



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 315**

# [Hezbollah terrorists launch massive rocket attack on Israel amid mounting tensions | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #hezbollah, #terrorist, #attacks

Jun 12, 2024

Christian leader condemns attacks that hit historic biblical areas in Israel's Galilee

**JERUSALEM** - The Lebanon-based Hezbollah terrorist movement on Wednesday pummeled Israel's northern border, including Tiberias, where Jesus performed miracles, with rockets after the Jewish state eliminated a senior Hezbollah commander responsible for military operations.

According to a statement from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), the "IDF struck a Hezbollah command and control center used to direct attacks from southeastern Lebanon and eliminated its commander, Sami Taleb Abdullah."

Hezbollah's aerial warfare apparatus sent a swarm of more than 200 rockets into northern Israeli communities. The IDF did not report any injuries.

The IDF said on Tuesday "A Hezbollah command and control center in the area of Jouaiyya in Southern Lebanon, which was used to direct terror attacks against Israeli territory from southeastern Lebanon in recent months, was struck by the IAF. As part of the strike, Sami Taleb Abdullah, the commander of the Nasr Unit in the Hezbollah terrorist organization, was eliminated. Sami Taleb Abdullah was one of Hezbollah's most senior commanders in southern Lebanon."

The IDF added, "For many years, the terrorist planned, advanced, and carried out a large number of terror attacks against Israeli civilians. Three additional Hezbollah terrorist operatives were also eliminated in the strike."

Up to 80,000 Israelis have fled the northern border areas since Oct. 7, as the Iran-backed Hezbollah has intensified its mini-war against Israel.

"The front has certainly been heating up, and Hezbollah chief Nasrallah has dismissed any chance of stopping until Israel agrees to a Gaza ceasefire, thus trying to establish his militia as part of the Israel-Palestinian scene, something that Israel doesn't want to see happen," Hussain Abdul-Hussain, a research fellow at FDD told Fox News Digital.

"Israel wants to get done with the northern front, independent of Gaza, with a deadline being September (start of school year) for Israeli refugees to be able to return home.

This will require a major escalation, which is currently underway. A full scale war seems to be close, perhaps as soon as the end of this month," warned the Lebanon expert.

Hezbollah first [initiated its aerial attacks](#) on Israel shortly after the Gaza Strip-based terrorist organization Hamas invaded Israel on Oct. 7. Hamas massacred nearly 1,200 people, including more than 30 Americans.

## **ODDS OF ISRAEL-HEZBOLLAH WAR 'INEVITABLE,' EXPERTS FEAR: 'TOTALLY PESSIMISTIC'**

Last week, after Hezbollah rockets into Israel caused a massive outbreak of fires in the north, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Jewish state is "prepared for very intense action in the north" in response to Hezbollah's continued rocket and drone attacks into northern Israel.

Speaking from an Israeli military base in Kiryat Shmona, Netanyahu declared, "We said, at the start of the war, that we would restore security in both the south and the north – and this is what we are doing. Today I am on the northern border with our heroic fighters and commanders, as well as with our firefighters. Yesterday the ground burned here, and I am pleased that you have extinguished it, but ground also burned in Lebanon."

"Israel, from the very beginning, said first Gaza and then deal with the north," Brig. Gen. (Res) Amir Avivi, a former deputy commander of the Israel Defense Forces' Gaza Division, [told Fox News Digital](#) last week.

"In the coming weeks, the main missions in Rafah will end. Most of the troops will be sent north and there will be a threat to Hezbollah, calling them to retreat, [according to U.N. resolution 1701](#), and if they don't retreat, and if there is no American leadership threatening Hezbollah or Iran, and no international pressure, Israel will have to attack and do a ground incursion into south Lebanon while destroying most of Hezbollah's long-range capabilities," he said.

According to Avivi, the United Nations Security Council has failed to enforce resolution 1701, whose purpose was to disarm Hezbollah following the end of its 2006 against Israel.

In reference to the Hezbollah rockets hitting areas that have major significance to Christians, Rev. Johnnie Moore, the president of The Congress of Christian Leaders, on Wednesday wrote on X, "Hezbollah is firing hundreds of rockets into the Christian heartland of N. Israel ... in the idyllic hills around Galilee...where Jesus lived, where most of his ministry took place, near to where the Sermon on the Mount was preached...where millions of Christians visit today."

