



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 313

[A new sea route for Gaza aid is on track, USAID says - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #gaza, #pier

May 30, 2024

The United States expects to have on-the-ground arrangements in Gaza ready for humanitarian workers to start delivering food, treatment for [starving children](#) and other urgent assistance by mid-month when the American military expects to complete a [floating pier for the aid](#), an official with the U.S. Agency for International Development said.

But aid coming through the new U.S.-led maritime route still will serve only a fraction — half a million people — of those who need help in Gaza, the USAID official stressed to the Associated Press. They are some of the agency's first comments on the status of preparations for the Biden administration's \$320-million Gaza pier project, for which USAID is helping coordinate on-the-ground security and distribution.

USAID made one of the officials working on humanitarian operations in Gaza available on condition the official not be identified, citing security concerns given the person's work in a conflict zone.

With the [Israel-Hamas war](#) nearing the seven-month mark and Israel restricting humanitarian aid, half of Gaza's 2.3 million people are at imminent risk of famine, international health officials say. Under pressure from the U.S. and others, Israeli officials in recent weeks have begun slowly reopening some border crossings for relief shipments.

Children under 5 are among the first to die [when wars, droughts or other disasters curtail food](#). Hospital officials in northern Gaza reported the first deaths from hunger in early March and said most of the dead were children.

USAID is coordinating with the United Nations World Food Program, Israel and others on security and distribution for the pier project, while U.S. military forces finish building it for the aid deliveries by ship. President Biden, under pressure to do more to ease the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza as the U.S. provides military support for Israel, announced the pier project in early March.

The U.S. Central Command said in a statement Friday that the offshore assembly of the floating pier had been temporarily paused because of high winds and sea swells, which

caused unsafe conditions for the soldiers. The partially built pier and the military vessels involved have gone to the Port of Ashdod and will continue the work there.

A U.S. official said the high seas will delay the installation for several days. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss operation details, said the pause could last longer if the bad weather continues because military personnel and divers have to get into the water to do some of the final installation.

The United Nations has been muted about its role in the aid deliveries.

“We want to see more land operations. This is a sea operation,” U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Wednesday. “We are working with them, but obviously we have certain parameters that need to be respected; notably, the basic humanitarian principles that we have of independence and being free from all sorts of military.”

The struggles with the first aid delivery through a newly reopened land corridor into northern Gaza on Wednesday underscored the uncertainty about security and the danger still facing relief workers.

Israeli settlers blocked the convoy before it crossed, and then Hamas militants diverted a World Food Program truck inside Gaza before it made it to its destination.

In the Palestinian territory, civilians have been cut off from most aid supplies, bombarded by Israeli airstrikes and driven into hiding by fighting. Acute malnutrition rates among children under 5 surged from 1% before the war to 30% five months later, the USAID official said. The official called it the fastest such climb in recent history, more than in grave conflicts and food shortages in Somalia or South Sudan.

One of the few medical facilities still operating in northern Gaza, Kamal Adwan Hospital, is besieged by parents bringing in thousands of malnourished children for treatment, the official said.

Aid officials believe many more starving children remain unseen and in need, with families unable to bring them through fighting and checkpoints for care.

Saving the most gravely stricken children in particular requires both greatly increased deliveries of aid and sustained calm in fighting, the official said, so that aid workers can set up facilities around the territory and families can safely bring children in for the sustained treatment needed.

[Hezbollah plans to use new weapons to down IAF jets - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #hezbollah, #israel, #weapons

May 27, 2024

The organization intends to continue fighting as long as the war in the Gaza Strip continues.

Hezbollah does not intend to reduce [its activities against Israel in the North](#), according to a report published in the Kuwaiti daily newspaper Al Jarida on Monday.

The organization intends to continue fighting as long as the war in [the Gaza Strip](#) continues, and is convinced that the US will increase the pressure on Israel to stop the war as long as the date of the presidential elections is approaching.

It was stated in the newspaper that the Shia terrorist organization was preparing for long months of fighting and preparing surprises for Israel.

Hezbollah's plan to launch new weapons at Israeli jets

Sources close to the organization said that at a meeting held last week [in Tehran](#), the representatives of the various factions of the "Axis of Resistance" who were present discussed the possible scenarios on this front.

They also claimed that Iran has made it clear that it will provide full support to its allies in the entire region, who are now preparing for further escalation if the hostage deal talks in the Gaza Strip fail.

