustworthiness.

Let us begin by considering the specific cases that form the bases of police recommendations against Netanyahu.

The first investigation has been dubbed Investigation 1000 by the Police's main criminal investigations unit, Lahav 433. The investigation surrounds the relationship between Netanyahu and his old friend, Israeli businessman and Hollywood movie producer Arnon Milchen. The police have recommended that Milchen be indicted for paying bribes to Netanyahu. The police recommend indicting Netanyahu for taking bribes from Milchen and acting illegally on his behalf.

According to Israel's Hadashot television news, this investigation was the top story in terms of volume of coverage during 2017.

The police allege that between 2007 and 2016, Milchen showered Netanyahu and his wife Sara with cigars, champagne, and jewelry, often purchased at their request. In 2014, Milchen's business partner, Australian businessman James Packer, who was also a friend of Netanyahu and his family, allegedly began giving similar gifts to the Netanyahu family.

In exchange for those gifts, the police allege that Netanyahu supported extending a law passed in 2008, when Netanyahu was the head of the parliamentary opposition, that gave returning Israeli expatriates a ten year exemption on income earned abroad and a ten year exemption for reporting income earned abroad.

According to the police, after Netanyahu returned to office in 2009, Milchen lobbied Netanyahu's finance minister at the time, Yair Lapid, to extend the tax and reporting exemption period from ten to twenty years. Lapid, who is now in the opposition, heads the center-left Yesh Atid party. If Netanyahu's Likud party fails to win the next election, according to the polls, Lapid and his Yesh Atid party will form the next government.

In other words, today, Lapid is Netanyahu's chief political rival.

On Tuesday, the police told reporters that Lapid is the key witness against Netanyahu in Investigation 1000. advertisement

In other words, Netanyahu's chief political rival is the key witness against him.

Lapid reportedly told investigators that Netanyahu asked him twice to advance Milchen's request to extend the period of tax and reporting exemptions for returning expatriates and new immigrants. Lapid and the finance ministry opposed Milchen's proposal and his initiative went nowhere.

According to [the Times of Israel](#), the law has been harshly criticized by Israel's State Comptroller and foreign governments — including the U.S. State Department — who view it as a means to facilitate money laundering. At the same time, in part due to the law, Israel has been able to attract a high volume of very wealthy immigrants, which benefits society.

Netanyahu also allegedly intervened on behalf of Milchen in two proposed deals related to Israeli television stations that Milchen either owned or wished to own.

But then, neither of his proposed interventions, if they occurred, were successful.

The police report that Netanyahu intervened on Milchen's behalf when the latter was experiencing difficulty renewing his residency visa in the U.S. Netanyahu called then-Secretary of State John Kerry and asked him to intervene on Milchen's behalf to renew his residency visa.

Since Milchen stood to lose a significant amount of money if he was unable to remain in the U.S., the police claim that Netanyahu's intervention on his behalf with Kerry represented the return on Milchen's gifts.

Milchen himself has a long record of service to Israel's Mossad — its foreign spy service — and reportedly has contributed significantly to Israel's defense. Netanyahu claims that he acted out of respect for Milchen's long service to Israel's security. In addition, Israel's late president and prime minister, left-wing icon Shimon Peres, also intervened on Milchen's behalf with U.S. authorities.

In the second probe, dubbed Investigation 2000, the police recommend indicting Netanyahu following a discussion he held — and recorded surreptitiously — in 2014 with Arnon Mozes, the publisher and controlling owner of Israel's mass circulation daily, *Yediot Ahronot*. The police found the recorded conversation on the mobile phone of Netanyahu's former chief of staff, Ari Harow, who is the subject of a separate and unrelated influence-peddling probe. Netanyahu claims he recorded their conversation on the advice of his attorney because he was afraid that Mozes would try to extort him.

The police claim that the conversation is proof that Mozes offered Netanyahu a bribe and that Netanyahu accepted the offer. They recommend charging Mozes with bribing Netanyahu, and charging Netanyahu with accepting a bribe from Mozes.

The odd thing about this claim is that no deal was struck. To the contrary.

Mozes is Netanyahu's nemesis. *Yediot Ahronot* is the most influential newspaper in Israel. Its front page dictates the daily news programming for radio and television broadcasts. And *Yediot Ahronot*'s coverage of Netanyahu is implacably hostile to the premier and to his family. To a lesser but significant degree, *Yediot Ahronot* is also deeply hostile to the Israeli political right.

According to the recording of the men's conversation, which was leaked to the media by the police more than a year ago, Netanyahu and Mozes discussed an elaborate scheme to change the newspaper market in Israel in *Yediot Ahronot*'s favor.

