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US Jewish leaders criticize Trump hosting dinner with two prominent anti-Semites

12.13.22

Seventh Knesset bill to repeal 2005 Law & resettle West Bank and Gaza

12.13.22

Israeli lawmakers move to resettle dismantled West Bank settlements

Legislators seek to repeal 2005 Disengagement Law, allowing for eventual resettlement without restrictions of Jewish communities razed by the state

i24NEWS|10:44

In one of the first major tests of Israel's incoming right-wing coalition, 44 lawmakers have so far signed on to a bill to repeal the 2005 Disengagement Law that would allow

for Israelis to again legally reside in Homesh and other settlements in the northern West Bank.

The bill was introduced by the Religious Zionist party's MK Orit Strock and Likud MK Yuli Edelstein and with the backing of the head of the northern West Bank's Shomron Regional Council Yossi Dagan.

"We've been elected with 64 seats [in the 120-seat Knesset] to govern and restore security to the State of Israel. The first step to change the perception starts here," said Edelstein, former speaker of the Israel parliament and chairman of the Homesh lobby in the legislative body.

"We gave up territories and we received missiles. If we give up the Disengagement Law, we will get life," he added.

Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu was one of the initiators of the bill in the previous Knesset as the leader of the opposition. The latest bill was introduced for the seventh Knesset in a row.

The 2005 Disengagement Law resulted in the evacuation and demolition of four settlements in the West Bank and all Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip. The law prohibits Israelis from settling in these places without authorization. Its repeal would allow for the eventual resettlement of these communities without restrictions.

"This the time the law will be passed. We will not wait any longer. The time has come. The public expects it," Dagan said.

"The public's soul has been torn apart by the move, which year after year turns out to be an even more tragic mistake than first seemed. It has come, It's time to correct this injustice and repeal the Disengagement Law from Northern Samaria (the West Bank), to return home."

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12.13.22

Iran oil for Venezuela gold, to Lebanon Shiite Hezbollah; bypass U.S. sanctions

12.13.22

Iran funds Hezbollah with smuggled gold, report

Despite domestic unrest, Iran still invested in funding Lebanese terror group with Revolutionary Guard Corps dealing with Venezuelan government using Mahan airplanes to circumvent U.S. sanctions

i24NEWS|07:04

Iran is smuggling gold from Venezuela to finance Lebanon's Shiite Islamist Hezbollah movement, bypassing U.S. sanctions, according to a report by British-based opposition media that cited a confidential document.

According to Iran International, Lloyds Marine insurance company sent a warning to its clients that revealed the Islamic Republic's illegal schemes through Venezuela, to fund its Lebanese proxy.

The document – issued on October 28 and titled “Illicit trade and transfer of gold and Iranian oil” – said the Quds Force of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) was “facilitating the sale of Iranian oil” to the Latin American country and taking gold as a form of payment, in which it would send to Hezbollah “for terrorist activities.” Lloyds further added that flights from Caracas to Tehran via Mahan Air were being used as an illicit channel to ship the gold for Iranian oil, breaching sanctions imposed by the United States. Mahan Air is a privately-owned Iranian airline linked to the IRGC and sanctioned by the U.S. for weapons transfers.

The British insurance firm also identified some actors involved in “easing the illegal shipment of gold from Venezuela,” including Ali Kassir, a Hezbollah representative in Iran, and Mohammad Jaafar Kassir, a senior Hezbollah official.

Hezbollah, Iran's ideological proxy

Venezuela using gold as a form of payment to Iran for “assistance in the energy field” is not a new phenomenon, noted Henry Rome to i24NEWS, a senior fellow and Iran watcher at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. In April 2020, former U.S. special representative to Venezuela Elliot Abrams claimed that Iran was receiving gold for sending gasoline to Caracas, which was confirmed by a top IRGC official months later.

While Hezbollah's presence in Venezuela is usually characterized solely as a potential terrorist threat, it's widely thought that the group's presence is much wider there, turning the Latin American country into a “hub for the convergence of transnational organized crime and international terrorism.”

