



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 302

[Hezbollah fires over 60 rockets at Israel; IDF holds drills to prepare for approaching Lebanon War | All Israel News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #hezbollah, #war

Mar 10, 2024

Terror group claims 11 attacks on Sunday, including heavy rocket salvos

The Lebanese terror group Hezbollah fired over 60 rockets at northern Israel on Sunday while Israel Defense Forces announced it held a large logistics drill in preparation for a full-scale confrontation with the terror group, which seems to get ever closer.

Hezbollah claimed responsibility for at least 11 attacks on Sunday, including two barrages of over 30 rockets. The first rocket salvo of some 30 Grad rockets struck near an IDF air control base on Mount Meron, with footage on social media showing the impact of around 10 rockets in open areas near the base.

Hezbollah fired barrages of rockets from Lebanon at the Mount Meron area a short while ago. There are no reports of injuries. pic.twitter.com/AyFZvuIiXT

— Emanuel (Mannie) Fabian (@manniefabian) [March 10, 2024](#)

Shortly after the first attack, Hezbollah fired another barrage of around 7 rockets, with some being intercepted and others falling into open areas, the IDF stated.

The terror group claimed the attacks were a response to an IDF strike in Khirbet Salem on Saturday night, which killed five members of a family, including the father and two sons who were members of Hezbollah.

Footage of the Iron Dome engaging a barrage of Hezbollah rockets fired from Lebanon at the Golan Heights, over the Druze town of Majdal Shams. pic.twitter.com/V4seiq6pP3

— Emanuel (Mannie) Fabian (@manniefabian) [March 10, 2024](#)

Several other small-scale attacks were launched throughout the day, including an anti-tank missile near the Malkia area that damaged an IDF vehicle, and a drone that crashed in the area of Mount Hermon.

In the evening, another barrage of around 30 rockets was launched toward the area of Mount Hermon in Israel's Golan Heights, several of which impacted the mountainside near the Druze town of Majdal Shams. Hezbollah claimed to have targeted military posts in the nearby Mount Dov area.

תצפיתניות באוגדה 210 זיהו מוקדם יותר היום חוליית מחבלים חמושים במשגר נ"ט במרחב שבעא שבדרום לבנון.

זמן קצר לאחר הזיהוי, הכוינו התצפיתניות מטוסי קרב של חהא וכלי טיס נוסף אשר תקפו את החוליה במרחב וזאת בטרם הצליחה לבצע את השיגור << pic.twitter.com/8mbjPBXFAh

— צבא ההגנה לישראל (@idfonline) [March 10, 2024](https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1766841234567890123)

On the Israeli side, the IDF continued its policy of shelling areas from where attacks were launched with artillery. In addition, fighter jets and another aircraft struck an anti-tank missile squad during operations for an attack, at the direction of female IDF combat observers who had spotted them in the Sheba region.

Earlier in the morning, the IDF announced that fighter jets had struck terror infrastructure in Ayta al-Sha'ab and an anti-tank launch position in the Marun al-Ras region overnight, in addition to the aforementioned military structure in the Khirbat Salem region that housed terrorists.

מטוסי קרב תקפו הלילה תשתית טרור של ארגון הטרור חיזבאללה במרחב עיינתא-א-שעב, עמדת שיגור נ"ט של הארגון במרחב מרון א-ראס ומבנה צבאי ובו פעילים של הארגון במרחב חירבת סאלם.

בהמשך להתרעות בצפון הארץ הבוקר, זוהו כ-35 שיגורים שחצו משטח לבנון לעבר שטח מדינת ישראל, חלקם יורטו pic.twitter.com/ou9R5KUbrP

— צבא ההגנה לישראל (@idfonline) [March 10, 2024](https://twitter.com/idfonline/status/1766841234567890123)

Hezbollah announced that since last Thursday, it has launched over 20 attacks against Israel, using Grad, Burkan, and Falaq-1 rockets, anti-tank missiles and attack drones.

While diplomatic efforts to resolve the tense situation continue, the Israeli army is preparing for a likely increasing escalation. On Friday, Maj.-Gen. Uri Gordin, the head of IDF's Northern Command, met with security coordinators in the Western Galilee communities.

Gordin noted that the IDF is "constantly strengthening its readiness to launch an attack in Lebanon.

Among other efforts, last week, the IDF conducted drills to test "its readiness to provide logistical support under fire for its troops fighting in a potential war against Hezbollah."