The Israeli news outlet Ynet reported on Wednesday that the [pro-Hezbollah Lebanese newspaper Al Akhbar](#) wrote about the elimination of Taleb Abdullah. "The enemy dealt a severe blow to Hezbollah in a security-military operation targeting one of the prominent commanders in the current confrontation, accompanied by additional fighters during an Israeli drone strike on a house in the village of Jouaiyya."

The IDF announced on Monday that more than 19,000 unguided rockets have been launched at the Jewish state since Oct. 7. Most of the rockets have been fired from the Gaza Strip, but a sizable number of projectiles have been launched by Hezbollah. The U.S. and many other Western and non-Western countries have designated Hezbollah a terrorist organization.

# [Want to Pay Cash? That'll Cost You Extra \(msn.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #money, #cash, #cashless

Jun 6, 2024

When Noa Khamallah recently tried to pay cash for popcorn and soda at Yankee Stadium, his almighty dollars struck out.

The stadium's concession stands no longer take cash. An employee directed him to a kiosk that could convert his greenbacks into plastic. Khamallah, 41 years old, fed \$200 into the reverse ATM, which subtracted a \$3.50 fee and spat out a debit card with a balance of \$196.50.

Paying for anything in New York is expensive already, said Khamallah, who lives in the city. "If you add on top of that extra fees for being able to pay for food, that's not right," he said.

Paying with cash used to be a way to get a discount. These days it can often cost an extra \$1 to \$6—the sort of transaction fees once limited to swiping a credit card or using an out-of-network ATM.

Reverse ATMs like those at Yankee Stadium are now common at cashless venues and restaurants across the country as a way to cater to those who prefer paying in cash. People who want to pay their parking tickets, tolls, taxes or phone bills in cash, meanwhile, often learn that government agencies and businesses have outsourced that option to companies that usually charge a fee.

All that can amount to a penalty on the people who prefer paying cash. Though it is more common to buy things with cards and mobile devices, cash remains the third-most popular way to pay, accounting for 16% of all payments in 2023, according to the Federal Reserve. That's down 2 percentage points from the year before, continuing a steady decline that accelerated during the pandemic.

"It's unbelievable that we actually have to tell retailers, 'This is U.S. currency and it's something that should be accepted,'" said Jonathan Alexander, executive director of the Consumer Choice in Payment Coalition, a group of businesses and nonprofits lobbying for the continued acceptance of cash.

There aren't federal laws that require businesses to accept cash. States like Colorado and Rhode Island and cities like New York banned cashless retail establishments after many stores shifted to card-only transactions to reduce the spread of Covid-19, speed up transactions and cut back on theft. In 2023, lawmakers in the House of

Representatives and the Senate introduced bills requiring that businesses accept cash for all in-person purchases under \$500, unless they provide devices like a reverse ATM that don't charge fees. The bills haven't passed.

## **Turning cash into money**

Cashless businesses can be a burden for older or lower-income shoppers who are less likely to have access to digital payments. They also pose challenges for younger people who haven't yet set up credit cards or bank accounts.

In March, Kate Steinhart, 18, was charged a 50-cent fee after putting \$20 into a reverse ATM during a hockey game to order chicken nuggets and a bottle of water. Steinhart has a debit card but says she prefers to use cash, which she earns by babysitting.

The same thing happened a year earlier at Six Flags Great Adventure in New Jersey. Steinhart used a reverse ATM to load \$20 onto a prepaid card for lunch. Her meal came out to \$15, but since she didn't realize she could use the rest outside the park, she bought a pack of fudge to bring the balance down to \$0.

Prudence Weaver said she would prefer her son be able to use cash on trips to the zoo, amusement parks and baseball games, rather than have to pay fees for debit cards.

"To let my 13-year-old go buy a slushy at the amusement park, I'm already out \$6," said Weaver, 41, who lives in Connecticut with her family. "I understand that there is a place for electronic payment, but I don't think it should be the only option."

Debit- and credit-card holders who prefer to use cash say paper money is anonymous, helps them keep spending under control and is better for tips. Roughly six out of 10 Americans say that in a typical week at least some of their purchases are paid for using cash, according to Pew Research Center.

Though it is technically possible to use cash to pay your rent and loan payments, or even shop on Amazon, the hassles required may be too much even for committed cash users.

"It really disadvantages people who are underbanked or unbanked or don't have a credit card," said Kathy White, executive director of the Colorado Fiscal Institute, a nonprofit that analyzes the state's economic practices.

