



Jerusalem 4:07
Toronto 4:34

ISRAEL NEWS

*A collection of the week's news from Israel
From the Bet El Twinning / Israel Action Committee of
Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation*

The past three years have demonstrated what happens when Israel stops hesitating. Jewish settlement expands, deterrence strengthens, and the narrative shifts. Instead of begging for approval, Israel acts, and the world adjusts. That

Commentary...

Israel's West Bank Building Spree is an Ideological Course Correction

By Michael Freund

For decades, Israel was told that its construction in Judea and Samaria was the issue that stood in the way of peace; that bricks and mortar, families, and schools were the obstacles. The Jewish state froze building starts, uprooted communities, dismantled thriving towns, and even expelled Jews from their homes in the naive belief that territorial retreat would buy legitimacy and security. It did neither. But over the past three years, a quiet and historic revolution has taken place: Israel has returned to building. And it has done so at a record pace.

On December 11, the security cabinet approved 19 new Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, a bold move championed by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and Defense Minister Israel Katz. It includes the rebuilding of Ganim and Kadim in northern Samaria, both of which were forcibly evacuated in 2005 as part of the so-called Disengagement Plan.

The decision brings to 69 the number of new Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria that have been authorized or legalized since the current government was sworn in on December 29, 2022. After years of vacillation, Zionism is once again advancing where it matters most: in the heart of our ancestral homeland.

This is far more than a building spree. It is a strategic and ideological course correction.

For too long, Israel allowed international pressure to dictate Jewish life in Judea and Samaria. The result was predictable: Terror flourished, deterrence eroded, and Israel's enemies inevitably interpreted restraint as weakness. The past three years have sent a different message altogether, namely that the Jewish presence in Judea and Samaria is neither temporary nor negotiable.

The decision to authorize the rebuilding of Ganim and Kadim is particularly significant. Their restoration is both a practical and a symbolic repudiation of the warped logic that led to Israel's 2005 pullout from northern Samaria and Gaza. Rebuilding these communities is an act of historical justice, one that is long overdue.

Yet despite this inspiring trajectory, it is unfortunately necessary to acknowledge a sober reality. Two months ago, US President Donald Trump declared that he would not allow Israel to formally annex Judea and Samaria, stating that it "will not happen."

For many Israelis and supporters of Israel who remember Trump's recognition of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, this was a jarring statement. It suggested that even friendly administrations still believe they have veto power over Jewish self-determination in our own land.

Annexation may be delayed by diplomacy, but sovereignty is not only declared on paper. It is built on the ground. Roads, homes, schools, synagogues, and industrial zones shape reality far more powerfully than press conferences in Washington. If formal annexation is off the table for now, then Israel must do what Zionism has always done best: create irreversible facts on the ground.

History offers a clear lesson. Every inch of Israel's internationally recognized territory began as a "fact on the ground" contested by diplomats and denounced by critics. Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, the Galilee, and the Negev were not handed to the Jewish people by benevolent powers; they were built, defended, and settled, often in defiance of international opinion. Judea and Samaria are no different.

Moreover, the security argument is unassailable. Israel's narrow coastal plain, home to the majority of its population and infrastructure, lies exposed beneath the hills of Samaria. Relinquishing control of this high ground would be national suicide. Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria are not ideological luxuries; they are strategic necessities that anchor Israel's defensive depth and prevent the creation of a hostile Palestinian terror state overlooking Ben-Gurion Airport.

is how sovereignty works.

This momentum must not be squandered.

Israel's leadership should accelerate planning approvals, expand infrastructure investment, and encourage Jewish population growth across Judea and Samaria. Bureaucratic bottlenecks that still treat Jewish building as an exception rather than a right must be dismantled. The message should be unmistakable: Jewish life in Judea and Samaria is permanent and irreversible.

Those who warn that continued settlement expansion will foreclose future diplomatic options miss the point entirely. The purpose of Zionism is not to preserve theoretical possibilities for foreign diplomats but to secure the Jewish future. Peace, if it comes, will not result from Israeli retreat but from Arab recognition that the Jewish people are here to stay.

Trump's reluctance to endorse annexation may disappoint, but it should also clarify Israel's task: If declarations are constrained, then construction must accelerate.

