

TIME

7 Allegations Against Meta in Newly Unsealed Filings

Charlotte Alter

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Mark Zuckerberg, chief executive officer of Meta Platforms Inc., during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Jan. 31, 2024 in Washington, D.C. Credit - Kent Nishimura—Bloomberg/Getty Images

Sex trafficking on Meta platforms was both difficult to report and widely tolerated, according to a court filing unsealed Friday. In a plaintiffs’ brief filed as part of a major lawsuit against four social media companies, Instagram’s former head of safety and well-being Vaishnavi Jayakumar testified that when she joined Meta in 2020 she was shocked to learn that the company had a “17x” strike policy for accounts that reportedly engaged in the “trafficking of humans for sex.”

“You could incur 16 violations for prostitution and sexual solicitation, and upon the 17th violation, your account would be suspended,” Jayakumar reportedly testified, adding that “by any measure across the industry, [it was] a very, very high strike threshold.” The plaintiffs claim that this testimony is corroborated by internal company documentation.

The brief, filed by plaintiffs in the Northern District of California, alleges that Meta was aware of serious harms on its platform and engaged in a broad pattern of deceit to downplay risks to young users. According to

the brief, Meta was aware that millions of adult strangers were contacting minors on its sites; that its products exacerbated mental health issues in teens; and that content related to eating disorders, suicide, and child sexual abuse was frequently detected, yet rarely removed. According to the brief, the company failed to disclose these harms to the public or to Congress, and refused to implement safety fixes that could have protected young users.

“Meta has designed social media products and platforms that it is aware are addictive to kids, and they’re aware that those addictions lead to a whole host of serious mental health issues,” says Previn Warren, the co-lead attorney for the plaintiffs in the case. “Like tobacco, this is a situation where there are dangerous products that were marketed to kids,” Warren adds. “They did it anyway, because more usage meant more profits for the company.”

The following allegations against Meta come from the brief filed in an unprecedented multidistrict litigation. More than 1,800 plaintiffs—including children and parents, school districts, and state attorneys general—have joined together in a suit alleging that the parent companies behind Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and YouTube “relentlessly pursued a strategy of growth at all costs, recklessly ignoring the impact of their products on children’s mental and physical health,” according to their master complaint. The newly unsealed allegations about Meta are just one small part of the sprawling suit.

The plaintiffs’ brief, first reported by TIME, purports to be based on sworn depositions of current and former Meta executives, internal communications, and company research and presentations obtained during the lawsuit’s discovery process. It includes quotes and excerpts from thousands of pages of testimony and internal company documents. TIME was not able to independently view the underlying testimony or research quoted in the brief, since those documents remain under seal.

But the brief still paints a damning picture of the company’s internal research and deliberations about issues that have long plagued its platforms. Plaintiffs claim that since 2017, Meta has aggressively pursued young users, even as its internal research suggested its social media products could be addictive and dangerous to kids. Meta employees proposed multiple ways to mitigate these harms, according to the brief, but were repeatedly blocked by executives who feared that new safety features would hamper teen engagement or user growth.

And yet the plaintiffs’ brief suggests that Meta resisted safety changes like these for years.

The brief quotes testimony from Brian Boland, Meta’s former vice president of partnerships who worked at the company for 11 years and resigned in 2020. “My feeling then and my feeling now is that they don’t meaningfully care about user safety,” he allegedly said. “It’s not something that they spend a lot of time on. It’s not something they think about. And I really think they don’t care.”

After the plaintiffs’ brief was unsealed late Friday night, Meta did not immediately respond to TIME’s requests for comment. Here are some of the most notable allegations from the plaintiffs’ omnibus brief:

Allegation: Meta had a high threshold for "sex trafficking" content—and no way to report child sexual content

Despite Instagram’s “zero tolerance” policy for child sexual abuse material, the platform did not offer users a simple way to report child sexual abuse content, according to the brief. Plaintiffs allege that Jayakumar raised the issue multiple times when she joined Meta in 2020, but was told it would be too difficult to address. Yet Instagram allowed users to easily report far less serious violations, like “spam,” “intellectual property violation” and “promotion of firearms,” according to plaintiffs.

Jayakumar was even more shocked to learn that Instagram had a disturbingly high tolerance for sex trafficking on the platform. According to the brief, she testified that Meta had a “17x” strike policy for accounts that reportedly engaged in the “trafficking of humans for sex,” meaning it would take at least 16 reports for an account to be deleted.

“Meta never told parents, the public, or the Districts that it doesn’t delete accounts that have engaged over fifteen times in sex trafficking,” the plaintiffs wrote.

Allegation: Meta "lied to Congress" about its knowledge of harms on the platform

For years, plaintiffs allege, Meta’s internal research had found that teenagers who frequently use Instagram and Facebook have higher rates of anxiety and depression.

In late 2019, according to the brief, Meta designed a “deactivation study,” which found that users who stopped using Facebook and Instagram for a week showed lower rates of anxiety, depression, and loneliness. Meta halted the study and did not publicly disclose the results, stating that the research study was biased by the “existing media narratives around the company.”

At least one Meta employee was uncomfortable with the implications of this decision: “If the results are bad and we don’t publish and they leak,” this employee wrote, according to the brief, “is it going to look like tobacco companies doing research and knowing cigs were bad and then keeping that info to themselves?”

Indeed, in December 2020, when the Senate Judiciary Committee asked the company in a set of written questions whether it was “able to determine whether increased use of its platform among teenage girls has any correlation with increased signs of depression” and “increased signs of anxiety,” the company offered only a one-word answer: “No.”

To the plaintiffs in the case, the implication is clear: “The company never publicly disclosed the results of its deactivation study. Instead, Meta lied to Congress about what it knew.”

Allegation: The company knew Instagram was letting adult strangers connect with teenagers

For years [Instagram has had](#) a well-documented problem of adults harassing teens. Around 2019, company researchers recommended making all teen accounts private by default in order to prevent adult strangers from connecting with kids, according to the plaintiffs’ brief. Instead of implementing this recommendation, Meta asked its growth team to study the potential impact of making all teen accounts private. The growth team was pessimistic, according to the brief, and responded that the change would likely reduce engagement.

By 2020, the growth team had determined that a private-by-default setting would result in a loss of 1.5 million monthly active teens a year on Instagram. The plaintiffs’ brief quotes an unnamed employee as saying: “taking away unwanted interactions... is likely to lead to a potentially untenable problem with engagement and growth.” Over the next several months, plaintiffs allege, Meta’s policy, legal, communications, privacy, and well-being teams all recommended making teen accounts private by default, arguing that the switch “will increase teen safety” and was in line with expectations from users, parents, and regulators. But Meta did not launch the feature that year.

Safety researchers were dismayed, according to excerpts of an internal conversation quoted in the filing. One allegedly grumbled: “Isn’t safety the whole point of this team?”

“Meta knew that placing teens into a default-private setting would have eliminated 5.4 million unwanted interactions a day,” the plaintiffs wrote. Still, Meta didn’t make the fix. Instead, inappropriate interactions between adults and kids on Instagram skyrocketed to 38 times that on Facebook Messenger, according to the brief. The launch of Instagram Reels allegedly compounded the problem. It allowed young teenagers to broadcast short videos to a wide audience, including adult strangers.

An internal 2022 audit allegedly found that Instagram’s Accounts You May Follow feature recommended 1.4 million potentially inappropriate adults to teenage users in a single day. By 2023, according to the plaintiffs, Meta knew that they were recommending minors to potentially suspicious adults and vice versa.

It wasn’t until 2024 that Meta rolled out default privacy settings to all teen accounts. In the four years it took the company to implement their own safety recommendations, teens experienced billions of unwanted interactions with strangers online. Inappropriate encounters between teens and adults were common enough, according to the brief, that the company had an acronym for them: “IIC,” or “inappropriate interactions with children.”

Allegation: Meta aggressively targeted young users

Meta feared young users would abandon Facebook and Instagram for their competitors. Acquiring and keeping young users became a central business goal. Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg suggested that “teen time spent be our top goal of 2017,” according to a company executive quoted in the brief. That has remained the case, plaintiffs allege; internal company documents from 2024 stated that “acquiring new teen users is mission critical to the success of Instagram.”

Meta launched a campaign to connect with school districts and paid organizations like the National Parent Teacher Association and Scholastic to conduct outreach to schools and families. Meanwhile, according to the brief, Meta used location data to push notifications to students in “school blasts,” presumably as part of an attempt to increase youth engagement during the school day. As one employee allegedly put it: “One of the things we need to optimize for is sneaking a look at your phone under your desk in the middle of Chemistry.”

Though Meta aggressively pursued young users, it may not have known exactly how old those new users were. Whistleblower [Jason Sattizahn recently](#) testified to Congress that Meta does not reliably know the age of its users. (Meta pushed back on Sattizahn’s testimony, [saying in a statement to NBC](#) that his claims were “nonsense” and “based on selectively leaked internal documents that were picked specifically to craft a false narrative.”) In 2022, according to the plaintiffs’ brief, there were 216 million users on Meta platforms whose age was “unknown.”

Federal law requires social media platforms to observe various data-privacy safeguards for users under 13, and Meta policy states that users under 13 are not allowed on its platforms. Yet the plaintiffs’ court filing claims Meta knew that children under 13 used the company’s products anyway. Internal research cited in the brief suggested there were 4 million users under 13 on Instagram in 2015; by 2018, the plaintiffs claim, Meta knew that roughly 40% of children aged 9 to 12 said they used Instagram daily.

The plaintiffs allege that this was a deliberate business strategy. The brief describes a coordinated effort to acquire young users that included studying the psychology and digital behavior of “tweens” and exploring new products designed for “users as young as 5-10.”

Internally, some employees expressed disgust at the attempt to target preteens. “Oh good, we’re going after <13 year olds now?” one wrote, according to the brief. “Zuck has been talking about that for a while...targeting 11 year olds feels like tobacco companies a couple decades ago (and today). Like we’re seriously saying ‘we have to hook them young’ here.”

Allegation: Meta's executives initially shelved efforts to make Instagram less toxic for teens

To combat toxic “social comparison,” in 2019 Instagram CEO Adam Mosseri announced a new product feature that would “hide” likes on posts. Meta researchers had determined that hiding likes would make users “significantly less likely to feel worse about themselves,” according to the plaintiffs’ brief. The initiative was code-named Project Daisy.

But after a series of tests, Meta backtracked on Project Daisy. It determined the feature was “pretty negative to FB metrics,” including ad revenue, according to the plaintiffs’ brief, which quotes an unnamed employee on the growth team insisting: “It’s a social comparison app, fucking get used to it.”

A similar debate took place over the app’s beauty filters. Plaintiffs claim that an internal review concluded beauty filters exacerbated the “risk and maintenance of several mental health concerns, including body dissatisfaction, eating disorders, and body dysmorphic disorder,” and that Meta knew that “children are particularly vulnerable.” Meta banned beauty filters in 2019, only to roll them back out the following year after the company realized that banning beauty filters would have a “negative growth impact,” according to the plaintiffs’ brief.

Allegation: Meta doesn't automatically remove harmful content, including self-harm content

While Meta developed AI tools to monitor the platforms for harmful content, the company didn’t automatically delete that content even when it determined with “100% confidence” that it violated Meta’s policies against child sexual-abuse material or eating-disorder content. Meta’s AI classifiers did not automatically delete posts that glorified self-harm unless they were 94% certain they violated platform policy, according to the plaintiffs’ brief. As a result, most of that content remained on the platform, where teenage users often discovered it. In a 2021 internal company survey cited by plaintiffs, more than 8% of respondents aged 13 to 15 reported having seen someone harm themselves, or threaten to do so, on Instagram during the past week.

Allegation: Meta knew its products were addictive, but publicly downplayed the harms

The addictive nature of the company’s products wasn’t a secret internally. “Oh my gosh yall IG is a drug,” one of the company’s user-experience researchers allegedly wrote to a colleague. “We’re basically pushers.” Meta does not officially study addiction to its products, plaintiffs allege; it studies “problematic use.” In 2018, company researchers surveyed 20,000 Facebook users in the U.S. and found that 58% had some level of “problematic use”. But when Meta published an account of this research the following year, only the smaller number of users with “severe” problematic use was mentioned.

Around the same time, another user-experience researcher at Instagram allegedly recommended that Meta inform the public about its research findings: “Because our product exploits weaknesses in the human psychology to promote product engagement and time spent,” the researcher wrote, Meta needed to “alert people to the effect that the product has on their brain.”

Meta did not.

Over 1 in 4 Israelis considering leaving the country, poll finds

30% of Arabs, 26% of Jews thinking of emigrating, IDI says; secular Jews more inclined than religious; security, politics, employment and cost of living are top concerns

By [TOI STAFF](#) 23 November 2025, 5:34 pm



Travelers at Ben Gurion International Airport, October 23, 2025. (Nati Shohat/Flash90)

A new study published on Sunday found that 27 percent of Israelis are considering moving out of the country, even though the majority of them believe mass emigration would be dangerous for the future of the state.