The sources cited in the Kuwaiti newspaper also revealed that Nasrallah is planning surprising moves on two levels. The first, according to them, includes the use of weapons that have not yet been used in this conflict, including long-range precision missiles and surface-to-air missiles that the organization will try to launch at air force planes.

According to the sources, Hezbollah is expected to make the first use of a missile manufactured by Russia and modified by Iran. Hezbollah is convinced, according to the sources, that they can stun Israel and the world with the ability to shoot down an Israeli plane.

IAEA report: Iran increases its uranium enriched to near weapons-grade level | Israel National News - Arutz Sheva

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #uranium, #stockpile

May 28, 2024

New report by UN's nuclear watchdog finds Iran has further increased its stockpile of uranium enriched up to 60%.

Iran has further increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels, according to a confidential report on Monday by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) seen by *The Associated Press*.

The report said that as of May 11, Iran has 142.1 kilograms of uranium enriched up to 60% — an increase of 20.6 kilograms since the last report by the UN watchdog in February. Uranium enriched at 60% purity is just a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

By the IAEA's definition, around 42 kilograms of uranium enriched to 60% is the amount at which creating one atomic weapon is theoretically possible — if the material is enriched further, to 90%.

Also as of May 11, the report says, Iran's overall stockpile of enriched uranium stands at 6,201.3 kilograms, which represents an increase of 675.8 kilograms since the IAEA's previous report.

Previously, the IAEA found that, between June and November last year, Iran slowed down the enrichment to 3 kg per month, but that jumped back up to a rate of 9 kg at the end of the year.

The increase came soon after Tehran barred a third of the IAEA's core inspections team, including the most experienced, from taking part in agreed monitoring of the enrichment process.

That move was part of Iran's scaling back of its compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal it signed with world powers, in response to then-US President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the deal in 2018.

Monday's report said that Tehran has not reconsidered its September 2023 decision to bar IAEA inspectors from further monitoring its nuclear program and added that it expects Iran "to do so in the context of the ongoing consultations between the (IAEA) agency and Iran."

The IAEA has also long sought answers from Iran about two sites near Tehran that inspectors say bore traces of man-made uranium.

IAEA chief Rafael Grossi recently visited Tehran, where he decried what he described as "completely unsatisfactory" cooperation from Iran over its nuclear program.

[Boston Democratic mayor says criminals should not be prosecuted for theft, gang registry should be abolished | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #lawlessness, #corruption, #criminals

May 29, 2024

The mayor wants to publicize police personnel files relating to 'use-of-force,' which opponents say can potentially put officers in danger

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu advocated a soft-on-crime agenda by pushing to abolish the gang registry and arguing that [criminal behavior](#) – such as theft – should not be prosecuted.

Prior to being elected mayor, Wu filled out the "[2021 Boston Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire](#)" from Progressive Massachusetts, a 501c4 nonprofit organization that tracks and ranks how progressive elected officials are. According to its website, the group "intends to transform Massachusetts into a bold laboratory for progressive state initiatives."

In the document, Wu outlined her most progressive commitments, including her support for noncitizens voting in Boston's local elections.

The mayor was asked, "Do you support shuttering the Boston Police gang database?"

She answered, "Yes."

Then, Wu was asked whether she supported a [do-not-prosecute list](#) enacted by the former Suffolk County district attorney, Rachael Rollins.

DA Rollins enacted the [policy memo](#) identifying more than a dozen charges she said should be declined for prosecution. Those crimes included shoplifting, larceny, disorderly conduct, receiving stolen property, driving with a suspended license, breaking and entering with property damage, wanton and malicious destruction of property, threats, minor in possession of alcohol, marijuana possession, possession with intent to distribute, non-marijuana drug possession.

The DA was later brought into the Biden administration, before [resigning after an ethics probe](#) found that Rollins committed "egregious" ethical violations and "abuse of power."

[SOCIALIST CHICAGO COUNCIL MEMBER SAYS IT'S 'RACIST' TO PUNISH CRIMINALS, AMERICA IS A 'GARBAGE SOCIETY'](#)

"Do you support the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office's do-not-prosecute list and expanded approach to dealing with such low-level offenses? YES/ NO?" Progressive Mass asked.

"Yes," Wu responded.

Wu also promised to advocate for reallocating some of the police's budget towards other city priorities as mayor. The mayor said she believes law enforcement should be "demilitariz[ed]."

