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Fictional account of Netanyahu family History in America wins Pulitzer Prize

05.23.22  
Bedouin students wave PA flags at Ben Gurion U; security did not allow Israeli flags

05.23.22  
Hundreds of Bedouin students wave Palestinian flags at south Israel university  
Rally organizer says exhibition falls under the scope of free speech; Jewish students  
claim were prohibited from entering institution's premises with Israeli flags during event  
Ilana Curie | Published: 05.23.22, 17:56

Hundreds of Bedouin students at the Ben Gurion University in Be'er Sheva on Monday held a rally on the occasion of last week's Nakba Day and waved Palestinian flags across campus.

Nakba, Arabic for catastrophe, is a day of commemoration for the Arab defeat in the 1948-1949 war around the creation of Israel.

Jewish protesters waved Israeli flags from across the rally, which sparked public outcry. The Arab students emphasized that they were merely acting upon their right to free speech.

"The extreme reality is what created the Palestinian identity. Today, the youth feel that their identity is Palestinian," they said.

Guiwara Bader, one of the organizers of the rally, explained the motives behind the rally.

"We believe in the power of the students to influence their reality and surroundings. We don't live in a segregated society. The political discourse needs to be and can be managed within campus. I believe that change and peace will come from campus and the students," he said.

"That's the way the world goes. Waving the Palestine flag is legal. We believe in two states for two nations. The Palestinian flag is not supposed to pose a threat to any Jew. We are for coexistence and collaboration."

Be'er Sheva Mayor Ruvik Danilovich called on university president Prof. Daniel Haimovich to take action against students who took part in the rally.

"Palestinian flags are being waved proudly. The Ben Gurion University is a part of Be'er Sheva and the State of Israel, it cannot convey softness and it cannot agree with this. You have to make a clear statement on the matter. Israel has only one flag and no other," Danilovich said.

The university said in response that it had approved the rally since it had no legal basis to prohibit it as Israel holds official ties with the Palestinian Authority.

"We're proud of our students, on both sides, who expressed their opinion and voiced their protest in a democratic manner without devolving to violence as we saw in other places. That's our strength," the statement read.

"We're concluding a day in which the Israeli flag was proudly waved on campus grounds, a day in which our anthem was sung loudly, alongside other flags and songs. Today's events prove that there's a place for a diversity of opinion in this public university in the state of Israel, a Jewish and democratic state. We're proud to march down the path of David Ben Gurion and proud to be a leading higher education institution that plays an educational role along with its academic one."

However, some claimed that the administration prohibited students from entering campus grounds with Israeli flags while the rally was ongoing.

"We strongly condemn the university's decision to not allow law-abiding, tax-paying civilians to enter and wave Israeli flags on its grounds," said Shai Rosengarten, a member of the Zionist activist group Im Tirtzu.

"Waving Palestinian flags in academic institutions shouldn't go by quietly. We'll continue to fight for Zionist principles in all places at all times."

Carla Ben Shushan, a student at the institution, also stated that security did not allow students to enter campus with Israeli flags.

05.23.22

Gan Tzvi, Bennett's chief of staff resigned, after a decade at Bennett's side

05.23.22

2nd aide in weeks, quits Israeli PM

As his political fortunes appear increasingly tenuous, PM Bennett thanks his close ally Tal Gan Zvi for years of political collaboration after chief of staff announces his resignation giving no specific reason for departure

Reuters, Moran Azulay | Published: 05.23.22, 14:17

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's chief of staff resigned on Monday, less than two weeks after another senior aide bolted in a double blow to a leader who has yet to complete his first year in power.

A statement from the prime minister's office gave no reason for the departure of Tal Gan Zvi after a decade at Bennett's side.

Gan Tzvi was considered a close adviser to Bennett, and accompanied him since the beginning of his political career while fulfilling many parliamentary roles. Throughout the last year, he was crucial in keeping the right-wing coalition at bay.

Shimrit Meir, the premier's senior adviser, resigned only 10 days prior on May 13, citing "considerable sacrifices in (her) personal life". Meir and Gan Tzvi stood at the head of Bennett's two inner circles - Meir represented Bennett's new team and Gan Tzvi represented the old one. The two leaders, as well as their teams, were known to not get along, and Israeli media has recently reported feuding among them.

