



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 252**

# [Israel attacks Iranian targets in Syria as shadow war heats up between the two adversaries: report | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #iran, #syria

Feb 19, 2023

Sources in Damascus say some of the 5 deaths were caused as a result of a Syrian air defense missile striking the building

JERUSALEM, Israel – Israel’s military reportedly launched an air strike Sunday in a Damascus neighborhood near an Iranian military installation – the latest attack in the Jewish state’s "shadow war" against Iran.

The Syrian opposition news outlet Orient News claimed the military strikes targeted Iranian regime officials in the central Damascus neighborhood of Kafar Sousah.

Israeli intelligence and security expert, Brig. Gen. (Res.) Yossi Kuperwasser, now a senior researcher at the Israeli Defense Security Forum, told Fox News Digital that "Israel continues to actively undermine and hamper Iranian efforts to supply the [Bashar] Assad regime [in Syria] and Hezbollah with advanced weaponry."

Kuperwasser added, "According to the information I have, some of the casualties in Damascus were a direct result of a Syrian air defense missile that struck a building. This is not the first time that unprofessional Syrian air defense fire causes unwanted casualties."

## [IRAN BLAMES ISRAEL FOR DRONE STRIKE CAUGHT ON VIDEO, THREATENS RETALIATION](#)

Two Syrian military sources, speaking anonymously because they were not authorized to speak to the press, told Reuters that stray anti-aircraft rockets fired in response to the missiles hit the vicinity of the historic citadel of Damascus.

Tehran’s military ally the Syrian Army said five people were killed after an Israeli rocket strike hit a building in the Kafar Sousah neighborhood of Central Damascus.

Media reports revealed in 2015 that Israeli spy agencies and the CIA reportedly assassinated the Iranian-backed [global terrorist Imad Mughniyeh](#) in a 2008 car bombing in Kafar Sousah. Mughniyeh oversaw terrorist operations for Iran’s chief strategic ally, the Lebanon-based Hezbollah movement.

An Israeli military spokesman declined to comment to Fox News Digital on the alleged Israeli air strike on Sunday.

## **IRAN MAY USE SYRIA EARTHQUAKE TO SMUGGLE ARMS UNDER THE GUISE OF AID: REPORT**

In addition to the five deaths, the Syrian regime-controlled Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported that 15 people were injured and showed a picture of a destroyed building on its Twitter feed.

SANA [reported that Syria's Foreign Ministry](#) said Sunday it "expects the United Nations Secretariat and Security Council to condemn Israeli aggression and crimes, take the necessary measures to deter them, hold them accountable, punish their perpetrators and ensure they do not recur."

The reported Israeli Air Force strike took place on the same day that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu blamed Tehran for an attack on an Israeli-owned vessel in the Persian Gulf. "Last week Iran attacked an oil tanker in the Persian Gulf and harmed the international freedom and navigation," Netanyahu said at a weekly cabinet meeting.

Regional defense and security sources have said the suspected assault was carried out by Iran, which did not comment on the incident.

## **TENSIONS RISE AS IRAN THREATENS ISRAEL, REVEALS NEW UNDERGROUND AIRBASE**

While Israel's government has mostly stayed quiet on the military strikes, Syria has intensified its alliance with Iran's regime since a revolt unfolded in the country in 2011 against the one-man, one-party rule of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

For almost a decade, Israel has been carrying out strikes against suspected Iranian-sponsored weapons transfers and personnel deployments in next-door Syria. Israeli officials have acknowledged some hundreds of military interventions targeting Iranian assets in Syria while staying quiet on other alleged strikes.

Iran has expanded its military and intelligence presence in Syria over the years and has a foothold in most state-controlled areas, with thousands of members of militias and local paramilitary groups under its command, Western intelligence sources say.

Syria's army claimed that Israel's military launched missiles toward Damascus's airport on Jan. 2, resulting in the deaths of two soldiers and injuring two additional people. The Jan. 2 attack was the last reported Israeli strike in the Syrian capital.

The arrival of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander (IRGC), Esmail Qaani, in Syria after the earthquake-ravaged parts of Syria and Turkey put Israel's security apparatus on notice. Video footage circulated by social-media outlets linked to the IRGC [showed Qaani in Aleppo, Syria](#). Iranian media denied Qaani was injured or killed in Sunday's air strikes.

