



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 293**

# [Iranian proxies stepping up their drone attacks in war with Israel | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #iran, #drones

Jan 17, 2024

Terror groups are increasingly using drones in their war against the Jewish state

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JERUSALEM – Beginning Oct. 7, when Hamas terrorists used remote controlled drones to disarm tanks and knock out surveillance cameras during its surprise attack on Israel, through to last week, when a Hezbollah drone from Lebanon landed directly in an army base in [northern Israel](#), unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are increasingly becoming part of the weapons arsenal used by Iranian-backed non-state players in their war against the Jewish state.

While Israel has in place what it calls "an aerial defense array" – used multiple times over the past three months to thwart "hostile aircraft" from Gaza and Lebanon – as UAVs become easier to obtain, manufacture, enhance and weaponize, Israel, as well as other countries around the world, are racing to contend with an ever more lethal form of combat that is already outpacing existing military defense systems.

"The Israeli – and the U.S. – militaries have been using drones for a long time, especially in counterterrorism, for intelligence gathering or for precision strikes in order to distinguish between civilians and fighters," Dr. Liran Antebi, program director of advanced technologies and national security at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, told Fox News Digital.

## [US IMPOSES NEW ROUND OF SANCTIONS ON NETWORK INVOLVED IN IRAN'S DRONE PRODUCTION](#)

"However, what was once the silver bullet used by democracies in counterterrorism and to act in more ethical ways, is now in the [hands of terrorists](#) or non-democratic states and is being used in the opposite way," she said.

According to Antebi, ISIS was already a huge fan of UAVs when it waged jihad in Iraq and Syria a decade ago. Now, more sophisticated, and much more lethal armed drones,

are taking center stage in global conflicts, most recently in the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war. In some cases, Russian soldiers have used military grade UAVs, including those [created by Iran](#), to strike right in the heart of civilian populations.

In response, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy recently declared a plan to produce a million drones this year to fight back against Russia. And Russia, according to reports, is also increasing its drone stocks, including stepping up purchase of the Iranian-designed Shahed 136 suicide drone, a move that could have direct impact and increase the capabilities of groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as the Houthi terror group in Yemen, which is also considered a proxy of Tehran.

"While Israel is considered one of the world's leaders in producing and using high-quality drones and UAVs, as well as a leading country in the field of counter systems to fight against those technologies, it has not been very effective at implementing those defense mechanisms," Antebi said, using Hamas' Oct. 7 attack as an example.

She said that since the start of the current Gaza war, Hamas, Hezbollah and even the Houthis, had used all manner of UAVs to strike Israel, ranging from enhanced "off-the-shelf" drones to more sophisticated military-grade UAVs, capable of dropping bombs or of self-exploding.

"What we have not seen yet in our arena are the larger UAVs capable of launching missiles, which we know Iran is already producing," Antebi said. "We also haven't seen any FPV (first person view) drones yet, which we also know are being used in Ukraine."

Unlike ordinary drones, which are operated using a mobile phone or tablet and can be easily tracked using existing defensive technology, FPVs are operated with VR goggles and are much more difficult to detect and intercept.

Tal Mimran, from the Cyber Security Research Center in the Faculty of Law at Hebrew University, told Fox News Digital, that the use of armed drones, even the simplest ones, by non-state actors was a game-changer for Israel – as well as for other Western democracies with conventional armies bound by international law.

"When we think of an army like the U.S., Israel, the U.K., a drone is a technical weapon that is used alongside more significant tools such as airplanes or helicopters, but when it comes to a weaker state, and specifically non-state actors, it is a strategic change," he said, adding that Iran's training of terror groups in the art of drone warfare was "closing the gap between Israel and rogue groups such as Hamas or Hezbollah."

## **ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR: IDF UNCOVERS EVIDENCE OF HAMAS DEVELOPING PRECISION MISSILE CAPABILITIES WITH IRAN'S HELP**

While Israel has in place a multibillion-dollar rocket and missile air defense system designed to respond to attacks on multiple fronts and which can easily take down the relatively crude rockets lobbed by Hamas, the midrange rockets and missiles possessed

by Hezbollah and even the longer-range ballistic missiles fired in recent weeks by the Houthis from Yemen, smaller, more nimble threats from armed or exploding drones are still a challenge.

"Israel deals very well with a missile spread and the Iron Dome can intercept some of the drones," said Mimran. "But there is no doubt this is a game changer."

Already, the situation appears to be changing. Earlier this month, for the first time, the Israeli army said that it used an advanced drone in a precision strike against a Hamas target inside Gaza. Until now, Mimran said the military had refrained from using offensive drones to fight Hamas, even though they had been used on the northern front, in Lebanon and Syria. But that approach might change if the northern front opens up.

"We might see new things that we haven't seen until now," said Mimran, referring to Israel's capability of sending a "swarm of drones" with technology developed by Israeli defense company Elbit. It is also very possible, he added, that Hezbollah too has the capacity of sending hundreds, if not thousands, of drones at one time "creating chaos like we have never seen before in these parts."

Aviv Shapira, co-founder and CEO of Xtend, a company developing drones for the defense market, said it was just a matter of time before the threat of drones became global.

### **HEZBOLLAH CLAIMS IT DOESN'T WANT EXPANDED WAR WITH ISRAEL AFTER LAUNCHING DRONE ATTACK ON ISRAELI ARMY BASE**

"It will happen all over the world and right now, no one knows how to deal with it," said Shapira, whose company began developing racing drones for the gaming industry but was soon commissioned for [military purposes](#). "In the U.S. there are so many anti-terror measures in place, but now it is possible for anyone to suddenly take a drone, without a radio [and therefore not trackable] and use it in an attack."

He said that until now, defense companies were focused on developing advanced cyber measures to counter armed drones, but as tethered or pre-programmed UAVs become more common, there was a need for a new type of defense systems.

"The problem is that you don't know where these drones are coming from because they are so small and they cannot be stopped with jamming devices," said Shapira, whose company worked with the Israeli army to tackle the previous Hamas threat of incendiary balloons and kites that were causing havoc a few years ago.

"These drones don't have radio communications, so the only way to mitigate this problem is to physically intercept them," he said. "That means either shooting them down, using laser or technology like we have developed, which involves a high-speed drone that catches other drones with a net"

According to Shapira, Xtend's Griffon Counter UAV, with speeds of up to 93 mph, flies faster than any other drone currently available and can be programmed to operate autonomously, using AI, to identify a "rogue drone and kill it."

And, he added, the technology is so simple to use that it does not require a soldier or extensive training, but anyone can learn to operate it in less than 30 minutes.

However, Antebi, who is also a researcher of advanced technologies in warfare, warned that the development of all new technologies – defensive or offensive – ran the risk of having a "boomerang effect."

"There are a lot of startups and technology companies creating amazing technologies that can change the world for good, but we also have to be aware that the bad guys also want to use those technologies and they are capable of using them for bad," she said.