In a joint exercise, the Technology and Logistics Division, the Northern Command, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) and other units practiced transferring equipment, water, fuel, and ammunition to the maneuvering forces fighting in the northern sector.

The exercise included loading and unloading equipment from IAF aircraft and transporting equipment using vehicles.

“The IDF is prepared to carry out identical operations in the northern sector with high intensity and under fire, if required,” the army stated.

[Russia, China and Iran deepen ties with naval drill - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #russia, #iran, #china

Mar 14, 2024

Russia, Iran, and China have conducted at least four naval drills in the past. However, this year's are larger, and they come amidst rising tensions in the Red Sea and off the coast of Yemen.

Iran, Russia, and China sent ships that gathered for a naval drill over the weekend. The drill continued this week and illustrates the growing cooperation between the countries. Russia, Iran, and China have conducted at least four naval drills in the past. However, this year's are larger, and they come amidst rising tensions in [the Red Sea and off the coast of Yemen](#).

Iran's Fars News noted, "The large-scale maritime drills, named 'Maritime Security Belt 2024' were held with naval forces of Iran, Russia, and China in the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean." The dozen ships from the three countries conducted live-fire drills. China contributed a guided-missile destroyer named Urumqi and two other warships, the Type 054A guided missile frigate Linyi and the Type 903A comprehensive replenishment ship Dongpinghu, of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy's 45th escort task force. These ships had been stationed off the coast of Yemen. Russia sent a cruiser named Varyag and an anti-submarine warfare ship, Marshal Shaposhnikov, from its Pacific squadron. Russia's navy has been hard-pressed in operations in the Black Sea against Ukraine over the last two years, and it has taken numerous losses. [China's navy](#) has been seeking to expand its reach. China also has a rotating naval presence off the coast of East Africa. Iran's ships include the frigates Alborz and Jamaran.

Chinese and Russian state media comment on the drills

Chinese and Russian state media both highlighted the drills. Iran says the drills cover some 17,000 square kilometers of open ocean. *Global Times* in China reported that "the naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia on Monday launched an exercise near the Gulf of Oman in a joint effort to safeguard regional maritime security, without targeting any third country or current regional tensions." The ships began their drills off of the port of Chabahar, the report said. Iran has launched drones from Chabahar in the past to attack ships. "With the theme of jointly building peace and security, the exercise mainly features anti-piracy and search and rescue training courses and is organized in three phases, namely the harbor phase, the sea phase, and the summarizing phase," the report said.

"The joint drills are conducive to enhancing exchanges and cooperation among the Chinese, Iranian, and Russian navies, and it further displayed [the three countries'] will and capability in jointly safeguarding maritime security and actively building a maritime community with a shared future," Liang Dong of the PLA Navy's 45th escort task force, said in the CCTV report. According to Chinese media, the drill was also attended by observers from Azerbaijan, India, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, and South Africa. Iran has recently joined groups such as BRICS and the SCO in order to partner more closely with Russia and China. For instance, among the countries observing the drill were South Africa and India, which are in BRICS.

This naval drill is important and sends a message to Western powers. With the Iran-backed Houthis continuing to attack ships and the US, UK, and others confronting the Houthis, the drill [by Iran](#), Russia, and China shows that the navies of the three countries have no interest in maritime security in the Red Sea but rather cooperation with each other to undermine the West.

[Israeli Official: US Pushing to Oust Netanyahu | Newsmax.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #united states, #israel, #government

Mar 13, 2024

A senior Israeli official reacted to a U.S. intelligence report which stated that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition is in danger of collapse as Israel faces increasing international pressure over the Gaza War.

In the Annual Threat Assessment released by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the report dealt with the Gaza War and the situation in Israel.

The report stated: "Netanyahu's viability as leader as well as his governing coalition of far-right and ultra-orthodox parties that pursued hardline policies on Palestinian and security issues may be in jeopardy. Distrust of Netanyahu's ability to rule has deepened and broadened across the public from its already high levels before the war, and we expect large protests demanding his resignation and new elections. A different, more moderate government is a possibility."

The Israeli official, who spoke anonymously with the press, said that the U.S. should help Israel overthrow Hamas, not Israel's government.

"Those who elect the prime minister of Israel are the citizens of Israel and no one else," the official stated. "Israel is not a protectorate of the USA but an independent and democratic country whose citizens are the ones who elect the government. We expect our friends to act to overthrow the terror regime of Hamas and not the elected government in Israel."

The report comes amid growing tension between the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden and Netanyahu.