Israel and its Sunni allies like Jordan, Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates have long expressed concerns about the Iranian regime plan to establish a so-called "Shiite crescent" that stretches from Iran to Lebanon.

# [Israel Considering Attack on Iran's Nuclear Program | Newsmax.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #iran, #nuclear

Feb 22, 2023

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and top military officials have held a series of high-level secret meetings in recent weeks to prepare for a possible attack on Iran's nuclear program, according to reports.

Five meetings have been held between Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi, Mossad head David Barnea, Military Intelligence chief Aharon Haliva and other military brass, reports [The Times of Israel](#), quoting local Channel 12, which did not attribute its information to any source.

The report did not include further details about the meetings, and The Times said it may also have been released to reveal the seriousness of Israel's intentions to use military action to stop Iran's suspected moves toward obtaining a nuclear weapon.

The results of the meetings, including that Israel will act alone if necessary if the international community doesn't respond, were shared with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, and French President Emmanuel Macron, the report indicated.

On Tuesday, Netanyahu stressed that the international community must fill its promises to use military action to stop Iran's nuclear ambitions, telling a national security conference that the "only thing that has ever stopped rogue nations from developing nuclear weapons is a credible military threat or a credible military action."

"A necessary condition and often a sufficient condition is credible military action," he added, "The longer you wait, the harder that becomes. We've waited very long."

On Sunday, the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency said it is in discussions with Iran after reports that the country is enriching uranium to 84%, just a few steps away from a 90% enrichment level that is needed to produce weapons-grade material needed for a bomb.

Behrouz Kamalvandi, a spokesperson for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, denied the reports about the advanced enrichment, saying that "we have not made any attempt to enrich above 60%. The presence of particles above 60% enrichment does not mean production with an enrichment above 60%."

Gallant on Tuesday said Israel will not let Iran cross a "red line" of enriching uranium to the weapons-grade level.

"Israel is dealing with Syria, Hezbollah, Iran, and Palestinian terror in a multi-front arena. The Iranian threat needs to be returned to the top of the global priority list," Gallant said during a conference in Jerusalem.

"Iran is closer than ever to producing a nuclear weapon and has almost reached the red line. "We will not allow that to happen — all the options are on the table. Our duty is to defend the State of Israel and the Jewish people."

Netanyahu warned that the Hezbollah terror group, as well as Gaza's Hamas, should not mistake any domestic political instability in Israel for military weakness, warning that Israel's military forces will respond "disproportionately" if there are provocations from either group.

Israel has come close to carrying out strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities before, when Netanyahu was prime minister, according to former prime minister and defense minister Ehud Barak, who said Netanyahu pulled back plans in 2010 and 2011 for strikes on Iran after ministerial colleagues and the then-Israel Defense Forces chief of staff convinced him to back away.

Another strike was planned in 2012, according to Barak, but was called off because Israel and the United States were holding military exercises and Netanyahu did not want to draw the U.S. into war.

# [Biden Admin Negotiates Deal to Give WHO Authority Over US Pandemic Policies \(theepochtimes.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #who, #sovereignty, #constitution

Feb 18, 2023

The Biden administration is preparing to sign up the United States to a “legally binding” accord with the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) that would give this Geneva-based UN subsidiary the authority to dictate America’s policies during a pandemic.

Despite widespread criticism of the WHO’s response to the COVID pandemic, U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra joined with WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in September 2022 to [announce](#) “the U.S.-WHO Strategic Dialogue.” Together, they developed a “platform to maximize the longstanding U.S. government-WHO partnership, and to protect and promote the health of all people around the globe, including the American people.”

These discussions and others spawned the “zero draft” ([pdf](#)) of a pandemic treaty, published on Feb. 1, which now seeks ratification by all 194 WHO member states. A meeting of the WHO’s Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) is scheduled for Feb. 27 to work out the final terms, which all members will then sign.

Written under the banner of “the world together equitably,” the zero draft grants the WHO the power to declare and manage a global pandemic emergency. Once a health emergency is declared, all signatories, including the United States, would submit to the authority of the WHO regarding treatments, government regulations such as lockdowns and vaccine mandates, global supply chains, and monitoring and surveillance of populations.

## **Centralized Pandemic Response**

“They want to see a centralized, vaccine-and-medication-based response, and a very restrictive response in terms of controlling populations,” David Bell, a public health physician and former WHO staffer specializing in epidemic policy, told The Epoch Times. “They get to decide what is a health emergency, and they are putting in place a surveillance mechanism that will ensure that there are potential emergencies to declare.”

