



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 243

[UN says Israel must give up nuclear weapons in lopsided vote - Israel News - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #unitednations, #nukes

Dec 7, 2022

Ukraine was absent from the vote after supporting the initial text.

The [United Nations General Assembly](#) affirmed that Israel must give up its nuclear weapons in a 149-6 vote taken on Wednesday.

An earlier version of the text was approved in the UNGA's Fifth Committee in October with a 152-5 vote.

[Ukraine had voted against Israel](#) in the Fifth Committee, but this time around was absent from the proceedings after it had been criticized for standing against Israel.

Those who opposed the resolution were: Canada, Israel, Micronesia, Palau and the United States. Liberia, which had been absent from the vote in October, changed its position and opposed the text.

Another 26 countries, including India and many European states, abstained from the resolution which is part of an annual package of over 15 anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian texts the UNGA approves.

Israel is the only country subject to that many resolutions.

Does Israel actually have nuclear weapons?

The Jewish state is believed to be the only one of nine countries to possess [nuclear weapons](#) and the only one in the region, even though it has never admitted to having such an arsenal.

The resolution presumes that Israel has such weapons. It calls on Israel to "not to develop, produce, test or others acquire nuclear weapons" and to "renounce possession of nuclear weapons."

The resolution also called on Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons treaty and to place "all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy safeguards.

Israel, along with India, Pakistan and South Sudan has not signed the treaty.

The resolution was put forward by the Palestinian Authority and 20 countries, including Israel's allies in the Middle East such as Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.

It was voted on just as Israel's Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan and his Emirati counterpart are leading a joint mission of ambassadors to the UN on a visit to the Jewish state.

The resolution itself was part of a slew of dozens of texts that deal with the issue of nuclear weapons and nuclear proliferation, in which Israel at times opposed or abstained.

It was the only country to vote against a resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, a text that had the support of 175 out of the UN 193 nations.

Two countries obtained from that vote, the United States and Singapore.

[Report: Israel warns will bomb Beirut airport if it's used for Iran weapon shipments | The Times of Israel](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #lebanon, #iran

Dec 10, 2022

Asharq Al-Awsat, citing Israeli political sources, says Jerusalem investigating report by Saudi TV claiming Tehran transferring weapons directly to Lebanon on civilian flights

Israel has warned Lebanon that it could bomb Beirut's international airport, according to one Saturday report, after an earlier report claimed Iran had recently transferred weaponry to the Hezbollah terror group via civilian flights.

Asharq Al-Awsat, an Arabic-language newspaper published in London, cited unidentified Israeli political sources as saying Israel was investigating claims by the Saudi-funded al-Arabiya network that Iran recently smuggled weapons through Beirut International Airport.

According to Asharq Al-Awsat, Israel has warned the Lebanese government that it could strike the airport if it is indeed used for smuggling attempts.

The Israeli Air Force has admitted to conducting strikes in Syrian territory, targeting Iranian shipments of weapons meant for the Lebanese terror group to use against Israel. The IAF has largely abstained from conducting raids inside Lebanon itself, though it has indicated that it was prepared to do so.

Citing unnamed sources, al-Arabiya said Thursday that Tehran had used the airline Meraj, which recently started flying a direct route between the two nations' capitals, to transfer weapons to Hezbollah.

Asharq Al-Awsat said the Israeli political sources were aware of the al-Arabiya report but did not actually confirm its authenticity.

Israel has in the past [accused](#) Iran of using direct flights to Lebanon to transfer equipment and arms to Hezbollah, but officials note the relative difficulty in doing so as the terror group does not control the airport. Therefore Iran prefers to first fly such weaponry into Syria and truck it over the border.

The Israeli military has also accused Hezbollah of [hiding](#) underground precision missile production facilities close to Beirut's international airport.

As a rule, Israel's military does not comment on specific strikes in Syria, but has admitted to conducting hundreds of sorties against Iran-backed groups attempting to gain a foothold in the country, over the last decade.

The IDF says it also attacks arms shipments believed to be bound for those groups, chief among them Lebanon's Hezbollah. Additionally, airstrikes attributed to Israel have repeatedly targeted Syrian air defense systems.