Wu said police should not have the ability to use tear gas, rubber bullets, and attack dogs.

The Progressive Mass questionnaire then asked, "Do you believe that affiliation or sympathies with white supremacist organizations among officers is a problem with BPD? YES/ NO If so, what measures would you take as mayor to combat that issue?"

Wu responded, "Yes. I have advocated for terminating any [Boston Police Department] employees who were involved with the January 6th Capitol insurrection."

She also wanted to publicize personnel files with the public relating to "use-of-force," which opponents say can potentially [put officers in danger](#).

BOSTON COUNCIL MEMBER CALLING FOR 'REVOLUTION' ALARMS LIBERAL COLLEAGUES WITH WILD TIRADES, THREATS

"[W]e must ensure that contract language enables the sharing of data with the public on officers' use-of-force and misconduct and allows disciplinary records to be made publicly accessible, in accordance with privacy laws," she said.

Wu's office didn't immediately respond to [Fox News Digital's](#) request for comment.

Her views on police notwithstanding, in the past, critics said she used "[Nixonian tactics](#)" after her administration admitted to creating a list of her most vocal critics and providing it to local authorities, according to a July 2023 report.

The report raised concerns about whether Wu and her administration are attempting to silence or intimidate her critics, many of whom have protested outside of her home.

When she was first elected, Wu opened entire offices focused on "Food Justice, Black Male Advancement, LGBTQ+ Advancement, and Worker Empowerment" to create a more "equitable city for generations to come."

However, critics have accused Wu of not being as inclusive of White people, resulting in numerous complaints to the state's attorney general. In December, the Democratic

mayor came under fire for sending out invitations for a holiday party [intended only for non-White city council members](#).

"Honorable members: On behalf of Mayor Michelle Wu, I cordially invite you and a guest to the Electeds of Color Holiday Party," the email, which was mistakenly sent to everyone, said.

Fifteen minutes after the email was sent out, Wu's aide, Denise DosSantos, apologized and clarified that the invitation was only meant for minority city councilors. However, she did not apologize for planning a party that excluded White city leaders.

"I wanted to apologize for my previous email regarding a Holiday Party for tomorrow," DosSantos wrote. "I did send that to everyone by accident and I apologize if my email may have offended or came across as so. Sorry for any confusion this may have caused."

Massachusetts Attorney General [Andrea Campbell decided not to investigate](#) the Boston mayor's "electeds of color" holiday party after discrimination complaints were filed.

[Amazon in talks with Italy to invest billions of euros in cloud plan, sources say \(yahoo.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #italy, #amazon, #data center

May 27, 2024

MILAN/STOCKHOLM (Reuters) -Amazon's computing unit AWS is in talks with Italy to invest billions of euros in the expansion of its data centre business in the country as part of the tech giant's effort to boost its cloud offer in Europe, four people familiar with the matter said.

Discussions between parties over the size and the location of the investment are ongoing, according to the sources, with one of them saying Amazon Web Service (AWS) is considering expanding its current site in Milan or building a new one.

Both AWS and a spokesperson for the cabinet's office digital transition department declined to comment. A spokesperson for Italy's industry ministry was not immediately available to comment.

AWS launched its first cloud region in Italy in 2020 as part of a plan to invest 2 billion euros (\$2.2 billion) by 2029.

It counts luxury carmaker Ferrari and insurer Assicurazioni Generali among its customers in the country, its website showed.

AWS has recently unveiled a 15.7 billion euros investment in data centres in Spain's northeastern Aragon region, replacing a previous 10-year plan announced in 2021, when the company earmarked 2.5 billion euros for the country.

According to one of the sources, AWS' investment in Italy would be in the billions but it might not reach the scale of its plans for Spain. An announcement is not imminent.

In Germany, AWS plans to invest 7.8 billion euros through 2040.

AWS is also building infrastructure to provide cloud services to telecom customers, which require vast resources.

It snagged its first customer earlier this month when Telefonica Deutschland announced plans to move 1 million customers to AWS cloud.

AWS last year announced plans to store data on servers located in the European Union to protect data privacy for government and customers in highly regulated industries.

Analysts and executives say many big corporate customers have started spending again on cloud computing after pausing last year, as interest in artificial intelligence drives a rebound of growth in the \$270 billion cloud infrastructure market.

Alphabet, which struck a landmark deal in 2020 to supply cloud services to Italy's biggest bank Intesa Sanpaolo, has invested 1 billion euros in Italy to set up the two cloud regions Intesa relies upon.