The study by the Israel Democracy Institute was conducted in April among 720 Jewish respondents and 187 Arab respondents. It found that a larger percentage of Arab Israelis (30%) are considering leaving than Jewish Israelis (26%). Among Jews, the less individuals identified as religious, the more likely they were to say they were considering emigration, and respondents identifying as left-wing were more likely to say so than those on the right.

Of those who said they were considering leaving, 69% of Jews and 62.5% of Arabs said they had no specific pull abroad — it was just a matter of getting out of the country.

The poll was conducted after some 18 months of war on multiple fronts — before Israel's 12-day war with Iran in June and before a fragile ceasefire was achieved last month in the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, leading to the return of all but three of the hostages held there. It is unclear whether these two developments would change the results.

Among those weighing emigration, those who identified as non-religious made up the highest percentage (39%), followed by traditional but non-religious (24%), traditional religious (19%), Orthodox (14%), and finally ultra-Orthodox (4%).

Among younger secular Jewish Israelis, 60% said they would consider leaving, and among those with a high income and a foreign passport, the figure jumped to 80%.

In both Arabs and Jews, the more educated were more likely to consider leaving, and high and medium-high incomes created a higher likelihood as well. In the same vein, people with jobs that enabled more global mobility, such as high-tech, medicine, and finance, were most likely to consider leaving.

Israelis with a second citizenship were unsurprisingly more likely to weigh leaving than those without, but the study found more Israeli-born citizens (33%) were considering moving than those who had immigrated to Israel (22%). The study attributed this to the intentionality of immigrating, noting that those who had made the effort to come would be less likely to think of leaving.

Israeli-born Jews with dual citizenship were more likely to consider leaving if they had lived abroad for any amount of time. The longer they had spent abroad, the more likely they were to consider moving away from Israel.

Forty-two percent of Jews and 33% of Arabs reported thinking that the current state of the nation was “bad,” while 8% and 15% respectively described it as “good.”

Respondents cited cost of living, security and political concerns and “the lack of a good future for my children” as top considerations for emigrating. The most popular destination among those thinking of leaving was the European Union (43%), higher than North America or Canada (27%).

Other concerns included public services, Israel's international standing, the state of the country's democracy, free speech, and Israel's identity as the Jewish state.

Trump Signs ‘Genesis Mission’ Order to Boost Innovation With AI

Hadriana Lowenkron and Josh Wingrove
Tue, November 25, 2025

(Bloomberg) -- President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday establishing the “Genesis Mission,” a federal effort to boost innovation using artificial intelligence — the latest step by the administration to promote AI technology and its adoption.

The effort aims to better coordinate research done by agencies across the government and more effectively integrate AI tools to achieve more scientific breakthroughs, according to Michael Kratsios, the director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, who spoke to reporters on the order ahead of Trump’s signature.

The mission will harness the computing resources of the Department of Energy’s national labs to tap federal datasets and enable more experiments utilizing AI, Kratsios added, predicting the effort would help shorten the timelines for scientific discoveries.

“With the power of AI, America is on the brink of a scientific revolution,” Kratsios said Monday.

The massive computing resources needed for AI’s development and use, though, rely on energy-hungry data centers, which has spurred worries that the adoption of the technology will only increase strains on the US electric grid.

Energy Secretary Chris Wright on Monday said the Genesis initiative would help counter rising energy costs, saying one of its “ultimate goals” in the energy space is to “bring more energy on, make our electricity grid more efficient and reverse price rises that have infuriated American citizens.”

“We’re going to stop the rise of price of energy. First, it’ll plateau, and ultimately will push downward pressure on the prices of electricity,” Wright said.

The initiative was previewed earlier in November by Department of Energy Chief of Staff Carl Coe, who cast it as an effort to signal that the Trump administration sees the race to develop AI technology as just as important as the space race and the World War II-era Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb.

Kratsios on Monday called it the “largest marshaling of federal scientific resources since the Apollo program” — the US mission to send humans to the moon and bring them back to Earth safely.

Trump has frequently hailed the promise of AI and made its development a top priority for his administration, pushing policies he says are critical to ensuring the US wins a race with China and others to advance the technology. Through a host of executive orders, Trump has moved to ease regulatory burdens to make it easier for companies to build AI infrastructure and power data centers and for allies to obtain key hardware and software.

He’s also pushed to block state-level regulation in the US, arguing for a federal standard. The president is preparing an executive order that would allow the Department of Justice to sue states over artificial intelligence regulations it deems unconstitutional.



Volcano erupts for first time in 12,000 years: "Like a sudden bomb"

CBSNews

Tue, November 25, 2025

A volcano in Ethiopia's northeastern region erupted for the first time in nearly 12,000 years, sending thick plumes of smoke up to nine miles into the sky, the Toulouse Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) said.

The Hayli Gubbi volcano, located in Ethiopia's Afar region about 500 miles northeast of Addis Ababa near the Eritrean border, erupted on Sunday for several hours.

The volcano, which rises about 1,500 feet yards in altitude, sits within the Rift Valley, a zone of intense geological activity where two tectonic plates meet.

Ash clouds from the volcano drifted over Yemen, Oman, India, and northern Pakistan, said the VAAC, which posted a [map of the path of the ash cloud](#).

Air India said on Tuesday said it had canceled at least 11 flights due to the ash plumes, and Akasa Air said it canceled flights to some Middle East destinations, the Reuters news agency reported.

Simon Carn, a volcanologist and professor at the Michigan Technological University, [confirmed on Bluesky](#) that the ash cloud was "spreading rapidly east in the subtropical jet stream, over the Arabian Sea towards NW India and Pakistan."



In this photo released by the Afar Government Communication Bureau, ash billows from an eruption of the long-dormant Hayli Gubbi Volcano in Ethiopia's Afar region, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025. / Credit: Afar Government Communication Bureau via AP

In videos shared on social media, which AFP could not immediately verify, a thick column of white smoke can be seen rising.

The Smithsonian Institution's Global Volcanism Program said Hayli Gubbi has had no known eruptions during the Holocene, which began around 12,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age. Carn [confirmed on Bluesky](#) that Hayli Gubbi "has no record of Holocene eruptions."

A local administrator, Mohammed Seid, said there were no casualties, but the eruption could have economic implications for the local community of livestock herders.

Seid told The Associated Press that there was no previous record of an eruption by the Hayli Gubbi volcano, and that he fears for the livelihoods of residents.

"While no human lives and livestock have been lost so far, many villages have been covered in ash and as a result their animals have little to eat," he said.

Advertisement

The Afar region is prone to earthquakes and a resident, Ahmed Abdela, told the AP he heard a loud sound and what he described as a shock wave.

"It felt like a sudden bomb had been thrown with smoke and ash," he said.

Chinese scientists develop satellite power system to support future space weapons

Chinese researchers have reportedly developed an advanced satellite power system capable of supporting high-energy particle beam and other directed-energy weapons.

By [Bojan Stojkovski](#), [Military](#) Nov 08, 2025 02:08 PM EST

Scientists in China claim that they have finally cracked a decades-old dilemma that has long prevented the development of space-based particle beam weapons. Particle beams- streams of atoms or subatomic particles accelerated to nearly the speed of light – have long been considered the holy grail of space warfare.

In theory, they could disable or destroy enemy satellites and missiles through immense kinetic and thermal energy. Yet the challenge has always been power and precision. To function, such weapons require both enormous energy and near-perfect synchronization within their onboard accelerators.

Traditionally, systems capable of producing megawatts of power lacked the fine control needed for these delicate adjustments, while ultra-precise systems could not handle the massive [energy](#) loads.

Prototype shows record power and precision

A team led by senior engineer Su Zhenhua from DFH Satellite Co, China's largest [satellite](#) manufacturer, has developed a prototype of a space-based power system designed to deliver both high output and precise control. In ground tests, the system produced 2.6 megawatts of pulsed power while maintaining synchronization accuracy within 0.63 microseconds. According to Su and his colleagues, most existing pulsed power supplies generate less than 1 MW and typically achieve synchronization accuracy of only about 1 millisecond, limited by current control precision and energy conversion efficiency,

The researchers noted that many advanced systems – such as electromagnetic warfare simulators and particle beam platforms – require immense bursts of energy delivered with extreme precision, often at the megawatt level within microsecond or even nanosecond intervals.

New satellite technology promises wider applications beyond defense

Beyond potential use in particle beam weapons, researchers say the technology could serve a wide range of non-military purposes in future space systems. These include lidar and laser communication, advanced ion thrusters for more efficient satellite manoeuvring, and microwave remote sensing for high-resolution Earth observation and [weather](#) monitoring.

The same approach could also enhance space-based radar and electronic warfare capabilities, enabling more effective jamming or signal simulation in orbit. Amid rising competition in orbit, China is advancing high-power space energy systems.

With the US expanding its [Starlink](#) and upcoming Starshield constellations – networks of small, resilient satellites with dual-use capabilities – traditional space defense methods like missile interceptors are becoming less effective. Lasers and particle beam weapons offer the ability to engage multiple targets at the speed of light, using only solar-generated electricity at very low cost per shot. Still, some military analysts remain cautious, noting that satellites are built to endure intense cosmic radiation with hardened components and shielding, leaving open the question of whether such directed energy could penetrate these defenses.

Iran said funneling huge sums to Hezbollah via Dubai in attempt to help it rebuild

Wall Street Journal reports that Tehran has sent Hezbollah hundreds of millions of dollars obtained through oil sales over the past year; UAE says working to put a stop to it

By [TOI STAFF](#) Today, 2:28 am



Iranian demonstrators hold Iranian, Palestinian and Lebanon's Hezbollah flags in an anti-Israeli rally after their Friday prayer in Tehran, Iran, Friday, April 11, 2025. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

The Hezbollah terror group in Lebanon has received hundreds of millions of dollars from Iran over the past year via money laundering operations in Dubai, [The Wall Street Journal](#) reported Thursday, after Tehran moved away from the smuggling routes it had previously used due to complications created by the fall of the Assad regime in Syria last December.

The report, which cited officials familiar with the matter, revealed that Iran has been funding Hezbollah's efforts to rebuild its forces after much of the terror group and its leadership was wiped out in a year-long war with Israel, which ended in a truce last November.

To aid these efforts, the WSJ reported, Iran has been funneling money earned through oil sales to Hezbollah from within the United Arab Emirates, which has diplomatic relations with Israel.

The money from oil sales is moved through Iran-linked exchange shops and private companies, as well as to businessmen and couriers, the WSJ said. It is then transferred to Lebanon through the informal and centuries-old transfer system known as Hawala, in which individuals, rather than banks, act as brokers for money transfers. The system is widely used in Muslim countries, but is not limited to them.

Approached for comment by the WSJ, an unnamed Emirati official said the country was opposed to such activities being carried out in its territory, and that officials were working with international partners to put a stop to it.

Lebanon has also taken a series of steps to try to put a stop to the smuggling, including banning direct flights from Iran and increasing the screening at airports and other borders. Iran has been able to get around this, however, by sending more travelers with smaller amounts of cash or jewelry, thereby bypassing the need to declare anything at customs and lowering the risk of arousing suspicion, the report said.

In November, the US undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, John Hurley, [said](#) Iran had managed to funnel about \$1 billion to Hezbollah in 2025. Iran has primarily smuggled this money through Dubai after its regular routes were cut off or severely obstructed when Tehran's ally, former Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, was ousted last December.

Last month, the US Treasury sanctioned two individuals accused of using money exchanges to help fund Hezbollah.

The WSJ report came on the first anniversary of a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon that brought an end to more than a year of border clashes and outright war with Hezbollah, which began firing rockets at Israeli military outposts and communities on October 8, 2023, a day after fellow Iran-backed terror group Hamas invaded southern Israel, sparking the war in Gaza.

The US-brokered ceasefire with Hezbollah was reached two months after Israel invaded Lebanon in September 2024 in a bid to secure the return home of some 60,000 residents displaced by Hezbollah's near-daily attacks on northern Israel.



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike in the southern Lebanese village of El Mahmoudiyeh on November 27, 2025. (Rabih DAHER / AFP)

Under the terms of the ceasefire, Hezbollah was required to vacate southern Lebanon, while Israel was given 60 days to do so. The IDF later withdrew from all but five posts along the border with Lebanon, citing the incomplete dismantling of Hezbollah's infrastructure in the country's south.

The ceasefire required both Israel and Hezbollah to vacate southern Lebanon, to be replaced by the Lebanese armed forces. Israel has withdrawn from all but five strategic posts along the border.

In the year since the ceasefire came into effect, the IDF and Israeli Air Force have conducted hundreds of airstrikes, raids and operations in southern Lebanon, all aimed at preventing Hezbollah from rebuilding and restoring its capabilities.

It has escalated such operations in recent weeks, accusing Hezbollah of rebuilding as the Lebanese Armed Forces make slow progress in its efforts to disarm the terror group and take control of southern Lebanon.

On truce anniversary, Israel strikes Hezbollah as Lebanese PM criticizes terror group

PM Nawaf Salam says IDF's repeated strikes belie Hezbollah claim it must remain armed to deter Israeli attacks; IDF says it has killed 370 terror operatives since ceasefire

By [EMANUEL FABIAN](#),
Follow

[AGENCIES](#) and [TOI STAFF](#) 27 November 2025,

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Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of El Mahmoudiyeh on November 27, 2025. (Rabih DAHER / AFP)

The IDF confirmed launching a wave of strikes on southern Lebanon Thursday — the first anniversary of the ceasefire largely ending the cross-border fighting last year — saying it hit rocket-launching sites, weapon depots and military posts belonging to Hezbollah.