“In Venezuela, you have a regime that is sympathetic to Iran, so by proxy, sympathetic to Hezbollah,” said David Daoud, research director of Lebanon, Israel, and Syria at United Against Nuclear Iran and a non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council.

“There is also a huge Lebanese Shiite expatriate community, and Hezbollah knows how to make their inroads,” he told i24NEWS.

But Daoud mentioned that he took the Iran International report with a grain of salt, especially after the Sunday report that Iran had stopped channeling funds to several Palestinian factions.

“We know Iran funds Hezbollah, and we know Hezbollah is in Venezuela. But if Iran was feeling financially constrained, it'd seem implausible that they'd funnel money to Lebanon,” he said. “But that's the ingenious model of Iran. Its proxies don't need money to stay loyal, because of the ideological foundation. They're ideologically loyal.” But even in the midst of an apparent financial crisis in the Islamic Republic amid crippling U.S. sanctions and ongoing nationwide unrest, Daoud noted that Iran still has an interest in funding Hezbollah, which for its part has directed its attention away from fighting its enemies – specifically Israel – to deal with an economic collapse of its own. “It's a matter of priorities. Hezbollah realizes it cannot play the game when the enemy has the upper hand. They haven't abandoned the fight against Israel, they just realized

that they need to take care of its internal base before fighting again," he explained, referring to Lebanon's economic meltdown that has left much of the country's infrastructure paralyzed and much of the population impoverished.

"Regardless of whether Hezbollah is actively confronting Israel, Iran has an interest in Hezbollah growing. The Iranian regime wants to export its revolution, and beyond fighting Israel, Hezbollah provides the critical service as a proxy of spreading the Shia ideology."

"So if it can spare the funding, it will."

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12.13.22

Qatar bribed 4 EU anti-Israel HR officials, VP Eva Kaili arrested, offices sealed

12.13.22

EU source says anti-Israel measure 'tainted' in wake of Qatar corruption scandal

In light of the possible implication of the chair of a human rights subcommittee currently working on an anti-Israel resolution in the EU Parliament, a source involved in the deliberations calls for "suspension" of all activity to pass an anti-Israel censure.

By Ariel Kahana Published on 12-13-2022 09:14 Last modified: 12-13-2022 09:55

A source that has been privy to the European Parliament's behind-the-scenes deliberations over an anti-Israel resolution has told Israel Hayom it was problematic to have this measure come up for a vote at this time in light of the recent revelation that Qatar allegedly bribed senior officials in the legislative body in exchange for treating it with kid gloves over human rights.

"This corruption case involving the parliament raises the question of whether this is the right time to vote on this [anti-Israel resolution]," the source said.

The parliament's subcommittee on human rights has been at the center of the scandal and its chair Maria Arena has had to step down due to possible involvement (it is unclear if she is among the four being charged, who include EU Parliament's Vice President Eva Kaili, who was arrested).

Arena, who has initiated the anti-Israel motion, has stepped aside as chairperson in the wake of the investigation and her office has been sealed off, but the subcommittee has continued working on the draft. "This is the same subcommittee that has initiated the effort to hold the vote on the Israel resolution," the source said. "Considering this, perhaps it would be inappropriate to have these measures stay on the subcommittee's docket; perhaps they should be shelved for the time being until the picture becomes clearer."

On Monday, the various elements in the parliament tried to reach an agreed language, but all the drafts currently being circulated are not good for Israel, with some outright hostile.

All call for the adoption of the two-state solution. The most pro-Israel draft has been sponsored by the right-wing parties, as it condemns Palestinian terrorism and demands it come to an end. The other resolutions call on Israel to avoid approving new communities in Judea and Samaria and voice criticism over the Abraham Accords, while also coming out against the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism.

The effort to pass the anti-Israel resolution comes in reaction to the recent election results in Israel, in breach of the diplomatic code of waiting for a government to be sworn in before issuing direct criticism of its policies. Israel's mission in the EU and other pro-Israel elements in Europe are trying to water down the language of the resolution.