For Mimran, a broader concern, particularly in terms of drone warfare, is that currently there are no international guidelines, regulations or benchmarks.

"While there have been some global campaigns aimed at trying to ban the use of [drones in wars](#)," he said. "The ideological gaps between the West and the rest of the world are becoming so large that there is no way for the international community to sit together and think of appropriate regulation or rules of the game for this kind of weapon."

# [Hamas Spokesman: Oct 7 attack launched to stop the red heifers - Israel365 News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #hamas, #red heifers

Jan 17, 2024

*The Hamas spokesman gave a rare speech on the 100 day anniversary of the war against Israel. In his speech, he cited the arrival of the red heifers in Israel as one of the motives for the massacre of Jews on October 7.*

Abu Obeida, the military spokesman for the Izz ad-Din Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of the Palestinian Hamas terrorist organization, made a televised appearance on the 100th day of the Israeli war on Gaza. The televised speech was the first time he had appeared in seven weeks as, during that time, all of his public statements were either audio recordings or written statements. A lapse of several weeks even led to speculations that he had been killed.

*The iconic Abu Obeida, the military spokesman for the Al-Qassam Brigades, made a televised appearance on the 100th day of the Israeli war on Gaza. [pic.twitter.com/gu2LDVVMuh](https://pic.twitter.com/gu2LDVVMuh)*

— *The Palestine Chronicle (@PalestineChron)* [January 14, 2024](#)

The [Palestine Chronicle](#) reported that in his speech, Abu Obeidah “spoke about the usual topics, the number of tanks destroyed by the Resistance [i.e. the Hamas terrorist organization], the number of military operations.” Abu Obeida also claimed that Hamas is “manufacturing its own weapons, which makes it possible for Al-Qassam and others to carry on with the fight for much longer”

The Palestine Chronicle translated his speech. In the third paragraph, Abu Obeidah listed the motives for the Hamas attack on Israel:

“We look back 100 days to remember the educated, the complicit, and the incapacitated among the world powers governed by the law of the jungle, reminding them of an aggression that reached its peak against our path (Al-Quds) and Al-Aqsa, with the start of its actual temporal and spatial division, and the ‘bringing of red cows’ as an application of a detestable religious myth designed for aggression against the feelings of an entire nation in the heart of its Arab identity, and the path of its prophet (the Night Journey) and Ascension to heaven.”

In his speech, he referred to the October 7 attack as “ the Al Aqsa flood”. Palestinians call the gray-domed mosque on the Temple Mount as “Al Aqsa”, literally meaning “the further mosque”, referring to a [myth created by the Umayyad Calif](#) in 682 CE, 50 years after Muhammad’s death. According to the myth, Muhammad was carried to the site of the destroyed Jewish Temples in a miraculous overnight journey by al-Buraq, a magical

horse with the head of a woman, wings of an eagle, the tail of a peacock, and hoofs reaching to the horizon. He tethered the horse to the Western Wall of the Temple Mount and from there ascended to the seventh heaven together with the angel Gabriel.

Abu Obeidah continued:

“We will not tire or falter in calling all the free people of the nation to rise to support their Aqsa and the path of their prophet, which the criminal Zionists are practically advancing towards destroying and establishing their temple. This is what we have chosen with our blood in Gaza for 100 days and for which the epic of October 7th was about.”

In his speech, he frequently describes Israelis as “Nazis” and calls on “every Muslim on the face of the earth” to join the war.

“We believe that it is our jihadist and religious duty to inform the two billion Muslims in the world that the Zionist enemy, over the course of 100 days, destroyed most of the mosques in the Gaza Strip, desecrated, burned and bulldozed those reached by its vehicles on the ground, and stopped the call to prayer and praying in a clear religious war, completing what the religious Zionist gangs started in their war on Al-Aqsa Mosque. This is an ominous sign and destruction for these Nazi killers, as they cannot wage a war against God, and this is affirmed by the text of the Torah, the Bible, and the Qur’an.

Arab-language media covered Abu Abeidah’s speech extensively, focusing on the red heifer while noting that [five red female calves were brought to Israel in September 2022](#). After the announcement of the arrival of the cows, Hamas [reacted](#) almost immediately, warning that the potential Jewish ritual posed a threat to Al Aqsa.

*AUTHOR’S NOTE: This subject was first brought to light by [Elder of Ziyon](#).*

# [Biden Admin, Qatar, Egypt Propose Hostage Deal Where Israel Loses War \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #hamas, #biden

Jan 21, 2024

The U.S., Qatar, and Egypt have reportedly proposed a deal in which Hamas would free the remaining 136 Israeli hostages (or their bodies) in exchange for Israel withdrawing from Gaza and ending the war without destroying the terrorist organization.

The proposal, a three-stage process, was described Sunday by the *Wall Street Journal*, which appears to rely heavily on sources inside U.S. national security agencies.

Leaving Israel without destroying Hamas would defeat Israel's central goal in the war.

The *Journal* [wrote](#):

*The mediators have proposed a 90-day plan that would first pause fighting for an unspecified number of days for Hamas to first release all Israeli civilian hostages, while Israel would release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, withdraw forces from Gaza's towns and cities, allow freedom of movement in the strip, end drone surveillance and double the amount of aid going into the enclave, according to the plan.*

*In the second phase, Hamas would free female Israeli soldiers and turn over bodies while Israel would release more Palestinian prisoners. A third phase would involve the release of Israeli soldiers and fighting-age men Hamas considers soldiers, according to Egyptian officials, while Israel would redeploy some of its forces outside the current borders of the Gaza Strip.*

Hamas is trying to use the hostages as leverage to avoid defeat. The *Journal* reports that there are rifts between Hamas's leaders in Doha, Qatar, who are open to accepting a demilitarization of the Gaza Strip, and leaders in Gaza, who want to keep on fighting.

Israel reportedly prefers a two-week pause for a hostage release that would not stop the war and would allow it to pursue its stated objectives of destroying Hamas's military capabilities completely, so that it can never threaten Israeli communities again.

The U.S.-backed plan appears to satisfy President Joe Biden's demand that fighting be eased to reduce Palestinian casualties. It also appears to exploit emerging political differences within Israel about how far to compromise to free the remaining hostages.



There is frustration within Israel that the military has not yet been able to locate Israeli hostages who are in tunnels underground – though the IDF revealed on Saturday that it found an underground prison where hostages, including children, were once kept.

בהמשך להצהרת דובר צה"ל, מצורפות תמונות מתוך מנהרה בחאן יונס בה הוחזקו  
חטופים: [pic.twitter.com/6CecbXLxrl](https://pic.twitter.com/6CecbXLxrl)

— צבא ההגנה לישראל (@idfonline) [January 20, 2024](#)

Though Israelis broadly agree that Hamas should be destroyed, and that a Palestinian state would be a disaster (a [reversal](#) from the view a decade ago), some dissenting voices are echoing Biden administration [claims](#) that Hamas cannot be totally defeated.

