

Ynet-News, December 25, 2022 – Sunday

12.25.22 – Su- - - News Placed in December 25 spot – Sunday
Russia demands ownership of 3 churches on Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

12.25.22 – Su- - - News – Sunday
Doctors should be allowed to opt out of care not aligning with Jewish law

12.21.22 – We- - - News Placed in December 23 spot – Friday
Netanyahu secures votes to form government, must be sworn by January 2

12.21.22 – We- - - News Placed in December 22 spot – Thursday
IDF soldier apprehended running large-scale weapons trafficking on military bases

12.21.22 – We- - - News – Wednesday
Netanyahu to secure MK positions & swear in new government on December 28

12.20.22 – Tu- - - News Placed in December 20 spot – Tuesday
Four missiles hit Hezbollah storage near Damascus airport after Iran plane landed

12.19.22 – Mo- - - News – Monday
PA calls for UN patrols on the roads in West Bank to monitor Israeli activity

12.19.22 – Mo- - - News – Monday
New York Times shamefully undermining & demonizing Netanyahu coalition

2.25.22
Russia demands ownership of 3 churches on Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

2.25.22
Russia demands ownership of 3 churches in Jerusalem
Sergei Stepashin who is in charge of reclaiming Russian assets in Israel announces
Russia will submit a claim to Israeli court for the Church of Mary Magdalene, Chapel of
the Ascension, and the Viri Galilaei Church
Itamar Eichner|13:40

The Kremlin demanded on Sunday that Israel hand over ownership to Russia, of three
churches located on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

Russia's former prime minister, Sergei Stepashin who is in charge of reclaiming Russian assets in Israel announced he will submit a claim to the Israeli courts for the Church of Mary Magdalene, which is the final resting place of Princess Elizabeth Feodorovna of Russia and Princess Alice of Battenberg, Queen Victoria's great-grand daughter and a virtuous among nations, The Chapel of the Ascension, and the Viri Galilaei Church, used as a summer retreat by the Greek Orthodox patriarch.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has also demanded an end to the litigation preventing the transfer of the Alexander Nevsky Church, in the Old City, after commitments made by Benjamin Netanyahu during a previous term as prime minister.

A former Russian activist Alex Tenzer claimed the Russian demands are part of internal Russian politics after the president's popularity plummeted as a result of his military failures in Ukraine.

"The Russians are sensing Netanyahu's weakness and believes this is a good time to exert pressure," he said.

"There is also an international aspect as these three churches are also considered sacred in the entire Christian world and especially important to King Charles III, whose mother is buried at the Church of Mary Magdalene," Tenzer said.

Stepashin criticized Israel, accusing it of dragging its feet on the matter.

"We worked for five years to obtain all historical documents for our claim, but since everything that happened in Ukraine, Israel is avoiding the matter. Russia will pressure Jerusalem to gain control of the property," he said.

2.25.22

Doctors should be allowed to opt out of care not aligning with Jewish law

2.25.22

Doctors should be allowed to opt out of care that does not align with Jewish law, far-right MK suggests

Religious Zionist party MK Orit Strock suggests physicians should be allowed to refuse care 'as long as there are enough other doctors who can provide a service'; remarks draw rebuke from Netanyahu

Moran Azulay, Sivan Hilaie|Updated:06:59

Religious Zionist party MK Orit Strock stirred uproar on Sunday after suggesting doctors should be allowed to refuse to provide certain treatments that go against their beliefs.

The far-right lawmaker and prospective minister in the incoming government made the remarks during an interview with public broadcaster Kan Radio when asked about one of the controversial clauses that have been revealed in recent days from the coalition agreements.

According to the clause, the government will amend the Prohibition of Discrimination in Products, Services, and Entry into Places of Entertainment and Public Places Law that would allow any private business to refuse to provide a service or product due to religious belief given a similar alternative is available in geographical proximity at a similar price.

This raises concerns over the introduction of gender segregation in businesses or refusal to provide services to members of the LGBTQ+ community.

"As long as there are enough other doctors who can provide a service, it is forbidden to force a physician to give treatment that goes against their religious beliefs," she said.

"I have friends who are LGBT. I don't wish to alienate them and I don't hate them. We talk about specific actions that are forbidden according to Jewish law. Not only will I sell to them at the grocery store, but I will also host them in my home and serve them my own cooking.

There is no alienation here. But there are certain actions that, in my opinion, are forbidden, and not necessarily regarding the LGBT community, but also regarding the Yuletide tree, Christmas, and the like."