Zionism was never about waiting for permission. It was about responsibility to our ancestors who dreamed of returning to the Land of Israel; and to our children, who deserve a secure and sovereign future.

The past three years have proven that when Israel chooses resolve over retreat, history bends in our favor. The challenge now is simple: Keep building, keep settling, and keep shaping facts on the ground until what is already true in practice is finally acknowledged in law.

To those who fear expansion, I pose a simple challenge: Name a people in history who prospered by relinquishing territory crucial to their security and heritage. The answer is none.

Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria are not the obstacle to peace. They are a pillar of Jewish resilience and deterrence. A peaceful future will emerge not from retreat but from strength and rootedness. So let Israel's leaders seize this moment to entrench our people's presence and further expand Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria. The land was ours long before foreign capitals tried to restrict us. It will remain ours for as long as Jews walk this Earth, until the end of time. (Jerusalem Post Dec 27)

Israeli Space Lasers Activated

By Amit Segal

Israel is officially in the next generation of warfare. Yesterday, the first operational laser defense system, the Or Eitan, was delivered to the army and began integration into Israel's defense array.

To understand why this is so monumental, let's do some history.

For most of the past century, military technology favored the terrorist. States gained the ability to flatten cities, but they struggled to stop a few extremists with Kalashnikovs and RPGs.

Imagine Al Qaeda attempting a mass shooting in the 19th century. By the time they let off a single badly aimed shot and went to reload their musket, they would already be incapacitated. If they ran into the hills of Afghanistan to hide, their ability to make more black powder, cannonballs, and muskets would be limited.

That changed once cheap, portable violence arrived: RPGs, IEDs, suicide vests. All of this concentration and lowering of the price for deadly force favored the terrorist.

But what about modern tech that only states had access to?

Well, that's an advantage and a disadvantage—states could stop a ramshackle rocket for the low price of \$40,000 per plumbing pipe filled with manure.

Napoleon said an army marches on its stomach. These days, it marches on its budget—and every overpriced interceptor is one less step it can afford.

This is where Or Eitan comes in. With this system it now costs cents to destroy a missile, it costs less for Israel to intercept than

Hamas to fire. This is one of the very few modern systems where a country has both the economic and technological advantage against a terrorist group.

Let's take a different example: one Abrams tank costs \$10 million. A Ford pickup with a guy with an RPG in the back costs one percent of that. With the Or Eitan, Israel has the tank—at the cost of the Ford pickup.

I have to give it to the anti-Semites on this one: Jewish Space Lasers—great idea.

But it would be remiss of me not to mention the inspiration for the name “Or Eitan.”

Dov Oster, one of the system's developers, named the system after his son, Eitan Oster, an Israeli commando killed in southern Lebanon in 2024. Before his last mission, Eitan sent his family a video message. In the video, he said that he was fighting this war despite the high costs because “we have the duty to end with a decisive outcome—for the sake of future generations.”

Eitan's sacrifice helped protect Israel today, and the system that bears his name will do so for generations to come.

(It's Noon in Israel Dec 29)

Intifada Globalized By Hussein Aboubakr Mansour

On the first night of Hanukkah, two men dressed in black opened fire on families gathered at Sydney's Bondi Beach for a community celebration. Twelve dead—including children, including a Chabad rabbi. Twenty-nine wounded. Improvised explosive devices recovered from a vehicle nearby. One attacker killed at the scene, another in critical condition.

“Globalize the Intifada” has been the chant echoing through Western streets since October 7th, 2023, and now, for years before that, if one was paying attention. It was painted, screamed, printed, and turned into our latest radical-chic incantation. The Israeli Foreign Minister's statement in the attack's aftermath rightfully made the connection: “These are the results of the antisemitic rampage in the streets of Australia over the past two years, with the antisemitic and inciting calls of ‘Globalise the Intifada’ that were realised today.”

“Globalize the Intifada” was never a metaphor. Intifada means what it has always meant in practice—acts of anti-Jewish violence. To globalize it simply means to do so globally.