Israel's largest circulation paper is *Israel Hayom*, a free tabloid that is owned by conservative American billionaire — and Netanyahu supporter — Sheldon Adelson. In their recorded conversation, Mozes raised the possibility of Netanyahu curtailing government advertising in *Israel Hayom* and working to cut back its circulation in order to increase *Yediot Ahronot*'s market share.

In exchange, Mozes offered to scale back the negative tone of his paper's coverage of Netanyahu.

In the event, nothing came of the conversation. Indeed, in late 2014, against Netanyahu's expressed wishes, then-justice minister Tzipi Livni put forward a controversial media bill, which was based on a legal opinion written by *Yediot Ahronot*'s legal advisor. The bill, which was dubbed the "*Israel Hayom* law," would have forced the shutdown of the paper by barring its owners from not charging money for it.

The law passed a preliminary reading in the Knesset with 43 votes. Netanyahu and his Likud Party voted against the bill. Moreover, to prevent the bill from going forward, Netanyahu disbanded his government and the Knesset and called new elections a bit more than a year into his term.

In other words, to prevent any harm to *Israel Hayom* — and transitively, to prevent any advantage from being accrued to *Yediot Ahronot* — Netanyahu took the radical step of standing for election again.

For more than a year, the police refused to investigate any of the 43 lawmakers who voted in favor of the bill, or to analyze the coverage they received in *Yediot Ahronot* in following their support. Three weeks ago, the bill's sponsor, Labor Party member of Knesset Eitan Cabel — who enjoyed extraordinary coverage in the paper — was brought in for a brief interview.

In other words, the police are recommending that Netanyahu be indicted for a conversation that went nowhere, which he recorded. And the police are not investigating 42 out of the 43 lawmakers that supported a move that would have given Mozes everything he asked Netanyahu for, but didn't receive, while the 43rd lawmaker was subject merely to a brief interrogation.

This brings us to the police.

Since Netanyahu served his first term as prime minister from 1996 until 1999, he and his wife Sara have been the subjects of [19 police probes and or investigations](#). The Hebrew language website [Mida.org.il](http://Mida.org.il) has published a review of all of them earlier this month.

The police recommended indicting the Netanyahus in three probes in 1999. The attorney general rejected their requests.

In January 2017, the attorney general closed four probes of Netanyahu that had been ongoing since 2009.

In September 2017, the attorney general closed six police probes against Sara Netanyahu, which the police had opened in 2015. One probe, relating to an administrative, rather than criminal, charge that Mrs. Netanyahu ordered food from restaurants instead of using the services of the cook at the prime minister's residence, is still under review.

Two other probes, related to accusations that a French businessman gave Netanyahu illegal campaign contributions, and that the Likud overpaid a secretary in the U.S., disappeared after leading the headlines for several news cycles in 2016.

Of the three open cases, the Milchen and Mozes investigations led to Tuesday night's announcement of the police's recommendations. A third investigation, of influence-peddling related to Israel's purchase of submarines from Germany, is unrelated to Netanyahu, but since his associates are under investigation, his name was dragged into the discourse related to the probe.

The endless stream of criminal investigations against Netanyahu has involved investigating witnesses across the globe, and has cost tens of millions of shekels to Israeli taxpayers.

At the end of this long, 22-year road, what we have are just two charges — which, if anything, show that Netanyahu is probably most worthless bribe-taker in history. Aside from assistance with his residency visa in the U.S., Netanyahu provided Milchen with no meaningful support in any of his endeavors. The one piece of legislation that passed, the law that entitles new immigrants and returning Israeli expatriates to a ten year exemption on income taxes and reporting requirements for income earned abroad, passed when Netanyahu was out of office.

Over the past eight years of Netanyahu's tenure as prime minister, none of Milchen's proposals in either the media market or tax laws was advanced even slightly.

As for Investigation 2000, it is almost impossible to understand the basis for the charge against Netanyahu. Mozes apparently offered him a bribe, in the form of diminished hostility in his newspaper in exchange for a larger market share for *Yediot Ahronot*. But Netanyahu did nothing to advance his offer. To the contrary, he preferred new elections to curtailing *Israel Hayom's* operation.

Over the past year, as the police investigations dragged on, investigators fed the media with a never-ending stream of negative leaks that all disparaged and vilified Netanyahu.

The police campaign against Netanyahu reached its peak last Wednesday night. Police Commissioner Roni Alsheich, whom Netanyahu appointed in 2015, gave an hour-long interview on Israel's leading television magazine *Uvda*, or "Fact."

Alsheich claimed that Netanyahu was behind three separate, arguably felonious conspiracies against the police. Netanyahu, he alleged, had arranged for private detectives to "sniff around" the families of his investigators to try to find dirt on them.