In June, alleged Israeli airstrikes put Damascus's airport out of service for nearly two weeks. A pair of sorties targeting the Aleppo airport in early September also forced that facility to shut down.

Those strikes came following alleged repeated attempts by Iran to transfer weapons to Hezbollah via the two airports. Another [airbase near Homs](#) was targeted last month.

Israeli strikes have continued in Syrian airspace, which is largely controlled by Russia, even as Jerusalem's ties with Moscow have deteriorated in recent months since Russia invaded Ukraine. Israel has found itself at odds with Russia as it has increasingly supported Ukraine while seeking to maintain freedom of movement in Syria's skies.

Former Home Depot CEO warns organized retail theft an 'epidemic' that's 'spreading faster than COVID' | Fox Business

#bibleprophecy, #epidemic, #thefts, #shoplifting

Dec 8, 2022

Walmart the latest retail giant to warn that rising theft could close stores

As big-name retailers like Walmart and Home Depot warn of rising retail thefts this holiday season, two experts are predicting the surge "only escalates from here" into an "epidemic."

"Today, this thing is an epidemic. It's spreading faster than COVID," former chairman and CEO of Chrysler and Home Depot CEO Bob Nardelli said on "Fox & Friends" Thursday. "The degree of severity now, it's not just theft, it's smash and grab. There's an entitlement out there that if you have it, you've worked hard to earn it. I want it. I'm just going to take it."

"It's not so much the numbers, although the numbers are alarming, it's the manner in which this is going on and the implications for each community and each store that this happens in," business analyst and 7 Stage Advisors President Carl Gould had noted on "[Cavuto: Coast to Coast](#)" Wednesday. "That's where the major problem is, because this type of crime emboldens other types of crime, and it only escalates from here."

During an appearance on CNBC Tuesday, Walmart CEO Doug McMillon said theft is "[higher than what it has historically been](#)." He explained Walmart has safety and security measures "that we've put in place by store location" to help combat the issue.

WALMART CEO DOUG MCMILLON SAYS THEFT IS 'HIGHER THAN WHAT IT HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN'

"I think local law enforcement being staffed, and being a good partner is part of that equation, and that's normally how we approach it," McMillon added.

Walmart joins the growing list of retailers feeling the wrath of raging theft and crime across the nation ahead of the holiday shopping season. Drugstore companies like Rite Aid, CVS and Walgreens have [publicly cited shoplifting concerns](#), as well as retailers such as Kroger, Target and Best Buy.

The Home Depot also recently expressed it was "outraged" when an elderly worker [died after being shoved](#) during a store theft in North Carolina this fall.

While former Home Depot CEO Nardelli called the tragedy "very, very unfortunate" and "sad," he put the onus on the Biden administration to get a hold on rising crime.

"Now it has elevated to the point where you've got Doug McMillon talking about impacting earnings. And this is another silent contributor to inflation," Nardelli said. "Our associates are afraid. The retail salespeople are afraid. Consumers are afraid. We've got to get control of this. And if the administration doesn't get control of this, they're abdicating it to the businesses, both public and private."

In mid-September, the National Retail Federation found total losses from shrink, a term retailers use for theft and other types of inventory loss, increased to \$94.5 billion in 2021. [Organized retail crime incidents](#) soared 26.5% on average in the same year, according to the 2022 National Retail Security Survey.

Gould pointed out that "most" of [big retailers' shrinkage](#) can be attributed to an "inside job from the employees," but outside theft driven by "opportunity" is forcing stores to showcase a high security presence.

One Philadelphia gas station owner told FOX Business' Jeff Flock Thursday that he hired an armed guard to keep watch for crime.

"We are tired from all this nonsense: robbery, drug trafficking, [racketeering], all kinds of [crime]," Neil Patel said. "I am fearful for my safety, my employee, as well as my nice neighborhood. All customer[s]."

"It's unbelievable what's happening and what we're allowing to happen," Nardelli reacted. "Again, unfortunately, the abdication is put in the hands of corporations like Walmart, Target and the gas stations, for example, that have to take control and protect their property and their employees."