Biden was overheard telling Democratic Senator Michael Bennet of Colorado, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg that he and Netanyahu needed to have a "come to Jesus moment."

Responding to a comment from Senator Bennet saying Biden needs to continue to press for humanitarian aid to Gaza, Biden responded, "I told him, Bibi, and don't repeat this, but you and I are going to have a 'come to Jesus' meeting."

Netanyahu also appeared to push back against U.S. and other international pressure over the war in Gaza.

“None of these pressures will stop us. Israel's very future, its very survival is at stake,” Netanyahu said in his speech to AIPAC delegates Tuesday.

According to a report in NY Magazine, Biden is seeking ways to have Netanyahu replaced.

Itamar Rabinovich, a former Israeli ambassador to the U.S., told NY Magazine that Biden and Netanyahu are increasingly having disagreements about the war. He said that Biden has been unhappy with Netanyahu's government for a long time, “but now in my view they're even angrier and they are sharpening the tone. Biden is not coming at him personally, but off the record and in closed meetings, the sentiment is clear.”

Another Israeli official, who spoke anonymously with NY Magazine said, “I have been asked by a serious administration figure what it is that will force the Netanyahu coalition to collapse. They were interested in the mechanics, what can we demand which will collapse his coalition.”

Some political analysts in Israel have speculated that the Biden administration's welcoming of war cabinet minister Benny Gantz in Washington last week was part of the strategy to isolate Netanyahu and cause division between him and Gantz.

[Biden Slaps More Sanctions on Israel While Giving \\$10 Billion Sanctions Waiver to Iran \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #united states, #israel, #sanctions

Mar 14, 2024

President Joe Biden’s administration slapped more sanctions on Israelis over so-called “extremist settler violence” on Thursday — including on two outposts in the West Bank, marking the first sanctions on Israel relating to a specific area.

The sanctions are a virtual gift to the anti-Israel and antisemitic “boycott, divestment, sanctions” (BDS) movement, at a time when Biden is trying to shore up flagging Arab- and Muslim-American support. The news also came on the same day that the Biden Administration [sent](#) senior White House officials to meet with Palestinian-Americans in Chicago.

The sanctions also came a day after the Biden Administration renewed a sanctions [waiver](#) on Iran that will allow the regime to gain access to up to \$10 billion in assets. The waiver is aimed at encouraging diplomacy, as Iran funds attacks on Israel, as Iranian-backed militias attack U.S. troops elsewhere in the region, and as the Iranian-backed Houthis are continuing their attacks on international shipping and the U.S. Navy in the Red Sea, disrupting the global economy.

The Times of Israel [reported](#):

The US State Department offers information explaining the decision to sanction two Israeli illegal outposts in the West Bank and three extremist settlers.

The two sanctioned outposts are Moshe’s Farm, also known as Tirza Valley outpost, which was established in January 2021; and Zvi’s Farm, near the Halamish settlement.

The three settlers sanctioned are Moshe Sharvit, who runs the former outpost, Zvi Bar Yosef, who runs the latter outpost, and Neriya Ben Pazi, from the Rimonim Farm in the West Bank.

As with four Israeli individuals previously sanctioned, none of the affected individuals has been convicted of any crime in Israel. [Accusations](#) of “settler violence” are often created by left-wing organizations, who feed reports to the State Department. Palestinians are not sanctioned for ongoing terror attacks against Israelis in the same geographic areas.

As Breitbart News has [noted](#), the sanctions are extremely broad, and allow for the kind of broader isolation that the BDS movement has long pushed. The BDS movement singles out the Jewish state for condemnation and isolation.

The sanctions, coming as Israel is defending itself from deadly attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah, both funded by Iran, serves to undermine Israel in the middle of a war, and sends a signal that the U.S. is not prepared to support its allies.

[Antisemitic incidents across Europe, Canada hit record levels 5 months after Hamas massacre of Israelis | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #europe, #canada, #world

Mar 9, 2024

Worst outbreak of antisemitic attacks in Europe since the Holocaust

Since the Hamas terror massacre of Israeli Jews Oct. 7, the U.S. has been hit with record levels of antisemitic incidents. While authorities are getting to grips with how to effectively deal with it, Western democracies are also dealing with an explosion of antisemitism not witnessed since the Holocaust.

Across the Atlantic, the United Kingdom has been rocked by unprecedented antisemitism.

"In the 68 days inclusive between the Hamas terror attack on Israel (Oct. 7) and Wednesday, Dec. 13, CST recorded at least 2,093 antisemitic incidents across the U.K.," according to the [Community Security Trust](#) (CST), the organization responsible for the security of British Jews.