Netanyahu, he claimed, conspired with a female police officer who in 2011 brought sexual harassment charges against her commander, Police Superintendent Roni Reitman, the head of Lahav 433, the unit responsible for investigating Netanyahu. Alsheich claimed that Netanyahu was behind the police officer's decision to petition Israel's Supreme Court against Reitman after the Attorney General chose to close the investigation against him without indicting him in 2015, due to the passage of time since his alleged acts of harassment took place.

Alsheich also claimed that Netanyahu had offered himself a sort of bribe. The Commission of Police alleged that when Netanyahu appointed him to serve as police chief, Netanyahu knew that Alsheich really wanted to serve as Director of the Israel Security Agency, where he was serving as deputy director when Netanyahu asked him to take over the police. Netanyahu, Alsheich alleged, told him that if Netanyahu was still prime minister when Alsheich finished his tour of duty, Netanyahu would appoint him the head of the Israel Security Agency.

Even the police's most fervent media supporters were aghast at Alsheich's allegations — coupled with the fact that he has refused to investigate any of them. To summarize: just as the police were set to announce their recommendations, Alsheich made clear that he has a personal vendetta against Netanyahu and is prepared to overthrow his government.

Alsheich's wild charges that Netanyahu was actively conspiring against his investigators gave credence to the allegations of bias, verging on animus, leveled against the police by Netanyahu and his supporters. And so the parallels between the indictment of Netanyahu and the witch hunt against President Trump are remarkable. But there is a key distinction.

The U.S. is governed by a constitution that places checks and balances on the executive that extend to the permanent bureaucracy. In Israel, there are no constitutional checks on the bureaucracy. The Knesset cannot compel civil servants to appear before its committees. It cannot force civil servants to testify under oath. It cannot hold them in contempt.

After his scandalous interview last week, Likud Party lawmakers requested that Alsheich come before the relevant committee and explain his charges against Netanyahu. Although he tentatively agreed to appear this week, on Tuesday night, reporters said that Alsheich has no intention of appearing before lawmakers to answer their questions.

Some commentators claimed on Tuesday night that the police deliberately threw every possible charge at Netanyahu to pressure the Attorney General into indicting him for something. The bias against Netanyahu that Alsheich revealed so extravagantly in his interview last Wednesday night, and the thousands of hours and tens of millions of shekels that the police have invested over the past 22 years in their endless pursuit of Netanyahu and his family, now stand in the balance.

If Netanyahu is cleared — and given the weakness of the charges against him, it's hard to see how he can be indicted — then the police will lose their credibility and the public trust.

Then again, given that Israel's elected officials have no oversight over the civil service, it could be that Alsheich and his officers don't care.

*Caroline Glick is a world-renowned journalist and commentator on the Middle East and U.S. foreign policy, and the author of [The Israeli Solution: A One-State Plan for Peace in the Middle East](#). Read more at [www.CarolineGlick.com](http://www.CarolineGlick.com). <http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2018/02/13/caroline-glick-israel-deep-state-targets-netanyahu-bogus-charges/>*

## Prayer for the IDF - Mi Sheberach, Yaakov Shwekey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJEpLklULs0>

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## ARUTZ SHEVA

### Report: Israel returns bodies of two terrorists

*PA sources say Israel returned bodies of two terrorists, including one who murdered three Israelis in Har Adar. Elad Benari, Canada, 16/02/18 23:05*

**Israel returned the bodies of two terrorists to the Palestinian Authority (PA) for burial, sources in the PA said on Friday, according to Israeli public broadcaster Kan News.**

One of the bodies is that of [Nimer Al-Jamal](#), who murdered three Israelis in Har Adar in September.

The second body is that of Hamzeh Zamaareh, [who stabbed a security guard](#) in the Gush Etzion community of Karmeit Tzur last week, lightly wounding him.

**Last month, the Knesset gave preliminary approval to a bill which would allow the IDF and Israel Police to hold the remains of Arab terrorists indefinitely, circumventing a Supreme Court ruling.**

**The Supreme Court had ruled that Israel must return the bodies of five Arab terrorists recovered from a terror tunnel built from the Gaza Strip into Israel and demolished by the IDF [in October](#).**

The proposal states that a district police commander will be given the authority to condition the release of a terrorist's body burial on security considerations, whether someone's mental well-being will be threatened, or if statements supporting terrorism will be published in connection with the funeral or burial of the assailant.

The Israeli government had at one point promised to stop the transfer of terrorists' bodies to the PA, but Friday's body return **would not be the first time** that Israel has done so after promising to cease the practice.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/242046> **[Until the "PA" groups give up the bodies of Israelis the government of Israel should release no bodies to them. – rdb]**

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