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Photo: Yariv Katz, Shaul Golan

Yair Netanyahu, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's son; Ethiopian-Israeli protesters last Tuesday i

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Yair Netanyahu: Ethiopian community's protests funded by 'German Money'

Prime minister's son causes outrage among Ethiopian-Israeli activists, MKs, who call him 'a spoiled boy who lives off the public,' spreader of fake news; 'it's easy being a virtual bully, far more difficult to go out and protest'

Itamar Eichner|Published: 07.07.19 , 14:30

Yair Netanyahu, son of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, stirred a commotion over the weekend when he said in a tweet that the Ethiopian community's wave of protests was "funded by German money."

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"Everything that happened this week was fueled by the New Israel Fund and the Standing Together organization with the use of German money," said the prime minister's son, referring to aid organizations that often support the Ethiopian Israeli cause.

Ethiopian-Israeli protesters in Jerusalem (Photo: AFP)

Ethiopian-Israeli protesters in Jerusalem (Photo: AFP)

"I wonder what would have happened if the Israeli government funded a German organization that burns police vehicles, blocks roads and acts violently in the streets of Berlin," said young Netanyahu.

Many Ethiopian descendants around the country were outraged by the tweet. "No Yair, everything that happened this week was fueled by racism and oppression that my community has been going through for many years," tweeted Avi Yalo, one of the protest's leaders.

"You can keep spreading lies about the New Israel Fund and about German money, but you know it has no connection what so ever to reality. Our struggle, which you cannot understand from the bubble you live in, is a daily struggle for an equal, secure life."

Yair Netanyahu  
Yair Netanyahu

Itzik Time, another leader of the protests, also responded with a fierce tweet: "I wish we had had funding for protests, we would have protested for a whole week," he said.

MK Pnina Tamano-Shata from the Blue and White Party said in response that "This spoiled demagogue will never be able to understand the weak. Sit quietly, don't stir cheap and false politics over the back of a community that went out to protest from the bottom of its aching heart."

MK Pnina Tamano-Shata (Photo: Courtesy of Yesh Atid)  
MK Pnina Tamano-Shata (Photo: Courtesy of Yesh Atid)

"Where were you during the rightful protests against police violence and the killing of Solomon Tekah? Where were you during the protests after the killing of Yehuda Biadga?" tweeted Alon Lee Green, chair of the Standing Together movement.

"It's easy sitting back in an airconditioned room and being a virtual bully. It's far more difficult protesting for justice and against a government who hurts its citizens," he said.

Blue and White MK Gadi Yevarkan, who is of Ethiopian descent, also slammed Yair Netanyahu: "Those young teens on the streets have contributed to this country a thousand times more than did, you a rich boy who lives on the backs of the public."

MK Gasi Yevarkan (Photo: Eli Segal)  
MK Gasi Yevarkan (Photo: Eli Segal)

"I didn't expect you to understand what discrimination is, since you grew up in a home that is a factory house for discrimination," said Yevarkan.

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"Go and learn about values, respect, Zionism and the love of the motherland from Ethiopian Israelis," he concluded.

Netanyahu calls Iran's uranium enrichment increase 'very dangerous'

Iranian announcement to further scale back its commitment to the 2015 nuclear deal was met with unease in Israel as both the prime minister and the energy minister call on the European powers to impose new sanctions on Tehran

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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday called an announced increase of Iranian uranium enrichment a "very, very dangerous step," and urged the European powers to impose automatic sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

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Iranian officials earlier on Sunday said the country would further scale back its commitment to the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, including ramping up the level of uranium enrichment beyond the 3.67% permitted under the agreement.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (Photo: AFP)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (Photo: AFP)

"Iran has violated its solemn promise under the U.N. Security Council not to enrich uranium beyond a certain level," Netanyahu said at the onset of the weekly cabinet meeting. "I call on my friends, the heads of France, Britain and Germany - you signed this deal and you said that as soon as they take this step, severe sanctions will be imposed - that was the Security Council resolution. Where are you?"

"The enrichment of uranium is made for one reason and one reason only - it's for the creation of atomic bombs," added the prime minister.

Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz described earlier on Sunday described the increase in uranium enrichment levels as "moderate" but accused Tehran of breaking out of internationally agreed limitations on its nuclear projects and moving towards a potential bomb.

"Iran has begun - while it is a moderate rise right now - but it has begun to raise, to break out of the uranium enrichment curbs that were imposed on it," Steinitz, a member of Netanyahu's security cabinet, said in an interview with Ynet.

"It means ... that it is brushing off the red lines that were agreed (and) that it has begun its march, a march that is not simple, toward nuclear weaponry."

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani (Photo: AFP)  
Iranian President Hassan Rouhani (Photo: AFP)

Iran's deputy foreign minister also added that his nation will take another step impacting its compliance with its 2015 agreement in 60 days. Abbas Araghchi told a news conference Sunday that he cannot elaborate now on the nature of the next step.

The biggest obstacle to producing nuclear weapons is obtaining enough fissile material - weapons-grade highly enriched uranium or plutonium - for the bomb's core.

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The 2015 deal caps the level of purity to which Iran can enrich uranium hexafluoride, the feedstock for centrifuges, at 3.67%, far below the 90% of weapons grade. It is also well below the 20% level to which Iran enriched uranium before the deal. The 3.67% cap lasts 15 years.