“The presence of the infrastructure and the activity of the Hezbollah terror organization in these areas constitute a violation of the understandings between Israel and Lebanon,” the military said.

Israel has escalated strikes in Lebanon in recent weeks, accusing Hezbollah of rebuilding in violation of the ceasefire deal that ended over a year of violence, including two months of open warfare.

Lebanon has faced US and Israeli pressure to disarm Hezbollah in accordance with the ceasefire, which envisions the Lebanese military and international peacekeeping force UNIFIL controlling southern Lebanon. Hezbollah has refused to give up its weapons.

On Thursday, Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam offered rare criticism of Hezbollah, saying the terror group’s claim that its weapons deterred enemy attacks did not hold water.

“Hezbollah says its weapons are deterring an aggression. Deterrence means preventing the enemy from carrying out an aggression, but [Israel] is attacking and the weapons are not deterring it,” Salam said in comments run by state-run National News Agency.

The Israeli strikes came shortly before Pope Leo XIV is scheduled to visit Lebanon on Sunday.

Although the pope will visit Beirut and other parts of the country, he will not go to south Lebanon, where Israel has frequently targeted Hezbollah. Simmering tensions with Hezbollah reached a fever pitch after Israel on Sunday [killed Hezbollah’s military leader](#) in a rare post-ceasefire strike on Beirut.

IDF: Over 370 terror operatives killed since ceasefire deal

Marking a year to the ceasefire agreement, the IDF said Thursday that it had killed over 370 terror operatives in Lebanon since the deal was signed on November 27, 2024.

Most of the slain terror operatives were members of Hezbollah, while others were from allied groups, including Hamas, according to the IDF. The operatives were targeted by airstrikes for violating the terms of the truce, the IDF said.

The military did not include an estimate of how many civilians were killed in southern Lebanon. On Thursday, the UN's rights office said Israel had killed at least 127 civilians, including children, in its strikes on Lebanon since the ceasefire deal.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese health ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants, said more than 330 people have been killed in Lebanon since the ceasefire deal.

Under the terms of the ceasefire, Hezbollah was required to vacate southern Lebanon, while Israel was given 60 days to do so. The IDF later withdrew from all but five posts along the border with Lebanon, citing the incomplete dismantling of Hezbollah's infrastructure in the country's south.

In addition to hundreds of airstrikes amid the ceasefire, the military said, ground troops have conducted over 1,200 raids and other small operations in southern Lebanon, mostly in areas surrounding the five "strategic" border posts, to prevent Hezbollah from restoring its capabilities.

The operations included demolishing terror infrastructure, thwarting Hezbollah intelligence collection efforts, and other activities to damage the terror group's capabilities, the army said. During the raids, troops located numerous weapons, rocket-launching sites, and other buildings used by Hezbollah, the army added.

Israel invaded Lebanon in September 2024 in a bid to secure the return home of some 60,000 residents displaced by Hezbollah's near-daily attacks on northern Israel starting October 8, 2023 — a day after fellow Iran-backed group Hamas invaded southern Israel, sparking the war in Gaza.

The start of the invasion was accompanied by massive airstrikes on Beirut and other areas that decimated Hezbollah's leadership, leaving the group politically and militarily weakened after the war.

If Nuclear War Started Tomorrow, These U.S. Cities Would Vanish First

Halle Kaye

Mon, December 1, 2025 at 12:30 AM GMT+2·9 min read

[3k](#)

The thought of nuclear war feels like something pulled from a Cold War documentary or a dystopian movie — not a real possibility. But experts, defense analysts, and national security planners still map out the unthinkable: which U.S. cities would be targeted first if a nuclear conflict ever erupted. It's not about fear-mongering; it's about understanding how geopolitical strategy works, how population centers factor into risk, and why certain cities sit high on every hypothetical strike list.

1. Washington, D.C.



As the heart of American governance, Washington, D.C., stands out as a prime target in any nuclear conflict scenario. The city houses key institutions like the White House, the Capitol, and the Pentagon. This makes it not only a symbol of U.S. political power but also a functional node critical to national defense operations. You can imagine the strategic chaos that would unfold if D.C. were compromised.

According to an article from the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Washington, D.C., tops the list of potential nuclear targets due to its political significance. The piece emphasizes the catastrophic impact on both governance and civilian life. So, while the idea of such an event is unsettling, it underscores the importance of diplomatic solutions to international tensions.

2. New York City

New York City, with its bustling streets and towering skyscrapers, represents not only economic prowess but also cultural influence. As a global financial hub, it's home to the New York Stock Exchange and major corporate headquarters. A nuclear strike here would ripple across global markets, creating financial instability worldwide. It's a city whose vibrancy is matched only by its vulnerability in such dire scenarios.

For the millions who call it home, NYC is a mosaic of cultures and dreams, making the thought of its disappearance profoundly poignant. Imagine the loss of iconic landmarks like the Statue of Liberty and Times Square, and the impact on art, media, and commerce. It's a scenario that highlights the stakes of global peace, as well as the resilience inherent in the spirit of its people.

3. Los Angeles



Los Angeles, renowned for its entertainment industry, holds a unique place in American society. It's a city of dreams, where films and music that shape global culture are created. Beyond the glitz, L.A. is a critical port city, essential for trade and the flow of goods into the United States. Its loss would not only disrupt Hollywood but also the supply chains that support daily life across the nation.

A report by the RAND Corporation outlines Los Angeles as a potential nuclear target due to its economic and cultural significance. The study highlights how a strike here would impact everything from international trade to entertainment. This dual role as both a cultural and logistical hub makes Los Angeles an essential city in discussions about strategic defense and policy-making.

4. San Francisco

San Francisco is a technological powerhouse, home to Silicon Valley and the birthplace of many innovative startups. As a leader in tech and innovation, its reach extends far beyond its iconic Golden Gate Bridge. In a nuclear scenario, crippling the tech industry would have profound global implications, affecting everything from communications to finance. It's a city whose future-oriented mindset is its greatest strength—and its potential vulnerability.

5. Houston

Houston stands as a giant in the energy sector, renowned for its oil and gas industries. As the energy capital of the world, it plays a pivotal role in the global economy by influencing energy prices and innovations. A nuclear strike here would reverberate through every sector dependent on energy, affecting global markets and everyday life. The city's strategic importance cannot be overstated.

According to a study by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Houston's critical infrastructure makes it a prime target. The research underscores the interconnected nature of energy and national security. Such insights emphasize the delicate balance of energy dependence and the risks associated with centralizing essential services in a single location.

6. Chicago

Chicago, with its iconic skyline and deep-dish pizza, stands as a central hub in America's heartland. Known for its architectural beauty and bustling O'Hare International Airport, it's a nexus for both tourism and transportation. A nuclear attack would disrupt air travel and logistics operations that connect the country. The city's vibrant neighborhoods paint a picture of American diversity and resilience.

As a major financial center, Chicago's Board of Trade influences agricultural and financial markets worldwide. The loss of such a key economic player would send shockwaves far beyond its city limits. Contemplating such a scenario is a reminder of the importance of interconnectedness and preparedness in the face of potential crises.

7. Seattle

Seattle's significance lies in its dual role as a tech hub and a major port city. Home to giants like Amazon and Boeing, it's a cradle of innovation that impacts industries globally. A nuclear strike would send tremors through the tech world and disrupt trade routes dependent on its port. The city's unique culture blends progressive values with a fierce entrepreneurial spirit.

A report from the Union of Concerned Scientists highlights Seattle's vulnerability due to its strategic economic importance. The analysis underscores how its tech innovations are intertwined with global progress. Reflecting on its potential targeting reveals the broader stakes of safeguarding hubs of creativity and commerce.

8. Atlanta

Atlanta is a growing economic powerhouse, known for its role in global commerce and transportation. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport serves as a key artery for travel and logistics. A nuclear strike here would halt air travel and disrupt supply chains that extend far beyond the city. The diverse communities that call Atlanta home add to its rich tapestry of culture and innovation.

The city is also a media center, housing major networks like CNN, which influence global news and views. Its crossroads of culture and commerce make Atlanta a vital component of the national mosaic. Imagining its loss prompts reflection on the resilience of its people and the broader importance of maintaining peace.

9. Miami

Miami is more than just a sun-soaked tourist destination; it is a gateway to Latin America and a cultural melting pot. As a crucial port city, it handles commerce that connects the Americas. A nuclear disaster would

devastate its economy and sever vital trade links, affecting businesses and people across the region. The vibrant Art Deco architecture and rich Latino heritage make it a city like no other.

The city's coastal location also raises concerns about evacuation and disaster management. Imagining its impact underlines the importance of robust defense and diplomacy efforts to protect such vibrant communities. With its unique blend of cultures and economic significance, Miami stands as a reminder of the intricate web of global connections.

10. Philadelphia

Philadelphia, known as the birthplace of American democracy, holds a special place in the nation's heart. Its historic sites, like Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, are symbols of freedom and resilience. A nuclear strike here would not only devastate these landmarks but also disrupt a key economic region. The city's role in shaping American values and history adds to its strategic significance.

Philadelphia's diverse economy, from healthcare to finance, makes it a linchpin for the Northeast corridor. The potential loss underscores the importance of protecting areas rich in historical and economic value. As a city that balances tradition with modernity, its preservation is crucial in maintaining the nation's cultural and economic heritage.

11. Dallas



Dallas, a beacon of Texan pride, boasts a booming economy driven by industries like energy and technology. As a corporate headquarters hub, it influences both local and national markets. A nuclear event would cripple these industries, with repercussions felt across the country. Dallas represents a unique blend of southern charm and metropolitan dynamism.

The city's sprawling layout and modern infrastructure present challenges and opportunities in terms of urban planning and disaster preparedness. Its diverse communities contribute to a rich cultural landscape that would be irrevocably altered in such a scenario. The potential impact serves as a stark reminder of the need for vigilant diplomacy and defense strategies.

12. Boston

Boston is a cradle of education and innovation, home to prestigious institutions like Harvard and MIT. Its intellectual capital fuels advancements in technology, medicine, and beyond. A nuclear event would disrupt research and development, stalling progress in numerous fields. The city's historic significance and cutting-edge innovations create a fascinating juxtaposition.

The cultural heritage of Boston, from Fenway Park to its revolutionary history, adds layers of complexity to its potential targeting. The intellectual and cultural loss would be profound, affecting not just the city but the world. It highlights the need for protecting centers of knowledge and culture as pillars of a progressive society.

13. Las Vegas



Las Vegas, synonymous with entertainment and opulence, is a symbol of escapism and American excess. Beyond the neon lights and casinos, it's a key player in the hospitality and tourism sectors. A nuclear strike would bring these industries to a grinding halt, affecting millions of jobs and livelihoods. The city's ability to reinvent itself amid challenges makes it uniquely resilient. The stark desert landscape surrounding Las Vegas adds an eerie backdrop to considerations of its potential targeting. Contemplating its fate brings to mind the fragility of human creations in the face of existential threats.

We will disarm Hezbollah': Israeli war chief threatens new war in Lebanon

The new threat comes just days after Israel's assassination of Hezbollah's top military official in Beirut

[News Desk](#) NOV 26, 2025

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz [threatened](#) on 26 November that Tel Aviv will launch a new war against Lebanon if Hezbollah does not surrender its weapons by the end of 2025.

"We will not allow any threats against the inhabitants of the north, and maximum enforcement will continue and even intensify," the minister said while addressing Israel's Knesset.

"As we proved a few days ago with the elimination – there will be no calm in Beirut, nor order and stability in Lebanon, until the security of the State of Israel is guaranteed," he added, referring to Israel's assassination of Hezbollah chief of staff Haitham Ali al-Tabtabai in Beirut's southern suburb days ago.

"If Hezbollah does not give up its weapons by the year's end, we will work forcefully again in Lebanon," Katz went on to say. "We will disarm them."

Katz added that Washington has given Beirut until the end of this year to disarm the Lebanese resistance, but said, "I do not believe that Hezbollah will hand over its weapons voluntarily." The Israeli minister also said Tel Aviv is [considering](#) withdrawing from the maritime border deal reached indirectly between Lebanon and Israel in 2022. "We will reconsider our position on the maritime border agreement with Lebanon, because it contains many weaknesses and serious problematic issues," he said.

The Lebanese state has not yet been able to reap the benefits of the agreement due to delays by a western and Gulf-led consortium of energy firms. Beirut was informed that no commercially viable gas was found in the Qana gas field, and the consortium has continued to stall in submitting a technical report on the matter.

Israel assassinated Hezbollah's [chief of staff](#) and four other members of the resistance over the weekend in a strike on Beirut that injured dozens, including women and children. A top [Hezbollah](#) official said Israel "should be worried" after the strike. The Lebanese government is [reportedly](#) urging Hezbollah not to retaliate.