The WHO pandemic treaty is part of a two-track effort, coinciding with an initiative by the World Health Assembly (WHA) to create new global pandemic regulations that would also supersede the laws of member states. The WHA is the rule-making body of the WHO, comprised of representatives from the member states.

“Both [initiatives] are fatally dangerous,” Francis Boyle, professor of international law at Illinois University, told The Epoch Times. “Either one or both would set up a worldwide medical police state under the control of the WHO, and in particular WHO Director-General Tedros. If either one or both of these go through, Tedros or his successor will be able to issue orders that will go all the way down the pipe to your primary care physicians.”

Physician Meryl Nass told The Epoch Times: “If these rules go through as currently drafted, I, as a doctor, will be told what I am allowed to give a patient and what I am prohibited from giving a patient whenever the WHO declares a public health emergency. So they can tell you you’re getting remdesivir, but you can’t have hydroxychloroquine or ivermectin. What they’re also saying is they believe in equity, which means everybody in the world gets vaccinated, whether or not you need it, whether or not you’re already immune.”

Regarding medical treatments, the accord would require member nations to “monitor and regulate against substandard and falsified pandemic-related products.” Based on previous WHO and Biden administration policy, this would likely include forcing populations to take newly-developed vaccines while preventing doctors from prescribing non-vaccine treatments or medicines.

### **Circumventing America’s Constitution**

A key question surrounding the accord is whether the Biden administration can bind America to treaties and agreements without the consent of the U.S. Senate, which is required under the Constitution. The zero draft concedes that, per international law, treaties between countries must be ratified by national legislatures, thus respecting the right of their citizens to consent. However, the draft also includes a clause that the accord will go into effect on a “provisional” basis, as soon as it is signed by delegates to the WHO, and therefore it will be legally binding on members without being ratified by legislatures.

“Whoever drafted this clause knew as much about U.S. constitutional law and international law as I did, and deliberately drafted it to circumvent the power of the Senate to give its advice and consent to treaties, to provisionally bring it into force immediately upon signature,” Boyle said. In addition, “the Biden administration will take the position that this is an international executive agreement that the president can conclude of his own accord without approval by Congress, and is binding on the United States of America, including all state and local democratically elected officials, governors, attorney generals and health officials.”

There are several U.S. Supreme Court decisions that may support the Biden administration in this. They include [State of Missouri v. Holland](#), in which the Supreme Court ruled that treaties supersede state laws. Other decisions, such as [United States v. Belmont](#), ruled that executive agreements without Senate consent can be legally binding, with the force of treaties.



There are parallels between the WHO pandemic accord and a recent OECD global tax agreement, which the Biden administration signed on to but which Republicans say has [“no path forward”](#) to legislative approval. In the OECD agreement, there are punitive terms built in that allow foreign countries to punish American companies if the deal is not ratified by the United States.

As with the OECD tax agreement, administration officials are attempting to appeal to international organizations to impose policies that have been rejected by America’s voters. Under the U.S. Constitution, health care does not fall under the authority of the federal government; it is the domain of the states. The Biden administration found this to be an unwelcome impediment to its attempts to impose vaccine and mask mandates on Americans, when courts ruled that federal agencies did not have the authority to do so.

“To circumvent that, they went to the WHO, for either the regulations or the treaty, to get around domestic opposition,” Boyle said.

According to the zero draft, signatories would agree to “strengthen the capacity and performance of national regulatory authorities and increase the harmonization of regulatory requirements at the international and regional level.” They will also implement a “whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach at the national level” that will include national governments, local governments, and private companies.

The zero draft stated that this new accord is necessary because of “the catastrophic failure of the international community in showing solidarity and equity in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.”

A report from the WHO’s Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response ([pdf](#)) characterized the WHO’s performance as a “toxic cocktail” of bad decisions. Co-chair Ellen Johnson Sirleaf told [the BBC](#) it was due to “a myriad of failures, gaps and delays.” The solutions proposed by that report, however, did not suggest more local autonomy or diversified decision-making, but rather greater centralization, more power, and more money for the WHO.

## **‘One Health Surveillance’ and Misinformation**

The WHO pandemic agreement calls for member states to implement “One Health surveillance.” One Health is a concept that has been embraced by the UN, the CDC, the World Bank, and other global organizations.