For those of us who have spent years documenting the infrastructure of contemporary antisemitism and antizionism, this may be shocking but not surprising. The only surprise is the persistent capacity of others to be surprised. Australia, like many other Western countries in love with the exotic and the untamed, has spent two decades actively importing and financially and politically rewarding radical movements and then insisting that the resulting problems are the fault of those who notice them. This resulted in what is now likely an irreversible reality in many of these countries: large, active networks of Islamist and anti-Zionist organizations whose relentless activism naturally became the operational terrain of foreign intelligence services—Iranian, Qatari, Turkish, and perhaps others.

Any sober observer must be honest. Outside the United States, there is no Western political establishment with either the will or the capability to address this problem, let alone reverse its growth. The future of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand is likely to be increasingly Jew-free and increasingly dysfunctional. As strange as it may seem to read the latest White House National Security Strategy distancing itself from Europe, the assessment is correct—and the distancing is prudent. The de-civilization of Europe, a program conceived by European elites over decades and for which mass migration and Islamic movements were recruited as instruments, is likely unstoppable. (American elites are no different. But the country is.)

This does not mean Western societies will be governed by Sharia law. That fantasy only contributes to the confusion. What it means is that Western societies will become their own versions of Third Worldist caste systems: autocratic, corrupt, stratified. Think less caliphate, more Latin America, national wealth sold by corrupt elites to Gulf investors and other foreign patrons, while populations are abandoned to navigate the wreckage on their own, just like many European women and Jews now have to do so.

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The anti-Zionist derangement of the last two years was our final warning. In it, we saw the full legitimization of genocidal anti-Zionism within the commanding heights of Western institutional life and its enthusiastic adoption by large segments of the public. The protests themselves, as they began immediately on October 7th, were celebrations of the Hamas massacres, organized before the first IDF soldier entered Gaza. They revealed what had been constructed over decades. The encampments, the building occupations, the harassment campaigns against Jewish students, the open calls for intifada, the attacks on Jews and Jewish places—it is the new baseline, our new norm.

I am often a pessimistic writer. This is true. But I am not a defeatist. I use pessimism as a hammer—to shatter through the layers of liberal narcotics that have dulled people to the active decay of Western institutions, politics, and life. Not to induce despair, but to force some sight, some recognition. To make clear that our problems are compounding and that no one is thinking on your behalf. No one is working for your future. No one is protecting your children. There is no authority left to whom you can outsource the question of what to believe, how to raise your family, what dangers to take seriously and which to ignore. The competent Western institutions once tasked with these responsibilities have been dead for some time. Their places have been occupied by credentialed mediocrities milking ever-thinning cows. You are on your own. Act accordingly. Act responsibly. I'm with you. (Middle East Forum Dec 18)

Priorities for 2026 For the Pro-Israel Community

By Moshe Phillips

In the aftermath of the Hamas-led terrorist invasion of southern Israel on October 7th America's pro-Israel community embarked on an emergency program that including advocating for the release of kidnapped hostages, countering media bias, fundraising for Israeli communities, and exposing Jew-hatred on campus and elsewhere. But what should we set as our priorities for 2026?

In my view far too many valuable resources and an extensive amount of energy was spent in generating votes for the World Zionist Congress elections. And I say this as a delegate to a previous congress.

Let's consider what Jewish activists can focus attention on where they can make real differences.

Speak out about how it is completely unsafe to put sophisticated American weapons, such as F-35 fighters, in the hands of unstable, authoritarian Islamic regimes such as Qatar, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. All of these hostile-to-Israel-nations are working hard to purchase F-35 stealth fighter jets from the U.S. as soon as possible.

The deployment of either Indonesian or Turkish soldiers to Gaza as part of a future “International Stabilization Force” should be a non-starter for American diplomats and mediators and America's pro-Israel community must stand up and make that argument. It is time for Washington to realize that Peacekeepers must be trusted by all sides if they are to function effectively. Turkey has a documented history of providing Hamas with a safe haven, political support, financial aid, and/or material assistance must not be granted any role in rebuilding Gaza. Indonesia does not recognize Israel, has never had diplomatic relations with Israel, and has consistently voted against Israel at the United Nations. The proposed deployment of Indonesian peacekeepers is not in the best interest of either the United States or Israel.