Microsoft a year ago said it was launching its first cloud region in Italy as part of a \$1.5 billion investment plan it had announced in 2020.

(\$1 = 0.9211 euros)

'No Longer Taboo': More European States Considering Recognizing Palestine, Senior EU Diplomat Tells Haaretz (msn.com)

#bibleprophecy, #european union, #spain, #israel

May 29, 2024

Middle East Peace Process says that additional member states could follow Spain, Norway and Ireland

Several EU member states are seriously looking into recognizing a Palestinian state, like Spain, Norway and Ireland have done, says the EU's special representative for the Middle East peace process.

Sven Koopmans, a Dutch diplomat who has held the role of special representative since 2021, told Haaretz in an interview that such decisions are made independently by the member states, and are not controlled or affected by the EU as a whole, but warned that they were a harbinger of a larger international challenge for Israel.

Spain, Norway and Ireland formally recognized a Palestinian state on Tuesday in a coordinated effort by the three western European nations to increase international pressure on Israel to soften its devastating response to last year's Hamas-led attack.

"There are a few member states that are looking at this very closely and are likely to take a step soon," Koopmans told Haaretz. He emphasized that he can't speak on behalf of specific countries, only the entire bloc, but noted that in the aftermath of the war in Gaza and in light of statements made by senior Israeli government officials against the two-state solution and in favor of eliminating the Palestinian Authority, the issue of recognizing Palestine was "no longer a taboo" for European governments.

Koopmans said Europe was "very alarmed" by certain statements and actions taken by the current Israeli government. He added that Israel's continuation of the operation in Rafah was a violation of the International Court of Justice's order limiting the fighting in Gaza's southernmost city.

"ICJ orders are binding upon everyone, and the order was very clear. But people are still being targeted. The suffering is unimaginable," Koopmans said.

The special representative said that after the October 7 attack, Israel enjoyed world-wide solidarity, and Hamas' terrorism was widely condemned. He warned that the continuation of the war in Gaza, the deaths of more than 35,000 Palestinians there – the majority of them civilians – and the humanitarian crisis in the Strip, were turning

public opinion against Israel. He is planning to convey this message to senior Israeli officials during a visit to the country next week.

In response to a question from Haaretz if the humanitarian situation in Gaza wasn't mostly now the fault of Egypt, which has refused to bring aid into the Strip ever since Israel took over the Rafah crossing, Koopmans said that at the end of the day, Israel, which is currently occupying Gaza, is the one responsible for making sure the local population has enough aid to avoid starvation.

Koopmans said that from the beginning of the war, immediately after October 7, the EU's position has been clear: all Israeli hostages must be released, with no conditions. He said it was "beyond belief" that the hostages were still being held by Hamas in Gaza after so many months, and said that they "need to be released immediately." The EU, he added, was advocating for an agreement that would include a cease-fire and the return of all the hostages, in order to bring an end to the war.

This week, the bloc's foreign ministers discussed the urgent need to achieve those goals in a forum with the foreign ministers of several leading Arab countries – including Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The Prime Minister of Qatar also participated in the discussions. During the discussions, the senior Arab officials asked European countries to officially recognize a Palestinian state.

Israel, Koopmans said, is facing an opportunity to enjoy closer relations with those Arab countries, but it must accept a framework for peace with the Palestinians in order to unlock it. "We want the best for Israel and the Palestinians, and we've always been clear that this involves a two-state solution. We're working with the Americans and the Arabs to prepare the ground. But then we hear the Israeli government saying, we don't believe in two states, there should not be a Palestinian state."

Those who oppose the two-state solution, Koopmans added, "have to be asked – what then is your alternative? What are you offering instead.

[Deadly Storms Kill at Least 18, Leave Trail of Destruction Across Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #storms, #tornadoes, #midwest

May 27, 2024

VALLEY VIEW, Texas (AP) — Powerful storms killed at least 18 people, injured hundreds and left a wide trail of destruction across Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas after obliterating homes and destroying a truck stop where dozens sought shelter in a restroom during the latest deadly weather to strike the central U.S.

The storms inflicted their worst damage in a region spanning from north of Dallas to the northwest corner of Arkansas, and the system threatened to bring more violent weather to other parts of the Midwest. By Monday, forecasters said, the greatest risk would shift to the east, covering a broad swath of the country from Alabama to near New York City.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear declared a state of emergency early Monday in a post on social media platform X, citing “multiple reports of wind damage and tornadoes.”