“The term originally meant a way of seeing human and animal health as linked—they sometimes are—so that you could improve human health by acting more broadly,” Bell said. “It has become hijacked and now is used to claim that all human activities, and all issues within the biosphere, affect health, and are therefore within Public Health’s remit. So public health can be deemed to include climate, or racism, or fisheries management, and this is being used to claim that addressing carbon emissions is a health issue and therefore a health ‘emergency.’”

The WHO zero draft states that “‘One Health surveillance’ means ...,” leaving the definition to be worked out in future drafts. Whatever One Health surveillance ultimately entails, however, the signatories must invest in it, implement it, and “strengthen” it. In September 2022, the World Bank approved a [Financial Intermediary Fund](#) (FIF) to finance, among other things, One Health surveillance.

Signatories also agree to support the official narrative when it comes to information about a pandemic. Specifically, they will “conduct regular social listening and analysis to identify the prevalence and profiles of misinformation” and “design communications and messaging strategies for the public to counteract misinformation, disinformation and false news, thereby strengthening public trust.”

This aligns with efforts by the Biden administration to, as former White House Press Secretary Jennifer Psaki [put it](#), “make sure social media companies are aware of the latest narratives dangerous to public health ... and engage with them to better understand the enforcement of social media platform policies.” Or as UN Undersecretary-General Melissa Fleming [stated](#) at a 2022 World Economic Forum panel on “Tackling Disinformation” in Davos, “We own the science and we think that the world should know it.”

The official narrative during the COVID pandemic included support for lockdowns, school closures, and masking—all of which have since proven to be ineffective in stopping the spread of the virus and damaging to public health. A group of more than 900,000 doctors, epidemiologists, and public health scientists jointly signed the [Great Barrington Declaration](#) in 2020, expressing “grave concerns about the damaging physical and mental health impacts of the prevailing COVID-19 policies.” This declaration was widely derided as dangerous misinformation and was censored on social media.

“The views that they crushed were orthodox public health,” Bell said. Up until 2019, public health guidelines “specifically said that things like prolonged border closures, closing stores, etc. were harmful, particularly for low-income people, and shouldn’t be done beyond a few weeks.”

Those who pushed for lockdowns “were very clear that what they were recommending for COVID was going to be extremely harmful, and that the harm would outweigh the benefit,” Bell said. “They were clear because they wrote that down before, and there’s nothing new in the idea that impoverishing people reduces life expectancy. Something dramatically changed their minds, and that something wasn’t evidence, so we can only assume that it was pressure from vested interests.”

In January, a [survey](#) presented at the World Economic Forum found that public trust in government has plummeted since the start of the pandemic, though attendees were at a loss to explain the reasons for the decline in trust. Instead, the discussion at the panel, titled “Disrupting Distrust,” focused on combating rogue news sources that challenged the central narrative.

## **America's Membership in the WHO**

In July 2020, then-President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from membership in the WHO. Citing the WHO's dismal performance in responding to the COVID pandemic and its ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Trump said that U.S. funding of approximately half a billion dollars per year would also cease.

In response, then-presidential-candidate Joe Biden vowed: "On my first day as President, I will rejoin the WHO and restore our leadership on the world stage." Biden kept his promise and took it one step further, negotiating the pandemic accord.

Today, GOP lawmakers are attempting to revive the effort to take the United States out of the WHO. On Jan. 12, House Republicans introduced the "No Taxpayer Funding for the World Health Organization Act," which was sponsored by 16 representatives.

Rep. Chip Roy (R-Tex.), lead sponsor of the bill, stated: "Funneling millions of taxpayer dollars to the corrupt World Health Organization that serves the Chinese Communist Party is a slap in the face to hardworking American families struggling under record high inflation, and to all those whose lives and livelihoods were ruined and destroyed by the COVID pandemic. The WHO ... praised China for their 'leadership' at the beginning of COVID-19 and has done nothing to hold the CCP accountable for the spread of COVID-19."

The pandemic accord, a spokesman for Roy told The Epoch Times, "is just another reason to defund the WHO."

## **Redefining Sovereignty and Human Rights**

The zero draft of the accord states that national sovereignty remains a priority, but within limits. "States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to determine and manage their approach to public health," the draft declares, "provided that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to their peoples and other countries."