A concentrated effort must be made to educate American Jews about what Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) and J Street really are all about with the goal of denying these groups legitimate platforms in our community. JVP does not support a two-state solution and explicitly calls for an end to the State of Israel as it currently exists. JVP's radical stance becomes clear even from a brief review of its website, which includes language many interpret as advocating the removal of Jews from Israel. One section states: “We imagine Arab, Middle Eastern and Southwest Asian/North African Jews having

ethical and safe access to return to their original homelands." J Street's blame Israel first outlook after October 7 must be seen for the betrayal that it is.

Teaching young American conservatives and liberals about the true value of the U.S.-Israel alliance strengthens shared democratic principles, security cooperation, informed dialogue, and long-term partnership. This must be a top focus of pro-Israel American organizations.

Palestinian Authority chief Mahmoud Abbas has never fulfilled his obligations under the Oslo Accords which include fighting terrorism and halting Palestinian incitement. Americans who care about Israel need to work against the idea that the PA can have a role in any future negotiations and that it is at its core a criminal and a terrorist organization.

Together we must continue to speak out against the haters of Israel and the haters of the Jewish people and we can be most effective at this when we are united. There is a vital need for authentic Jewish unity, however serious the challenges may be. Israeli intelligence operatives in the 1980s went into the heart of Africa, at great personal risk, and covertly evacuated Ethiopian Jewish refugees to Israel. What other nation in history has gone into Africa not to exploit, colonize, or enslave—but to bring Africans out to freedom, safety, and honor? Israel did. This is Zionism. This is Judaism. This is the love of a brother being responsible for a brother. This is beautiful and it is eternal. This being prepared to sacrifice of ourselves on behalf of our fellow Jews is what 2026 demands of us all. (AFSI Dec 29)

The U.S. Needs Israeli Innovation for Our Defense

By Michael Doran

At the Turning Point USA conference in Phoenix last week, the mood was combative.

MAGA strategist and organizer Steve Bannon accused Ben Shapiro of being "Israel First" and of pushing a "Greater Israel" agenda that "drags the United States into wars." He called Shapiro "a cancer." This exchange typified the conflict within the MAGA movement between those that see Israel as an ally and those that see it as a liability.

No media figure has done more to advance the idea of Israel as a liability than Tucker Carlson. Speaking at the Qatari-government-funded Doha Forum earlier this month, Carlson dismissed Israel as "a completely insignificant country" with "no resources," and argued that the United States has "no overriding strategic interest" in the relationship, asking, "What are we getting out of this?"

Carlson's question has several answers.

One of them is already very familiar to Americans: Iron Dome. Developed by Israelis under constant rocket fire and co-funded by the United States, the Iron Dome demonstrated how civilian populations can be protected at scale from barrages of rockets from Lebanon and Gaza.

For decades, the U.S.-Israel partnership has delivered significant returns: providing the United States with world-leading defense innovation and access to intelligence from across the Middle East.

President Donald Trump's Golden Dome is the latest—and most consequential—expression of that same partnership. Announced by executive order at the end of January, Trump's signature homeland defense initiative is a layered architecture designed to protect the American heartland from ballistic missiles, hypersonic weapons, cruise missiles, and emerging aerial threats.

Golden Dome is not a theoretical exercise. Its purpose is to ensure American survivability under attack. In building such a system, the United States is drawing directly on Israeli technology, Israeli expertise, and Israeli combat experience.

Israel contributes to the Golden Dome in three decisive ways. It provides mature, combat-tested interception technologies. It supplies real combat data generated under sustained missile and drone assault—data no test range or simulation can replicate. And it offers a strategic framework forged under existential pressure. Together, these contributions accelerate development, reduce risk, and close gaps the United States has struggled to address on its own.

The roots of this partnership lie in a strategic division of labor that began in the Cold War. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan invited

Israel into the Strategic Defense Initiative at a moment when American missile defense development was effectively frozen.

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The 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty constrained deployment, research, and political imagination. Missile defense became legally fraught and politically radioactive inside the American system, and serious development stalled.