## **Cash's new cottage industry**

Demand for reverse ATMs from companies such as RedyRef surged in recent years as retailers moved away from cash and some states banned cashless establishments, executives said.

“It has been a pretty wild shift,” said Will Pymm, senior vice president at RedyRef, a New Jersey-based company that supplies reverse ATMs to carnivals, restaurants and stadiums. “Probably one of the biggest we’ve seen for a specific product, in such a short amount of time.”

RedyRef said it more than doubled its shipments of reverse ATMs in the first five months of the year compared with the same period in 2023.

Whether or not a customer is charged a fee for using them depends on what state they’re in and the venue, the company said.

### **Fees for paying your bills in cash**

Government agencies, utilities, cable and wireless companies have also outsourced the handling of cash payments.

People who prefer to pay bills, rent, parking tickets or child support in cash can do so at most 7-Eleven, CVS, Walmart and Walgreens stores. Here’s how it works: The company or agency will send a personalized bar code that people can show a cashier at a retail store to make the cash payment. PayNearMe, a company that facilitates such payments, said it processed over \$4 billion worth of cash transactions this past year.

“We’ve seen cash use stay pretty steady,” said Anne Hay, PayNearMe’s chief marketing officer.

PayNearMe charges its clients a fee ranging from \$1.99 to \$3.99 on each cash transaction, Hay said. Businesses can choose to cover that cost or pass it on to the consumer. Many choose the latter, she said.

OneMain Financial, a subprime lender with 1,300 locations, began working with PayNearMe in 2018, when it stopped accepting cash payments.

“We made a strategic decision to provide more options for our customers to pay their monthly statements, with a focus on safety for both our team members and customers,” said the company, which offers personal and auto loans.

Most of its customers choose to pay using automatic bank transfers, debit card, check or Apple Pay. The company said it doesn’t charge a fee for customers paying with cash.

# [Europe is hell bent on forcing US firms to go woke and it has a new law to do it | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #european union, #businesses, #laws, #america

Jun 10, 2024

In May, officials in the [European Union finalized](#) a sweeping new law that will radically change business activities around the world and, by extension, the societies they operate in.

The law, formally titled the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), will not only apply to companies that are based in the European Union, but also to businesses headquartered in other countries that provide products and services in the EU.

Under the law, large businesses will be forced to adopt [left-wing environmental and social justice](#) rules. In America, we refer to these as environmental, social, and governance (ESG) metrics, but in Europe, they are commonly called "due diligence."

The law will not only [force businesses to adopt](#) Europe's ESG rules within their own operations but also throughout much of their supply chains, regardless of where the companies in the supply chain are located. That means countless businesses within the United States will be affected by this law.

The CSDDD mandates that large businesses reduce and reverse biodiversity loss, limit water and land consumption, prohibit certain kinds of "disinformation," guarantee rights for labor unions, and adopt climate transition plans that phase out fossil fuels, among numerous other requirements.

Large companies will also be forced under the law to adhere to numerous U.N. resolutions, EU regulations and international agreements.

Companies covered under the CSDDD include EU-based businesses with more than 1,000 employees and a net worldwide turnover of more than \$489 million. (Net turnover is similar to revenue.)

Non-EU companies, such as those headquartered in the United States, are covered under the mandate if they have a net turnover of \$489 million in the European Union.

Failure to meet the EU requirements could result in massive fines equal to as much as 5% of a company's net worldwide turnover. Companies who violate the law could also



be sued by individuals or activist groups for alleged damages caused by their undesirable practices.

Many of America's largest corporations will be forced to comply with the new EU requirements, which will be phased in over several years, beginning in 2027. For example, Amazon, Apple, Google, Ford, Cargill, McDonald's, and many other U.S. businesses currently have large operations in the European Union that would subject them to the CSDDD's requirements.

Most importantly, however, is that the law will force these covered companies to impose the EU's ESG metrics on many of the upstream and downstream businesses in their "chain of activities," regardless of how big they are or where they are based.

For example, a farmer in Idaho who sells potatoes to McDonald's to make French fries will also be required to adhere to various parts of the European Union's ESG scheme, as will the American warehouse and transportation companies used to store and distribute McDonald's products and the technology firms hired by McDonald's to improve its business practices.

The same is true for the beef ranchers and chicken farmers who sell meat to McDonald's, the kitchen supply businesses that provide McDonald's with its ovens and stoves, and the energy companies that keep McDonald's lights on.