"This is the highest ever total reported to CST across a sixty-eight-day period. CST has been recording antisemitic incidents since 1984."

"I think people are feeling tense and nervous, particularly with marches taking place every Saturday," Jake Wallis Simons, editor-in-chief of the London-based Jewish Chronicle, told Fox News Digital from England.

Mass pro-Palestinian marches have blanketed the heart of London.

"The marches had a lot of antisemitism and criminality in them, and there are placards supporting Hamas," Wallis Simons said.

Former British Home Secretary Suella Braverman decried the mass protests as "hate marches" and wanted to ban the mass antisemitic spectacles. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, fired the outspoken Braverman after her calls for the need to rein in public Jew hatred. Braverman accused the police of double standards at pro-Palestinian marches in an unauthorized newspaper article, according to Reuters.

"Jewish children are being told to hide their school blazers, Jewish students are terrified on campus, synagogues are guarded, kosher shops are being attacked, business owners are being threatened"

The demonstrations in the U.K. have been largely populated by leftists and British Muslims.

"The police are not cracking down on antisemitism," said Wallis Simons. He noted that the police are claiming that "if they enforce the law, it will lead to disorder." He stressed the absurdity of the police reasoning because "that allows space for antisemitic hate to go on. There have been some arrests."

He termed a late February march outside parliament, where the antisemitic slogan "from the river to the sea," was projected on Big Ben, a "real expression of mob power and intimidated politicians."

The full slogan, "[From the river to sea, Palestine will be free](#)," is widely interpreted to mean the abolition of the Jewish state and its replacement with a Palestinian nation.

[Antisemitism Exposed](#)

Just last week The Board of Deputies of British Jews wrote on X about the election of pro-Hamas and firebrand [socialist politician George Galloway](#) to Parliament.

"George Galloway is a demagogue and conspiracy theorist, who has brought the politics of division and hate to every place he has ever stood for Parliament. His election is a dark day for the Jewish community in this country, and for British politics in general."

"This is for Gaza," Galloway said of his special election victory.

"Jewish children are being told to hide their school blazers, Jewish students are terrified on campus, synagogues are guarded, kosher shops are being attacked, business owners are being threatened," a spokesperson for Campaign Against Antisemitism in the United Kingdom told Fox News Digital.

"The effect is that, as our polling shows, a majority of Jewish people in this country are afraid to show their Jewishness in public, and we are aware of some Jews who have left the country altogether. This is not the tolerant Britain that we cherish It is a Britain succumbing to a racist mob."

"The situation for Jews in Britain is desperate."

The spokesperson for the Campaign Against Antisemitism added, "At the epicenter of this societal disaster are the weekly anti-Israel marches, which feature antisemitic signage, genocidal rhetoric and intimidation. They have made London a no-go zone for Jews. Brave officers are outnumbered and cannot properly police these marches, which therefore continue to infect our public discourse. Our country is at a tipping point. The situation for Jews in Britain is desperate."

The Hamas terrorist movement's lethal antisemitic ideology has entered into many walks of life in advanced democratic countries across the world.

"Hamas is losing on the battlefield, but its narrative was successfully exported from those tunnels [in the Gaza Strip] to Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Australia, the U.S. and Canada, to name just a few. The scope and nature of Jew hatred has reached epic levels," Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the LA-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, told Fox News Digital.

"The largest mass murder of Jews after the war [World War II and the Holocaust] leads to the largest worldwide antisemitic campaign," author and journalist Henryk M. Broder, a leading German expert on antisemitism, said in [a recent interview](#). "That can't be explained with logic."

While the United Kingdom is widely viewed as one of the ground zeroes of the mushrooming antisemitic movement, America's northern neighbor, Canada, has been engulfed by probably the worst outbreak of antisemitism in its country's history.

"There have been multiple instances of Jewish day schools in Montreal being hit with gunfire, public calls for the killing of Israelis, vandalized homes and synagogues, antisemitic graffiti, large-scale antisemitic disruptions on our university campuses and appalling instances of antisemitic activities outside the country's most well-known Jewish-founded hospital, among countless other things," Casey Babb told Fox News Digital.

Babb teaches courses on terrorism and international security at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs in Ottawa.