In response to a Ynet request for comment, the Religious Zionist party clarified that the amendment to the law will not apply to doctors but only to professionals who do not provide services for religious reasons, "such as a hairdresser who does not want to serve women".

Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu condemned Strock's comments and maintained the LGBTQ+ rights will not be abridged by his government.

"[Strock's comments] are not acceptable to me and my friends in Likud. The coalition agreements do not allow LGBT people to be discriminated against or to harm their rights to receive services as any citizen in Israel," Netanyahu said.

"Likud will ensure that there will be no harm done to LGBT people or the rights of any Israeli citizen."

First published: 14:41, 12.25.22

12.21.22

Netanyahu secures votes to form government, must be sworn by January 2

12.21.22

Minutes before deadline, Netanyahu secures votes to form government

PM-elect had until midnight to inform Herzog that he got the votes needed to form a new coalition; new government must be sworn by January 2

i24NEWS, Ynet|16:24

Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday night secured the final votes needed to form a government, minutes before his deadline to do so, and called President Isaac Herzog to finalize his rise to power.

Netanyahu now has a week to swear in his government. The parliament plenum only meets on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, the confidence vote could only happen the following Monday. This means the government must be sworn in a week later, Monday, January 2.

This also gives Netanyahu's incoming government time to finish passing three controversial bills into law.

The top of the list seems to be what is referred to as the "Ben-Gvir law," named after far-right lawmaker Itamar Ben-Gvir, which would allow the lawmaker, who is expected to serve as national security minister, expanded authority over the country's police. The bill is controversial, with several politicians and police leaders speaking out against it.

Other laws the incoming coalition hopes to pass include amendments to the Basic Law. One such amendment would allow the leader of the ultra-Orthodox Shas party Aryeh Deri to serve as a minister despite his criminal conviction.
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12.21.22

IDF soldier apprehended running large-scale weapons trafficking on military bases

12.21.22

IDF soldier accused of running large-scale weapons trafficking operation

According to indictment, suspect allegedly stole thousands of rounds of ammunition and weapons from military bases he served on which he would go on to sell and trade Israel Moskowicz|14:36

A military court on Monday filed an indictment against an IDF soldier, attributing to him a laundry list of arms trafficking charges on a large scale.

According to the indictment, the soldier, whose name was not given, allegedly stole thousands of rounds of ammunition and weapons from military bases he served on which he would go on to sell and trade. Prosecutors allege the suspect was planning to steal 50,000 more rounds of ammunition, which he intended to trade for an M16 assault rifle.

The indictment lists 20 different charges against him, including conspiracy to commit a crime, unlawful use of a firearm, and obstruction of justice, among others.

The suspect was apprehended last month at the tail end of a probe into a massive burglary from the Tznohar base in the Golan Heights.

Another suspect, 21-year-old Tamer Ben Majed Hayeb from the Arab town of Tuba-Zangariyye, was also detained by police and hit with arms trafficking charges.

The indictment states the suspect offered Hayeb 50,000 ammo rounds he stole from various military bases in exchange for an M16 and attempted to swipe more ammo with help from fellow soldiers.

"The suspect established an operation to steal military equipment from the IDF and sell it to the highest bidder. He did not come to serve his country but criminals, I've never encountered ammunition theft to such a degree," said Israel Police Chief Inspector Amihai Rave

"We estimate, this lasted for a year at the very least. As part of the investigation into the break-in to Tznobar, we arrested Tamer Ben Majed Hayeb, this opened a Pandora's box and we arrested the soldier who previously served in Tznobar."

The soldier's attorney Youssef Jubran said that his client denies all 20 counts attributed to him.

"He's a normal soldier without any criminal record, son to a bereaved family who lost his grandfather who was killed during his service in the IDF," Jubran said.

Hayeb's attorney Najamah Hayeb said that she has yet to receive the investigation material and that her client also denies the allegation leveled against him.

"We're talking about a normal young man with no criminal background, this is his arrest and it has been very difficult for him," she said.

12.21.22

Netanyahu to secure MK positions & swear in new government on December 28

12.21.22

Netanyahu to officially inform president he has secured coalition majority

After an announcement is made to the president and the Knesset, PM-designate will have seven days to establish his government and present it to parliament, with no possibility of further time given; Netanyahu to inform Likud members of their new assignments

Moran Azulay|01:12

Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to officially inform President Issac Herzog by midnight Wednesday that he has succeeded in ensuring his majority coalition.

Protocol dictates that the announcement must also be made to the Knesset. Netanyahu will then have one week to present his government to a parliamentary vote, and will not be afforded any further extension to do so.