The new EU supply chain law is so expansive, nearly every medium and large-sized business in America will likely be impacted by its leftist mandates, directly or indirectly. It's also important to remember that the rules could be changed by EU officials in the future at any time, opening the door to even more radical requirements.

*Failure to meet the EU requirements could result in massive fines equal to as much as 5% of a company's net worldwide turnover. Companies who violate the law could also be sued by individuals or activist groups for alleged damages caused by their undesirable practices.*

Make no mistake about it, the CSDDD is a direct assault on America's sovereignty. The European Union has no right to transform U.S. businesses and American culture. It has no right to tell Americans which labor rules it must comply with, how much land U.S. farmers and ranchers should use, or what kinds of cars we can drive. And yet, that is exactly what the European Union is doing.

Unsurprisingly, the Biden administration is doing nothing to stop the CSDDD, and it seems at present that most members of Congress are completely unaware that it exists. That's disturbing, to say the least, considering the scope of the EU law and the huge negative impacts it will inevitably have on the United States.

If lawmakers don't stand up for American businesses and consumers soon, there will be no stopping the European Union's reckless power grab from going into effect. Time is running out, and we simply cannot afford to lose this fight for freedom and prosperity.

# UN secretary-general labels humanity as ‘the meteor’ in fiery climate speech - The Verge

#bibleprophecy, #global warming, #humanity, #un secretary

Jun 5, 2024

‘We are not only in danger. We are the danger. But we are also the solution.’

The climate as we know it may be in the rear-view mirror, and there is precious little time to change course before careening past a dangerous threshold for global warming.

That was the sentiment expressed by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres during fiery remarks, which followed new data released today by the [World Meteorological Organization](#) and the European Commission’s [Copernicus Climate Change Service](#).

“Like the meteor that wiped out the dinosaurs, we’re having an outsize impact. In the case of climate, we are not the dinosaurs. We are the meteor,” Guterres said in the [speech](#) he delivered from American Museum of Natural History in New York City — where dinosaur skeletons tower above visitors in the lobby — on World Environment Day today. “We are not only in danger. We are the danger. But we are also the solution,” he said.

Last month was officially the hottest May in history, marking 12 straight months of the hottest on record

Last month was officially the hottest May in history, marking 12 straight months of the hottest on record. We’ve seen that play out with [record-smashing heatwaves](#) around the world, and there’s not much relief in sight.

Policymakers and UN climate scientists are focused on a key milestone: the point at which global average temperatures are consistently [1.5 degrees Celsius hotter](#) than they were before the Industrial Revolution. The most ambitious target of the landmark Paris accord is to keep the world from breaching that threshold. Otherwise, the effects of climate change grow markedly worse — straining and potentially surpassing the world’s ability to adapt.

2023 was already the [hottest year on record](#), but likely not for much longer. There’s now an 80 percent chance that at least one of the next five years will be more than 1.5 degrees Celsius hotter than the preindustrial average, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). When the Paris agreement was struck in 2015, there was a near 0 percent chance of that happening.

While one year of extreme heat certainly takes its toll, climate scientists are most worried about those temperatures becoming the new norm. The WMO says there's now a roughly 50 percent chance that average temperatures over the next five years will also be more than 1.5 degrees Celsius hotter than the preindustrial era. Last year, there was only a 32 percent chance of that happening.

The odds are rising against us because greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels [continue to climb](#). Scientists have calculated how much planet-heating carbon dioxide can still be released before that pollution is enough to push the world beyond a permanent 1.5 degrees of warming. That [carbon budget](#) is now down to 200 billion metric tons of pollution, Guterres said today. That's actually a small number considering global carbon dioxide emissions reach about 40 billion metric tons a year.

At those numbers, we have about five years left of business as usual before that Paris target is out of reach. And while there's much political wrangling about what it would take to avoid 1.5 degrees of warming, Guterres reminded people that there are real-world consequences.

"It is not a goal. It is a physical limit," he said. "Every fraction of a degree of global heating counts. The difference between 1.5 and 2 degrees could be the difference between extinction and survival for some small island states and coastal communities."

Compared to 1.5 degrees, [40,000 more people](#) could see their homes inundated at 2 degrees of warming. The proportion of the global population exposed to extreme heatwaves at least once every five years [jumps from 14 to 37 percent](#) with just half a degree of warming at the global level.