"In light of the emerging circumstances [on the alleged corruption], one should investigate if there are tainted motives behind the resolutions that have come out of the subcommittee and ask whether it should continue operating normally or pause until the investigation concludes. Perhaps the best thing to do is to suspend its activity entirely," the source told Israel Hayom.

12.13.22

Netanyahu will not push a nation of religious law, but tend to all citizens

12.13.22

Netanyahu promises "liberal-right" government

After reports of ultra-Orthodox demands surfaced including the demand to stop energy production on the Sabbath, separate men and women at beaches and more, incoming prime minister promises status quo on religion and state, to remain
Ynet, Reuters|04:02

Israeli Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu pledged on Tuesday to balance religious and secular interests as he tries to form a new government with nationalist and ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties.

The United Torah Judaism party's coalition demands while negotiating with Netanyahu to join his new coalition government reportedly include ending electricity generation on the Sabbath, according to Monday Israeli media reports.

Netanyahu has come under fire from outgoing Prime Minister Yair Lapid and anti-corruption groups warning that demands from his future partners will erode Israel's democracy and already tenuous separation of synagogue and state.

Agreements have been reached with far-right factions that call for ending a ban on Jewish prayer at a site in Jerusalem's Temple Mount which is considered a holy site by both Muslims and Jews.

Netanyahu is still in talks with ultra-Orthodox groups that want business and transport restricted on the Jewish Sabbath and prefer gender separation at beaches.

"There is and will be electricity (production) on the Sabbath. There is and will be beaches for everyone. We will preserve the status quo," Netanyahu said in parliament.

The term "status quo" is used in Israel both for secular-religious cooperation and for a decades-old arrangement with Muslim authorities at the Al Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem under which Jews are allowed to visit, but not to pray according to an agreement reached in the immediate wake of the 1967 Six Day war.

"Everyone will live in accordance with their own faith. This will not become a nation of religious law. It will be a country in which we tend to all citizens of Israel, without exception," Netanyahu said.

"We were elected to lead in our way, the way of the nationalist-right and the way of the liberal-right, and so shall we do."

Lapid and others in the outgoing center-left government have refused to join Netanyahu in part due to his ongoing corruption trial.

"Netanyahu is weak, terrified of his trial. People who are younger than him - more extremist and determined than him - have taken over," Lapid said in his own speech.

The two leaders spoke as parliament elected a new chairman who is expected to push through a series of controversial laws to help Netanyahu form a government. One such bill would enable Shas leader Aryeh Deri, a senior partner in the incoming coalition, to serve in cabinet despite a criminal record for corruption.

Netanyahu, who denies the corruption charges against him, has until Dec. 21 to finalize a government. He has already received a 10 day extension from President Issac Herzog.

12.13.22

Torah party reach to end electricity on Shabbat, gender-beaches & religion in schools

12.13.22

Israel's UTJ demands no energy generation on Shabbat - report

With Netanyahu reliant on party's coalition for functioning government, they are seizing the opportunity to demand other controversial changes including gender-segregated beaches and more religious studies in secular schools

i24NEWS|00:26

The United Torah Judaism party's coalition demands while negotiating with prime minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly include ending electricity generation on Shabbat, according to Monday Israeli media reports.

Israel's Channel 12 news detailed the demands made by the ultra-Orthodox party on Monday night. Shortly after publication, officials within Netanyahu's right-wing Likud

party noted: "The published list is a list of demands of Torah Judaism and something that the Likud agreed to."

"Any final agreement will preserve the status quo in matters of religion and state."

One of the far-reaching demands asks to include a representative from the Chief Rabbinate, the supreme rabbinic authority for Judaism in Israel, in any panel weighing permits for work on Shabbat, the Jewish day of rest.