The accord states that human rights are also important, and it mandates that "people living under any restrictions on the freedom of movement, such as quarantines and isolations, have sufficient access to medication, health services and other necessities and rights." The accord presents human rights as "health equity, through resolute action on social, environmental, cultural, political and economic determinants of health."

In line with this concept, countries like Austria went so far as to criminalize the refusal to take the COVID vaccine. Within the United States, places like New York City mandated vaccine passports for access to public spaces, dividing its residents into a privileged vaccinated class and a second-tier unvaccinated class.

However, others see human rights not in terms of collective health but rather as individual rights, to include such things as personal sovereignty, the ability of

individuals to make their own choices, the right of people to have a voice in medical decisions that affect them, free speech, and freedom of movement and assembly.

Following the Second World War and the state-control ideologies of fascism, national socialism, and communism, “it was realized that there has to be a fundamental understanding that individuals are sovereign” Bell said. Human rights declarations after the war emphasized that, even during times of crisis, “we are born with rights, we’re all equal, and those rights are inviolable. That is being very much watered down or wiped away in order to do this.”

“I think this issue is much, much broader; it’s what sort of society we want to live in. Do we believe in equality or do we believe in a feudal system where we have a few people at the top, controlling society, telling others what to do? That’s the direction we’re going in.”

The WHO, the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, and the World Bank were contacted regarding this article but did not provide a response.

# [Klaus Schwab: Govts Must Harness AI to Become ‘Masters of the World’ \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #schwab, #ai, #governments

Feb 16, 2023

World Economic Forum Chairman Klaus Schwab said that those who control emerging “Fourth Industrial Revolution” technologies such as Artificial Intelligence will become “masters of the world” while speaking at the World Government Summit.

Appearing at the World Government Summit in Dubai this week, arch-globalist Klaus Schwab [said](#) that the world is heading towards a period of exponential growth of technologies, in which Artificial Intelligence, the so-called Metaverse, near-space technologies, and synthetic biology among others will become key levers of control for the world.

“Our life in 10 years from now will be completely different, very much affected, and who masters these technologies, in some way, will be the masters of the world,” the German economist said.

Apart from coining the ominous term ‘The Great Reset’, the WEF chairman also popularised the term the “Fourth Industrial Revolution”, with his 2016 book of the same name. Schwab has previously said that this new phase of human economy will be characterised by transhumanism, with “a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres.”

In his speech at the World Government Summit in Dubai, Schwab said that his “deep concern” is that if governments do not act in a globalist fashion, then such technologies “will escape our power to master [them].”

Continuing this thought, he said that governments must focus on the speed at which they adopt new tech, warning: “You cannot catch up with the new technologies, you have to be a frontrunner because otherwise you will be on the losing outside.”

*'Our life in 10 years from now will be completely different, very much affected, & who masters [#4IR] technologies, in some way, will be the masters of the world': Klaus Schwab, World Government Summit 2023 [#WorldGovSummit #WGS @WorldGovSummit pic.twitter.com/NhLahuT56D](#)*

— Tim Hinchliffe (@TimHinchliffe) [February 13, 2023](#)

Spelling out his vision of so-called stakeholder capitalism that he hopes will replace the current economy following the Great Reset, the WEF chairman continued: “What is absolutely essential is this cooperation of the different stakeholders of global

society: government brings direct power, business bring the innovative power civil society brings the concerned power, academia brings the power of truth, and maybe I should add media, which brings the critical dimensional in this dialogue.

“We need all those stakeholders to shape together the future.”

What exactly that future will look like remains a question, however, in November, Schwab said that Communist China will serve as a “[role model](#)” for many countries during his predicted “systemic transformation of the world”. The authoritarian one-party state under the strict control of Chairman Xi Jinping has been at the forefront in introducing WEF pet projects such as [vaccine passport apps](#).

Expanding on this level of societal control, the president Chinese tech giant Alibaba, J. Michael Evans revealed at the 2022 WEF meeting in Davos that they are seeking to implement an “[individual carbon footprint tracker](#)” to record and track the behaviour of citizens and its supposed impact on the environment.

*Arch-globalist Klaus Schwab has declared he will run the WEF well into his hundreds despite demands from his colleagues that he put in place a succession plan. <https://t.co/fLwgDcJhjh>*

— *Breitbart News (@BreitbartNews) [January 19, 2023](#)*

# Sweden: How to Live in the World's First Cashless Society (interestingengineering.com)

#bibleprophecy, #sweden, #cashless, #money

Dec 24, 2020

How does a country become the world's first cashless society? Sweden, one of the most technologically advanced nations on the planet, is leading the way. Sweden is paving its way to becoming the world's first cashless society by March 2023.