Last year, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the root cause of the [spike in organized retail crime](#) was the COVID-19 pandemic, saying the Biden administration was working with a number of communities across the nation to "crack down" on crime in those neighborhoods.

But neither Nardelli nor Gould argued that the crime crisis has improved since then.

"It used to be somebody would take a candy bar, there maybe was damage as a result of shipment, there was misplaced inventory," Nardelli detailed. "But now, it's just blatant robbery. It's just blatant robbery. It isn't the small incidents that take place."

[Dutch Government To Seize And Close 3,000 Farms To Comply With EU Environmental Rules | The Daily Caller](#)

[Farmers Banned from Properly Fertilising Land to Serve EU Green Agenda \(breitbart.com\)](#)

[Trudeau pushes ahead on fertilizer reduction as provinces and farmers cry foul \(msn.com\)](#)

[When Sri Lanka Banned Synthetic Fertilizers, the Country Imploded \(reason.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #farms, #environment, #famine

Nov 28, 2022

**Editor's note: This article has been updated with a comment from the Executive Director of Consumers' Research*

The Dutch government is planning to buy and close down up to 3,000 farms near environmentally sensitive areas to be in compliance with EU environmental rules.

It comes after farmer protests erupted this summer following a government plan to reduce nitrogen emissions by 50% by 2030, [The New York Times reported](#). Farmers believe the measure unfairly targeted the agricultural sector, which is responsible for the largest portion of nitrogen emissions in the Netherlands, the Times added.

The government will conduct a “compulsory purchase” of large nitrogen emitters as part of a voluntary, one-time offer, announced Nitrogen Minister Christianne van der Wal, [Bloomberg reported](#). Farmers will be offered a deal “well over” the value of the farm, according to the [government plan](#). She asserted “there is no better offer coming” in a Friday meeting with MPs.

In response to the decision, Executive Director of Consumers' Research Will Hild told the Daily Caller “The Netherland’s war on farmers to pursue their ESG agenda serves as a stark warning. Americans should be vigilant against efforts by both governments and big Wall Street firms like BlackRock pushing these same dangerous “net zero” carbon emissions targets here in the US. It is difficult to overstate the recklessness of undermining farmers during the greatest global food crisis in decades. This will likely exacerbate the food price inflation we are already experiencing.”

JUST IN – Netherlands to “compulsory purchase” and close up to 3,000 farms to comply with EU environmental rules. <https://t.co/cX9e6QGihF>

– *Disclose.tv (@disclosetv) [November 28, 2022](#)*

A political party called BoerBurgerBeweging (BBB), or Farmer-Citizen movement, has embraced the protests and currently ranks fourth in polls ahead of next year's elections, [The Guardian](#) reported. Reforming the "nitrogen law" will be the primary goal of the party, which has positioned itself as a voice for the needy, The Guardian claimed. The Netherlands has become the world's second largest exporter of agricultural products after the United States, and provides vegetables for much of western Europe, [Washington Post reported](#). Over half of Dutch land is used for agriculture in addition to 24,000 acres worth of crops growing in greenhouses, the Post specified.

Despite limited land and a rainy climate, agricultural innovation geared towards less water usage and reduced carbon emissions has enabled the Netherlands to become a major exporter of agricultural and food technology, the Post explained.

[Magnitude 6.4 earthquake hits northern California, leaves 'widespread' damage to homes, roads | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #earthquake, #california

Dec 20, 2022

Earthquake knocked out power for tens of thousands of customers

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office warned in an alert of "widespread damages to roads and homes" reported throughout the county after a magnitude [6.4 earthquake shook the northern California coast](#) early Tuesday morning.

"Due to a large earthquake, widespread damages to roads and homes are reported throughout Humboldt County. Be prepared for aftershocks. Check gas and water lines for damages or leaks. Exercise caution if traveling," it said in a tweet.