Netanyahu has [dismissed](#) such claims, arguing that Israel not only has the ability to defeat Hamas, but that it is doing so, and that it has no choice but to continue the war until Hamas is defeated, because otherwise Israel will not be able to restore its security.

The fact that the U.S. plan is also backed by Qatar and Egypt will not sway many Israelis. Qatar is resented for hosting the Hamas leadership in luxurious exile, and Egypt is increasingly suspected of having helped Hamas smuggle weapons into the Gaza Strip.

# Netanyahu: No full Palestinian state, no 'surrender' in exchange for Gaza hostages | The Times of Israel

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #palestinian, #surrender

Jan 21, 2024

PM pushes back on White House vision of pathway to two-state solution and reports of a grand bargain that would end war, though he doesn't rule out demilitarized Palestinian state

As US President Joe Biden's administration called for the war against Hamas to wind down alongside a pathway toward a two-state solution at the end of the fight, Israel's leadership presented a vision at odds with that of the White House on Sunday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu doubled down in a video message on his determination not to allow a full-fledged, militarized Palestinian state to emerge.

"I will not compromise on full Israeli security control over all the territory west of the Jordan [River]," he said, echoing recent comments.

"As long as I am prime minister, I will continue to firmly stand by this," he pledged, boasting that he had withstood international and domestic pressure over the years to move toward a two-state solution.

Netanyahu has made similar statements over the past week, though he appears to have been careful not to categorically reject all forms of Palestinian statehood.

Speaking after a [report](#) on Wednesday that said the Biden administration is looking past the premier to advance a two-state solution — and hours after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Israel cannot achieve "genuine security" without a pathway to a Palestinian state — Netanyahu said Israel must maintain "security control" of all territory west of the Jordan River in any future arrangement.

After he spoke with Netanyahu on Friday, Biden expressed hope that a two-state solution could be achieved even with Netanyahu in office if it is demilitarized. A CNN [report](#) the next day indicated that Netanyahu told Biden that he was not ruling out a Palestinian state entirely. (A US official has confirmed the CNN report to The Times of Israel.)

The prime minister pushed back on that as well, tweeting on Saturday night that "I will not compromise on full Israeli security control over all the territory west of the Jordan River — and this runs contrary to a Palestinian state."

But Netanyahu's video statement Sunday could be seen as leaving the door open slightly for a demilitarized Palestinian state.

He also rejected the idea that a deal could emerge that leaves Hamas in power, insisting that Israel will achieve "total victory," after which "there will be no entity in Gaza that finances terrorism, educates for terrorism or sends our terror."

Netanyahu demanded that Gaza be demilitarized under Israel's full security control.

Earlier Sunday, The Wall Street Journal [reported](#) that the US, Egypt and Qatar are pushing Israel and Hamas to accept a comprehensive plan that would end the war, see the release of hostages held in Gaza, and ultimately lead to full normalization for Israel with its neighbors and talks for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

In his video statement, Netanyahu said that Israel completely rejects Hamas's demands for "surrender" in exchange for releasing the remaining 136 hostages in Gaza.

"So far, we have brought home 110 hostages, and we are committed to bringing them all back," said Netanyahu. "I am working on this around the clock. But let it be clear: I reject outright the terms of surrender of the Hamas monsters."

The prime minister said that in exchange for releasing the hostages, "Hamas is demanding the end of the war, the exit of our forces from Gaza, releasing all the murderers and rapists of the Nukhba [forces] and leaving Hamas intact."

Netanyahu added that "if we agree to this, our soldiers will have fallen in vain. If we agree to this, we cannot guarantee security for our citizens. We cannot bring the evacuees home safely, and the next October 7 will be just a matter of time. I am not able to agree to such a fatal blow to Israeli security, and therefore I cannot agree to that."

The prime minister said he had made Israel's stance on this issue clear to Biden when they spoke over the weekend.

Under pressure from US progressives, and worried about an escalation that could draw the country into the war, the Biden administration [has been calling for](#) the war to end "as quickly as possible" for over a month.

While Israel [said](#) earlier in January that it has begun a new, less intensive phase in its war against Hamas, that only seems to be the case in the northern half of the Strip.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said on Sunday that the IDF will further expand its ground offensive in southern Gaza's Khan Younis.

"We are carrying out an intensive operation in the Khan Younis area, and it will continue to expand," said Gallant following a flight over the Strip with the Israeli Air Force's 100th Squadron.

“The plumes of smoke from the tanks, artillery and Air Force planes, will continue to cover the skies of the Gaza Strip, until we achieve our goals, chief among them, the defeat of Hamas and the return of hostages to their homes,” he added.

War erupted after Hamas-led terrorists invaded southern Israeli communities, massacring some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping 253 others. Israel then launched a massive military operation aimed at vanquishing Hamas and freeing the hostages.

It is believed that 132 hostages abducted by Hamas on October 7 remain in Gaza — not all of them alive — after 105 civilians were released from Hamas captivity during a weeklong truce in late November, another was rescued alive and bodies of others were extricated. Four more hostages are believed to have been held in the Strip since 2014 or 2015.

# [Iran warns attacks on Israel, US will continue as long as IDF remains in Gaza | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #israel, #gaza

Jan 17, 2024

Tensions over Israel's war against Hamas threaten to spill over into a wider war

Iran's foreign minister warned Israel that attacks by Iran and its allies against Israeli and American targets will continue so long as Israeli forces are waging war in Gaza on Wednesday.

[Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian](#) said the attacks would halt if Israel withdraws its forces. Iran and its proxy terrorist groups have attacked Israeli and U.S. targets more than 100 times since mid-October, threatening to widen Israel's war against Hamas into a regional conflict.

"An end to the genocide in Gaza will lead to an end of military actions and crises in the region," Amirabdollahian said at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"The security of the Red Sea is tied to the developments in Gaza, and everyone will suffer if Israel's crimes in Gaza do not stop... All the (resistance) fronts will remain active," he added.

Iran deployed one of its navy vessels to the Red Sea earlier this month. Iran-backed [Houthi rebels in Yemen](#) have also launched dozens of missile and drone attacks against international trade vessels in the Red Sea.

The U.S. and other Western allies have thwarted many of the Houthi attacks, but several shipping companies have diverted travel elsewhere. Such diversions cost weeks of shipping time as vessels must travel around Africa.

## [TOP BIDEN ADVISER VISITS BEIRUT AS ISRAEL, HEZBOLLAH NEAR ALL-OUT WAR](#)

Israel has given no indication that it plans to halt its war against Hamas in the near future. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who launched the war after Hamas carried out a massacre on Oct. 7 that included the killing of at least 1,200 Israelis, has said the war will last "many more months."

Netanyahu has also threatened war with Hezbollah, another Iran-backed terrorist organization that operates in Lebanon to Israel's north.

President Biden's administration has remained largely supportive of Israel throughout the conflict, but has urged Netanyahu's government to scale back its offensive in Gaza.