With a shrinking carbon budget, global CO2 emissions would now have to fall by 9 percent every year this decade to stop global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius. That is a greater plunge in pollution than the world experienced in 2020, when the covid-19 pandemic curbed economic activity and slashed CO2 emissions by [more than 5 percent](#). Emissions would need to fall to net zero by 2050.

Guterres, at least, is still holding out hope that countries can change course with a sharp turn toward renewable energy. After all, solar and onshore wind farms are already the cheapest source of electricity for most of the world.

Clean energy investments have nearly doubled over the past decade, reaching a record high last year. That progress needs to accelerate, he urged. Renewables make up 30 percent of the world's electricity mix. But there are big inequities in how that's rolling out, with only 15 percent of clean energy investments in emerging and developing economies outside of China. Less than 1 percent of new renewable energy capacity was installed in Africa last year.

There's also a lack of funding to adapt to the effects of climate change, building homes and cities that are more resilient to rising seas and temperatures. There's only about

five cents of funding available for every dollar needed to adapt to extreme weather, Guterres warned.

“If money makes the world go round, today’s unequal financial flows are sending us spinning toward disaster,” he said. “We cannot accept a future where the rich are protected in air-conditioned bubbles, while the rest of humanity is lashed by lethal weather in unlivable lands.”

# [U.N. to Blacklist Israel -- with Hamas -- as Threat to Children; Netanyahu Responds: 'Delusional' \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #united nations, #israel, #anti-semitism, #children

Jun 7, 2024

The United Nations (UN) is set to add Israel, and the Hamas terrorist group, to a blacklist of countries and groups that harm children — provoking an angry response from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who called the decision “delusional.”

The move marks the second time in recent weeks that an international body has equated Hamas and Israel in condemnation, after the International Criminal Court announced that it would seek arrest warrants for Israeli officials as well as Hamas leaders for alleged war crimes during the conflict in Gaza.

The *New York Times* [reported](#):

*The United Nations will add Israel as well as Hamas to a list of countries and armed groups that harm children when it releases its annual report on children and armed conflict, citing the heavy toll the war in Gaza has taken on minors, including killing, maiming and starvation, U.N. officials said.*

Reuters [noted](#) that United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was personally responsible for the decision to blacklist Israel, and that the United Nations Security Council will review the listing next week:

*The global list is included in a report on children and armed conflict that Guterres is due to submit to the U.N. Security Council on June 14.*

...

*Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz said the decision “will have consequences for Israel's relations with the U.N.” Israel has long had contentious relationship with the U.N. that has only worsened during the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.*

*“I am utterly shocked and disgusted by this shameful decision of the Secretary-General,” said Erdan. “Israel's army is the most moral army in the world, so this immoral decision will only aid the terrorists and reward Hamas.”*

Netanyahu responded in a statement Friday: “Today the UN added itself to the black list of history when it joined those who support the Hamas murderers. The IDF [Israel

Defense Forces] is the most moral army in the world; no delusional UN decision will change that.”

Israel has had a poor relationship with Guterres, whom it has accused of ignoring the alleged involvement of UN personnel in terror. Israel [called](#) for Guterres to resign months ago.

It is unclear how the Biden administration will respond to the report once it is presented to the UN Security Council next Friday.

**Update:** Erdan has caused consternation at the UN by releasing a video of his phone call with UN officials, who had contacted him to inform him that Israel was being blacklisted.

*I received the official notification about the Secretary-General's decision to put the IDF on the "blacklist" of countries and organizations that harm children. This is simply outrageous and wrong because Hamas has been using children for terrorism and uses schools and hospitals... [pic.twitter.com/o1civfJFAk](https://pic.twitter.com/o1civfJFAk)*

— Ambassador Gilad Erdan גלעד ערדן (@giladerdan1) [June 7, 2024](#)

The Times of Israel [reported](#) that a UN spokesperson called the publication of the video of the conversation “shocking.”

# [UN committee charges Israel with crimes against humanity - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #united nations, #israel, #anti-semitism

Jun 12, 2024

The UN's Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory on Wednesday said that Israel was to be held accountable for war crimes, according to Ynet.

The news site reported that the committee concluded that "Israeli authorities were responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during military operations and attacks in the Gaza Strip since October 7." Israel boycotted the council, refusing to cooperate with it, in part due to its representatives' backgrounds. As a result, the commission accused Israel of "obstructing investigations and preventing access to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory."