"...this may be the most antisemitic time in our country's history. I'd go as far as suggesting Canada, for a variety of reasons, has become one of the most hostile nations in the West for Jews"

JEWISH STUDENTS AT UC BERKELEY FIGHT AGAINST CAMPUS ANTISEMITISM: 'WE'RE NOT HIDING ANYMORE'

"Statistically, hate crimes in Canada have increased north of 132%, with the vast majority of those crimes targeting the Jewish community," Babb added. "Indeed, this may be the most antisemitic time in our country's history. I'd go as far as suggesting Canada, for a variety of reasons, has become one of the most hostile nations in the West for Jews."

Just last week, hundreds of anti-Israel protesters surrounded the Montreal Holocaust Museum and blocked access to a group of Israeli army reservists who were slated to speak. The antisemitic mob reportedly chanted "Death to Israel, death to the Jews."

Germany is another European ground zero of the post-Oct. 7 antisemitic movement. Last month, the country's premier film festival, Berlinale, turned into an anti-Israel hate festival, according to Israel's government and a number of German newspapers.

The filmmakers termed the Mideast's only democracy, Israel, an "apartheid" state and accused Jerusalem of carrying out a genocide against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas' mass murder, systematic rape of Israelis and taking of over 130 hostages still held by terror groups in Gaza were nonissues for the packed film audience that cheered the delegitimization of the Jewish state in the capital city, Berlin, that planned the Holocaust.

Reports noted that Germany's federal culture minister, Green Party politician Claudia Roth, and Berlin's mayor, Kai Wegner, from the Christian Democratic Union Party, were caught on camera applauding the anti-Israel agitation.

"You see the unleashing into the mainstream of not just antisemitism, but the Hamas narrative, which turns reality on its head," Cooper said.

The Hamas Covenant calls for the genocide of the Jews. According to [Article 7 of the Covenant](#), "The Day of Judgment will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.'"

Israel and experts on Jew hatred argue the genocide charge should be attributed to Hamas. Israel has launched surgical-style urban warfare to root out Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip.

Ron Prozor, Israel's ambassador to Germany, who previously served as his country's envoy to the U.N., wrote on X about the Berlinale, "Under the guise of freedom of expression and art, anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric is celebrated. You don't need seven professors to state the obvious: this is blatant anti-Semitic discourse."

"We have seen the biggest antisemitic wave in Denmark since 1943"

Critics say the problem of state-sponsored antisemitism has repeatedly played out in Germany, where the Berlinale receives generous state funding.

In January, the German taxpayer-funded University of Tübingen hosted a speaker, Michael Blume, who two German courts ruled can be called antisemitic. [Blume is the civil servant](#) in charge of fighting antisemitism in the state of Baden-Württemberg. He blamed Israel's government for the Hamas massacre and said Israel is ostensibly preventing the fight against antisemitism because the Jewish state opposes "renewable energies."

Blume didn't respond to press queries.

Antisemitism has also engulfed Denmark.

"We have seen the **biggest antisemitic wave in Denmark** since 1943," when Denmark was occupied by Nazi Germany, Henri Goldstein, head of the 1,800-strong Jewish Community, said in late February.

JEWISH STUDENT ACCUSES COLLEGE OF LOOKING THE OTHER WAY ON HATE CRIMES AFTER VIDEOS OF CAMPUS ATTACKS SURFACE

In Norway, Oslo Chief Rabbi Joav Melchior echoed the comments of experts and leaders of Jewish communities across the globe that the levels of antisemitism have not been seen since the Holocaust.

"It manifests in statements made against Israel, Zionists and Jews — comments that were not made in the past and would not have been accepted in public discourse without a very strong reaction," he told the Israeli news outlet Ynet.

France, home to Europe's largest Jewish community of 440,000, saw a soaring increase of Jew hatred, with 1,676 antisemitic acts in 2023, compared to 436 in 2022.

Jerusalem has long viewed Norwegian governments as strongholds of anti-Israeli policies. Ynet noted that at the Cairo Summit for Peace two weeks after Hamas kidnapped over 240 hostages, including Americans, the Scandinavian country's foreign minister, Espen Barth Eide, was "the only Western foreign minister who condemned Israel without calling for the release of hostages held in Gaza."

The French media reported in late January that a report from the Council of Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF) said, "We are witnessing a rejuvenation of the perpetrators of anti-Semitic acts. Schools are no longer a sanctuary of the Republic."

France, home to Europe's largest Jewish community of 440,000, saw a soaring increase of Jew hatred, with 1,676 antisemitic acts in 2023, compared to 436 in 2022. The Council of Jewish Institutions in France said 25% of the antisemitic acts were "calls to murder" Jews and a third glorified Hamas' ideology of jihad.