Bennett personally expressed gratitude for Gan Tzvi's long accompaniment. "From the moment I entered politics, Tal acted as one of the supporting pillars in my public role, in all different stages. I want to thank him for the long years, throughout which he closely accompanied me professionally, with outstanding devotion and loyalty, throughout the ups and downs, during hard work around the clock," he said.

"I was sad, yet understanding, to hear his decision to finish his role as chief of staff in the prime minister's office after an intense and rich year, and at the end of a decade of

collective work. His wisdom, his management abilities and the results of his actions were very worthy to me," said the prime minister.

Gan Tzvi also remarked on his resignation: "It was an honor to work throughout the last decade with a true public server with Israel's wellbeing in his top priority. I thank the prime minister for the opportunity, the challenges, and the doing in which I took part throughout the years of his position devoted to the Israeli situations in a long list of matters - from economy, education, and up until the security issues and crucial policies. "At the end of a decade of intense collaboration, and after a year in the challenging and loaded role of chief of staff, I asked to finish my role soon and turn to new horizons," stated Gan Tzvi. "It was a meaningful and outstanding era for me. I thank the prime minister for the collective journey, and I will continue to help him with whatever he may need in the future."

05.23.22

Israeli chief justice: inciteful public discourse leading to 'dangerous places'

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Israeli chief justice: inciteful public discourse leading to 'dangerous places'

Esther Hayut says Supreme Court efforts for transparency leading to increased violent public discourse, warns against personal threats; state attorney draws attention to declining trust in the state institutions

Gilad Morag, Tova Zimukij | Published: 05.23.22, 14:09

Justice Justice Esther Hayut on Monday responded to the harsh criticism directed at Israel's legal system, claiming that the Supreme Court's efforts to be more transparent and the public access to more information, is a factor in public perception of the courts.

"As long as we are talking about suggestions for improvement we are happy to accept them and advance public participation and dialogue but even criticism must be made with respect and decency," Hayut said at a legal conference hosted by the Israeli Bar Association in Tel Aviv.

"The courts can make mistakes and rulings can be appealed. Sometimes legislations must be amended by unfortunately today the public discourse and the constant criticism has deteriorated into dangerous areas," she said.

"In place of dialogue the rhetoric has become polarized resonating on the basis of falsehoods, speculations and bias. Such speech which targets the judicial system and judges themselves, with calls for violence against them, intends to weaken the judiciary, with the aim of destroying our system and replacing it with a docile one that will adhere to political elements," Hayut said.

The chief justice warned against politicizing the court through the judges selection process rather than appointing judges more professionally suitable who will be able to withstand political pressure and defend citizens against the government.

In a recent statement made to religious seminary students, MK Yitzhak Pindrus, of the United Torah Judaism party, called to blow up the court.

"My dream is to bring a D9 and blow up this building," he said. Pindrus' comments aroused widespread condonations within Israel's political and judicial system.

Hayut referred to criticism over court rulings in cases of terrorist and claimed they were not lenient.

"Unlike headlines which make their way to the media, Israeli judges do not make lenient rulings in cases of terror or illegal use of arms. In fact there is a consistency in rulings led by the Supreme Court, and binding in the lower courts, to dispense justice so as to express the gravity of such potentially devastating crimes," she said.

"Out of hundreds of rulings, some may deviate from these policies based on particulars in each case, but presenting those as the norm, would be wrong."

State Attorney Amit Isman also spoke at the event warned of a loss of public trust.

"We are all nervously following what looks like an exponential decline in the public trust in the entire legal system - courts, public prosecution, the police, as well as the government and public institutions. Mishaps within the system leads to justified criticism, but on the other hand also unfounded criticism.

"It's every citizen's right to criticize every body, but the critic has no control over the way in which its words are heard and absorbed and how they are interpreted," he said.

"These things take effect when the criticism is personal, directed towards particular prosecutors, judges, or police officials. We must remember, as we've recently witnessed - incitement, words, can kill," Isman said.

05.23.22

Israel Police prevent entering Temple Mount; magistrate rule will be appealed

05.23.22

Israel Police prevents Jewish worshipers from entering Temple Mount compound

Jerusalem court rules Jewish prayer on holy site not illegal, but state says it will appeal the decision, claiming it must maintain decades long status quo

Kobi Nachshoni, Haim Goldich, Gilad Cohen | Published: 05.23.22, 12:26

Israel Police on Monday stopped Jews from visiting Temple Mount and detained one person for attempting to violate regulations in place as part of the status quo maintained between Muslims and Jews over decades.