Preliminary information showed that the 2:34 a.m. PT tremor was centered about 7.5 miles southwest of Ferndale, roughly 300 miles away from San Francisco, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Videos showed items toppled over in dark homes and some reported hearing their Shake Alert on their phones.

[The sheriff's office](#) tweeted that no tsunami was expected, and the power was "out across the county."

PowerOutage.US showed more than 72,000 customers without power.

Residents were instructed not to call 911 unless experiencing an "immediate emergency."

State Sen. Mike McGuire, who represents the county, tweeted that safety evaluations would be taking place following the earthquake and that "aftershocks continue."

"Humboldt Earthquake: PG&E will begin safety evaluations of both their gas and electrical systems. [Power is out to \[approx.\] 50,000 Humboldt customers](#). PG&E is currently mobilizing crews to conduct assessments and respond to infrastructure needs," he said.

[Mom Kicked Out of Show When Spotted by Face Recognition Technology \(people.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #surveillance, #facialrecognition

Dec 21, 2022

"In this particular situation, only the one attorney who chose to attend despite being notified in advance that she would be denied entry, was not permitted to enter," MSG Entertainment said

A mother bought tickets to attend a Christmas show at Radio City Music Hall — but due to her job, she was refused entry.

Kelly Conlon, a lawyer for a New Jersey based firm, took a trip to New York City the weekend after Thanksgiving to see the Rockettes with her daughter and her daughter's Girl Scout Troop, according to NBC New York. However, shortly after entering the lobby, she was [told by security guards that she needed to leave](#).

"They knew my name before I told them. They knew the firm I was associated with before I told them. And they told me I was not allowed to be there," Conlon told the outlet, which reported that a sign at the venue says facial recognition technology is used to help ensure the safety of guests and employees.

Although Conlon says she isn't personally involved in any cases against Madison Square Garden Entertainment, which operates Radio City Music Hall, her law firm is, according to NBC New York.

The outlet reported that her firm, Davis, Saperstein and Solomon, is involved in ongoing personal injury litigation against a restaurant venue owned by MSG Entertainment.

MSG Entertainment has said they have a "straightforward policy" behind the ban, which applies to a number of firms and attorneys involved in ongoing litigation against the company.

"MSG instituted a straightforward policy that precludes attorneys from firms pursuing active litigation against the Company from attending events at our venues until that litigation has been resolved," the company said in a statement obtained by PEOPLE.

"While we understand this policy is disappointing to some, we cannot ignore the fact that litigation creates an inherently adversarial environment. All impacted attorneys were notified of the policy, including Davis, Saperstein & Salomon, which was notified twice," the company added.

Both Conlon and MSG Entertainment say she was the only person in her group who was not allowed to attend the show.

["I was caught off-guard](#) – I just complied with what they asked me to do and I left my daughter inside the venue with her troops," Conlon, who was chaperoning the event, told *The New York Post*.

However, MSG Entertainment went on to say in their statement that Conlon was "notified in advance that she would be denied entry."

"In this particular situation, only the one attorney who chose to attend despite being notified in advance that she would be denied entry, was not permitted to enter, and the rest of her group – including the Girl Scouts – were all able to attend and enjoy the show," the company said.

As for their facial recognition technology, they said "we have always made it clear to our guests and to the public that we use facial recognition as one of our tools to provide a safe and secure environment and we will continue to use it to protect against the entry of individuals who we have prohibited from entering our venues."

"Facial recognition technology is a useful tool widely used throughout the country, including the sports and entertainment industry, retail locations, casinos and airports to protect the safety of the people that visit and work at those locations," the statement read. "Our venues are worldwide destinations and several sit on major transit hubs in the heart of New York."

Speaking with NBC New York, Conlon claimed that she thought a recent court ruling made it so that ticket holders "may not be denied entry to any shows."

"This whole scheme is a pretext for doing collective punishment on adversaries who would dare sue MSG in their multi-billion dollar network," Sam Davis, a partner at the firm where Conlon works, told the outlet.

Neither Conlon nor the firm where she works immediately responded to PEOPLE's request for comment.

In a statement, a spokesperson for MSG told NBC New York that they felt confident their policies were in compliance with all laws.