By then, by March 24, 2023 to be precise, in Sweden, cash will no longer be accepted as a means of payment. In general, cash is already a no-go in Sweden. There is a unique law in Sweden that enables merchants to make customers pay electronically in spite of the status of cash as a legal tender.

Sweden's culture of innovation and being early adopters of technology coupled with the nation's high-quality of life have played a paramount role in the transition. Once Sweden becomes a cashless economy, citizens and visitors will no longer be able to use cash to make purchases. They will have to make all payments electronically.

Coins and [banknotes](#) will not completely disappear at the beginning. But no one will be able to use them in a practical sense. They will become just collectables and will be included in museums' collections.

Sweden, a nation of early adopters

Sweden has always been one of the first countries in embracing new technologies. Sweden, as a country, is a first adopter. There is a tradition in Sweden about being the first. This is noticeable throughout the Scandinavian country's history. Thus, its financial system is not an exception.

In 1661, Sweden was the first country in Europe to [introduce banknotes](#). Sweden has been at the forefront of banking innovation for quite a long time. Sweden's first automatic cash machine was installed and ready to use in July 1967. This was only one week after the world's very first one was opened in London.

In 2023, Sweden is proudly becoming the first cashless nation in the world, with an economy that goes 100 percent digital. Currently, about 80 percent of Swedes use cards with 58 percent of payments being made by card and only six percent made in cash, according to the Swedish Central Bank.

Electronic payments have rapidly increased with more restaurants and shops not accepting cash payments at all. Mobile payment services also make payments from one individual to another much easier.

The majority of Swedish banks have stopped allowing customers to make cash transactions over the counter. Many branches across the country have closed. Cash is extremely expensive to manage due to the high security systems. If there is someone who wants to make a deposit or withdraw cash for some reason, they need to go to an ATM.

Sweden: World's first cashless society by 2023

It took Sweden 362 years to transition from being the first nation in Europe to adopt banknotes in 1661, to becoming the world's first cashless economy in 2023.

The whole population in Sweden is under mobile coverage. And for the past years, in Sweden, almost all purchases have been paid electronically, by debit/credit card using chip and Pin rather than the old-fashioned magnetic band, using contactless technology, mobile card payments such as iZettle, or the mobile application Swish which was especially designed to help Swedes embrace a cashless life.

This means that now more than 80 percent of all retail transactions have been conducted electronically. This is similar to what happens in the rest of the other Nordic countries, which include Finland, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland.

The way the Nordics are quickly embracing a cashless lifestyle strongly contrasts with the countries in the south of Europe, where cash is still a strong form of payment. Moreover, in some cities in southern Europe, several establishments accept only cash. This is the complete opposite of what happens in northern Europe, where cash is no longer accepted in the majority of places.

In Sweden, those businesses where cash is still accepted today, are going to stop accepting cash payments in 2023. It is rather difficult already today to find an establishment where they accept cash. Those coming from abroad have to be ready to pay by card or by the mobile application Swish.

A brief history of how Sweden made the transition to the cashless lifestyle

In 2012, the six largest banks in Sweden got together to build an instantaneous mobile payment platform to help customers make electronic payments easier. The application, called [Swish](#), was developed as a collaboration. Back then, Swish was embraced and used by everyone in Sweden.

Both, banks and the Swedish government, encourage citizens to adopt the cashless economy. Swish is now pretty close to becoming the Swedish standard for mobile payments. The application is used by way over half of the total population in Sweden. Only less than 13 percent of the total population in Sweden relies on cash.

Children are also part of the transition. Many of them will never know how it was like to live in a world where cash transactions were widely accepted. Most of the Generation Alpha children in Sweden are going to see printed money only through photos, videos, and in museums.



Swedish banks issue debit cards to citizens aged seven years of age or older (with parental permission), which translates to more than 97 percent of the population. This introduces these young citizens to the cashless society that will be part of their future.

There is no need for carrying cash in Stockholm today

Cash accounts for less than 1 percent of the total transactions in Sweden. Cash transactions are heavily discouraged. More than 99 percent of merchants accept debit cards, and consumer payments with cash are less than 20 percent of total transactions. Over 80 percent of all transactions are cashless, an increasing trend.