# [Bernie Sanders to force Senate vote on resolution that could freeze aid to Israel | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #senate, #israel, #aid

Jan 16, 2024

The Senate will vote on a resolution Tuesday afternoon by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., that could potentially freeze U.S. aid to Israel unless the [Biden administration](#) reports to Congress within 30 days about whether Israel committed human rights violations during its war with Hamas.

Sanders' resolution is based on the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 that requires the State Department to examine the human rights conduct of nations receiving U.S. aid. The law prohibits U.S. aid to any foreign government "which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights."

Upon receiving the report, Congress will have the authority to reduce or end aid to Israel if violations are found. Any subsequent votes to modify security assistance will need a simple majority for approval.

The resolution is reportedly opposed by the Biden administration, which has urged Congress to pass \$60 billion more in aid [to Israel](#), and many Democrats. But those in Congress who are part of the left's more progressive flank have voiced support for a cease-fire and halting U.S. aid to Israel.

## [SEN. BERNIE SANDERS ADMITS IT'S 'VERY HARD' FOR AMERICANS TO BE EXCITED WHEN PRESSED ON BIDEN ISRAEL STANCE](#)

"This is a humanitarian cataclysm, and it is being done with American bombs and money. We need to face up to that fact – and then we need to end our complicity in those actions," Sanders previously said in a statement.

The resolution, which faces an uphill battle that requires a simple majority needed to pass in the [upper chamber](#), would request the administration's 30-day report to detail steps taken by the U.S. government to promote human rights in Israel, limit risks to civilians, discourage harmful practices, and disassociate from such practices. Part of the resolution reaffirms Israel's right to respond and defend itself against the deadly attack carried out by Hamas.

It would also require an assessment of whether "extraordinary circumstances" exist to justify the continuation of security assistance aid for Israel, and if so, details of the circumstances that require ongoing funding.

Many humanitarian organizations and the United Nations rely heavily on death toll data published by Hamas-run ministries in Gaza, which estimate more than 20,000 people in Gaza have been killed since the war began on Oct. 7.

## **SENATORS URGE BERNIE SANDERS TO HOLD A HEARING ON THE SCOPE OF ANTISEMITISM AT COLLEGE CAMPUSES**

Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza, sparked by the terrorist group's Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel, has prompted unprecedented destruction in the tiny coastal enclave and triggered a humanitarian catastrophe that has displaced most of Gaza's 2.3 million population and pushed more than a quarter into starvation, according to the U.N.

Israel blames Hamas for the high death toll, saying its fighters make use of civilian buildings and launch attacks from densely populated urban areas.

After Hamas' attack on Israel, 1,200 people were killed and around 250 people were taken hostage. As of this month, Israel believes more than 130 hostages are still in captivity in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Democrats in Congress remain divided on the war. While some support more aid to Israel, others have called for a complete cease-fire to limit civilian casualties. [Republicans have](#) remained largely united in backing Israel.



# To improve care for Veterans, VA to fund studies on new therapies for treating mental health conditions - VA News

#bibleprophecy, #veterans, #depression, #ptsd

Jan 5, 2024

New research would determine the benefit of psychedelics for treating PTSD and depression in Veterans

**WASHINGTON** — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs issued a request for applications (RFA) for proposals from its network of VA researchers (in collaboration with academic institutions) to study the use of certain psychedelic compounds in treating posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression.

Through this new research opportunity, VA intends to gather definitive scientific evidence on the potential efficacy and safety of psychedelic compounds such as Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) and psilocybin when used in conjunction with psychotherapy to treat Veterans with PTSD and depression. This is the first time since the 1960s that VA is funding research on such compounds.

“Our nation’s Veterans deserve the very best care, and VA is constantly supporting innovations to deliver that,” said **Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough**. “This is an important step to explore the efficacy of a potential new set of promising treatments that could improve the health and quality of life for Veterans.”

“[Veterans and VA researchers have told us](#) about the potential promise of psychedelics to treat mental health conditions for some time,” said **VA’s Under Secretary for Health Dr. Shereef Elnahal**. “Now is our chance to study this potential method of treating Veterans with PTSD and major depression across the country.”

VA and the Biden-Harris Administration are committed to exploring all avenues that promote the health of our nation’s Veterans. As with all other VA studies, research conducted on psychedelic compounds will be completed under stringent safety protocols. While these compounds are controlled substances, tightly restricted under federal law, research on these compounds may be conducted with appropriate regulatory approvals, including those from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The FDA granted breakthrough therapy status for MDMA for treating PTSD and psilocybin for treating depression in (2018 and 2019, respectively) based on promising preliminary research evidence.

In September, more than 75 VA and other federal clinicians, scientists and policy makers gathered in Denver to assess the state of existing scientific evidence regarding psychedelic-assisted therapies. This meeting’s working groups provided advice to VA

leadership, including the recommendation for VA to begin funding its own studies into these compounds. This guidance was based on [previously published studies](#) that have found promising results but included few or no Veterans. For example, [researchers at Johns Hopkins have shown](#) that psilocybin therapy, given with supportive therapy, can ease symptoms of depression for up to 12 months. Additionally, 86% of participants in a [recent peer-reviewed study](#) achieved a “clinically meaningful benefit” from using MDMA to treat PTSD.

VA researchers have already conducted a limited number of small studies on psychedelics in VA facilities using non-VA funding. This new RFA will permit the important next step of directly assessing effectiveness and safety of using MDMA and psilocybin-augmented psychotherapy in Veterans.

Expanding research on psychedelics to address Veteran mental health is also in line with calls from Veterans Service Organizations such as the [American Legion](#) and [Disabled American Veterans](#), as well as [mental health provider groups](#). The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024 also authorized the study of psychedelics within military populations by the Department of Defense. With this new announcement, VA will join the National Institutes of Health in supporting research that will yield insights for treating PTSD and depression.

Psychedelic drugs are a class of substances that alter consciousness or awareness and may be organically or synthetically produced. VA does not recommend psychedelics for use as part of a self-treatment program.

If you're a Veteran struggling with a mental health or substance-use disorder, the VA can help. Find out about available resources [here](#).

# [AI Misinformation Is World's Biggest Short-Term Threat: WEF | TIME](#)

#bibleprophecy, #chatgpt, #information, #deception

Jan 10, 2024

(LONDON) — False and misleading information supercharged with cutting-edge artificial intelligence that threatens to erode democracy and polarize society is the top immediate risk to the global economy, the World Economic Forum said in a [report](#) Wednesday.

In its latest Global Risks Report, the organization also said an array of environmental risks pose the biggest threats in the longer term. The report was released ahead of the annual elite gathering of CEOs and world leaders in the Swiss ski resort town of Davos and is based on a survey of nearly 1,500 experts, industry leaders and policymakers.

The report listed misinformation and disinformation as the most severe risk over the next two years, highlighting how rapid advances in technology also are creating new problems or making existing ones worse.