Seven deaths were reported in Cooke County, Texas, near the Oklahoma border, where a tornado Saturday night plowed through a rural area near a mobile home park, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said at a news conference Sunday. The dead included two children, ages 2 and 5. Three family members were found dead in one home, according to the county sheriff.

Storms also killed two people and destroyed houses in Oklahoma, where the injured included guests at an outdoor wedding, eight people in Arkansas and one person in Kentucky. Tens of thousands of residents were without power across the region.

In Texas, about 100 people were injured and more than 200 homes and structures destroyed, Abbott said, sitting in front of a ravaged truck stop near the small agricultural community of Valley View. The area was among the hardest-hit, with winds reaching an estimated 135 mph (217 kph), officials said.

“The hopes and dreams of Texas families and small businesses have literally been crushed by storm after storm,” said Abbott, whose state has seen successive bouts of severe weather, including storms that [killed eight people in Houston](#) earlier this month.

Abbot signed an amended severe weather disaster declaration on Sunday to include Denton, Montague, Cooke and Collin on a list of counties already under a disaster declaration sparked by storms and flooding in late April.

Hugo Parra, who lives in Farmers Branch, north of Dallas, said he rode out the storm with 40 to 50 people in the bathroom of the truck stop. The storm sheared the roof and walls off the building, mangling metal beams and leaving battered cars in the parking lot.

“A firefighter came to check on us and he said, ‘You’re very lucky,’” Parra said. “The best way to describe this is the wind tried to rip us out of the bathrooms.”

Multiple people were transported to hospitals by ambulance and helicopter in Denton County, also north of Dallas.

No more deaths are expected and nobody was reported missing in Texas, Abbott said, though responders were doing one more round of searches just in case.

Eight people died statewide in Arkansas, Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders confirmed in a news conference Sunday evening. An emergency official said two of the deaths were attributed to the circumstances of the storm but not directly caused by weather, including a person who suffered a heart attack and another who was deprived of oxygen due to a loss of electricity.

The deaths included a 26-year-old woman who was found dead outside a destroyed home in Olvey, a small community in Boone County, according to Daniel Bolen of the county’s emergency management office. One person died in Benton County, and two more bodies were found in Marion County, officials said.

In Oklahoma, two people died in Mayes County, east of Tulsa, officials said.

In Kentucky, a man was killed Sunday in Louisville when a tree fell on him, police said. Louisville Mayor Craig Greenburg confirmed on social media it was a storm-related death.

A DEADLY SERIES OF STORMS

The destruction continued a grim month of deadly severe weather in the nation’s midsection.

Tornadoes in Iowa last week left [at least five people dead](#) and dozens injured. The deadly twisters have spawned during a historically bad season for tornadoes, at a time when [climate change](#) contributes to the severity of storms around the world. April had the [second-highest number of tornadoes](#) on record in the country.

Meteorologists and authorities issued urgent warnings to seek cover as the storms marched across the region late Saturday and into Sunday. “If you are in the path of this storm take cover now!” the National Weather Service office in Norman, Oklahoma, posted on X.

Harold Brooks, a senior scientist at the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, said a persistent pattern of warm, moist air is to blame for the string of tornadoes over the past two months.

HOMES DESTROYED, ROADS BLOCKED

Residents awoke Sunday to overturned cars and collapsed garages. Some residents could be seen pacing and assessing the damage. Nearby, neighbors sat on the foundation of a wrecked home.

In Valley View, near the truck stop, the storms ripped the roofs off homes and blew out windows. Clothing, insulation, bits of plastic and other pieces of debris were wrapped around miles of barbed wire fence line surrounding grazing land in the rural area.

Kevin Dorantes, 20, was in nearby Carrollton when he learned the tornado was bearing down on the Valley View neighborhood where he lived with his father and brother. He called the two of them and told them to take cover in the windowless bathroom, where they rode out the storm and survived unharmed.

As Dorantes wandered through the neighborhood of downed power lines and devastated houses, he came upon a family whose home was reduced to a pile of splintered rubble. A father and son were trapped under debris and friends and neighbors raced to get them out, Dorantes said.

“They were conscious but severely injured,” Dorantes said.

WIDESPREAD POWER OUTAGES

The severe weather knocked out power for tens of thousands of homes and businesses in the path of the storms.