Several years ago, Stockholm's public transport stopped accepting cash. Tickets are pre-paid, paid by using a mobile application, or bought by debit/credit card from the driver, or a ticket machine. Residents usually buy a monthly travel card, which is both more convenient and less expensive than buying individual tickets.

In an increasing number of stores, signs read "No cash payment in this store."

Most Swedes, especially those in the younger generations, never carry cash. Visitors to the country do not need to worry about currency exchange either. Yet, some tourists find it hard to believe that they do not need any local currency when visiting Sweden. The fact is, cash is really hard to find and see.

Cash is never needed, not even for small purchases like a hot chocolate at a Christmas market in Stockholm. All vendors have a mobile payment chip-and-PIN card reader such as the one offered by Stockholm-based mobile payments company [iZettle](#), or they accept payments by the mobile application Swish. Swishing is perhaps the easiest way of payment for everyone.

A practical reason for a cashless economy: Crime-fighting

Some of the reasons to move away from cash in Sweden include making transport more secure, which has already been accomplished in the Swedish capital. Reducing bank robberies as well as drug, counterfeiting, and weapons markets are also reasons why Sweden decided to make the move

It also means less tax avoidance. Bank robberies have considerably decreased in the past years since there is no cash in most banks in Sweden and branches continue to disappear. Establishment owners feel safer without having any visible cash.

# [Antisemitic flyers distributed in Nashville neighborhoods, police say \(wsmv.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #antisemitism, #nashville

Feb 20, 2023

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WSMV) - The Metropolitan Nashville Police Department is investigating reports of antisemitic flyers dropped in Nashville neighborhoods.

Police said specialized investigations division detectives are investigating three reports of the flyers over the weekend in Inglewood. WSMV4 also found the flyers in the Belle Meade and Richland Hills areas.

Five different versions of the flyers were folded and placed in plastic baggies at the ends of driveways or beside mailboxes, along with corn to weigh them down.

The flyers make antisemitic claims about Disney, gun control, mass immigration, the media and the slave trade.

WSMV4 talked to two former Nashville Jewish Federation presidents, Barbara Dab and Steven Hirsch.

“It’s sort of mischief, if you will,” said Dab, current editor of [The Jewish Observer](#). “People just kind of trying to stir up mischief where they can and upset people. As we’ve heard, we’re hoping that it doesn’t escalate beyond that.”

“I would like to see these people outed, so to speak, in the community and identified for the behavior that they’re exhibiting,” Hirsch, who is now the chair of the Federation’s security committee, said. “I think that an awareness by all of our neighbors - Jewish and non-Jewish - that this kind of behavior is not acceptable. So far, we’ve gotten tremendous support from all of our neighbors.”

Nashville councilwoman Emily Benedict tweeted about the flyers, saying they would not be tolerated

*Over the weekend someone littered South Inglewood with antisemitic flyers. This will not be tolerated. MNPD has this information including Ring footage from some neighbors. Whoever you are: you will not come to our District and instill fear and hate to our residents.*

— Emily Benedict (@emilyfor7) [February 20, 2023](#)

Detectives are working to identify a suspect or suspects but do not have any descriptions at this time. Hirsch asks anyone with doorbell or surveillance camera footage to check the last three or four days and send in anything related they might find.

# [Health Alert on mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Safety | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #covid, #vaccines, #florida

Feb 15, 2023

The COVID-19 pandemic brought many challenges that the health and medical field have never encountered. Although the initial response was led by a sense of urgency and crisis management, the State Surgeon General believes it is critical that as public health professionals, responses are adapted to the present to chart a future guided by data.

The State Surgeon General is notifying the health care sector and public of a substantial increase in Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) reports from Florida after the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

In Florida alone, there was a 1,700% increase in VAERS reports after the release of the COVID-19 vaccine, compared to an increase of 400% in overall vaccine administration for the same time period (*Figure 1*).

The reporting of life-threatening conditions increased over 4,400%. This is a novel increase and was not seen during the 2009 H1N1 vaccination campaign. There is a need for additional unbiased research to better understand the COVID-19 vaccines' short- and long-term effects.

The findings in Florida are consistent with various studies that continue to uncover such risks. To further evaluate this, the Surgeon General [wrote a letter](#) to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) illustrating the risk factors associated with the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines and emphasizing the need for additional transparency.