The authors worry that the boom in generative AI chatbots like ChatGPT means that creating sophisticated synthetic content that can be used to manipulate groups of people won't be limited any longer to those with specialized skills.

AI is set to be a hot topic next week at the Davos meetings, which are expected to be attended by tech company bosses including OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and AI industry players like Meta's chief AI scientist, Yann LeCun.

AI-powered misinformation and disinformation is emerging as a risk just as a billions of people in a slew of countries, including large economies like the United States, Britain, Indonesia, India, Mexico, and Pakistan, are set to head to the polls this year and next, the report said.

“You can leverage AI to do deepfakes and to really impact large groups, which really drives misinformation,” said Carolina Klint, a risk management leader at Marsh, whose parent company Marsh McLennan co-authored the report with Zurich Insurance Group.

“Societies could become further polarized” as people find it harder to verify facts, she said. Fake information also could be used to fuel questions about the legitimacy of elected governments, “which means that democratic processes could be eroded, and it would also drive societal polarization even further,” Klint said.

The rise of AI brings a host of other risks, she said. It can empower “malicious actors” by making it easier to carry out cyberattacks, such as by automating phishing attempts or creating advanced malware.

With AI, “you don’t need to be the sharpest tool in the shed to be a malicious actor,” Klint said.

It can even poison data that is scraped off the internet to train other AI systems, which is “incredibly difficult to reverse” and could result in further embedding biases into AI models, she said.

The other big global concern for respondents of the risk survey centered around climate change.

Following disinformation and misinformation, extreme weather is the second-most-pressing short-term risk.

In the long term — defined as 10 years — extreme weather was described as the No. 1 threat, followed by four other environmental-related risks: critical change to Earth systems; biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse; and natural resource shortages.

“We could be pushed past that irreversible climate change tipping point” over the next decade as the Earth's systems undergo long-term changes, Klint said.

# [China Urges Cease-Fire, Two-State Solution Amid Hamas Aggression | Newsmax.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #china, #two state solution, #hamas

Jan 17, 2024

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged international pressure to end Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza and called for the implementation of the two-state solution amid continued aggression by the terror organization Hamas against Israel.

"China calls for the convening of a larger-scale, more authoritative and more effective international peace conference, the formulation of a specific timetable and road map for the implementation of the 'two-state solution', and support for the prompt resumption of Israel-Palestinian peace talks," the Chinese foreign minister stated following talks with his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry.

The Chinese and Egyptian foreign ministers reportedly urged "influential countries" to embrace a more proactive role in the Middle East.

"Influential countries, in particular, need to play an objective, impartial and constructive role in this regard," read the official joint Egyptian-Chinese joint statement.

In addition to Egypt, Wang will visit Tunisia and the African states of Togo and the Ivory Coast. China's top diplomat noted that President Xi Jinping recently had "in-depth communication" with Iranian and Saudi leaders in an alleged effort to decrease the high tensions across the Middle East.

Like the West, China and Egypt are concerned about the growing attacks on international shipping vessels in the Red Sea by the Iranian-backed Houthi terror militia in Yemen. Egypt's Suez Canal revenues have reportedly dropped by 40% because many international vessels have been avoiding Red Sea lanes out of fear of Houthi attacks. Some 15% of the world's trade reportedly passes through the strategically important Red Sea and Suez Canal.

China has strong commercial interests in the Middle East that include investments in the Israeli tech sector, as well as extensive oil trade with Iran. Unlike Western democracies, the Chinese regime has not condemned the Hamas terror group for the atrocities it committed on Oct. 7, when it invaded and massacred 1,200 Israelis, mostly civilians including women, children, and elderly.

China's unwillingness to condemn Hamas is likely linked to its strong ties with Hamas patron, the Republic of Iran.

In January 2022, China and Iran signed a strategic partnership where Iran would reportedly receive \$400 billion in exchange for a greater Chinese commercial and political influence in Iran and the wider Middle East.

Washington's decision to reduce its involvement in the Middle East has created a regional power vacuum, which has been increasingly filled by the regional power Iran, as well as the global powers China and Russia.

China also has a growing military influence in the combustible Middle East region. Israeli forces recently discovered a large amount of Chinese weaponry in the Gaza Strip, which was used by terrorists operating in Gaza.

Carice Witte, an expert on Chinese-Israeli ties and the founder and CEO of SIGNAL Group, confirmed that the Chinese military industry exports to Middle East nations but usually not to non-state actors, such as Hamas.

"By definition, it does not sell weapons to non-state entities, it certainly does sell weapons to countries in the [Middle East]," Witte assessed.

"Trade relations between China and Middle Eastern nations are well known, even with those sanctioned by the West," she added, likely referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran. "It is not impossible that such weaponry ends up in the wrong hands," Witte concluded.

In the meantime, the Iranian regime continues its effort to provide various weapons to its regional terror proxies, such as Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

# [Antisemitic incidents in the U.S. getting 'much worse,' some D.C. residents say | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #united states

Jan 20, 2024

Antisemitic incidents in the US getting 'much worse,' some D.C. residents say

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans in the nation's capital weighed in on antisemitism in the U.S. since Hamas attacked Israel, with most telling Fox News that hate against Jews has gotten worse in recent months.

"It's rather shocking, actually, how many people side with antisemitism and just hating people," Cori, of Washington, D.C., told Fox News. "It's gotten much worse."

But Joe said [anti-Israel rhetoric](#), not antisemitism, has increased.

"There's a confusion between antisemitism and anti-Israeli," he said. "I don't think it's directed at Jews. I think it's directed at the Israelis' handling of the Palestinians."

Pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel demonstrations have broken out across the U.S. since Israel's war against Hamas started after the terrorist group invaded the Jewish state Oct. 7. Between then and Jan. 7, there have been nearly 3,300 [antisemitic incidents](#) across the U.S. — an average of 34 a day and more than quadruple the number over the same period the year prior, according to preliminary Anti-Defamation League data published Jan. 9.

"It's scary to see," Miles said. "It's a little more heightened."

Steve said [antisemitism at colleges](#) have gotten worse in particular.

"I think in the universities it's gotten worse," Steve said. "I'm very glad that the president of Harvard resigned."

The antisemitic incidents ADL documented include 56 [physical assaults](#), 554 accounts of vandalism and 1,300 reports of verbal or written harassment. More than 1,300 rallies included antisemitic rhetoric, with at least 500 of the incidents occurring on [college campuses](#), according to the group.

Some [Jewish Americans have felt unsafe](#) on campus following antisemitic acts or violent threats. Harvard University students, for example, filed a lawsuit against the college, arguing that the Ivy League school is allowing "[antisemitism cancer](#)" to grow on campus.

"I can't understand it," Jacqueline said. "How can you hate somebody just because they were born different or look different or think different?"