"The explosion of antisemitism globally points to a failure of leadership in higher education, the media of record and in government policy, especially in democratic countries," said Charles Asher Small, director of the Institute for the U.S.-based Study of Global Antisemitism & Policy (ISGAP).

"For the past several decades, the threat posed by anti-American and anti-democratic social movements has not been addressed, and we keep kicking the can down the road."

Meanwhile, Rabbi Cooper warned, "If not met with a strong, definitive response from those in power, you will see it [antisemitism] spreading to elementary schools."

Traditionally, Ireland has been classified as one of the most hostile European countries toward the Jewish state, according to Israeli diplomats. Irish discrimination against Jews appeared on the basketball court in February when the Irish women's basketball team refused to shake hands with Israeli opponents because of the war in Gaza. The Israeli team defeated Ireland 87-57.

Spain, with a tiny Jewish population of 45,000 out of a total population of over 48 million, has also been embroiled in rising antisemitism. In October, The Jewish Chronicle reported a synagogue in Barcelona canceled events.

"We're scared, particularly for our sons and daughters," a Jewish resident of Barcelona told El Periodico. "Antisemitism is in the air."

Maxo Benalal, secretary general of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Spain, said soaring Spanish antisemitism was "truly terrifying."

[Brazil's staggering dengue fever crisis is a warning to the world \(msn.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #dengue fever, #brazil, #disease

Mar 10, 2024

BRASÍLIA — Patients lying motionless in the waiting room, moaning for help. Desperate hunts for an open hospital bed. Emergency room arguments over medication.

Not since the darkest days of the covid-19 pandemic, when hospital systems all over this country ruptured under the weight of the disease, has Brazil witnessed such scenes. But this time, it's not the coronavirus that has led states all over the country to declare a state of emergency and even spurred the construction of a field hospital in the capital, Brasília.

It's dengue fever.

The disease is ripping through much of South America, where scientists say rising temperatures due to climate change have both extended the territorial range of the mosquito that carries dengue and increased its proliferation.

In the first two months of this year, Paraguay [registered nearly](#) 100,000 suspected cases — more than five times the typical rate. Peru, racked by its own outbreak, has declared an emergency in much of the country. Argentina, too, has seen an explosion of cases.

But the disease has surged with particular virulence in Brazil, where epidemiologists expect the number of dengue cases to reach into the millions — more than doubling the previous record — and potentially kill thousands of people.

The deepening public health crisis, epidemiologists say, serves as a warning to the world. The struggle against the disease has entered an unpredictable, perilous new phase. Dengue is creeping into places where it has never been. And where it has long been, case numbers are soaring to unseen heights.

The disease has historically been confined to tropical climates. But in recent years, as cases have skyrocketed across much of the world — [rising eightfold](#) since the turn of the millennium — the virus has increasingly spilled over into areas once largely spared.

Local transmission is being reported in America's warmer, wetter states, where the disease's vector, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, already roams. Florida last year reported a record 178 cases of local transmission. California, Arizona and Texas are also

detecting local transmission. The same dynamic is being seen [in southern Europe](#), where dozens of cases of local transmission were recorded last year.

[Climate change and demographic growth could put more than 5 billion people at risk for malaria](#)

[Epidemiologists warn](#) this is probably only the beginning. In the coming years, as climate change broadens the reach of the *A. aegypti* mosquito, the disease could become increasingly prevalent, even endemic, across much of southern Europe and the southern United States.

“Cases of dengue fever are rising at an alarming rate,” said Gabriela Paz-Bailey, who specializes in dengue at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “It’s becoming a public health crisis and coming to places that have never had it before.”

The risk in wealthier northern climes is attenuated by several factors, including the prevalence of screened windows, widespread air conditioning and strong sanitation practices, which can shrink the number of pools of stagnant water, where the *A. aegypti* can breed.

But epidemiologists say the threat should not be dismissed, especially not this year. Brazil registered more than 1 million cases of dengue fever in January and February alone. By the end of the year, the country is expected to suffer 4.2 million — more than was registered across all of the Americas last year during its [record outbreak](#) of dengue.

“There hasn’t been extensive transmission in the U.S., but that may change,” said Albert Ko, an epidemiologist at Yale University. “We should be concerned that a large epidemic season in Brazil and the rest of South America will drive spread and transmission to places in the U.S.”

A startling rise in dengue fever

For years, cases of dengue in Brazil have steadily risen. They jumped from a few hundred thousand per year in the early aughts to more than 1.4 million in 2013, then again to nearly 1.7 million last year. But this year, several forces combined to unleash an outbreak without precedent.