That agreement reached in the immediate aftermath of the 1967 Six Day War, stated that the site, which houses the Al Aqsa Mosque will remain a Muslim shrine while Jews will

worship at the Western Wall, believed to be the outer perimeter of the Jewish Temple of ancient times.

On Sunday, The Jerusalem magistrate court ruled that Jews who prayed on Temple Mount, in violation of the status quo were in no violation of the law.

The ruling will be appealed by the prosecution.

A police official said the force will continue to enforce the existing rules.

Although the ruling on Sunday was made by a lower Israeli court, it generated condemnation from Jordan, a threat from Hamas, and an Israeli government clarification. But some insisted it must be a watershed moment.

"Police's failure to accept the court's decision is the end of democracy," far-right lawmaker Itamar Ben Gvir claimed on Monday. Ben Gvir has himself been stopped from entering the mosque compound last year, fearing provocation.

Muslim Waqf officials have asserted that Israel was chipping away at the status quo. Their claims have rallied Palestinians to riot on the holy site.

Israel has said it will maintain the status quo.

"there will be no change in the status quo on Temple Mount," the government secretariat said in a statement. "The court's ruling solely relates to three Jewish minors who were brought before it and the decision has no effect on the freedom of worship at the site."

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry, condemned the decision by the court. "It allows radicals to conduct rituals in the al-Aqsa mosque area and around the complex," the ministry said.

"This is a blatant violation of the international decisions concerning Jerusalem, including the decisions of the United Nations Security Council, which all clarify the need to preserve the situation in the holy city. The decision is also a serious violation of the historic and legal status quo in the Al-Aqsa Mosque," the ministry went on to say.

"Jordan does not recognize Israel's judicial authority in the compound and warns against granting permission for extremists to the compound, which is considered a place of worship for Muslims only," the statement concluded.

05.23.22

Israel claims assassinated Iranian official behind plot to abduct Israelis

05.23.22

Israel claims assassinated Iranian official behind plot to kidnap Israelis

Security agencies claim they foiled plot to lure Israelis abroad under false pretenses and identities to harm or kidnap them; Iranian officials say murder was act of terror

Yossi Yehushua, liad Osmo| Published: 05.23.22, 08:45

Col. Hassan Sayyad Khodayar who was shot dead in Tehran on Sunday planned the abduction of Israelis, Israeli security sources said late on Sunday.

Last week, security agencies reviled what they claimed was attempts by Iranian operatives to lure Israelis abroad in order to abduct or harm them.

Khodayar, who was a senior member of the Revolutionary Guards Corps was shot five times outside his home by unknown assassins who escaped on their motorcycle.

Iran said the killing would not go unpunished.

Foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh deplored the killing of Khodai.

"This inhuman crime was perpetrated by terrorist elements linked to global arrogance," he said in a statement, denouncing "the silence of countries that pretend to fight against terrorism".

The Fars news agency reported that the state prosecutor visited the scene of the killing and ordered the "quick identification and arrest of the authors of this criminal act".

Hours earlier on Sunday, the Guards said they had arrested a gang of "thugs linked to the intelligence agency of the Zionist regime (Israel)".

A statement said the suspects were involved in a series of crimes, including "robberies, kidnappings and vandalism".

05.22.22

Magistrate Judge Zion Saharai overturned ban of Jewish prayer on Temple Mount

05.22.22

Israeli court questions ban on Jewish prayer on Temple Mount

Judge rules in favor of appellants banned from site after intoning core Jewish prayer, says their conduct doesn't raise worry of harm befalling national security, public safety or individual security

Reuters| Published: 05.22.22, 22:55

A lower Israeli court on Sunday overturned a police order barring three Jews from a contested Jerusalem holy site after they prayed there in violation of understandings with Muslim authorities, questioning the legal basis of such enforcement.

Temple Mount compound in Jerusalem's Old City, which Jews revere as a vestige of their two ancient temples, has long been a flashpoint of Israeli-Palestinian tensions. Israel allows Jews to visit on condition they refrain from religious rites.

But with such visits increasing in number, including over the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan that coincided this year with the Jewish Passover festival, Palestinians have cried foul.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued a statement calling Sunday's ruling "a grave assault against the historic status quo ... and a flagrant challenge to international law".