The members of the incoming coalition were first informed to prepare for a vote and swearing in ceremony for the new government on December 28, 2022, but Netanyahu's Likud then postponed the event by one day. The time will be determined once the Knesset is officially informed.

Coalition talks are still ongoing and mostly revolve around the positions that need to be assigned to Likud MKs. After criticism by some that the party leader has given most coveted ministerial posts to partners in the incoming government, Netanyahu is reportedly determined to appoint his most powerful critics to the remaining senior positions available in order to prevent mutiny in the ranks.

Likud is expected to clinch the ministries of defense, foreign affairs and transportation, and the position of the Speaker of the Knesset.

The Defense Ministry will likely go to Ret. Gen. Yoav Galant, despite some of the responsibilities over the West Bank being promised to the Religious Zionist Party.

Veteran Likud lawmaker Yariv Levin will be asked to assume the position of justice minister, and be tasked with making the controversial changes to the judicial system, including increasing political authority over the courts.

Netanyahu must also decide who to appoint as foreign minister, with former Israeli Ambassador to Washington Ron Dermer, former Public Security Minister Amir Ohana and former Finance Minister Israel Katz all vying for the position.

12.20.22

Four missiles hit Hezbollah storage near Damascus airport after Iran plane landed

12.20.22

Syria reports two soldiers killed in strike attributed to Israel

Syrian opposition group says missiles hit Hezbollah arms storage near Damascus airport while Saudi media reports air defense battery recently positioned there, targeted in strike carried out soon after Iranian plane arrives

Daniel Salami|Yesterday | 22:55

Syrian air defenses were activated against a strike on the area of Damascus early on Tuesday, according to local television reports, claiming it was carried out by Israel.

The UK based Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition group said that two soldiers were killed just south of the capital in an area housing pro-Iranian militia forces including Lebanese based Hezbollah troops. The targets of the strike were linked to Iran and include a weapons storage facility.

At least four missiles were fired from fighter jets, targeting the area around the Damascus international airport.

Syrian SANA news agency said two people were injured and there was some material losses due to the attack.

The Saudi Arabian Al Arabiya channel reported that one of the targets was an anti-aircraft battery that was recently positioned near the airport and that the strike occurred soon after an Iranian plane landed there.

The **last** reported Israeli **attack in Syria was on Nov. 13** and killed two Syrian soldiers and wounded three others when airstrikes hit an airbase in the province of Homs.

Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets inside government-controlled parts of Syria in recent years, but it rarely acknowledges or discusses specific operations.

Israeli leaders have in the past acknowledged striking targets in Syria and elsewhere in what it says is a campaign to thwart Iranian att

Last week, Israel's military chief of staff strongly suggested that Israel was behind a **Nov. 8 strike on a truck convoy in Syria.**

The Associated Press contributed to this report

12.19.22

PA calls for UN patrols on the roads in West Bank to monitor Israeli activity

12.19.22

PA's Shtayyeh calls for UN patrols in West Bank to monitor Israeli activity

Palestinian premier urges UN to deploy patrols across territory, hoping to curb Israel's near-nightly counterterrorism sweeps and increased clashes with settlers

Gilad Meiri | Yesterday | 13:58

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh **called on the UN to deploy patrols across the West Bank** to monitor the activities of Israeli settlers and security forces throughout the territory, Palestinian news agency Wafa reported on **Monday.**

Shtayyeh's **request came after an Israeli driver collided with a Palestinian car parked** by the side of the road on Route 60 in the northern West Bank, **killing brothers** Mohammad and Muhannad Muteir.

The **Palestinian** premier **labeled** the **incident a "deliberate car-ramming attack"**, whereas Israel **Police** traffic accident investigators **determined** that the Israeli driver, who was lightly injured in the crash, most probably hit the brothers by **accident** as they were apparently **parked on the side of the road in a poorly lit area** to fix a fault in their vehicle.

"In view of the **shedding of Palestinian blood**, the extrajudicial executions on the roads, and the escalation of terrorism by the occupation soldiers and settlers, the latest of which was the deliberate car-ramming attack against the two brothers, Mohammad and Muhannad Mtair, we **call on the United Nations** teams stationed in Palestine to **deploy monitors on the roads** and in the areas targeted by settlers," Shtayyeh was quoted by Wafa as saying at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting in Ramallah.

"The **UN has more than 400 vehicles and more than 1,000 staff** that can be trained as UN **monitors to observe and document the actions of the army and settlers for** the purpose of **prosecution.**"

Violence in the West Bank has surged in recent months after Israel stepped up counterterrorism raids into the territory following a spate of deadly Palestinian attacks that claimed the lives of dozens of Israelis.