Current Israeli law requires employers to request permits from the Labor Ministry to employ Jews on Shabbat, which lasts from sundown on Friday until nightfall on Saturday. Benjamin Netanyahu speaking to supporters from inside a campaign bus ahead of November elections

Another clause in the reported demands included barring electricity production during Shabbat. However, the Likud party reportedly said it does not agree to this clause, along with several others.

The United Torah Judaism party also reportedly asked for more gender-segregated beaches and additional public transportation discounts in predominantly ultra-Orthodox cities.

Other demands included affirmative action for the ultra-Orthodox when applying for jobs in government companies and more religious studies in secular schools.

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12.12.22

Police station set up inside IDF base to prevent equipment being stolen near Kibutz

12.12.22

In first, Israel sets up police station inside military base

Officers apparently will work alongside the IDF and Border Police in order to react quickly to any incident of military equipment being stolen, which has become a widespread phenomenon

Yoav Zitun|07:35

For the first time ever, a police station was inaugurated Sunday inside a military base in southern Israel.

The move represents a new level of cooperation between the military and police forces. The new station will be tasked with enforcing laws at the base in an attempt to stop the growing phenomenon of military equipment being stolen. The station will coordinate its activities with the Border Police.

At the moment only one police officer is present at the station. But, it is expected to become a full-fledged police station in the future.

The new station is located at a military training base near Kibutz Tze'elim, which experienced military equipment theft in 2020.

“Starting today, the new station will coordinate all forces in the area in real-time in the wake of any attempt to steal military equipment,” an IDF officer at the training base said. “A police officer will react to every incident quickly, take testimonies and start an investigation immediately.”

The officer also addressed the updated open-fire policy, saying that IDF soldiers may aim to neutralize the thieves by aiming at their legs – provided they did not stop after being ordered to.

“These rules serve our goal and are well understood by the soldiers. There’s no need to alter them. Forces training at the base caught several people driving near by suspiciously over the past month,” he said.

Meanwhile, IDF Personnel Director inspection teams conducted an internal experiment, stealing 6,000 bullets easily from a training base in southern Israel. The team infiltrated the base using a breach in the fenced perimeter surrounding it.

The IDF Spokesperson’s Unit said: “The results of this experiment will be used to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.”

12.11.22

Hezbollah moves weapons to 3 positions SW of Damascus, 4k (2.4mi) from border

12.11.22

Hezbollah relocates arms amid fears of Israeli attack

UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says Iran-backed group moves weapons and ammunition from its military positions near Damascus, IDF spreads pamphlets to Syrian forces warning against aid to Hezbollah

Daniel Salma|13:01

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported on Sunday that the Lebanese based Hezbollah terror group had transferred arms and redeployed militants in from military posts near Damascus and the eastern desert of Homs.

According to SOHR sources, Hezbollah transported weapons and ammunition from its military positions to more heavily fortified warehouses out of fear of potential Israeli attacks in the region.

The arms were distributed from military positions south of the capital Damascus and other positions, southwest of Damascus in the vicinity of Kiswah, to more than one warehouse under the orders of the terror group leaders.

The SOHR also said that Hezbollah camouflaged three military positions with Syrian flags and checkpoints near the Dimas area, nearly four kilometers away from the border.

"Iranian-backed militants stationed at those positions and checkpoints also wore the military uniforms of the regime forces and raise the Syrian flag and pictures of Bashar Al-Assad on their cars, amid great security tightening," the rights group said in an Arabic language tweet.

Meanwhile, Syria reported that the IDF distributed leaflets around Qunayra on the Syrian Golan Heights. According to the report, the leaflets warned Syrian troops to stop aiding Hezbollah. "To the leaders and soldiers of the Syrian army, time and time again, you are responsible for the damage caused by your ill-guided decisions," the pamphlets read.

"Hezbollah is establishing in the Tel-Kalib area and cooperation with them will not bring you peace. The presence of Hezbollah in the region only brings you harm and humiliation, and you are the ones paying the price," the IDF pamphlets said.