By late Sunday, more than 80,000 customers in Arkansas were without power. In neighboring Missouri, more than 90,000 were also without power. Texas reported 27,000 outages while 3,000 were reported in Oklahoma, according to the tracking website poweroutage.us.

Inaccessible roads and downed power lines in Oklahoma also led officials in the town of Claremore, near Tulsa, to announce on social media that the city was “shut down” due to the damage.

MORE SEVERE WEATHER IN FORECAST

The system causing the latest severe weather was expected to move east over the rest of the holiday weekend.

The Indianapolis 500 started four hours late after a strong storm pushed into the area, forcing Indianapolis Motor Speedway officials to evacuate about 125,000 race fans.

More severe storms were predicted in Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee.

The risk of severe weather moves into North Carolina and Virginia on Monday, forecasters said.

To follow the progress of the storm system, see The Associated Press [Tornado Tracker](#).

[Deaf Missions to Release First Ever ASL Film on Jesus' Life - Milton Quintanilla \(christianheadlines.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #deaf, #asl movie, #gospel

May 23, 2024

[Deaf Missions](#), a ministry dedicated to serving people who are deaf, is releasing the first-ever feature film presented completely in American Sign Language (ASL). The film, set to release June 20, is directed by Joseph D. Josselyn and stars Gideon Firl, both of whom are deaf.

"Growing up in a Christian family, I watched many films about Jesus. But I always wondered, what if these movies were in sign language?" Josselyn told [The Christian Post](#) through an interpreter. "After joining Deaf Missions in 2006, the idea began to take shape, though it seemed daunting at the time due to the scale of production, technology and funding required."

"We initially created a film adaptation of the book of Job, which gave us the experience we needed. We felt ready to pursue a larger project, leading us to 'JESUS,'" he added.

"[JESUS: A Deaf Missions Film](#)" will highlight key moments from Jesus' ministry, including His miracles, His power and His challenges to the religious leaders of the day amid a time of high tension under Roman rule in Judea.

"The Jews were anticipating a Messiah, but Jesus was not what they expected. What the religious leaders orchestrated to be Jesus' end instead changed the world forever," the film's description reads.

Although filmmakers "went back-and-forth and wrestled" over which aspects of Jesus' life to include in the film, Josselyn told CP that they eventually settled on the core purpose of His ministry, such as His forgiveness of sins and His love.

"We narrowed it down to the things that would bring the most clarity to who Jesus was in His ministry," he said.

The director also shared the challenges that came along in creating the film.

"Producing a full feature film in sign language requires significant resources," Josselyn noted. "But advancements in technology and the power of social media have made it possible. Removing the barriers of captions and interpreters, we let Jesus sign directly to the audience, creating a profound impact."

Josselyn asserted that the film was produced “for deaf by deaf,” including a cast fluent in ASL. Additionally, there will be a soundtrack and English subtitles.

Firl, who plays Jesus Christ, shared about what he brought to the role using ASL.

“It was really easy because Jesus is still alive,” he said. “We have His voice and His character in us. That’s what I copied. I didn’t have to think of much when it came to that; I didn’t have to feel like I was laboring and toiling ... I just asked the Father. The Holy Spirit was the One that helped me to emulate that.”

Both Josselyn and Firl look forward to how the film will impact the deaf community and beyond.

“We had the vision that this would reach deaf people through the churches and community centers hosting it, but we never really thought that it could be in the movie theater,” Josselyn said.

“This was such a big opportunity for us. ... It’s the best place for deaf people to watch movies, in a movie theater, to be able to sit, to feel like they’re part of the audience,” he continued. “This experience is just the best option for all people, not just Christians, not just unbelievers, not just the deaf, but lots of people who might be resistant to the Gospel. But if you invite them to a movie theater, they’re going to be like, ‘Sure, I’ll go watch a movie.’”

Hundreds of Christian leaders come to ‘stand in the gap’ for war-stricken Israel | All Israel News

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #christians, #support

May 30, 2024

Knesset members surprised and moved by Evangelical love for Israel

THE KNESSET IN JERUSALEM, ISRAEL — “You’re here with a very important purpose,” Albert Veksler, the CEO of the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast, told the nearly 400 Evangelical and Jewish leaders from 40 countries who gathered in the Israeli parliament on Wednesday to stand by the Jewish State in its time of war.

“You’re here to stand in the gap. Yes, and the very reason you are here is that I believe we have entered a new era, I think a red line has been crossed. Nations after nations have been abandoning Israel,” Veksler said in his opening remarks.