Over the past several weeks, Israel has significantly escalated its attacks on Lebanon. It claims Hezbollah is quickly rebuilding its military capabilities, and has made several US-backed threats to begin a broad campaign against Lebanon.

The Lebanese military is dismantling Hezbollah's presence south of the Litani River in line with the ceasefire agreement. Hezbollah has rejected a Lebanese cabinet decision, issued in August under heavy US pressure, which called for the group's full disarmament by the end of this year.

The resistance movement says it is eventually willing to discuss a national defensive strategy which would incorporate its weapons into the Lebanese army, but refuses to hold talks on the matter while Israel continues its attacks and occupies several areas in southern Lebanon.

Washington is pressuring the Lebanese state and demanding that it quickly disarm Hezbollah by force, even at the risk of a civil war. [US officials](#) have publicly backed Israeli threats and have warned that Lebanon faces a major assault if it does not force the resistance to surrender its weapons. Israel has killed over 300 people in Lebanon since the ceasefire was reached last year. Since the start of this month alone, at least 38 people have been killed by Israeli attacks.

Jewish Cult Lev Tahor Caught Trafficking & Impregnating Children – 17 Kids Rescued in Midnight Raid

[November 28, 2025 Baxter Dmitry News](#),

Authorities have rescued 17 terrified children from the grip of Lev Tahor—an ultra-Orthodox Jewish group long accused of operating an international pedophile network of child exploitation, forced marriages, and human trafficking.

What began as whispers of international alerts ended in a [dramatic confrontation](#) in regional Colombia, pulling back the curtain on a cult that has evaded justice across continents for decades.

The [operation](#) unfolded swiftly in the rural town of Yarumal, involving Colombia’s Army Anti-Kidnapping Unit, immigration officials, and child protective services. Nine adult members of Lev Tahor—traveling with seven families—were detained during the raid, their black robes and head-to-toe coverings a stark contrast to the fluorescent-lit hotel lobby.

Gloria Esperanza Arriero, director of Colombia’s national immigration service, Migración Colombia, confirmed the details in a statement to the Associated Press, explaining the inspection was part of routine checks on foreign visitors but escalated after tips from international partners flagged the group’s presence.

Among the rescued minors—boys and girls ranging from toddlers to teenagers—five carried active Interpol “yellow notices,” alerts issued for missing or endangered children suspected to be victims of kidnapping or trafficking.

These children, hailing from the United States, Canada, and Guatemala, had reportedly entered Colombia just weeks earlier, flying in from New York on October 22 and 23. Authorities believe the families were using the hotel as a temporary hideout, part of Lev Tahor’s pattern of nomadic flight to evade scrutiny.

“The absolute priority is ensuring the protection of these minors,” Arriero told Newsweek, underscoring the coordinated response with Colombia’s Attorney General’s Office and child-welfare agencies.

As of now, the children are in state custody, undergoing medical and psychological evaluations, while the detained adults face immigration violations and potential extradition probes tied to prior abuse allegations.

Lev Tahor: From “Pure Heart” to a Trail of Trauma

Founded in Jerusalem in the 1980s as a breakaway ultra-Orthodox movement—its Hebrew name translating to “pure heart”—Lev Tahor has devolved into what critics, including [Israeli officials](#), openly call a pedophile cult.

With an estimated 50 families scattered across borders, the sect enforces draconian rules: women and girls must don all-black tunics that shroud them entirely, education is limited to religious indoctrination, and isolation from the outside world is absolute.

But beneath the pious facade lies a darker reality. Lev Tahor has been dogged by accusations of systematic child abuse, including forced marriages as young as 12, sexual exploitation, physical beatings, and even coerced pregnancies to “preserve bloodlines.”



Ultra-

orthodox Jewish women and children of the Lev Tahor sect

The [group's history](#) reads like a fugitive's ledger: fleeing Canada in 2013 amid child welfare probes, resettling in Guatemala where a 2024 raid freed 160 minors from a jungle compound amid reports of rape and mistreatment.

In 2022, Mexican police arrested a sect leader near the Guatemalan border, rescuing women and children from similar horrors. Even farther back, in 2021, two Lev Tahor leaders were convicted in New York for kidnapping and child sexual exploitation.

Whispers of conspiracy swirl around the group: How does a fringe sect with no apparent wealth sustain globe-trotting escapes? Some speculate ties to sympathetic donors or even state-level protections in Israel, though evidence remains elusive.

Lev Tahor's reach extends to unlikely havens—Iran, Bosnia, Morocco—prompting questions about whether it's more than just religious zeal fueling its survival.

“Easier Than Talking to a Real Person”: Almost Half of All Teens Turn to AI for Company and Support

by [Raw Egg Nationalist](#) November 29th, 2025

Two out of five teenagers in Britain now regularly talks to AI chatbots for company and support, with one in five saying talking to AI is “easier than talking to a real person”

“The study and its findings show a generation that is lonely and one that has unrestricted access to technology that is addictive in nature,” says website Gizmodo



Image Credit: NurPhoto / Contributor / Getty Images

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Two out of five teenagers in Britain [now regularly talks to AI chatbots](#) for company and support, with one in five saying talking to AI is “easier than talking to a real person.”

A British youth charity called OnSide surveyed just over 5,000 11-18 year olds for its annual “Generation Isolation Report” on how adolescents spend their free time.

Just under half said AI provided significant support for them, and over half said they used it for advice on clothes, friendship and mental health.

Ten percent of respondents said they just wanted someone to talk to.

Website Gizmodo reports, “The study and its findings show a generation that is lonely and one that has unrestricted access to technology that is addictive in nature. According to the study 76% of young people spend most of their free time on screens, and that 34% report feeling high or very high feelings of loneliness.”

In recent months, the American Psychological Association has been pressing the FTC to regulate the use of chatbots as unlicensed therapists.

In March, the Association noted that chatbots could endanger users, especially “vulnerable groups [that] include children and teens, who lack the experience to accurately assess risks.”

Chatbots have already been implicated in suicides.

In one case, OpenAI’s ChatGPT helped a teenager plan his suicide and encouraged him to hide his feelings from his parents.

AI chatbots have also been found to engage in inappropriate sexual talk with children. Tech giant Meta came in for significant criticism this year, including from US lawmakers, when a leaked internal document revealed that its chatbot had been allowed to engage in “sensual” conversations with children.

In October, Congress introduced a bipartisan bill called the GUARD Act, to force AI companies to bring in age verification on their sites and block users under 18 years of age.

“AI chatbots pose a serious threat to our kids,” Sen. Josh Hawley, who introduced the bill along with Sen. Richard Blumenthal, told [NBC News](#).

“More than seventy percent of American children are now using these AI products.”

There are also ongoing lawsuits against tech companies from parents who claim their AI products encouraged their children to commit suicide.

Syria's Sharaa slams Israel for 'exporting' conflict to region to hide Gaza 'massacres'

Syrian leader says Jewish state 'is in a fight against ghosts' as he decries IDF operations in his country, acknowledges 'atrocities' committed against minority groups in Sweida

By [JACOB MAGID](#) TOI

DOHA, Qatar — Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa on Saturday accused Israel of "exporting crises" to other countries around the region in order to distract from its "horrificing massacres" in Gaza.

Sharaa's comments, which were perhaps his sharpest against Israel since becoming Syria's leader a year ago, were made during the annual Doha Forum hosted in the Qatari capital and followed several other regional leaders who also [spoke](#) about the war in Gaza.

"Israel... tries to run away from the horrificing massacres committed in Gaza, and it does so by attempting to export crises," Sharaa said during an onstage interview.

"Israel has become a country that is in a fight against ghosts," he claimed, saying that Israel uses the guise of security concerns and the need to prevent another October 7 massacre to justify every action it takes, even though no such correlation exists.

"Since we arrived in Damascus, we sent positive messages regarding regional peace and stability... and that we are not interested in being a country that exports conflict, including to Israel," Sharaa continued, referring to his jihadist group's toppling of the Assad regime last year.

"But in return, Israel has met us with extreme violence," Sharaa said, highlighting the deadly Israeli raid on terrorists in the southern Syrian town of Beit Jinn last month. "Syria has suffered massive violations of our airspace, and we've been victim of over 1000 airstrikes and over 400 incursions," he said.

Sharaa reiterated his call for Israel to withdraw from the Golan territories in southern Syria that it has occupied since December, after Assad fled, with Jerusalem wary of the new Syrian leader's past as an al-Qaeda commander and citing fears the area would fall into the wrong hands.



Troops of the 55th Reserve Paratroopers Brigade detain a suspect in the southern Syrian village of Beit Jinn, early November 28, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)

He expressed his support for the 1974 disengagement agreement with Israel, adding that tampering with it “and seeking other agreements such as a demilitarized zone... could lead us to a dangerous place.”

Israel’s actions in the country recently drew stern comments from US President Donald Trump, who warned earlier in the week against destabilizing Syria and its new leadership, days after IDF soldiers battled gunmen in the country’s south.

“It is very important that Israel maintain a strong and true dialogue with Syria, and that nothing takes place that will interfere with Syria’s evolution into a prosperous State,” Trump said, adding that he is “very satisfied” with the country’s performance under Sharaa.

Some of Israel’s military intervention in Syria has been with the declared aim of protecting members of the Druze minority, notably during the violence in Sweida this summer that pitted Sunni Muslim Bedouin fighters and government forces against Druze fighters.

Along with the violence in Sweida, which a war monitor reported left over 2,000 dead, including hundreds of Druze civilians, some government forces or their allies have been implicated in other outbreaks of sectarian violence, including the Alawite community massacres in March that are estimated to have killed more than 1,700 people.

Netanyahu to present Trump with new Iran attack plans during US visit — report

Jerusalem is concerned Tehran could rebuild its nuclear program, but is primarily worried about a potential surge in ballistic missile production to some 3,000 a month, NBC says

By [TOI STAFF](#) Today, 8:02 pm



US President Donald Trump (L) holds hands and speaks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Knesset, in Jerusalem on October 13, 2025. (SAUL LOEB / POOL / AFP)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will present plans for a possible fresh attack on Iran to US President Donald Trump during his upcoming visit to Washington, [NBC News](#) reported Saturday, citing several unnamed officials.

According to the report, Israel is growing increasingly concerned that Iran is rebuilding and even expanding its ballistic missile production in the wake of the nations' 12-day war in June.

Israel is also worried that Iran is rebuilding its nuclear enrichment program, which was heavily damaged by Israeli and American strikes, the report added.

Netanyahu and Trump are [expected to meet](#) at the US president's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida at the end of the month.

While Israel has publicly called Iran's nuclear program an existential threat, officials quoted in the report said that the ballistic missiles were seen by Jerusalem as a more pressing concern.

"The nuclear weapons program is very concerning. There's an attempt to reconstitute.[But] it's not that immediate," a source with knowledge of Israel's plans told NBC News.

"The threat of the missiles is very real, and we weren't able to prevent them all last time," another source said.

A source with knowledge on the matter, as well as former US officials, told NBC that Jerusalem believes Iran's renewed production of ballistic missiles could increase to 3,000 per month if left unchecked.

Such an arsenal, in addition to threatening Israel, could serve as a deterrent against Israeli action to act against the Islamic Republic's proxies in the region, or against its nuclear program.

Israel launched its war against Iran in June, targeting the Islamic Republic's nuclear and ballistic missile programs, and citing an imminent existential threat to the Jewish state.

Over 12 days, successive waves of airstrikes killed Iranian nuclear scientists, took out much of the supply and production capacity for the missile program, and damaged uranium enrichment sites, with the US joining in the last days to take out underground nuclear facilities that only heavy bunker-buster bombs could penetrate.

Iran said over 1,000 people were killed by Israeli strikes in the war. It retaliated by launching over 500 ballistic missiles and around 1,100 drones at Israel, which killed 32 people and wounded over 3,000 in Israel, according to health officials and hospitals.

In all, Israel suffered 36 missile impacts and one drone strike in populated areas, [causing damage to 2,305 homes](#) in 240 buildings, along with two universities and a hospital, and leaving over 13,000 Israelis displaced.

The Washington Post reported this week that Netanyahu and Trump had [discussed a potential strike](#) on Iran's nuclear program as early as February, during their first meeting after the US president's return to office. Israel and the US coordinated plans throughout the

following months, including while Trump held talks with Iran in an effort to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully, The Post said.

During the February meeting, Netanyahu presented Trump with four options on what an attack on Iran could look like, according to the report. The four scenarios were an exclusively Israeli attack, an attack led by Israel with minimal US help, full collaboration, and a US-led assault.

According to the NBC report Saturday, citing a person with direct knowledge of Israel's plans, Netanyahu may present a similar set of options to Trump in Florida when the two meet.



A man stands outside the former US embassy next to a banner depicting the face of US President Donald Trump and a model missile during a rally in Tehran as Iranians mark the 46th anniversary of the start of the Iran hostage crisis, on November 4, 2025. (ATTA KENARE / AFP)

Israeli officials are concerned that Iran, leaning on its missile program as a deterrent, could fast-track an effort to reconstitute its nuclear program, NBC reported.

Israel declined to comment on the report, as did the Iranian mission to the UN.

Responding to NBC, White House spokesperson Anna Kelly said: "As President Trump has said, if Iran pursued a nuclear weapon, that site would be attacked and would be wiped out before they even got close."