An extraordinary heat wave collided with El Niño, which often coincides with greater dispersion of dengue, leading to wider proliferation of the *A. aegypti* mosquito and elongating its life span.

“It’s not just how many there are, but that they live longer,” said Kleber Luz, who coordinates research of *A. aegypti*-transmitted diseases at the Brazilian Society of Epidemiology. “Even if it’s just one or two days, this will affect the number of dengue cases.”

Then came another accelerant: the simultaneous circulation of all four types of dengue fever. That reduced immunological protections people might have otherwise had in a country where dengue has long been present. “I’ve been working with dengue since 1997,” Luz said, “and I’ve never seen another year when all four are circulating at the same time.”

Felipe Naveca, an epidemiologist with the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, a Brazilian scientific research institution, said moments such as this one, when multiple dengue variants are circulating, are particularly perilous, because people can catch the disease multiple times over a short period. Cases will probably remain high as each variant peaks in succession.

“The scenario isn’t good,” he said.

Further complicating Brazil’s struggle against dengue is a slew of chronic social ailments that the *A. aegypti* mosquito has long exploited: inequality, poverty, disorganized urban planning and a frequently faltering public health system.

Millions of Brazilians live in densely populated, irregular communities — either called favelas or “the periphery” — often beyond the reach of government services and basic utilities. With unreliable plumbing, people often resort to storing water outside, creating countless mosquito breeding sites.

“If people don’t use the water for one week, the mosquito breeds in it,” said Raman Velayudhan, an expert on dengue at the World Health Organization. “This is a disease of urban cities.”

Many of these forces are now colliding with particular force in Brazil’s Federal District, which, by the end of last month, had turned into the epicenter of the country’s dengue outbreak.

‘They didn’t have a bed for me’

With unseen velocity, the disease rushed into the district’s poorest pockets, which form a ring around the wealthy center, Brasília. By the end of February, illness was everywhere — nearly 120,000 likely dengue cases in a city of 2.8 million residents. The district’s hospital system, which had withstood the onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic, began to teeter. Hospital beds had run out.

“The public and private health systems in the federal district have now collapsed,” [said](#) district governor Ibaneis Rocha. “The moment is grave, and we still aren’t at the peak of the epidemic.”

When Loide Rocha dos Santos, 57, was brought to one crowded hospital last month, she said the chaos was clear. Despite the gravity of her condition — dengue fever had

reduced her blood platelet count to a dangerous low — the health clinic in the region of Gama could do little to accommodate her.

“The first two days, I had to sit in a wheelchair,” she said. “They didn’t have a bed for me.”

She was one of the fortunate ones. Patients were all around her, she said, on the floor, receiving IVs. Others were yelling in anger at the lack of care, according to a video recorded by her daughter. One man screamed for pain medicine so he could go home and die.

“There wasn’t anywhere for any of us to go,” she said.

[Mpox surge in Congo raises concerns world will ignore warnings again](#)

On the other end of the district, in the impoverished region of Ceilândia, another family was combing the city for a hospital bed. Mariana Torres Lima, 5, clearly had a case of dengue with a high fever, vomiting and intense pain. But when family members took her to the Regional Hospital of Ceilândia, they were turned away, they said.

So the family traveled to a field hospital built to tend to those with dengue. After seven hours of waiting, Mariana was admitted. She curled up under a coarse woolen blanket on a military cot and went to sleep.

Outside, her aunt Bruna Lira seethed with anger. “The government isn’t taking care of us,” she said. “There’s trash in the streets and no general cleaning at the schools. One thing leads to another.”

She sat back down. Around her, at the field hospital, more and more people were arriving. By midday, there were dozens. Many were slumped. Others were vomiting.

“This year is different,” said Antonia Natane Lopes de Lima, 32, accompanying her ill son. “This year is worse than ever.”

[Evangelical Christians, Fierce Supporters Rush to Volunteer in Israel | Newsmax.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #christians, #volunteers

Mar 14, 2024

When Shawn Landis, an evangelical Christian from Pennsylvania, heard about the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel, he knew he would come to Israel to volunteer as soon as it was safe.

Five months later, he was chopping vegetables in a Tel Aviv kitchen, preparing meals for Israeli soldiers.

Evangelicals have been among Israel's fiercest foreign supporters for years, particularly in the United States, where their significant political influence has helped shape the Israel policy of recent Republican administrations.