Knesset Member Matan Kahana, the host of the event, warmly welcomed the guests from around the world with “*Brukhim HaBaim BeShem HaShem*, welcome all comers in the name of God.”

Reminding the gathered leaders of the fates of the Israeli hostages still in captivity, Kahana emphasized that the war Israel is fighting at the moment has deeper dimensions.

“This is not political. This is no political struggle, it is simple Jew hatred. ‘*yitbakh al-yahud*’ is their war cry – massacre the Jews. We are fighting, but you are their enemy also. This is an all-out total war, radical Islam against the enlightened world, against our shared values,” Kahana said.

Former U.S. Congresswoman Michele Bachmann reminded those present of the biblical promise of blessings to all the world while the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob live in the land of Israel.

She also highlighted the war for global public opinion: “There’s a media war that’s getting played out across the world right now. And it’s being played out by the father of lies, no less – the father of lies,” Bachmann said before concluding her speech with [a moving prayer](#).

Then, former Knesset Member Yehuda Glick, a perennial crowd favorite among Evangelical friends of Israel, delivered a stirring teaching on Psalm 137 while occasionally breaking into song before, during and after his speech.

“There are times we have to turn our plowshares to swords so we can get to the time where we can turn our swords to plowshares... and then we will be happy and what will we do? We will be able to sing again the songs of Zion in Jerusalem and Zion,” Glick declared to the applause of the crowd.

In addition to several Israeli parliamentarians, two European politicians delivered messages of rare, unconditional support for Israel from countries that aren't exactly known for it.

Alexander Christiansson, MP for the right-wing Sweden Democrats, stressed that many right-leaning parties across Europe have increasingly supported Israel.

In a recent report about support for Israel in the European Parliament, the ranking was topped by right-wing and conservative parties, while leftists and Greens were at the bottom, he noted.

“It's easy to be a friend when everything is going great, but when hard currents come, it's easy to betray. So that's why I feel that it's more important than ever to be here, to just stand up for Israel and the Jewish people and their right to defend themselves,” Christiansson stated.

“Friends, even though the elites and the left-liberals are very loud, we hear them scream in the media, you hear them everywhere – there are people around Europe that don't like what they hear.”

Among those people are also conservative Italians like the former Senator Simone Pillon, who delivered a greeting from his party chairman Matteo Salvini, head of Lega Nord and the current Deputy Prime Minister of Italy.

Pillon emphasized Israel's role as a vanguard in the fight against “the worst danger – the loss of values.”

He went on to blast “woke” and left-wing ideology, which he counted as an example of the kind of sins that caused the ancient Israelites much suffering, according to Leviticus 26:14-20.

“Our issue today is ... that Israel and with you, all the peoples of the Western world will be able to rediscover their faith and their values,” Pillon noted.

“Then the prophecy of Psalm 81 will be fulfilled: *‘Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways! I should soon have subdued their enemies and turned my hand against their adversaries.’*”

Several Knesset members joined the Evangelical leaders, including Robert Ilatov, a former Knesset member for Yisrael Beytenu, and Simon Davidson and Tania Mazarsky, both active Knesset members for Yesh Atid.

Davidson told the attendants that he couldn't smile for months after October 7, until he traveled to Sweden and met friends of Israel there. "When I met this amazing group in Sweden I felt so much love, and it wasn't one hug ... I never felt so loved!"

"I came back to Israel and I said things can be different because we are not alone in the world and I'm here to say thank you," Davidson added.

Another current [Knesset Member Ohad Tal](#) of the Religious Zionism Party, impressed upon the Evangelical leaders how unusual their support was in the eyes of the Jewish people and Israelis today.

"It doesn't make any sense. I mean, really, what is wrong with you? Haven't you heard about history and how people should treat the Jewish people? Haven't you heard what is happening now in so many capitals in Europe, haven't you heard what is happening on college campuses in America? What it means to be normal?"

"So I thought – and again, to be honest, I think most Israelis do – we always feel as if we are isolated, we are alone... Everybody wants to kill us, that's the reality we have known for 3000 years, but you are here. You decided not to be normal," Tal said.

In an moving conclusion, Veksler asked representatives from South Africa and Norway to take the stage.

While the governments of both countries have shown themselves hostile to the Jewish State recently, the South African and Norwegian leaders vowed to stand by Israel and to be ambassadors for it while asking forgiveness for their governments.