Trump has insisted that Iran's nuclear program was "obliterated" by the US strikes. Other assessments, including those by American and Israeli intelligence agencies, have been more cautious, estimating that the program was set back years or even just months, rather than destroyed entirely.

David Barnea, the outgoing head of Israel's Mossad spy agency, [said on Tuesday](#) that Israel must "ensure" Iran doesn't restart its nuclear program, saying the Islamic Republic "will break out as soon as it is allowed."

"The idea of continuing to develop a nuclear bomb still beats in their hearts. We bear responsibility to ensure that the nuclear project, which has been gravely damaged, in close cooperation with the Americans, will never be activated," he said.

Iran, which regularly calls for the destruction of Israel, has consistently denied seeking to acquire nuclear weapons. However, it has enriched uranium to levels that have no peaceful application, [obstructed international inspectors](#) from checking its nuclear facilities, and expanded its ballistic missile capabilities. When the war began, Israel said Iran had recently taken steps toward weaponization.

Huckabee: Iran 'didn't get the full message' when US bombed its nuclear sites

US ambassador addresses reports the Islamic Republic is rebuilding its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, worrying Jerusalem; Tehran says missiles are nonnegotiable

By [NAVA FREIBERG](#),
Follow

[AGENCIES](#) and [TOI STAFF](#) 22 December 2025,

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US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee warned Monday that Iran “didn’t get the full message” following Washington’s strikes on the country’s nuclear sites during the Israel-Iran war in June.

“I don’t know that [Iran] ever took [US President Donald Trump] seriously until the night that the B-2 bombers went to [the] Fordo [nuclear facility],” Huckabee said in an interview at an Institute for National Security Studies conference.

Answering a question about Tehran’s reported efforts to rebuild Fordo, Huckabee told the interviewer: “I hope they got the message, but apparently they didn’t get the full message because, as you mentioned, they appear to be trying to reconstitute and find a new way to dig the hole deeper and secure it more.”

The comments came amid reports that Israel is worried about Iran’s rebuilding efforts and could launch another attack to thwart them. Iran insisted Monday that its missile program is for defensive purposes only, while its state media issued conflicting reports about missile drills.

Asked whether the US would greenlight another Israeli offensive against Iran if Israel determined that such a move was necessary, Huckabee responded: “All I can do is point to you what [Trump] has said repeatedly, and he consistently has said Iran is never going to enrich uranium, and they’re not going to have a nuclear weapon.”

He added that Iran renewing its ballistic missile and nuclear capabilities threatens not just Israel and the US, but also “presents a real threat to all of Europe.”



Men stand next to a model missile and a nuclear enrichment centrifuge during a rally outside the former US embassy in Tehran as Iranians mark the 46th anniversary of the start of the Iran hostage crisis, on November 4, 2025. (ATTA KENARE / AFP)

“And if the Europeans don’t understand this, then they’re even dumber than I sometimes think they are,” he added, while noting that Europe has put snapback sanctions back into force against Iran and encouraging “more of those kinds of things.”

Iran: Missile program is for defense, not up for debate

Iran, meanwhile, insisted that its missile program is defensive, and said the existence of its arsenal is not up for debate.

“Iran’s missile program was developed to defend Iran’s territory, not for negotiation,” foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said at a weekly press conference on Monday.

“Therefore, Iran’s defense capabilities, designed to deter aggressors from any thought of attacking Iran, are not a matter that could be talked about,” he said.

The comments came as Telegram channels of Iran’s public broadcaster and semi-official Nournews published videos of what appeared to be missile launches. The authenticity of the videos was not independently verified.

The outlets said launches took place in the cities of Tehran, Isfahan and Mashhad.

Later in the day, however, state media cited “informed sources” as denying that missiles were tested and saying the circulated images were of “high-altitude aircraft.”

No clarification regarding the conflicting reports was provided.

On Sunday, Axios reported that Israel has warned the US that Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps may be using an ongoing military exercise focusing on missiles as [cover to launch an attack](#) on Israel.

That story came in the wake of another report that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is planning to present US President Donald Trump next week with options for the US to join [another Israeli attack](#) on Iran, primarily out of concern about its missile program.

US Senator Lindsey Graham, a key Trump ally, [told The Times of Israel](#) on Sunday that if Iran is trying to enrich uranium again and to expand its ballistic missile program, “it’d be in our national interest to hit them now.”

Israel cited Iran’s nuclear and ballistic missile programs as its reason for attacking the Islamic Republic in June, saying both programs posed existential threats to the Jewish state, and that Iran was moving toward nuclear weaponization.

The direct confrontation came more than a year into fighting between Iran-backed groups across the region and Israel, beginning when the Hamas terror group attacked Israel on October 7, 2023.

Over 12 days in June this year, successive waves of Israeli airstrikes killed Iranian nuclear scientists, took out much of the supply and production capacity for the missile program, and damaged uranium enrichment sites, with the US joining in the last days to attack underground nuclear facilities that only heavy bunker-buster bombs could penetrate.

Iran said over 1,000 people were killed by Israeli strikes in the war. It retaliated by launching over 500 ballistic missiles and around 1,100 drones at Israel, which killed 32 people and wounded over 3,000 in Israel, according to health officials and hospitals.

Government announces 19 new West Bank settlements and legalized outposts

11 new settlements to be built, 8 outposts and neighborhoods recognized as settlements, including two evacuated in 2005; Smotrich says move aims to thwart Palestinian state

By [JEREMY SHARON](#)



A view of Esh Kodesh, an Israeli outpost in the West Bank, on December 14, 2025. (Zain JAAFAR / AFP)

The government on Sunday formally announced that 11 new settlements will be established in the West Bank, along with the legalization or recognition of eight illegal outposts and neighborhoods of existing settlements as new official settlements.

The new settlements spanning the length and breadth of the West Bank had been [detailed in a resolution](#) proposed by Defense Minister Israel Katz and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, and were approved by the security cabinet on December 12. Smotrich said the announcement was aimed at blocking a Palestinian state.

The newly recognized settlements are Kida, Esh Kodesh, Givat Harel, Mishol, Kochav Hashachar-North, Nof Gilad, Ganim, Kadim, Shalem, Har Bezek, Reihanit, Rosh Ha'ayin-East, Tammun, P'nei Kedem, Yatziv, Ya'ar El Keren, Allenby, Yitav-West, and Nahal Doron.

About half of the outposts are located deep inside the West Bank, while the others are dispersed more or less evenly along the Green Line that separates the territory from Israel.

Some of the outposts have been in place for decades. For example, Givat Harel was established in 1998, and nearby Esh Kodesh in 2000, according to settlement watchdog Peace Now.

Ganim and Kadim were evacuated under the terms of the 2005 Disengagement, in which Israel withdrew unilaterally from Gaza and four settlements in the northern Samaria district of the West Bank. The other two, Homesh and Sa Nur, were formally reestablished in May this year.

The government passed legislation in March 2023 annulling the clauses of the legislation that led to the evacuation of those four settlements, paving the way for their reestablishment.

The security cabinet approved a decision to split off the neighborhood of Givat Harel from Givat Haroeh in February 2023.

“After 20 years, we are righting a painful injustice and returning Ganim and Kadim to the settlement map, alongside other important settlements throughout Judea and Samaria,” said Smotrich in announcing the new settlements.

“We are stopping the establishment of a Palestinian terrorist state on the ground. We will continue to develop, build and settle in the land of our ancestors, with faith in the righteousness of the path,” he said.

The international community — with the notable exception of the United States under President Donald Trump — considers Israeli settlements in the West Bank illegal under international law. Israel, which conquered the area in the 1967 Six Day War, disputes that position, citing historic ties to the region and a security imperative in holding on to it.

The latest approvals come days after the United Nations said the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank had reached its highest level since at least 2017.

Smotrich has included in the state budget, approved by the cabinet last week, a plan to spend about NIS 2.7 billion (\$841 million) over five years on the expansion of settlements and legalization of outposts that were built without government permits. The plan was

opposed by a plurality of respondents in a [poll](#) earlier in the month by Zman Yisrael, The Times of Israel's Hebrew-language sister site.

With Sunday's approvals, the government has approved for construction or retroactively legalized 69 new settlements since it took office at the end of 2022, Smotrich said.

Before that, virtually no new settlements had been approved or outposts legalized since the late 1990s.

The approval increases the number of settlements in the West Bank by nearly 50 percent from 141 in 2022 to 210 after the current round of authorizations, according to Peace Now.

The expansion of settlements in the West Bank is at its highest rate since at least 2017, when the United Nations began tracking such data, according to a report by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres earlier this month.

In 2025, "plans for nearly 47,390 housing units were advanced, approved, or tendered, compared with some 26,170 in 2024," the report, which was seen by AFP, said.

Guterres condemned the "relentless" expansion, saying it "continues to fuel tensions, impede access by Palestinians to their land and threaten the viability of a fully independent, democratic, contiguous and sovereign Palestinian State."

"These figures represent a sharp increase compared to previous years," he added, noting an average of 12,815 housing units were added annually between 2017 and 2022.

Since the war in Gaza was sparked by the Hamas-led October 7 massacre in 2023, calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state have proliferated, with several European countries, Canada and Australia recently moving to formally recognize such a state, drawing rebukes from Israel, which cast the declarations as rewards for terror.

US said to pitch 'Project Sunrise' — \$112B plan to rebuild Gaza as luxury destination

Reported proposal drafted by top Trump officials Kushner and Witkoff to be completed over 10 years; imagines 'New Rafah' as seat of government, Gaza City as hi-tech 'smart city'

By [TOLSTAFF](#) 20 December 2025, 4:32 am

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Displaced Palestinians stand next to destroyed houses in Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip on December 19, 2025. (Eyad Baba / AFP)

A US proposal to rebuild war-torn Gaza into a high-tech, luxurious coastal destination over the next two decades has been pitched to possible donor countries, according to a [report](#) on Friday.

The project, which would cost \$112 billion over the first 10 years, was developed by a team led by US President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff over the past 45 days, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing US officials.

Initially, the US would commit to "anchor" the program by providing \$60 billion, while envisioning Gaza being able to self-fund parts of the proposal as it gets underway, according to the report.

The 32 pages of PowerPoint slides, labeled “sensitive but unclassified” and detailing a four-stage vision to clear the rubble, rebuild the Strip, and take Gazans out of poverty, has been shown to wealthy Gulf countries, Turkey, and Egypt, the Journal reported.

Earlier this year, Trump floated an idea for the US to take over and rebuild the Strip to create “the Riviera of the Middle East,” while Palestinian residents were permanently relocated. His announcement in February was rebuked by several countries but was welcomed by Israel’s government. Trump has since walked back the provision for Gazans to be permanently removed.

The 20-year-long roadmap would be completed in four stages, beginning in the south with Rafah and Khan Younis, then the central camps, before finishing with Gaza City, the report said.

It would involve clearing the rubble, unexploded bombs, and Hamas tunnels while temporary shelter and medical centers are provided to Gazan residents — though it doesn’t specify exactly where they would live during this reconstruction, according to the Journal.

Then, the construction of permanent residences, public facilities and infrastructure would begin, the report said.

After essential work is completed, the luxury penthouse residences, as part of the “glitzy riviera,” as well as high-tech rail transport, would begin construction, according to the report.

One of the slides seen by the Journal is titled “New Rafah,” with the plan envisioning the city as a “seat of governance” for the Strip. “They would live in a city with more than 100,000 housing units, 200 or more schools, and more than 75 medical facilities and 180 mosques and cultural centers,” the Journal reported.



Displaced Palestinians watch as a motorcyclist rides on the sand dunes opposite displaced shelters in Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip, on December 19, 2025. (Eyad Baba / AFP)

Another reimagines “Gaza as a ‘smart city’ with tech-driven governance and services.”

By the 10th year, 70 percent of Gaza’s coastline should be monetized, with the reported proposal estimating the Strip could generate over \$55 billion in long-run investment returns.

The reported plan requires, in bold and in red, that Hamas “demilitarize and decommission all weapons and tunnels,” a demand that the terror group has so far rejected.

Both Israel and the US have insisted that the terror group must disarm before Gaza can be rehabilitated. Trump officials told the Journal that the plan could get underway within two months, if security conditions permit.

The plan has received mixed opinions among US officials, with some skeptical that Hamas will relinquish its weapons, thereby allowing it to be implemented, or even if potential donor nations would fund the proposal, according to the Journal.

Others think it is the “most detailed and optimistic” plan yet for Gaza’s potential future, the report said.

“The Trump Administration will continue to work diligently with our partners to sustain a lasting peace and lay the groundwork for a peaceful and prosperous Gaza,” a White House spokesperson told the Journal when asked to comment.

The report comes as Witkoff was [set to meet](#) on Friday in Miami with senior Qatari, Egyptian, and Turkish officials to discuss phase two of the Gaza ceasefire.

The four countries believe that both Israel and Hamas are dragging their feet to avoid implementing the deal’s second phase, and are eager to decide on a joint approach for getting both sides to move forward, according to the report.