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court ruled in favor of three appellants who had been banned from the Old City for 15 days for prostrating themselves and intoning a core Jewish prayer at the compound. The ruling quoted police as saying those actions disrupted its officers' duties and threatened public order.

Removing the ban, Judge Zion Saharai said that, while he had no intention of interfering in law enforcement at the site, "the appellants' conduct does not raise worry of harm befalling national security, public safety or individual security".

Police had no comment. Eran Schwarz, a lawyer whose firm represented the appellants, said he expected police to contest the ruling. Magistrate's courts can be overturned by district courts, with Israel's Supreme Court a final course of appeal.

The ruling came a week before nationalist Jews are due to hold an annual flag march through Jerusalem's Old City, marking its capture by Israel from Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War. The event is resented by Palestinians, who want the Old City and other parts of East Jerusalem as the capital of their hoped-for future state.

Hamas, a Palestinian Islamist group that fought a Gaza war with Israel last year that was partly stoked by Jerusalem tensions, described the flag march's planned route through a Muslim quarter of the Old City as "adding fuel to the fire".

"I warn the enemy against carrying out such crimes," Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh said in a televised address.

Jordan, a U.S.-backed Israeli security partner that serves as custodian of Al Aqsa, has also voiced concern about the Jewish visits to the compound.

05.22.22

Senior Iran Guard officer assassinated in Tehran, by two on a motorcycle

05.22.22

Senior Iran Revolutionary Guards officer assassinated in Tehran, state TV says  
Col. Hassan Sayyad Khodayari of elite Quds Force said shot five times in his car by two assailants on a motorcycle outside his home; Israeli spy ring reportedly exposed and arrested

News agencies, Ynet| Published: 05.22.22, 19:25

A senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) officer was assassinated outside his home in Tehran, Iranian state-owned Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday.

According to the report, two assailants on a motorcycle fired five rounds at Col. Hassan Sayyad Khodayari who was sitting in his car in the heart of the capital.

Reports only identified Khodayari as a "holy shrine defender," a reference to Iranian advisers and military personnel of the IRGC's elite Quds Force extraterritorial ops arm who fight against extremist groups to protect Shi'ite sites in Syria and Iraq such as the Sunni Islamic State.



No group has immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, as local security forces were pursuing the suspected assailants, state TV reported, without offering further details or giving a motive for the killing.

Pictures from the scene of the assassination, in which the victim was seen in a Kia Pride car, were published on Iranian channels. According to media reports in Tehran, the colonel's wife was the first to find him lifeless in his vehicle.

The IRGC defined the assassination as an "act of terrorism" perpetrated by "elements tied to the global arrogance", one of the terms Iran uses to describe the United States and Israel.

Meanwhile, Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency reported on Sunday that members of an Israeli intelligence service network had been exposed and arrested by the IRGC. "Under the guidance of the Zionist regime's intelligence service, the network attempted to steal and destroy personal and public property, kidnapping and obtaining fabricated confessions through a network of thugs," the IRGC public relations service said in a statement.

The powerful paramilitary group did not specify whether there was any connection between both incidents.

05.19.22

Jordan's king puts half-brother under house arrest for offending the nation

05.19.22

Jordan's king puts half-brother under formal house arrest

In harshly worded public letter, king says Prince Hamzah behaves erratically, says will provide the prince with all that he requires to live a comfortable life but will not allow him to abuse position to undermine kingdom

Associated Press | Published: 05.19.22, 18:43

Jordan king has gone public with a royal rift with his half-brother and formalized the former crown prince's house arrest, calling him "erratic" in an unprecedented harshly worded public letter published Thursday.

"We will provide Hamzah with all that he requires to live a comfortable life, but he will not have the space he once abused to offend the nation, its institutions, and his family, nor to undermine Jordan's stability," the king said.

The announcement was the latest chapter in an ongoing palace feud that saw the junior royal placed under a form of detention, and which has seen the internal disputes of the royal family spill into public in an unprecedented manner.

Abdullah and Hamzah are sons of King Hussein, who ruled Jordan for nearly a half-century before his death in 1999. Abdullah had appointed Hamzah as crown prince upon his succession but stripped him of the title in 2004.

The monarch had placed Hamzah under house arrest last April for his alleged plot to destabilize the Western-allied kingdom.