## 'IT'S ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF HATE': JEWISH STUDENTS RESPOND TO PRO-PALESTINIAN GROUPS

The number of [antisemitic incidents](#) ADL counted over the three-month period is higher than the total for any year except 2022. It also puts 2023 on pace to have more incidents than any other year since the group started tracking them in the late 1970s.

"It's gotten worse," William said. "There's a lot of people suffering. Nobody should have to be in that type of environment, period."



# [W.H.O. Picks Trans Activists to Set Global Child-Rearing Rules -- Less than Half of Panel Has Medical Background \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #corruption, #w.h.o., #activists

Jan 12, 2024

The United Nations healthcare agency — the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) — has given transgender activists a majority of the seats in a panel that is drafting healthcare policies for children.

One of the supposed experts displays a “Be Gay, Do Crimes” tattoo.

Eleven members of the W.H.O.’s 21-member panel have no formal medical training, seven are transgender, and just ten have a medical background, according to a [report](#) by *Daily Mail*.

One of them is reportedly a controversial Canadian trans activist who has a strong influence on the Chinese app TikTok and says puberty blockers should be prescribed to all children, regardless of their gender identity, so they can “choose” their gender rather than being assigned one by society.

Another of the W.H.O.’s committee members says that transitioning causes no health problems and claims the only “actual side effects” of getting a sex change are a “significantly improved quality of life ... and trans joy.”

The rest of the panel members are a mixture of activists, social justice advocates, human rights lawyers, STD researchers, and policy advisers, *Daily Mail* reports.

Another committee member, Ashley — a biological male who identifies as female and goes by the pronouns “they/them that bitch” — has a tattoo that reads, “Be Gay, Do Crimes.”

Ashley, who has co-written a study that claims puberty blockers and hormone therapies “ought to be treated as the default option” for children with gender dysphoria, has a significant following on TikTok where he calls for mental health checks on trans children to be scrapped before they are given puberty blockers and hormone drugs.

“Is there any reason to ask people to go through a lengthy and complex gender assessment in order to access gender-affirming care, or is that useless and should the time best be put in supporting decision-making,” Ashley reportedly said.

“And what our article concludes is that there’s really no evidence that gender assessments work — it’s just a lengthier process for no real reason,” he added. “Gender assessments are really an unnecessary form of gatekeeping that trans communities have been opposing for a while.”

Meanwhile, W.H.O. spokesperson Tarik Jašarević insists the guidelines on trans issues would focus on “adults only” and not the use of hormones, suppressants and surgeries on children.

“WHO guidelines are always based on balancing of available evidence, human rights principles, consideration of harms and benefits and inputs of end users and beneficiaries,” Jašarević said.

Nonetheless, some W.H.O. committee members are vocal about their support for letting children — some as young as 13 — undergo such medical procedures.

Reem Alsalem, the United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on violence against women, told *Daily Mail* that the new W.H.O. panel is too “one-sided” and that she believes the committee contains “significant unmanaged conflicts of interest.”

“Stakeholders whose views differ from those held by transgender activist organizations do not appear to have been invited,” Alsalem said.

“Such stakeholders include experts from European public health authorities who have taken the lead on developing an evidence-based and consequently cautious approach to youth gender transitions (eg England, Sweden and Finland),” she added.

Meanwhile, the W.H.O. group will set global guidelines for the ways that healthcare workers around the world can increase access “and utilization of quality and respectful health services by trans and gender-diverse people.”

“The WHO panel is made up mostly of social justice and human rights lawyers who believe the gender affirmative approach is the only option,” Stella O’Malley, psychotherapist and executive director of Genspect, told *Daily Mail*.

“[They] will determine care guidelines for trans people, yet they do not have anyone to represent critical balance on their panel,” she added. “The gender affirmative approach is presumed by WHO to be the only way forward and thereby dismisses conventional psychotherapy.”

“This is a narrow minded and heavily biased approach,” O’Malley affirmed. “The WHO are making a grave mistake, they should pause this process and consult with the many professionals who hold different approaches.”

# [Iceland faces daunting period after lava from volcano destroys homes in fishing town, president says \(yahoo.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #corruption, #w.h.o., #activists

Jan 15, 2024

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland’s president said the country is battling “tremendous forces of nature” after molten lava from [a volcano in the island’s southwest](#) consumed several houses in the evacuated town of Grindavik.

Scientists said Monday that the eruption appeared to be dying down, but it was too soon to declare the danger over. Iceland’s Meteorological Office said “it is difficult to estimate how long this eruption will last.”

President Gudni Th. Johannesson said in a televised address late Sunday that “a daunting period of upheaval has begun on the Reykjanes Peninsula” where a long-dormant volcanic system has awakened.

A volcano on the peninsula erupted for the second time in less than a month on Sunday, with orange lava bursting through two fissures near the fishing town of Grindavik. Authorities had ordered residents to leave hours earlier as a swarm of small earthquakes indicated an imminent eruption.

The nearby [Blue Lagoon geothermal spa](#) — one of Iceland’s biggest tourist attractions — also shut and said that it would remain closed until at least Tuesday.

Grindavik, a town of 3,800 people about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southwest of the capital, Reykjavik, was previously evacuated in November when the Svartsengi volcanic system awakened after almost 800 years with a series of earthquakes that opened large cracks in the earth between the town and Sýlingarfell, a small mountain to the north.

[The volcano eventually erupted](#) on Dec. 18, sending lava flowing away from Grindavik. [Residents were allowed to return](#) to their homes on Dec. 22.

Since then, emergency workers have been building defensive walls that have stopped much of the lava flow from the new eruption short of the town.

The Icelandic Met Office said Monday that “lava flow has decreased from the eruptive fissures that opened yesterday. Flow from the southern eruptive fissure, which emerged around noon yesterday near the town’s border, seems to have ceased. The majority of the remaining lava flow is now directed southwest along the protective barriers, and its trajectory seems to have stabilized.”

No one has been killed in the eruptions, but a workman is missing after reportedly falling into a crack opened by the volcano.

“We don’t yet know how this eruption will unfold, but we must still take those actions that are within our power,” the president said. “We will carry on with our responsibilities and we will continue to stand together.

“We continue to hope for as good an outcome as possible, in the face of these tremendous forces of nature,” he added.

Iceland, which sits above a [volcanic hot spot in the North Atlantic](#), averages one eruption every four to five years. The most disruptive in recent times was the 2010 eruption of the Eyjafjallajokull volcano, which spewed clouds of ash into the atmosphere and disrupted trans-Atlantic air travel for months.

The latest eruption isn’t expected to release large amounts of ash into the air. Operations at Keflavík Airport are continuing as normal, said Gudjon Helgason, spokesperson for airport operator Isavia.

# Zambia grapples with worst cholera outbreak in 2 decades | Fox News

#bibleprophecy, #zambia, #cholera, #disease

Jan 17, 2024

The outbreak started in October, affecting nearly half of the African country's districts

- Zambia is facing a severe cholera outbreak with over 400 deaths and 10,000 infections, leading to the closure of schools nationwide.
- A soccer stadium in the capital has been converted into a treatment facility to handle the high number of cases.
- The government is implementing a mass vaccination program and providing 2.4 million liters of clean water daily to affected communities.