According to Wafa, Shtayyeh also **condemned Israel for deporting a Palestinian-French lawyer** after stripping him of his Jerusalem residency **for his alleged involvement in terrorist activity.**

Salah Hamouri, 37, was held without charge for over nine months in administrative detention, a procedure allowing Israel to hold detainees without trial and without revealing sensitive intelligence out of national security concerns. Hamouri — who was previously jailed and later released for a **plot to assassinate a prominent rabbi** — is suspected to be active in the Marxist-Leninist terror group the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and pose a threat to Israel's national security.

“We **condemn** the **deportation** of the Jerusalem citizen Salah Hammouri to France, after the occupation authorities arrested him administratively, **withdrew** his Jerusalem **residency papers**, and **deprived him of** his natural **right to reside in his hometown,**” Shtayyeh said, according to Wafa.

“The case of the detainee Hammouri summarizes a number of continuous (Israeli) violations against Jerusalem residents with the aim of emptying the city of its indigenous population through a **series of laws** and racist **policies targeting the Palestinian presence** in the holy city.”

Shtayyeh also rejected Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu's offer for self-rule for the Palestinians with security to remain in Israel's hands.

“The **statements made by** Benjamin **Netanyahu affect the right of our people to establish their independent state,**” said Shtayyeh.

“This right was achieved after great sacrifices and was endorsed by international laws, and it will not be dropped by a statement or a decision from any Israeli official. **Our people will not cease their legitimate struggle before they win their legitimate rights** and establish their independent state on the June 4, 1967, lines with Jerusalem as its capital.”

12.19.22

New York Times shamefully undermining & demonizing Netanyahu coalition

12.19.22

Netanyahu slams New York Times for 'demonizing Israel'

In response to the **op-ed suggesting 'Netanyahu's government poses a significant threat to the future of Israel'** and **'endangers the ideal of a Jewish and democratic state'**, the **PM designate vows to continue ignoring 'the ill-founded advice' of the newspaper**
i24NEWS|Yesterday | 01:38

Israel's incoming prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday accused the New York Times of "demonizing Israel for decades" in response to an editorial that criticizes his coalition government.

The op-ed titled "The ideal of democracy in a Jewish state is in jeopardy" published on Saturday stated that the next right-wing government led by Netanyahu puts Israeli democracy at risk.

"The Israel we knew is no more," the editorial said, suggesting that "ultra-religious and ultra-nationalist" parties, which make up the new coalition, "endanger the ideal of a Jewish and democratic state" and that "Netanyahu's government poses a significant threat to the future of Israel."

The prime minister-designate responded by vowing to continue ignoring "the ill-founded advice" of the newspaper.

"After burying the Holocaust for years on its back pages and demonizing Israel for decades on its front pages, the New York Times now shamefully calls for undermining Israel's elected incoming government," Netanyahu tweeted.

"While the NYT continues to delegitimize the one true democracy in the Middle East and America's best ally in the region, I will continue to ignore its ill-founded advice and instead focus on building a stronger and more prosperous country, strengthening ties with America, expanding peace with our neighbors, and securing the future of the one and only Jewish state," he added.

The op-ed specifically warned about one of Netanyahu's far-right allies - leader of the Otzma Yehudit party Itamar Ben-Gvir, saying that his actions "risk provoking a new round of Arab-Israeli violence." Netanyahu's bloc has been pushing for several controversial bills to be approved by the Knesset before the new government is sworn in that will among other things expand Ben-Gvir's authority as the future national security minister over the police force.

The deadline for the formation of the coalition government set by Israel's President Isaac Herzog expires on Wednesday with Netanyahu having to fulfill his promises to his partners to make it happen.

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Ynet-News, December 19, 2022 – Monday

12.19.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in December 19 spot – Monday
Anti-defection bill; Ministers require a third of faction support to split their factions

12.18.22 – Mo- - - News Placed in December 18 spot – Sunday

Final version of bill grants minister a senior authority over police investigations

12.18.22 – Su- - - News Placed in December 17 spot – Saturday
Rescue flight to extract stranded Israelis amid Peru political turmoil

12.14.22 – We- - - News Placed in December 15 spot – Thursday
IDF exposes Hamas rocket sites & tunnels at 3 UN schools in Gaza

12.14.22 – We- - - News – Wednesday
Ben-Gvir bill to expand police powers, interacts with civilians like an army

12.14.22 – We- - - News Placed in December 14 spot – Wednesday
Co-existence school meeting derails as Arabs hurl stones at Jewish student