In March, Hamzah apologized to the king, according to a letter released by the Royal Court, saying that he hoped that "we can turn the page on this chapter in our country's and our family's history."

05.20.22

Fictional account of Netanyahu family History in America wins Pulitzer Prize

05.20.22

Fictional account of Netanyahu family in America wins Pulitzer Prize

By JNS | MAY 20, 2022 | Jerusalem www.israel365news.com

Like channeled water is the mind of the king in Hashem's hand; He directs it to whatever He wishes. Proverbs 20:1 (The Israel Bible™)

A satirical novel based on the true story of former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's father searching for a job in academia in the United States has won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

The Netanyahus: An Account of a Minor and Ultimately Even Negligible Episode in the History of a Very Famous Family by Joshua Cohen was described by the Pulitzer Prize board as "a mordant, linguistically deft historical novel about the ambiguities of the Jewish-American experience, presenting ideas and disputes as volatile as its tightly-wound plot."

Historian and professor Benzion Netanyahu worked at a number of U.S. academic institutions.

He taught at Dropsie College outside Philadelphia, first as a professor of Hebrew language and literature, and chairman of the department (1957-1966); and as a professor of medieval Jewish history and Hebrew literature (1966-1968). He left for the University of Denver as a professor of Hebraic studies (1968-1971) and then moved to New York to edit a Jewish encyclopedia. There, he took a position at Cornell University as a professor of Judaic studies and became chairman of the department of Semitic languages and literature (1971-1975).

Following the death of his oldest son, Yonatan ("Yoni"), a leader of the Entebbe hostage rescue operation in July 1976, he and his family returned to Israel.

His middle son, Benjamin, is the leader of the opposition in the Knesset and the longtime former Israeli prime minister. His youngest son, Iddo, is an Israeli physician, author and playwright.

He later was made professor emeritus of Judaic studies at Cornell.

He died in 2012 at his home in Jerusalem at the age of 102.

In Cohen's novel, published last year, Ben Zion visits a fictitious Corbin University in New York and applies for a faculty position. The book's narrator is a Jewish historian and Corbin's only Jewish professor, who is tasked with hosting the Netanyahus during their stay in New York.

This is not the book's first award. The Netanyahus was named a Wall Street Journal best book of the year, a New York Times notable book of the year and a Kirkus best fiction book of the year.

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Ynet-News, May 19, 2022 – Thursday

05.19.22 – Th- - - News Placed in May 19 spot – Thursday  
MK Zoabi resigns from Meretz coalition, handing Knesset majority to opposition

05.19.22 – Th- - - News  
Gantz visits White House & Pentagon, to discuss Iran's nuclear ambitions

05.19.22 – Th- - - News  
Iron Dome triggered on Lebanon border after misidentification of Israeli drone

05.18.22 – We- - - News  
Mount Meron Lag B'Omer festivities allow 16,000 people, 8,000 police

05.18.22 – We- - - News Placed in May 18 spot – Wednesday  
Thousands join civil defense, training civilians in seven sessions for armed patrols

05.18.22 – We- - - News  
Thousands of soldiers & reserve in three-week exercise; simulate attack on Iran

05.17.22 – Tu- - - News  
Iran working on 1,000 advanced centrifuges at new underground sites, Gantz warns

05.17.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in May 17 spot – Tuesday  
Hezbollah & allies lose majority in Lebanese Elections, Christian party is winner

05.16.22 – Mo- - - News  
Bennett and Netanyahu lampoon one another in Knesset tempest

05.16.22 – Mo- - - News

Israel looks to double gas output to Europe via liquefaction & pipelines

05.15.22 – Su- - - News Placed in May 16 spot – Monday

Netanyahu Case 4000 fourth hidden discrepancy to indictment; may declare mistrial

05.15.22 – Su- - - News

Gantz to challenge Nation-State Law with equality bill to add Arabic language

05.15.22 – Su- - - News

Israel's Druze-Arabs call to amend Hebrew language Law to include Arabic

05.15.22 – Su- - - News

West Bank settler avoids prison for shooting Palestinian after plea deal

05.15.22 – Su- - - News

Arab students at Tel Aviv University clash with pro-Israel protesters on Nakba Day

05.15.22 – Su- - - News

Condolences on death of UAE President; US will be represented by VP Harris