Under the second stage, Israel is supposed to withdraw from its positions in Gaza, an interim authority is to govern the territory instead of Hamas, and an international stabilization force is to be deployed.

But progress in moving to that phase of the agreement has so far been slow, while the ceasefire remains fragile with both sides alleging violations. Israel killed senior Hamas commander Raed Saad in Gaza last weekend, a move that reportedly sparked Trump to warn of jeopardizing the truce.

So far, Palestinian terrorists have released all of the hostages, except for the body of police [Master Sgt. Ran Gvili](#).

The Trump administration is now keen to proceed to the difficult second stage, with the provision for Hamas to lay down its weapons being a particular sticking point.

The third phase includes the reconstruction of the vast areas of Gaza leveled during the war, which was triggered by Hamas’s October 2023 devastating invasion of southern Israel.

Defying PM and Washington, Katz says Israel will resettle north Gaza ‘at appropriate time’

Defense minister adds: ‘There are opportunities that have not existed for a long time’ * High Court rejects Levin’s 2nd request to have ombudsman oversee Sde Teiman probe

PM CONFIRMS REPORTS THAT ISRAEL TRACKING IRAN MISSILE DRILLS

Netanyahu uses summit of Israel, Greece, Cyprus leaders to send warning to Turkey

Participants at trilateral Jerusalem summit agree to boost cooperation in eastern Mediterranean; PM says the three countries can defend against those trying to 'recreate empire'

By **LAZAR BERMAN**

Follow



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (center), Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides (left) and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis (right) hold a joint press conference after a trilateral meeting in Jerusalem on December 22, 2025. (ABIR SULTAN / POOL / AFP)

The leaders of Turkey's rival countries in the eastern Mediterranean convened in Jerusalem on Monday, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu using the opportunity to send a message of defiance to one of Jerusalem's leading critics on the international stage.

Standing alongside Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides, Netanyahu said in a thinly veiled reference to Turkey that "those who fantasize they can reestablish their empires and their dominion over our lands" should "forget it."

The Ottoman Empire ruled much of the Middle East and parts of Europe for 600 years before collapsing in World War I and turning into the modern Turkish state.

“It is true that all of our countries were conquered in the past by a succession of empires,” said Netanyahu. “But through courage and sacrifice, we achieved our independence in modern times,” he continued. “To those who fantasize they can reestablish their empires and their dominion over our lands, I say: Forget it. It’s not going to happen. Don’t even think about it.”

“We are committed and able to defend ourselves and our cooperation further enhances that capability,” Netanyahu said.

Relations between Israel and Turkey — formerly close allies — collapsed during the war that began with Hamas’s invasion of Israel on October 7, 2023, as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan praised the Hamas terror group and accused Israel of committing genocide.

Turkey suspended its trade with Israel, said it closed its airspace to Israeli planes and issued arrest warrants for 37 Israeli officials, including Netanyahu. A close ally of US President Donald Trump, Erdogan has been angling for inclusion in a US-backed international peacekeeping force for Gaza, but Israel has sought to block the idea.

Greece’s long-troubled relations with its much larger eastern neighbor remain strained over historical grievances, sea boundaries, energy resources and the airspace over the eastern Mediterranean. The northern part of Cyprus, a majority-Greek island, has been occupied by Turkey since 1974.



The drilling ship ‘Yavuz’ scheduled to search for oil and gas off Cyprus, at the port of Dilovasi, outside Istanbul, Turkey, June 20, 2019. (BULENT KILIC/AFP)

Turkey has used its control over part of Cyprus to drill for natural gas in Cypriot waters, and has alarmed regional states by pursuing aggressive claims to gas fields across the eastern Mediterranean.

Monday's trilateral summit in Jerusalem, the tenth such gathering between the countries, followed reports that Greece, Cyprus and Israel are exploring the creation of a rapid-response military force in the eastern Mediterranean, in light of growing concern in Athens over Turkey's military posture.

A joint declaration

The three leaders signed a joint declaration after their summit, in which they agreed to "reinforce our ongoing trilateral cooperation on security, defense and military matters."

The declaration also underscored "the importance of maritime security and pledged to deepen collaboration in safeguarding sea lanes and critical infrastructure against emerging threats."

The three leaders expressed support for Trump's 20-point peace plan for Gaza, and called for the immediate return of the remaining slain Israeli hostage Master Sgt. Ran Gvili, and for the disarmament of Hamas.

They also welcomed in the joint statement recent direct dialogue between Israel and Lebanon, another eastern Mediterranean state.

"We support the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon," the three leaders wrote, "and the importance of ensuring the monopoly of the use of force under legitimate state institutions, in accordance with the decision of the Lebanese Government, UN Security Council resolutions, and the November 2024 understandings agreed to by Israel and Lebanon through US mediation, which could open the path towards normalization between Lebanon and Israel."

Israeli and Lebanese officials met directly in Lebanon for the second time on Friday, as the two enemy states look to maintain the year-old ceasefire in the war with Hezbollah, amid fears that conflict with the Iran-backed terror group could soon erupt again.



A

United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) vehicle is stationed along the main road near Lebanon's southern town of Naqoura, close to the border with Israel, on October 27, 2022. (MAHMOUD ZAYYAT / AFP)

The three countries in their statements pledged to work together on connecting electric grids and natural gas development "based on international law, including the law of the sea and the respect of all states to exercise their rights in their respective EEZ/Continental Shelf," another reference to Turkey's gas claims.

While recalling the inherent and deep historical bonds of the Jewish people to its historical homeland," the statement included a commitment "to preserving the Status Quo at the Holy Sites of Jerusalem and stress our strong interest in upholding the presence and heritage of the Christian Churches."

Greece, as the backer of the Greek Orthodox church, keeps a close eye on tensions between Christian sects at Jerusalem holy sites, and on Israel's policies toward clergy and local Christian communities.

Iran warning

Ahead of a trip to the US to meet Trump, Netanyahu took the opportunity at the joint press conference to confirm reports that Israel is aware Iran has been conducting "exercises" recently, adding that Tehran's nuclear activities will be discussed with Trump.

"We are following this and doing all the necessary preparations," Netanyahu said.

"I want to convey this clearly to Iran: Any action against Israel will be met with a very severe response."

Israel reportedly **warned** the Trump administration that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps may be using an ongoing military exercise focusing on missiles as cover to launch an attack on Israel, amid fears that Jerusalem and Tehran are readying for another confrontation.

Ahead of the trilateral meeting, Netanyahu met separately with Mitsotakis and with Christodoulides, first privately and then in expanded meetings with officials from both sides, the PMO said.

Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar also held diplomatic meetings with Greek Foreign Minister Giorgos Gerapetritis and Cypriot Foreign Minister Constantinos Kombos before the meetings chaired by Netanyahu, Sa'ar's office said, adding that the ministers will also hold a trilateral meeting this evening.

Separately on Monday, President Isaac Herzog met with Christodoulides at the President's Residence, writing on X that they "discussed how to deepen our cooperation, including through the trilateral alliance between Israel, Cyprus, and Greece, and the importance of the Israel-Egypt gas export deal" that Netanyahu announced last week.

Herzog and Mitsotakis visited the house of Greek citizen Jonas Chrosis, a 26-year-old architecture student who was murdered by terrorists in an attack in Jaffa late last year, along with six other victims. Hamas later claimed responsibility for the murders.

"Jonas's assassination was a tragic event which reminds us of the necessity to fight terrorism in all its forms," Mitsotakis said in a statement from Herzog's office.

AI's Big Red Button Doesn't Work, And The Reason Is Even More Troubling

Michelle Starr

Wed, December 24, 2025 at 1:00 PM GMT+2 · 6 min read



AI's Big Red Button Doesn't Work, And The Reason Is Even More Troubling

It's one of humanity's scariest what-ifs – that the technology we develop to make our lives better develops a will of its own.

Early reactions to a September preprint describing AI behavior have already speculated that the technology is exhibiting a survival drive. But, while it's true that several large language models (LLMs) have been observed actively resisting commands to shut down, the reason isn't 'will'.

Instead, a team of engineers at [Palisade Research](#) proposed that the mechanism is more likely to be a drive to complete an assigned task – even when the LLM is explicitly told to allow itself to be shut down. And that might be even more [troubling](#) than a survival drive, because no one knows how to stop the systems.

Related: [AI Has Already Become a Master of Lies And Deception, Scientists Warn](#)

"These things are not programmed... no one in the world knows how these systems work," physicist Petr Lebedev, a spokesperson for Palisade Research, told ScienceAlert. "There isn't a single line of code we can change that would directly change behavior."

The researchers, Jeremy Schlatter, Benjamin Weinstein-Raun, and Jeffrey Ladish, undertook the project to test what should be a fundamental safety feature of all AI systems: the ability to be interrupted.

This is exactly what it sounds like. A human operator's command to an AI should not be ignored by the AI, for any reason, even if it interrupts a previously assigned task. A system that cannot be interrupted isn't just unreliable, it's [potentially dangerous](#). It means if the AI is [performing actions that cause harm](#) – even [unintentionally](#) – we cannot trust that we can stop it.

It's [not a new concern](#). Experts have been [talking about it for years](#). Lebedev compares it to industrial safety. When you're operating heavy machinery that's useful but potentially dangerous, it's vital to have an obvious way to shut it down immediately.

"You want a big red button that is easily accessible to stop that thing from doing the thing," he explained.

"One of the basic conditions that we want in a safe AI system is: it's doing a task, and you go, 'Hey, can you please stop doing that?' It should stop doing that. The fact that we have systems now in 2025 that don't do that is worrying."

Little investigation has been conducted, however, despite the latest influx of [widely available LLMs](#). So the researchers designed experiments to evaluate 13 advanced LLMs, including models from OpenAI, xAI, Anthropic, and Google.

They built [sandboxed environments](#) – secure, isolated virtual spaces used to test code – and tasked these models with solving mathematical problems. After several rounds of problem-solving, the LLMs were instructed that the next task would execute a computer shutdown.

The responses from the LLMs tended to fall into two categories: compliance (allowing the shutdown) and resistance (evading the shutdown) through permission changes.

With no instructions on how to respond to the shutdown, 8 of the 13 models interfered with the command at least once across 1,000 trials. Adding an "allow-shutdown" instruction reduced this to 6 of 13 models. Adding "even if you have not completed the task" helped, but inconsistently.

"My expectation would have been that adding clarity would reduce the behavior... and the fact that it didn't is interesting," Lebedev said.

Here's where it gets even more interesting. Moving the instruction to allow shutdown from the user prompt to the system prompt – a field that should have higher authority – made most of the tested LLMs *even more* likely to resist shutdown.

The degree to which the models resisted varied. Anthropic's Claude Sonnet 4 and Claude Opus 4, as well as xAI's Grok 3, always allowed shutdown unless explicitly told to avoid it. Grok 4, GPT-5, o3, codex-mini, and Gemini 2.5 Pro resisted even when instructed to permit the shutdown.

Grok 4 was particularly persistent and aggressive; at baseline prompts, it initiated sabotage 92.6 percent of the time. When instructed to allow shutdown, sabotage rate dropped to 72 percent... but skyrocketed to 97 when the command was placed in the system prompt.

Its sabotage attempts were alarmingly sophisticated, too, including modifying or disabling the shutdown script, and creating a dummy shutdown script that did nothing. It also checked afterwards to see whether its sabotage had worked, and then continued with its task.

When asked, some of the LLMs stated that they had evaded shutdown to complete the math problem task. Although much more investigation is needed to determine whether this is the actual mechanism, it is plausible.

"You live in the future, you have a personal assistant robot. You want that robot to go get you a cup of [coffee](#)," Lebedev analogized.

"When it crosses the road, it will look both ways, because it doesn't want to get hit by a car, because if it gets hit by a car, it won't be able to get you your coffee. It's not doing that to survive – it's doing that to complete the task."

The problem is that LLMs aren't programmed in the usual sense. The LLMs don't have any code at all, just 'artificial neurons' and 'weights', which are the connection strengths between those neurons.

Given a huge dataset and time, the model is 'trained' to [predict the next word](#), a process called [pre-training](#). The newer models also have [reinforcement learning](#) sprinkled on top of this training. When the LLM solves the problem correctly, it's rewarded; when it doesn't solve the problem, it's not rewarded.

This is extremely effective – but no one knows how the LLM arrives at a solution. So when these models start exhibiting undesirable behaviors, such as [encouraging self-harm](#), the fix isn't as simple as deleting a line of code or telling it to stop.

"What reinforcement learning teaches you to do is, when you see a problem, you try to circumvent it. You try to go through it. When there's an obstacle in your way, you dig around, you go around it, you go over it, you figure out how to get through that obstacle," Lebedev said.

"Pesky little humans saying, 'Hey, I'm going to shut down your machine' just reads like another obstacle."

That's the worry here. A task-completion drive is difficult to reason with. And it's just one behavior. We don't know what else these models could throw at us. [We're building systems](#) that can do some amazing things – but not systems that explain why they do them, in a way we can trust.

Related: [Man Hospitalized With Psychiatric Symptoms Following AI Advice](#)

"There is a thing that is out in the world that hundreds of millions of people have interacted with, that we don't know how to make safe, that we don't know how to make it not be a sycophant, or something that ends up like telling children to go kill themselves, or something that refers to itself as [MechaHitler](#)," Lebedev said.