The commission, which was established in May of 2021, maintained that Israel is also responsible for sexual violence allegedly committed by soldiers during the war. Its chairperson called for the cessation of IDF operations in Rafah.

Further, the committee claimed that Israeli authorities used starvation as a means of warfare, deliberately targeted their attacks against civilians, forcibly displaced residents, and committed acts of torture, inhumane treatment, arbitrary detentions, and actions that were an offense to one's personal dignity.

Nevertheless, it did acknowledge that Palestinian armed groups were also responsible for war crimes committed in Israel. The commission's investigation into the events of October 7 and what followed was based on interviews with victims and witnesses, thousands of items collected from open sources and verified through forensic analysis, hundreds of submissions to information collectors, satellite images, and forensic medical reports.



# [27% of children under 5 live in severe food poverty, many in Africa, UN report says | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #famine, #africa, #children, #poverty

Jun 6, 2024

UNICEF is training thousands of African women to boost their families' nutrient intake with home-grown vegetables

- A report by the U.N. children's agency UNICEF says 181 million children younger than 5 live in severe food poverty. That's about 27% of the world's youngest children.
- Africa's population of more than 1.3 billion people is one of the most affected, mainly due to conflict, climate change and rising food prices. The continent accounts for one-third of the global burden and 13 of the 20 most affected countries.
- UNICEF is training thousands of women in Nigerian communities how to boost their families' nutrient intake with vegetables grown in gardens at home, and how to rear livestock and chickens.

The 9-month-old twins cried nonstop and tugged at their mother, seeking attention but also food. They had received little in the past 24 hours, and there were signs of deeper hunger in the heads too big for their tiny bodies.

"Not much milk comes out," said their 38-year-old mother, Dorcas Simon, who struggles to breastfeed and has three other children. She laughed, as if to conceal the pain. "What will I give them when I don't have food myself?"

Here in northern Nigeria, where conflict and climate change have long contributed to the problem, her twins are among 181 million children under 5 — or 27% of the world's youngest children — who live in severe food poverty, according to a new report Thursday by [the U.N.'s children agency](#).

The report, which focused on nearly 100 low- and middle-income countries, defines severe food poverty as consuming nothing in a day or, at best, two out of eight food groups the agency recognizes.

Africa's population of more than 1.3 billion people is one of the most affected mainly due to conflict, climate crises and rising food prices. The continent accounts for one-third of the global burden and 13 of the 20 most affected countries.

But it has also recorded some progress, the report said.

The percentage of children living in severe food poverty in West and Central Africa fell from 42% to 32% over the last decade, it said, noting advances including diversified crops and performance-based incentives for health workers.

In the absence of vital nutrients, children living with "extremely poor" diets are more likely to experience wasting, a life-threatening form of malnutrition, the agency known as UNICEF said.

"When wasting becomes very severe, they are 12 times more likely to die," Harriet Torlesse, one of the report's authors, told The Associated Press.

In several Nigerian communities like Kaltungo in the northeast where Simon lives, UNICEF is training thousands of women in how to boost their families' nutrient intake with cassava, sweet potato, maize, millet and vegetables grown in gardens at home, and how to rear livestock and chickens.

More than a dozen women gathered this week in Kaltungo's Poshereng village to learn dozens of recipes they can prepare with those foods which, in the absence of rain, are grown in sand-filled sacks that require little water.

Mothers in Nigeria also face the country's worst cost of living crisis. Growing food at home saves money.

Aisha Aliyu, a 36-year-old mother of five, said her latest child "used to be skinny but is growing fatter" because of what they now grow at home. Hauwa Bwami, a 50-year-old mother of five, nearly lost her grandchild to kwashiorkor, a disease with severe protein malnutrition, before the UNICEF training started a year ago. Now she grows enough food that she sells to other women.

Kaltungo is in a semi-arid agricultural region where climate change has limited rainfall in recent years. Some children have died of acute malnutrition in the past because food is scarce, said Ladi Abdullahi, who trains the women.

The training "is like answered prayers for me," Simon said in her first time with the group.

But it can be a painful lesson. Another trainee, Florence Victor, 59, watched helplessly as her nine-month-old grandchild succumbed to malnutrition in 2022.

Malnutrition also can weaken the immune system over time, leaving children vulnerable to diseases that can kill.