Zambia is reeling from a major cholera outbreak that has killed more than 400 people and infected more than 10,000, leading authorities to order schools across the country to remain shut after the end-of-year holidays.

A large soccer stadium in the capital city has been converted into a treatment facility.

The Zambian government is embarking on a mass vaccination program and says it's providing [clean water](#) — 2.4 million liters a day — to communities that are affected across the southern African nation.

## **SOUTH AFRICA CONFIRMS 2 OF ITS CHOLERA CASES WERE IMPORTED FROM MALAWI**

The national disaster management agency has been mobilized.

Cholera is an acute diarrhea infection caused by a bacteria that is typically spread via contaminated food or water. The disease is strongly linked to poverty and inadequate access to clean water.

The outbreak in Zambia began in October and 412 people have died and 10,413 cases have been recorded, according to the latest count on Wednesday from the Zambia Public Health Institute, the government body that deals with [health emergencies](#).

## **MALAWI DEATH TOLL CAUSED BY CHOLERA OUTBREAK PASSES 1,000**

The Health Ministry says cholera has been detected in nearly half of the country's districts and nine out of 10 provinces, and the nation of about 20 million people has been recording more than 400 cases a day.

"This outbreak continues to pose a threat to the health security of the nation," Health Minister Sylvia Masebo said, outlining it was a nationwide problem.

The United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, called the fatality rate of around 4% in the three-month outbreak "a devastatingly high number." When treated, cholera typically has a death rate of less than 1%.

There have been recent cholera outbreaks in other southern African nations including Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. More than 200,000 cases and over 3,000 deaths have been reported in southern Africa since the start of 2023, UNICEF said.

Malawi had its worst cholera outbreak in decades in 2023. Last year, the World Health Organization reported that about 30 countries globally, also including Nigeria and Uganda in Africa, suffered serious outbreaks in the last few years.

Cholera barely affects countries in the developed world and can be easily treated but can be quickly fatal if not treated.

More than half — 229 — of the victims in the Zambian outbreak died before being admitted to a health facility, the public health institute said.

Zambia has had several major cholera outbreaks since the 1970s but this one is the worst for 20 years in terms of the caseload, according to Dr. Mazyanga Mazaba, the director of public health policy and communication at the public health institute.

The cholera bacteria can also survive longer in warmer weather and unusually heavy rains and storms in southern Africa have contributed to recent outbreaks, experts say.

WHO said last year that while poverty and conflict remain the main drivers for cholera, climate change has contributed to the disease's upsurge in many places across the globe since 2021 by making storms wetter and more frequent. A cyclone sparked a spiraling cholera outbreak in Mozambique last year.

Heavy rains and flash flooding in Zambia have converted some neighborhoods into soggy or waterlogged areas.

The Zambian government announced in early January that schools — which were meant to open for the year on Jan. 8 — will only open on Jan. 29. Parents and children were urged to make use of education programs on public TV and radio, a situation that had echoes of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **2 DIE FROM CHOLERA IN SYRIA AFTER A DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE DAMAGES HEALTH, WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

The education minister ordered schools to be cleaned and inspected.

Zambia's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit was mobilized and it was delivering large water tanks and trucking in clean water to some neighborhoods daily. Granulated chlorine to treat water was also being provided, it said.

The majority of cases are in the capital, Lusaka, where a 60,000-seat national soccer stadium has been converted into a treatment center and is dealing with around 500 patients at any one time, the health minister said.

She said Zambia had received around 1.4 million doses of the oral cholera vaccine from the WHO and expected more than 200,000 more to arrive soon. Zambian government officials, including Masebo, took a vaccine publicly to encourage others to also do so.

Health experts have previously warned that the numerous cholera outbreaks globally have strained the [supply of vaccines](#), which are mostly distributed to poor countries through an international body run by the U.N. and partners. Vaccines alliance Gavi predicted that the vaccine shortage could last until 2025.

# [A Prayer for India - The Voice of the Martyrs \(persecution.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #india, #persecution, #restricted

## Overview:

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Hindu nationalist organization Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has seen a 20 percent increase in membership. Its emboldened base seeks to forcibly unite India under Hinduism despite the country's great diversity of languages, cultures and religions. Although Prime Minister Modi has publicly said his government will not tolerate religious discrimination, his actions have proved otherwise. Vague policies such as laws forbidding the conversion of Hindus have passed in several Indian states, and the push for a similar federal law has gained support. These state anti-conversion laws have long been used against pastors, church planters and evangelists. Conversely, reconversion ceremonies known as Ghar Wapsi, or "homecoming," which return Indians to Hinduism (sometimes by force), have become increasingly common. Despite greater government restrictions on Christianity, churches are growing.

## Major Religion:

About 80 percent of Indians are Hindus, and more than 10 percent are Muslims. India is also the birthplace of Buddhism. The Indian government does not release accurate statistics about its Christian population, so exact figures are not available. While there are an estimated 30 to 70 million Christians in India, this is no more than a 5 percent minority among India's staggering population of nearly 1.4 billion people.

## Persecutor:

The main persecutors are well-organized Hindu extremist groups, local governments and nationalist Hindus who seek to "purify" India by making it entirely Hindu. They seek to appease Hindu deities by eliminating Christians, and they view Christian converts as traitors to the Hindu homeland.

## What It Means To Follow Christ In India:

Hindu-nationalist informants live in nearly every village and report on the activities of Christians, resulting in attacks and arrests. When Christians are attacked, they often drop charges against their attackers to show forgiveness as a witness for Christ. Churches have been demolished and burned, worship gatherings have been disrupted, crosses in graveyards have been vandalized, and Bibles and other Christian literature have been confiscated and burned. Many pastors and evangelists have been beaten and jailed, and several are martyred each year. Christians are often arrested and detained up to three weeks after being falsely accused of forcing Hindus to convert to



Christianity. With legal assistance, they are normally able to post bail or show that the charges are unfounded.

### [Access To Bibles:](#)

Even though India has one of the largest Bible societies in the world, many rural Christians have never had access to a Bible. Bibles remain unaffordable for those who suffer severe poverty resulting from oppression in Hindu- and Muslim-controlled areas. In addition, the remoteness of some areas and widespread illiteracy continue to pose challenges for Bible distribution. [Give Bibles](#)

### [VOM Work:](#)

VOM responds to persecution incidents and supports persecuted pastors and their families as well as front-line workers. We provide Bibles and other practical help to Christians living in India's most hostile areas. [Give to VOM's Global Ministry](#)

### [Prayer Requests:](#)

- Pray for pastors in southern India who minister to the Banjara tribe.
- Pray for Christian organizations, as many are being shut down by new government regulations.
- Pray for those experiencing increased persecution from Hindu extremists.
- Pray for the 150 new churches planted in unreached areas.
- Pray that God will touch the hearts of government officials trying to stop evangelical work.
- Pray for Pastor Maruti, in Belagavi, who ministers to temple prostitutes and their children.
- Pray for the Bible training held for pastors experiencing persecution.