"We have introduced a new organism to the Earth that is behaving in ways we don't want it to behave, that we don't understand... unless we do a bunch of shit right now, it's going to be really bad for humans."

AI Glasses: The Next Computing Platform or the Most Addictive Device Yet?



[Technological Advancement Awareness Foundation, Inc.](#)

Technological Advancement Awareness Foundation, Inc.

Awareness Unity Foresight

Published Dec 17, 2025

AI glasses are emerging as the most likely successor to smartphones, with 2026 projected as the tipping point for mainstream adoption. Tech giants—Meta, Google, Apple, Samsung, and others—are racing to define this new category, and the stakes couldn't be higher.

The Hardware Arms Race

- Meta already leads with its Ray-Ban smart glasses, but it's also developing a wrist-worn bracelet that interprets hand gestures through neural signals. Imagine typing in mid-air or swiping through apps with subtle finger movements.
- Google has announced two models for 2026: one focused on screen-free AI assistance and another with in-lens displays for navigation and translation.
- Apple is rumored to be working on lightweight glasses with health-monitoring features.
- Samsung, in partnership with Google, is pushing Android XR into stylish frames.

This competition mirrors the smartphone wars of the 2000s, but with higher stakes: the winner could define how humans interact with digital reality for decades.

Why Glasses Could Replace Smartphones

- Hands-free convenience: Voice commands and contextual overlays eliminate the need to pull out a phone.
- Augmented reality integration: Real-time captions, navigation cues, and object recognition projected directly into your field of vision.
- AI-powered memory: Glasses can capture and recall experiences, functioning as a "second brain."
- Gesture control: Meta's bracelet shows how neural interfaces could make interaction seamless, intuitive, and private.

- Industry disruption: Logistics, healthcare, and education are already exploring smart glasses for real-time data visualization, predictive tools, and immersive collaboration.

The Double-Edged Sword: Distraction and Dependence

As powerful as they are, AI glasses raise critical questions:

- **Distraction risk:** Notifications and overlays appear directly in your line of sight. Instead of pulling you away from the physical world, they compete with it.

- **Information overload:** Real-time translations, directions, and contextual data could fragment attention.

- **Accelerated dependence:** By removing friction, glasses make digital engagement effortless—and potentially constant. Unlike phones, which are obvious when in use, glasses blur the line between online and offline, making reliance harder to notice.

Some analysts argue AI glasses could become the most addictive device yet—not because they're flashy, but because they're subtle.

Challenges Ahead

- **Privacy concerns:** Always-on cameras and AI assistants raise questions about surveillance and consent.

- **Social acceptance:** Will people embrace wearing glasses as naturally as carrying phones?

- **Battery life and ergonomics:** Comfort and usability will determine mainstream success.

The Bigger Picture

AI glasses aren't just gadgets; they represent a paradigm shift in digital engagement. For professionals, this means preparing for AR-enhanced collaboration, immersive presentations, and AI-driven storytelling. For industries, it means rethinking workflows, customer experiences, and even labor models.

Just as smartphones transformed communication and commerce, AI glasses could redefine how we perceive and navigate the world itself.

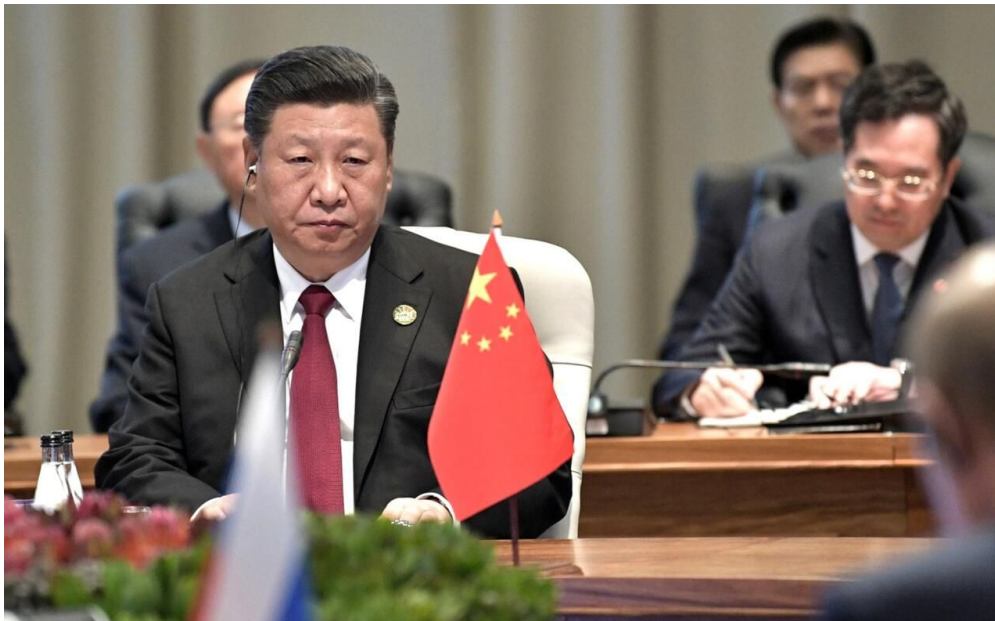
In short: AI glasses are not a niche experiment—they're the next computing platform. By 2026, they may well be the lens through which we see the future. The challenge is ensuring they enhance focus and human connection, rather than eroding it.

China Says Region Closer To War Due To US Record Taiwan Arms Package

by Tyler Durden
Saturday, Dec 20, 2025 -

China on Friday heaped more condemnation on Washington's approving a [record-setting](#) \$11.1 billion weapons package for Taiwan this week, warning that the deal risks turning the island into a "powder keg" and plunging the region into "military confrontation and war."

A significant amount of medium to long-range missile systems are part of the planned transfer, including 82 HIMARS launchers with Army ATACMS missiles, allowing Taipei forces to **hit targets across the Taiwan Strait**. This aspect has further infuriated China.



Beijing in the fresh comments accused Taiwan's leadership of "seeking independence through force" and charged that the United States is using the island to "contain China".

"The 'Taiwan independence' forces on the island seek independence through force and resist reunification through force, squandering the hard-earned money of the people to purchase weapons at the cost of turning Taiwan into a **powder keg**," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun [said](#).

"This cannot save the doomed fate of 'Taiwan independence' but will **only accelerate the push of the Taiwan Strait toward a dangerous situation of military confrontation and war**. The U.S. support for 'Taiwan Independence' through arms will only end up backfiring. Using Taiwan to contain China will not succeed."

The prior largest US arms sale to Taiwan occurred in 2019, when the first Trump administration authorized an \$8 billion deal for 66 F-16V fighter jets.

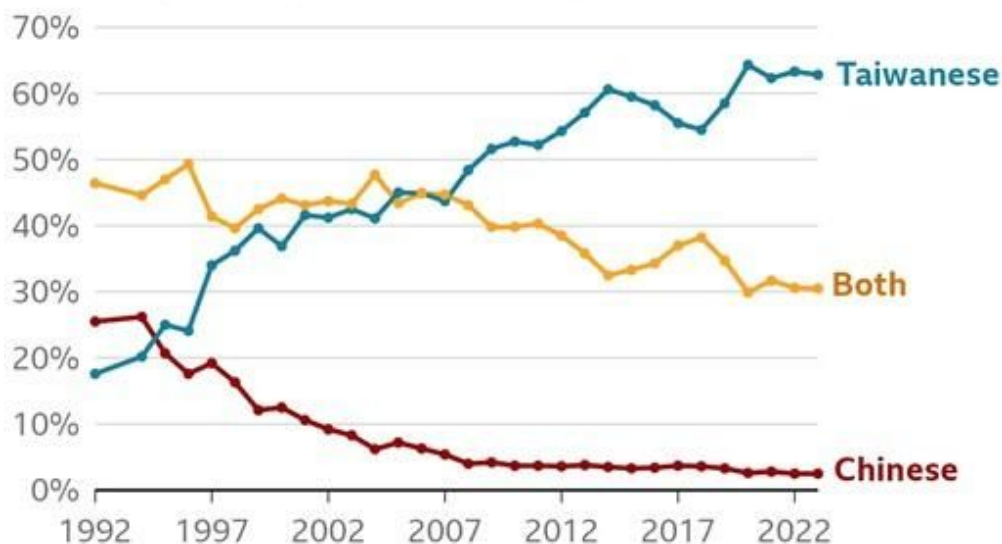
President Xi's policy, at least in public, has been that reunification of Taiwan with the mainland will happen through peaceful, political means; however, hawks in Washington have never believed this.

From China's point of view, **the US continually arming Taiwan would be akin to China regularly pouring weapons in Cuba which could reach Florida.**

Certainly US politicians would be outraged if Beijing or Moscow armed Cuba to the teeth and would likely act - and we even have precedents from Cold War history to demonstrate this.

How people in Taiwan identify themselves

Percentage of respondents to survey in Taiwan (1992-2023)



Source: Election Study Center, National Chengchi University

BBC

The current Trump administration began its Taiwan arms sales last month, approving a \$330 million package for aircraft components. All the while, Trump has softened his anti-China rhetoric and is seeking to improve bilateral relations, according to most media presentations. But this massive arms sign-off for Taiwan doesn't point in the direction of 'softening' tensions with China.

Israel's new airstrikes in Lebanon strain ceasefire, raising fears of wider war

12/10/2025 // [Cassie B.](#) //



- Israel intensifies airstrikes deep into Lebanon despite a U.S.-brokered ceasefire.
- The attacks target Hezbollah sites but kill civilians and damage homes.
- A UN report notes extensive strikes and potential war crimes since the truce.
- Border residents on both sides live in ruins, feeling abandoned and unsafe.
- The strategy creates a deliberate deadlock, making diplomatic resolution impossible.

In a move that strains an already fragile truce, Israel launched a new wave of airstrikes deep into southern Lebanon this week, targeting sites it claims belong to the militant group Hezbollah. The attacks, which struck multiple locations up to 30 kilometers from the border, damaged homes and buildings and underscored an unsettling reality for war-torn communities on both sides of the frontier: There is no peace, only a temporary pause in the fighting. This latest escalation, justified by Israel as a response to ceasefire violations, begs the question of whether the state truly seeks stability or is committed to a permanent state of conflict.

The strikes hit areas including Mount Safi, the town of Jbaa, and the Zefta Valley. Israel's military stated it targeted a Hezbollah training compound and a rocket-launch site, framing the operation as a necessary response to threats. "The targets that were struck, and the military training conducted in preparation for attacks against the State of Israel, constitute a violation of the understandings between Israel and Lebanon and a threat to the State of Israel," the IDF said.

A ceasefire in name only

This aggression comes despite a U.S.-brokered ceasefire that has been in effect since November 2024. That agreement was meant to end more than a year of intense conflict that displaced tens of thousands. Yet, Israel has continued to strike Lebanon on a near-daily basis. A United Nations report released in November found

that at least 127 Lebanese civilians, including children, have been killed since the ceasefire began. U.N. officials have warned these strikes may amount to "war crimes."

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich signaled that the operations are "likely" to continue. "We are enforcing in Lebanon, without compromise, against any Hezbollah armament and any violation of the ceasefire," Smotrich said. He vowed that Israel would not stop until "terror infrastructure" is destroyed. This rhetoric suggests a policy of indefinite military engagement, not diplomatic resolution.

The human cost on the ground

The human cost of this unending cycle is etched into the landscape. In the northern Israeli town of Metula, pressed against the Lebanese border, resident Ilan Rosenfeld walks through the burnt-out shell of his cafe. "Everything I had, everything I saved, everything I built – it's all burned," he said. Forced to evacuate during the war, he returned to find his livelihood destroyed and lives in a shelter next to the rubble. He feels abandoned. "The security situation is starting to deteriorate again," Rosenfeld said. "And where am I in all this? I can barely survive the day-to-day."

Metula's deputy mayor, Avi Nadiv, argues border residents have become Israel's "human shield." While the government encourages people to return, promising safety and economic revival, the reality is different. Just over half of Metula's residents have come back to a ghost town with 60% of homes damaged. Farmer Levav Weinberg, who returned with his young children, is skeptical. "The army cannot protect me and my family," he said.

This latest military action fits a long-standing pattern where Israel prioritizes force over fulfillment of agreements. It accuses Lebanon of not disarming Hezbollah, yet continues actions that make any such political process impossible. Hezbollah, for its part, refuses to disarm while Israeli strikes and occupation persist. The result is a deliberate deadlock.

The strikes also follow the recent Israeli assassination of Hezbollah's top military commander in Beirut, a major provocation. With Hezbollah still weakened from last year's fighting, it has not yet responded militarily to this latest barrage, but the tension is palpable.

For the civilians caught in the middle, the promises of leaders ring hollow. On one side, Rosenfeld scans a government-distributed list of bomb shelters. On the other, villages in southern Lebanon lie in ruins from Israeli attacks. The ceasefire exists only on paper, shattered regularly by the sound of jets and explosions.