Earlier in the day, a local news outlet posted on its Facebook page that Israel launched an attack in the near by Tel-Kalib area where Syrian radar systems were positioned. According to the outlet, explosions were heard, but no other reporting of an attack was made by Syrian media..

12.11.22

US Jewish leaders criticize Trump hosting dinner with two prominent anti-Semites

12.11.22

Trump: Jewish leaders 'lack loyalty' and should be 'ashamed'

As Jewish organizations lambast former President for his dinner with controversial rapper Kanye West and white supremacist Nick Fuentes in Mar-a-Lago, Trump hit back for 'lack of loyalty' claiming he was 'best, by far, President for Israel'

Ron Kampeas/JTA|09:52

Former President Donald Trump said Jewish leaders "lack loyalty" and "should be ashamed of themselves," his latest broadside against the American Jewish community, this time because of criticism of his dinner with two prominent antisemitic figures.

"How quickly Jewish Leaders forgot that I was the best, by far, President for Israel," Trump said Friday on his social media platform Truth Social before making it an official statement under his campaign for the 2024 presidency. "They should be ashamed of themselves. This lack of loyalty to their greatest friends and allies is why large numbers in Congress, and so many others, have stopped giving support to Israel."

This is not the first time Trump has accused American Jews of being disloyal, but in the past he has said they were not loyal enough to Israel, not other "greatest friends." Calling out "Jewish leaders" instead of Jewish Democratic voters also is a new point of rhetoric.

In 2019, Trump said that any Jew who votes for a Democrat shows “a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty.”

The statement comes less than three weeks after a dinner Trump held with Nick Fuentes, who questions the Holocaust and is labeled a white supremacist by the Anti-Defamation League, and Kanye West, the rapper who now goes by Ye and who has for months peddled a persistent stream of antisemitic invective.

Mainstream Jewish groups have lambasted Trump, but so have Republicans, including a number of Jewish Republicans who were close to him and defended him in the past. Trump’s post was attached to an op-ed by Wayne Allyn Root, an evangelical Christian who was born Jewish and who defended Trump in 2019, the first time the former president said Jews were disloyal.

In the op-ed, which appeared on various right-wing platforms, Root as he has in the past emphasizes his Jewish roots: “Let me start with a disclaimer: I’m a Jew.” Root repeats arguments Trump has advanced in his defense of the West-Fuentes meeting: that the former president is more supportive of Israel than Democrats are, that West is an old friend who was in trouble and that he did not know who Fuentes was. Content distributed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency news service

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Ynet-News, December 11, 2022 – Sunday

12.11.22 – Su- - - News Placed in December 11 spot – Sunday
Israeli Arabs celebrate Morocco's World Cup 1-0 victory, wreaking havoc in streets

12.11.22 – Su- - - News – Sunday
Indictment reveals Hamas plot to recruit Shin Bet double agent

12.11.22 – Su- - - News Placed in December 10 spot – Saturday
US sanctioned Lebanon for facilitating weapons procurement for Hezbollah

12.08.22 – Th- - - News Placed in December 09 spot – Friday
Netanyahu secures 64 majority, seeks 14-day extension to enable Deri in Cabinet

12.08.22 – Th- - - News – Thursday
Troops arrest 3 militants who shot at IDF post; 3 PA were killed in the Refugee raid

12.07.22 – We- - - News Placed in December 08 spot – Thursday
Lebanon arrests hundreds of spy suspects, claiming financial woes caused by Israel

12.07.22 – We- - - News Placed in December 07 spot – Wednesday
Israel withholds visas for UN officials accused of clear anti-Israeli biases

12.07.22 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Netanyahu has 53 of 120 seats; Herzog can extend Sunday deadline by 14 days

12.07.22 – We- - - News – Wednesday

Liberman says exempting 175,000 Haredi students would spur tax revolt

12.05.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in December 06 spot – Tuesday

Smotrich has sweeping power of construction and demolition in the West Bank

12.05.22 – Mo- - - News – Monday

PA activists routine is to insult & provoke IDF before they turn on the camera