According to a study, [Fraiman J et al, Vaccine. 2022](#), mRNA COVID-19 vaccines were associated with an excess risk of serious adverse events, including coagulation disorders, acute cardiac injuries, Bell's palsy, and encephalitis. This risk was 1 in 550 individuals, which is much higher than other vaccines.

A second study, [Sun CLF et al, Sci Rep. 2022](#), found increased acute cardiac arrests and other acute cardiac events following mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.

Additionally, [Dag Berild J et al, JAMA Netw Open. 2022](#), assessed the risk of thromboembolic and thrombocytopenic events related to COVID-19 vaccines and

found preliminary evidence of increased risk of both coronary disease and cardiovascular disease.

While the CDC has identified safety signals for stroke among individuals 65 and older following the bivalent booster administration, there is a need for additional assessments and research regarding safety of all mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

To support transparency, the State of Florida reminds health care providers to accurately communicate the risks and benefits of all clinical interventions to their patients, including those associated with the COVID-19 vaccine as additional risks continue to be identified and disclosed to the public.

The State of Florida remains dedicated to protecting communities from the risks of COVID-19 and other public health concerns, specifically by promoting the importance of treatment and promoting prevention through healthy habits. We encourage our health care partners and providers to do the same.

# [Asbury Revival Spreads to 4th University: 'The Holy Spirit Is at Work' - Michael Foust \(christianheadlines.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #revival, #christianity, #gospel

Feb 17, 2023

The Asbury University revival that entered its 10th day Friday has spread to multiple other schools, including Samford University, which is experiencing its own movement of God with student-led worship and prayer that has stretched to about 48 hours.

Samford, located in Samford, Ala., is at least the fourth school to see a spontaneous revival break out among students. As previously [reported](#) by Christian Headlines, Lee University in Tennessee and Cedarville University in Ohio also have experienced unscripted revivals this week.

Beck A. Taylor, president of Samford University, emailed students Friday, thanking God for the revival. The revival at Reid Chapel on the Samford campus had been going on for 48 continuous hours as of Friday morning, he said.

Samford is located about 400 miles from Asbury's Wilmore, Ky., campus.

"This is spontaneous, organic, student-led worship," Taylor [wrote](#). "Having spent some time yesterday with those worshipping in Reid Chapel, I can testify that the Holy Spirit is at work in and among our student body. What's happening isn't contrived, programmed, or scripted. Nor is it performative or disingenuous. Students and others see it as an opportunity for the Samford campus to find unity in Christ, to encourage one another to faithfulness, and to extend the love and grace of Jesus to everyone."

Taylor urged students to "resist the temptation to label what's happening, or to put it into some kind of a neat box."

"I'm convinced that God is doing a new thing here, and all we're asked to do is to remain faithful to God's calling," Taylor wrote. "Our theme this year is HOPE. Our hope can be found in the person and work of Jesus Christ. As we worship Jesus today, let's allow hope to abound in us so that we can spread God's hope throughout this campus and the world."

*"It's the most unified I've seen our student body." "It's unscripted and not programmed. The Spirit is leading." "Students are sharing from their hearts." "The Gospel is being proclaimed." "Our campus will never be the same." Pray for Samford's campus! 🙏 Praise God!*

— Beck A. Taylor (@BeckTaylor) [February 16, 2023](#)

According to [The Alabama Baptist](#) newspaper, the unscripted revival began on Wednesday when a student "walked into Reid Chapel and began softly playing worship songs on the piano," a university spokesperson told the newspaper. Soon, a "few students heard the music, walked into the chapel and began to worship along with the student," the newspaper reported. By 2 a.m., there were 150-200 people in the chapel.

"Students are sharing from their hearts," Taylor wrote in a Tweet. "The gospel is being proclaimed."

The widespread revivals are taking place some five decades after another major student-led revival spread across college campuses. That 1970-era revival eventually was dubbed the Jesus Movement and landed on the cover of Time Magazine. Ironically, a movie about that revival, [Jesus Revolution](#), will hit theaters on Feb. 24.

*Related:*

['A Mighty Move of God': Asbury University Revival Spreads to Two More Schools](#)

[Asbury Revival Passes 100 Consecutive Hours: People 'Don't Want to Leave'](#)

[50-Plus-Hour Revival Sweeps Asbury University: Students 'Stayed All Night'](#)

[Is God Bringing Revival to Asbury and America?](#)

[Revival: When You Lay Hold of God, Never Let Go!](#)