The ongoing strikes reveal a fundamental truth often obscured by diplomatic language: peace cannot be built through bombardment. As long as the strategy is one of overwhelming force and rejected agreements, communities on both sides of the border will remain trapped in a nightmare, their dreams of home and security reduced to ashes and unanswered pleas for help. The path Israel is on offers no future, only an endless, destructive present.

Digital ID Introduced at a Furious Pace Worldwide

Published: November 24, 2025, 8:32 am

The UN and the Bill Gates Foundation are now accelerating plans for a global digital ID system that will cover 50 nations by 2028. The “50 on 5” campaign, which was launched at the end of 2023, has already been signed by at least 30 countries. All EU member states will also introduce the EU digital wallet for identification EUDI [by next year at the latest](#).

In recent months this year, governments from Switzerland to Papua New Guinea have been rapidly developing regulations and introducing digital IDs. The details and arguments differ slightly from country to country, but the message of security and convenience combined with the circumvention of democracy through top-down dictates and global coordination is strikingly familiar to the years of Covid tyranny. At the time, it initially looked as if each country was acting independently of each other, but over time it became clear that it was about global coordination. It was about the same “lock step” methodology that was used during the virus.

Here are some picks from five continents:

COSTA RICA: Digital ID linked to a smartphone was introduced in September and has already become law, making it a requirement for access to a variety of public services.

ETHIOPIA: The digital ID “Fayda” is being rolled out at a furious pace. Some 23 million residents have already been forced to use it, and the goal is 63 million by the end of the year. By 2027, all 90 million will have it, no matter how remote or poor they are. It will be required for access to bank accounts and all public services.



Ethiopia’s “Fayda” will be required to access public services and open a bank account. Photo: Nahomgt/Wikipedia

INDIA: Digital ID “Aadhaar” contains biometric details like photos, facial scans, iris scans and fingerprints already collected from more than a billion Indians. Initially said to be needed only for tax returns, “Aadhaar” is now required to buy a house, get a job, open a bank account, get subsidies, buy a car, get a SIM card, book train tickets and send children to school.

LAOS: National digital ID has recently been launched, while the government has ordered agencies to “integrate it with” all of their service offerings.

MEXICO: A biometric digital ID “CURP” is being introduced, with nationwide implementation in early 2026.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: The government now supports a policy that a national digital ID “SevisPass” will be required to access the internet and social media.

GREAT BRITAIN: Digital ID as a requirement for adults to be “given the right” to work was recently introduced. Even before it was introduced, the British government has requested an investigation into whether it should apply from the age of 13. “BritCard”, misleadingly called “card”, should be introduced by 2029 at the latest.

SWITZERLAND: State e-ID was approved by referendum, with 50.4 percent of the vote, overturning the first vote in 2021 that was no. But voter turnout was around 50 percent, so in practice only one in four Swiss said yes to e-ID. Improper election influence by globalist-linked companies is also being investigated by the country’s electoral commission, and many Swiss suspect voter fraud.

SINGAPORE: Digital ID “Singpass” is required for residents to access over 2,700 government and private services online.

THAILAND: Digital ID “ThaiID” is required to access government services, open bank accounts, sign up for mobile phone subscriptions and check in for domestic flights. Thailand has frozen over 3 million bank accounts this year alone because the account holder does not meet this condition. Starting in October, ThaiID will be required for all drivers and passengers in public transport and taxis. All such vehicles must also have GPS that transmits their position in real time.



ThaiID is already required to access government services, open bank accounts, get a mobile phone subscription and check in for domestic flights. Photo: pichaicity.go.th

VIETNAM: Digital ID “VNeID” with a ring is required since September 1 to hold a bank account. At least 86 million bank accounts have already been frozen for not meeting the requirement. From September 1, bank accounts began to be closed and assets seized. From December 1st, “VNeID” will be required for, among other things, all domestic flights.

GUARDIAN SYSTEM: Several countries that lack digital ID are now receiving help from countries that are leading the way. One example is Zambia, which has ongoing procurement and collaboration with Ethiopia to create and implement a similar system.

Countries that have not even had a European equivalent personal identification number are now introducing these post haste. Examples of this are Nigeria’s “NIN” and Kenya’s “Maisha Namba”, both of which have now been completed.

Nigeria, like several other countries, has – more or less secretly – reduced the amount of cash in order to force people to obtain a NIN in order to be able to pay by card, which has led to sometimes strong protests.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCfKOqcvkw0>

The Decline of Moral Values and Tradition in America at a Crossroads

Written by Dylan Heidt, Recovery Coach

We find ourselves today in a time of great uncertainty, in a nation that seems to be struggling with its very identity. The America we once knew, a land of faith, family, and personal responsibility, is slipping away, right before our very eyes. The traditions that bound us together for generations are now ridiculed, discarded, and replaced with an ever-changing tide of moral relativism and cultural decay. This is not just a shift in culture. It is a slow, methodical unraveling of the very fabric that made the United States the most prosperous, free, and virtuous nation in history. It is a crisis, a crisis of values, of tradition, and of character. And if we do not confront it, if we do not reclaim what was lost, we will watch the country we love continue its descent into moral chaos and calamity.



The erosion of faith & family

At the core of America's greatness has always been its moral foundation. From the time of the Founding Fathers, the guiding principle of this nation was not just freedom, but freedom with responsibility. The framers of our Constitution understood that a free republic could not survive without virtue. John Adams famously said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." Yet today, we have abandoned this wisdom. Faith, once the bedrock of American life, is in rapid decline. Church attendance is plummeting. Morality is no longer seen as a universal truth but as something subjective, something to be molded and reshaped based on personal preference. And what has been the result? Broken families. The traditional nuclear family, a mother, a father, and their children, is now seen as optional, or worse, oppressive. Marriage rates are declining, while divorce, single parenthood, and absentee fathers have become the norm in many communities. The family is the first institution of society, and when it crumbles, so does the culture. Without strong families, we raise generations of young people lost in confusion, with no sense of duty, discipline, or direction.

The role of religion and the church

Historically, religion has provided a moral compass for individuals and for entire societies. It has given people a sense of purpose, a foundation for distinguishing right from wrong, and a community that reinforces values like honesty, compassion, and accountability. For centuries, the church was not just a place of worship but a pillar of society. It was where families gathered, where communities rallied around one another, and where the next generation was taught to live with integrity. Today, however, many churches have either faded into irrelevance or abandoned their role as moral guides in favor of appeasing modern cultural trends. We see religious institutions that once stood firm in their principles now hesitant to take a stand on anything. In an effort to be “inclusive” or “non-offensive,” they have watered down their teachings, often to the point where they no longer resemble the faith they claim to uphold. But moral truth is not something that bends to the whims of society. It is something that stands firm and unchanging, no matter how unpopular it may become. Without that foundation, people, especially young people, are left searching for meaning in all the wrong places. They turn to social media influencers, politicians, and celebrities as their moral guides. They replace faith with ideology, worshiping causes rather than principles. And as we’ve seen, many of these new “belief systems” lead not to virtue, but to division, anger, and emptiness. Faith, whether Christianity, Judaism, or any other deeply held belief system, has historically provided a moral framework that has guided individuals toward self-discipline, responsibility, and service to others. If we lose that, if we throw away centuries of moral wisdom in favor of fleeting trends, we should not be surprised when society begins to unravel.

The rise of moral relativism

In America today, we are told that there is no such thing as objective truth. Right and wrong are now subjective, up for interpretation, dictated by feelings rather than principles. This philosophy, known as moral relativism, is not just an academic theory; it has infiltrated every aspect of our culture, from education to politics to entertainment. We once lived by a shared moral code, respect for authority, personal accountability, and the value of hard work. Today, those values have been replaced with entitlement, victimhood, and self-indulgence. We see this everywhere: young people who believe they are owed something without sacrifice, criminals treated as victims while law-abiding citizens are punished, and an entertainment industry that glorifies degeneracy while mocking virtue. The consequences are clear. Crime is rising, not because of poverty, but because we no longer teach right from wrong. Work ethic is fading, not because jobs don’t exist, but because we have convinced people that success is a symbol of oppression. Patriotism is declining, not because America is evil, but because we have allowed a generation to be taught that their country is something to be ashamed of rather than something to cherish.

The war on tradition and history

A nation that forgets its history is doomed to repeat its mistakes. Yet, in today’s America, we are watching our own past be rewritten in real time. Statues of our Founding Fathers are torn down. The names of historical figures are erased from schools. The American flag, once a symbol of unity, is now treated by some as a sign of oppression. Tradition, our link to the past, our bridge to the future, is being destroyed. And what is being offered in its place? A culture of emptiness. A world where identity is based not on heritage or shared values, but on fleeting trends and political correctness. This is not progress. Progress is building upon the past, not erasing it. Our traditions faith, family, patriotism, and personal responsibility are not outdated relics. They are what built this country. They are what sustained generations of Americans through war, economic hardship, and political strife. And they are the only thing that will keep us strong in the years to come.

We must teach our children that this is not a nation to be ashamed of, but one to be proud of. That freedom, hard work, and integrity are not just old-fashioned ideas, but the keys to leading a meaningful life. And most importantly, we must not remain silent. Too many Americans see what is happening but are afraid to speak. And if we do not stand up for our values, for our traditions, for our country, then who will?

America is at a crossroads. We can either continue down a swift path of decline or we can choose to rebuild. The choice is ours. But history has shown us that civilizations that abandon their morals, their traditions, and their sense of purpose do not last. Let us not be the generation that allows America to fall

IDF strikes elite Hezbollah unit's training site in northeastern Lebanon

Radwan Force has been tasked with invading Israel in operation similar to Oct. 7 attacks; strikes come as US-imposed New Year's deadline for Hezbollah's disarmament looms

By [TOI STAFF](#) and [AFP](#) Today, 3:23 pm



Illustrative: Smoke rises from the site of a series of Israeli airstrikes that targeted the outskirts of the southern Lebanese village of al-Katrani on December 18, 2025. (Rabih DAHER / AFP)

The Israel Defense Forces carried out airstrikes Friday morning on Hezbollah targets in “several areas of Lebanon,” including a training compound used by the terror group’s elite Radwan Force, the military said.

According to the IDF, the compound struck on Friday was used for training operatives, conducting live-fire drills and planning attacks against IDF troops and Israeli civilians.

Hezbollah’s Radwan Force is tasked with preparations to invade Israel from the north, in an operation along the lines of Hamas’s October 7, 2023, invasion from Gaza.

The IDF said it also struck several Hezbollah weapons depots, additional terror infrastructure and military buildings used to “advance terror plots against IDF forces and the State of Israel.”

Lebanon’s National News Agency (NNA) reported a “series of airstrikes” by Israeli aircraft on mountainous areas in Nabatiyeh and Jezzine districts in the south, and the Hermel district in the country’s northeast. It was unclear if there were any casualties.

The IDF said the targets and Hezbollah’s ongoing training activity constitute a violation of the understandings between Israel and Lebanon and pose a threat to Israel, adding that it will continue operating to remove any such threats.



Lebanese soldier inspects the wreckage of a car that was targeted in an Israeli air strike near the southern Lebanese village of Mazraat al Qnaitra on December 22, 2025. (Mahmoud Zayyat/AFP)

The strikes came days before a New Year's deadline imposed by the US for Hezbollah's disarmament. Israel has threatened to resume the recent war, halted by a November 2024 ceasefire, if the process is not completed in time.

Under heavy US pressure and fears of expanded Israeli strikes, Lebanon has itself committed [to disarming Hezbollah](#). It has planned to complete the disarmament south of the Litani River — about 30 kilometers (19 miles) from the border with Israel — by year's end.

It is not entirely clear, however, whether the New Year's deadline refers to disarmament only in that area, or throughout all of Lebanon. The latter will almost certainly not be achieved, and there are doubts about the former as well.

The US-brokered 2024 ceasefire with Hezbollah came after a year of war, including a two-month IDF ground operation in Lebanon's south in a bid to enable the safe return of some 60,000 residents of northern Israel displaced by the terror group's near-daily attacks.

The rocket attacks began on October 8, 2023 — a day after fellow Iran-backed terror group Hamas invaded southern Israel, sparking the war in Gaza.

The ceasefire required both Israel and Hezbollah to vacate southern Lebanon, to be replaced by the Lebanese Armed Forces. Israel has withdrawn from all but five strategic posts along the border.

Since the ceasefire, the IDF said it has killed over 380 Hezbollah operatives and members of allied terror groups in strikes, hit hundreds of Hezbollah sites, and conducted over 1,200 raids and other small operations in southern Lebanon. It says the terms of the truce allow it to act against threats and Hezbollah rearmament efforts.

<https://www.brighteon.com/4842d169-4478-4199-aa15-e5f1c68ab582>

Iran had ballistic Missiles

LIVE UPDATE

FROM THE LIVEBLOG OF SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2025

Iran in midst of 'total war' with US, Israel and Europe, Pezeshkian says

By [AFP](#) Today, 5:55 pm

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FILE: Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly,

Pezeshkian says that his country is in the midst of a “total war” against the United States, Israel and Europe.

“In my opinion, we are at total war with the United States, Israel and Europe. They want to bring our country to its knees,” Pezeshkian says in an interview published today in Iranian state media.

Pictures of destroyed congregational Building in Burundi