Israel faced no such constraints. It was not bound by the ABM Treaty. It was not immobilized by arms-control orthodoxy. It confronted real missiles from real adversaries. After the 1991 Gulf War, when Iraqi Scuds fell on Israeli cities, interception became a survival requirement rather than an academic debate. Reagan's decision allowed Israel to develop capabilities the American system could not pursue at the time. Those gains were shared fully with the United States and continue to be shared to this day.

The Arrow missile family—jointly developed by Israel Aerospace Industries and Boeing—anchors the upper tiers of emerging homeland defense architectures. Arrow 3 is one of the most advanced exo-atmospheric interceptors in the world and has already proven itself against Iranian and proxy threats. It employs hit-to-kill technology designed to defeat complex salvos under real combat conditions.

Israel is also developing Arrow 4, a system designed to intercept hypersonic and maneuvering reentry vehicles. These weapons represent the most acute vulnerability in current American missile defenses. Once again, Israel is advancing capabilities under pressure that the United States needs but cannot rapidly generate within its own political and institutional timelines.

Israel also provides real-life combat experience at scale.

Below the exo-atmospheric layer, joint programs such as David's Sling address medium-range missiles and cruise threats and integrate seamlessly into U.S. command-and-control networks. At the lowest tier, Israel's work on directed-energy weapons may prove transformative. Iron Beam, a laser system that has entered combat service in Israel, promises interception costs measured in tens of dollars rather than hundreds of thousands. Adapted for homeland defense, such systems address the core economic problem: attacking with missiles is cheap; intercepting them is expensive.

Israel also provides something equally valuable: real-life combat experience at scale. During the June 2025 war with Iran, the Islamic Republic launched hundreds of ballistic missiles and more than a thousand drones at Israel, the largest coordinated missile assault in history. Israel intercepted most of the incoming ordnance, but the conflict exposed limits. Interceptor stockpiles ran low. Some missiles penetrated defenses.

Those lessons now shape Golden Dome's design. Israeli experience informs decisions about stockpile depth, threat prioritization, and the integration of kinetic and non-kinetic defenses. Refinements in electronic warfare demonstrate how threats can be defeated without firing a shot. No simulation can substitute for this data.

Israel's broader strategic approach also matters. Its defenses are designed to protect population centers and critical infrastructure while imposing prohibitive costs on attackers. They do not seek perfect coverage. Golden Dome adopts the same logic at continental scale, prioritizing resilience and sustainability over theoretical completeness.

Golden Dome also reveals a deeper truth missed by critics of the U.S.-Israel relationship. Israel functions across multiple domains of national security as an operational component of American power. It helps the United States develop, refine, and validate capabilities that cannot always be generated domestically. When Israel innovates under fire, American cities become safer.

The campaign to portray Israel as a strategic liability corrodes American power. In an era of great-power competition, adversaries test the United States by eroding alliance cohesion and legitimacy. They reframe proven assets as burdens. Weakening the partnership behind Arrow and Iron Beam directly degrades American defensive capacity.

The implications extend far beyond the Middle East. In its rivalry with China, the United States holds a decisive structural advantage,

namely, its web of global alliances. China has few genuine allies. The durability of American alliances under sustained pressure will shape the outcome of the 21st century's defining strategic contest. Israel plays an outside role within that system. It fields advanced capabilities under real threat, accelerates innovation at lower cost, and absorbs regional shocks that would otherwise consume American attention and resources. Efforts to weaken the U.S.-Israel relationship therefore advance Beijing's interests by narrowing America's coalition and degrading the mechanisms through which U.S. power is generated.

Critics who argue for distancing the U.S. from Israel implicitly assume that the strategic environment would remain unchanged. International politics does not work that way. It operates less like a balance sheet and more like a game of chess. Moving a major piece does not affect only a single square. It changes the configuration of the entire board and creates opportunities for alert competitors. That pattern is already visible across the Middle East, where Gulf partners increasingly hedge toward China to manage risk. Israel has behaved differently. A small state with unusually concentrated capabilities, it aligned with the United States by choice rather than necessity. Treating Israel as a liability would alter that alignment. Israel would be forced to hedge as well.

China would benefit directly. Through calibrated cooperation, Israel would place intelligence access, cyber expertise, advanced defense technologies, and operational military experience at Beijing's disposal. Preventing that outcome is a core American interest. Severing ties with one of America's most capable partners reflects a failure of strategic realism. It would leave the United States more isolated in the contest that will determine its position in the international system.