In the Sahel, the semiarid region south of the Sahara Desert which is a hot spot for violent extremism, there has been an increase in acute malnutrition — worse than severe food poverty — that has reached emergency levels, said Alfred Ejem, senior food security advisor with the Mercy Corps aid group in Africa.

Because of displacement and climate change, families have resorted to "bad coping mechanisms like eating leaves and locusts just to survive," Ejem said.

In conflict-hit Sudan, children are dying of severe malnutrition in large numbers.

In Nigeria's troubled northwest, the French medical organization Doctors Without Borders said at least 850 children died last year within 24 to 48 hours of being admitted to its health facilities.

"We are resorting to treating patients on mattresses on the floor because our facilities are full," Simba Tirima, MSF's Nigeria representative, said Tuesday.

Many malnourished children in the region never make it to a hospital because they live in remote areas or their families cannot afford care.

Inequality also plays a role in severe food poverty among children in Africa, the new report said. In South Africa, the most unequal country in the world, roughly one in every four children is affected by severe food poverty even though it is the continent's most developed nation.

Governments and partners must act urgently, author Torlesse said: "The work starts now."

# [Florida panhandle beaches closed after two back-to-back shark attacks | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #florida, #shark attacks, #beaches

Jun 7, 2024

Three people were wounded in the attacks in Walton County, Florida in back-to-back attacks

Miles of sugar-white sand beaches and turquoise waters were closed down in Florida after two back-to-back shark attacks.

According to a press conference by the Walton County Sheriff's Office, the successive shark attacks were in "close proximity" to one another on Friday afternoon.

"We experienced two separate incidents earlier this afternoon in relative proximity to one another, about four miles apart and within an hour and a half from one another," South Walton Fire District Fire Chief Ryan Crawford said.

Law enforcement did not specify what type of sharks were part of the attacks.

## SHARK ATTACK OFF CALIFORNIA COAST LEAVES 46-YEAR-MAN HOSPITALIZED, BEACHES CLOSED

Walton County Fire Rescue and South Walton Fire District responded to reports on Friday afternoon at 1:20 p.m. that a 45-year-old woman was attacked by a shark while enjoying the popular tourist destination.

Authorities said that the woman was swimming just beyond a sandbar with her husband when she was suddenly attacked.

She received "significant trauma to the midsection and pelvic area and amputation of her left lower arm," Crawford said.

The South Walton Fire District transported the victim by helicopter to a nearby trauma hospital. Authorities said she was in "critical condition."

At 2:56 p.m., the Walton County Sheriff's Office announced that they had responded to a second shark accident at Seacrest Creek beach.

According to the Walton County Sheriff's Office, two female teenagers, who were between 15-years-old and 17-years-old, were attacked by a shark.

## FLORIDA IS NAMED THE SHARK ATTACK CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Crawford said that, similarly to the first attack, the victims were swimming by a sandbar in waist-deep water before they were attacked.

"Victim one received significant injuries to one lower and one upper extremity," Crawford said. "Both [bites] required the application of tourniquets."

She was airlifted to a trauma center in Pensacola, Florida, authorities said. She remains in "critical condition," authorities said.

The second teen victim received flash wounds to foot, and was taken by ambulance in stable condition, Crawford said.

Walton County Sheriff Michael Adkinson said that the two victims have a "fighting chance" due to the "continuity of care" by first responders.

"One of the important things to realize in these types of situations is the continuity of care," Adkinson said in the press conference. "This seamless operation between the folks at South Walton Fire District and the deputies at Walton County Sheriffs Office and Walton Air Rescue."

"I think these two ladies have a fighting chance because of that professionalism," he added.

Following the successive shark attacks, Walton County closed several miles of Gulf of Mexico waters.

"Double red flags are now flying on the beaches in the surrounding area," the Walton County Sheriff's Office said in a social media post. "The Gulf is now closed to the public in Walton County in the localized area of the incident."

Adkinson said that they are in contact with area shark experts to discuss if there is an anomaly in the attacks.

"We know that we share the waters with sharks," he said. "We understand that, as tragic as this is, there are always sharks in these waters, and we have to be careful and cognizant of that."

With 26 miles of stunning beaches, Walton County is on the Northwest Florida Panhandle along the Gulf of Mexico.

Popular beaches in Walton County include: Seagrove beach, Rosemary beach, Santa Rosa beach, Grayton Beach State Park, Inlet beach, Blue Mountain beach, Miramar beach, and others.