# [Religious studies professor supports trans rights claiming Bible 'portrays gender as a colorful spectrum' | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #apostasy, #catholic, #trans rights

Jan 26, 2024

Catholic university professor says Biblical 'scripture and trans rights are not at odds'

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The Bible supports the idea that individuals can change their gender, according to a [Catholic university](#) professor in Ohio.

University of Dayton professor Esther Brownsmith listed "a few of the ways that scripture portrays gender as a colorful spectrum, not a rigid binary," in response to a vote Wednesday by [Ohio lawmakers](#) to override the governor's recent veto of a bill that prohibits biological males from competing in women's sports and restricts sex-change treatments for minors.

She claimed Joseph was one of many people in the Bible who "crossed gender boundaries," saying, "Deborah led an army, Mordecai breast-fed his cousin Esther, and Daniel was probably a eunuch."

"Even God is sometimes described with feminine language, as a midwife or nursing mother," she wrote in an opinion piece published in the [Dayton Daily News](#) on Thursday in which she identified herself as a Christian. "Yes, the Bible was written in a patriarchal time, but it recognizes that people reimagined and reshaped their gender identities back then—just like they do today."

## **[CHRISTIANS ATTACK CHATGPT-GENERATED FAKE BIBLE VERSE ABOUT JESUS ENDORSING TRANSGENDERISM](#)**

Brownsmith continued to explain her belief that [the Bible](#) supports gender transitions as an urgent matter in society.

"As a professor of Hebrew Bible at the University of Dayton, I believe that scripture and trans rights are not at odds. To the contrary: the Bible calls for us to support society's most vulnerable members, and that call has rarely been more urgent," she wrote.

"Most Americans agree that religion should not dictate public policy, but these proposed rules are rooted in ingrained religious biases about gender roles," she added. "Those biases are unethical and unbiblical. Our trans neighbors are radiant gifts of God, just like Joseph and Deborah, and they are terrified by our government trying to legislate them out of existence."

The Catholic Church, in contrast, teaches that in the Bible there are two sexes as laid out by the first chapter of Genesis which states, "God created man in his own image [...] male and female he created them," according to a [Vatican document](#).

Brownsmith also cited the Genesis verse in her call to support "gender-affirming," "lifegiving health care," but did not include the part specifying "male and female."

Brownsmith is the author of *Gendered Violence in Biblical Narrative: The Devouring Metaphor* and is working on a "monograph on the book of Esther that reads it in the light of fan fiction studies, queer theory and affect theory," according to her [bio on the university's website](#).

She will also [teach a series](#) at a local Episcopalian church during Lent that will "seek out biblical stories of people who range across the spectrum of gender and sexuality." The series will include sessions on "Joseph and the Rainbow Princess Dress," "Redefining Masculinity with Daniel the Eunuch" "'Whither Thou Goes': Ruth's Sapphic Steadfastness" "The Non-Binary Wisdom of Mordecai and Qohelet" and "Imagining a Genderfluid God."

University of Dayton officials told Fox News Digital that the school consists of a community of scholars with a wide range of scholarly interests, opinions, judgments and perspectives.

"We respect the academic freedom of our faculty and students to pursue their research and express their views," they said. "Views expressed by our faculty should not be construed as representing the opinions of the University. While society at large will continue to debate important questions of gender and sexual orientation, as a Catholic, Marianist university we will make space for the intellectual contributions and scholarly explorations of our faculty and students."

"The University is guided by our Catholic and Marianist values, including to 'honor the intrinsic value and dignity of all people,'" the officials added. "Our goal is to foster a campus community where all members, including those who identify as LGBTQ+, feel welcomed, respected, safe, and valued as full members of the community."

# [Ex-Terrorist Predicts Thousands of Gazans Will Accept Jesus - Milton Quintanilla \(christianheadlines.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #terrorist, #gazans, #jesus

Jan 4, 2023

A former terrorist is predicting that thousands of Gazans will turn to Christ as the war between Israel and Hamas continues.

Taysir “Tass” Abu Saada, a former member of the Fatah terrorist group who became a Christian in the 1990s, told [Joel Rosenberg](#), an American-Israeli communications strategist, that he believes Gazans will convert from Islam to Christianity due to the war and being lied to by Hamas.

“Hamas is an ideology that is spread among many people, not only in the Gaza Strip but all over the world,” Saada explained on the “[Rosenberg Report](#)” from TBN. “However, God has a plan. And I believe the Arabs’ and the Jews’ plan is also part of that — and that is where my hope is.”

“That is why I am back in the Holy Land, to move to the Gaza Strip and take part in rebuilding,” he added. “I believe, with all the destruction, with all that happened, with the hardship the Palestinians have gone through, they cannot sit back, but will ask, ‘Why?’ God is going to do a lot of work [in Gaza], and I want to be a part of that.”

Saada, who was born in Gaza, shared that he became resentful toward Jewish Israelis in the aftermath of the Six-Day War in 1967. His family moved to Saudi Arabia and Qatar when he was young. He eventually ran away to join Fatah and fight to support Yasser Arafat, the former chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

“After the Six Day War, I felt as if I was having a nervous breakdown, and my hatred just grew and grew,” Saada said in his testimony, published on [jewishroots.net](#). “I did not understand how we could lose so many wars against Israel. We were bigger than Israel in numbers and size, we had more equipment — everything we had was more than they had, but still, we lost the wars against them.”

“I was thinking that, once again, our leaders sold us to the Jews,” he added. “That was when I decided to go and fight for our land, which I believed was ours.”

Per [Faithwire](#), Saada was later sent to the U.S. after he got into legal trouble amid a series of events. In the U.S., he married an American woman and met a Christian man who led him to Christ.

The Christian man told Saada, “If you want to experience the peace of mind that I have, you have to love the Jews.”

“I completely froze and asked him how he could even think of such a — to love the Jews? He knew I hated them. For me, as for most Arabs, a good Jew was a dead Jew,” he recalled.

After a time in which Saada and his spiritual mentor read Scripture together, the former terrorist shared he felt the urge to pray for the Jews the following day.

“The first people that came to my heart to pray for were the Jewish people,” said Saada. “I was praying, ‘Oh, God, bless your people, Israel. God, gather them to the Promised Land.’”

Saada told Rosenberg he believes the world is now facing the end times.

“What we are seeing today happening is really one of the signs of the end of times because it is not normal — the destruction that is taking place,” he told the host. “The evil hand of Hamas is attacking Israelis in a radical, very evil way. Naturally, Israel had to respond and defend itself.”

Despite the destruction and chaos, Saada contended that, ultimately, many Gazans will turn to Christ as their only hope.

“The harvest is going to be huge,” he asserted.