They believe Israel is key to an end-times prophecy that will bring about the return of the Christian Messiah. Many of these Christians support Israel due to Old Testament writings that Jews are God's chosen people and that Israel is their rightful homeland.

"In the Scripture it instructs us to support Israel, and sometimes the best time to support someone is when they're grieving," said Landis, who has been on four previous faith-based trips to Israel. "Friendship is not just about being there for the good times, it's also about the rough times."

Landis is part of a wave of religious "voluntourism" to Israel, organized trips that include some kind of volunteering aspect connected to the war in Gaza.

Israel's Tourism Ministry estimates around one-third to half of the approximately 3,000 daily visitors expected to arrive in March are part of faith-based volunteer trips. Before the fighting, around 15,000 visitors arrived in Israel per day, about half of whom were Christian, according to Tourism Ministry statistics. In 2019, the latest tourism statistics available that were not impacted by COVID-19, about 25% of visitors arrived on organized trips, according to the Tourism Ministry.

A study by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem found that almost half of Israelis volunteered in some capacity during the early weeks of the war. But many Israeli volunteers have returned to work and school, and now international visitors are filling the gaps.

In the U.S., support for Israel has become a top priority for evangelical Christians during a presidential election year. They are among the most outspoken backers of

Israel's handling of the conflict, and Republicans have faced pressure to hew not just to traditional Republican support for Israel but to beliefs rooted in the Bible.

The war began with Hamas' attack in southern Israel in which militants killed around 1,200 people and took 250 others hostage. Israel responded with an invasion of the Gaza Strip that so far has killed more than 30,000 Palestinians.

On Oct. 11, dozens of leading evangelicals signed a statement of support for Israel organized by the public policy wing of the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest evangelical faith group in the U.S.

One of the key pro-Israel groups in the U.S. is Christians United for Israel, founded and led by evangelical pastor John Hagee. CUFI says it has raised and dispersed more than \$3 million to support Israeli first responders, health care workers, and survivors of the Oct. 7 attack.

Landis was part of a two-week volunteer trip organized by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. The evangelical group has put together five volunteer trips since January and expects to bring half a dozen more in the coming month. Normally, ICEJ brings about 6,000 Christian visitors to Israel annually.

Like Landis, Claudio Pichardo, a 37-year-old from Colombia studying business in Holland, was inspired by Scripture to join the ICEJ trip. "This is the best way I can help, because posting on Facebook doesn't help," he said.

When the war started, many international airlines suspended flights and tourism stopped, aside from a handful of Jewish and Christian solidarity missions. Some major airlines resumed flights to Israel in recent weeks, and others plan to soon.

Peleg Lewi, the foreign affairs adviser to the Tourism Ministry, said the faith-based solidarity missions boost morale. They can also kick-start overall tourism to Israel after a cycle of war or violence, he said.

With the war in its sixth month, Israel is under growing international pressure to do more to end the suffering of civilians in Gaza, including allowing in more aid. Aid groups say the fighting has displaced most of the territory's population and pushed a quarter of the population to the brink of famine. Hospitals have reported that some children have died of hunger.

Many Israelis fear the world is forgetting about Oct. 7.

Elizabeth Ødegaard, a trip participant from Norway, said she was surprised by how emotional Israelis get when they meet international visitors who have come to support them.

"Many people tell us, 'The whole world hates us. Everyone is against us,' so I want to say to them, 'You're not alone,'" she said. "I know the people of Israel are important to God. These are my brothers and sisters, and when they attack Israel, they attack me too."

ICEJ trip participants visited hard-hit communities in southern Israel, including the site where the shells of hundreds of burned-out cars are being stored, many from the Tribe of Nova music festival, where 364 people were killed.

"It was humbling and sobering to be there, to know what happened a few months ago and to see Israeli resilience," said Landis.

During such trips, visitors join volunteer initiatives that sprang up in Israel over the past five months, providing extra hands for farmers struggling to harvest crops, cooking meals for families who have a parent serving in the reserves or sorting donations for evacuees still living in hotels.

One initiative is Citrus & Salt, which previously hosted cooking classes and tours of Tel Aviv's markets for tourists. When the war started, it pivoted to making more than 35,000 donated meals.

"It really helps boost morale for people to come from abroad to Israel in a time of conflict, to physically say, 'I'm here to help. What do you need?'" said Aliya Fastman, a native of Berkeley, California, who has lived in Israel for over a decade and runs Citrus & Salt with her sister. "Chopping onions is no small thing when you fly across the world to do it."