What critics miss is that Golden Dome does not make the United States dependent on Israel; it reflects a partnership in which American security is strengthened precisely because innovation is forged where missiles actually fall.

The United States does not defend itself by turning inward. Israel's critics argue that being America First requires disengagement beyond U.S. borders. But America's partnership with Israel is mutually beneficial and will only make Americans safer. (Free Press Dec 23)

Instead of Tackling Antisemitism, Cities Worldwide are Placing Jews Under House Arrest

By Cookie Schwaebler-Issan

Defined as the state of being kept as a prisoner in one's own house, in some ways, as absurd as it sounds, it almost seems to be the preferred social preference under which local governments are choosing to operate when it comes to their Jewish communities.

Take the recent example of London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who initially "attempted to block the London vigil for Jewish victims of the Bondi Beach Hanukkah massacre. The event in Parliament Square was intended to commemorate the tragedy in Australia and the second night of Hanukkah. However, Khan tried to stop the vigil."

Security reasons were cited by the mayor as the reason Jews were prevented from publicly lighting their Hanukkah candles, while also honoring the dead, whose lives were summarily ended the night before.

As a precautionary measure, the Metropolitan Police closed the road leading to Parliament Square.

At least one person, Gideon Falter, the CEO of Campaign Against Antisemitism, saw the double standard of the frequent pro-Palestinian London demonstrations, "appearing to be condoned or inadequately challenged by authorities."

But this was not the first planned event canceled by authorities. In March 2024, a Jewish film festival in Hamilton, Canada, was canceled due to security concerns. Concerts, book talks, and other cultural events on Jewish themes have also been increasingly canceled over officials' worries about security.

In May 2024, the annual ceremony marking Israel's Independence Day, scheduled to take place at Ottawa's city hall – an event that has been marked since 2007 – was also canceled due to fears concerning how raising an Israeli flag would be received by pro-Palestinian residents. The mayor apologized, citing security reasons.

In June, a pro-Israel conference, featuring former US ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, was scheduled to take place in Dallas. It

was also postponed, due to security concerns.

Other Jewish-themed events that were canceled, due to safety concerns, include:

- A Krakow concert, Shalom on Szeroka Street
- Performances of British Jewish comedians Philip Simon and Rachel Creeger, scheduled to appear in Edinburgh
- A London concert featuring hassidic singer Benny Friedman
- A Baku Conference of European Rabbis
- Israeli Memorial and Independence Day at two New York City colleges for Jewish students
- A Jewish International Film Festival, celebrating the 250th anniversary of Jews in Sweden

This is not an exhaustive list, but just some of the more recent cancellations that have taken place – all citing security concerns.

As noted by UK's Lord David Wolfson, in the House of Lords: "The debate around Jewish security needs to move away from higher walls around our synagogues and more guards outside our schools, to the root causes of why we need such security."

With highly charged, vile profanities being permitted to be uttered against Israel and the Jews, is it any wonder that communities in London, Sydney, and elsewhere have these concerns for the welfare of their Jewish populations?

When the intimidation and threatening of Jews is allowed to occur with impunity on campuses and in world capitals by pro-Palestinian marchers, why wouldn't things escalate to the next level of full-scale attacks?

Rather than clamping down on this type of blatant persecution of Jews, in the towns where they live and at the places they frequent, Jews are being told to avoid gathering because it represents too much of a danger.

Basically, Jews are being told to shelter in place. Stay home, because we can't guarantee your safety. Doesn't that amount to a sort of house arrest?

No one is saying that to the other side, because they aren't faced with bullying, angry threats, or mob assault. Let's face it, the tactics employed by pro-Palestinian demonstrators are also a cause of worry and intimidation to local authorities who want to avoid any kind of showdown. Their lack of backbone and courage is all too transparent, so the way they deal with it is to deny peaceful Jews the same rights and freedoms granted to others.

As Moroccan journalist Amine Ayoub wrote, in his recent article, "Lessons from Bondi Beach" (Jerusalem Post, December 15), this was a receipt – the bill coming due to years of Western complacency, bureaucratic cowardice, and a suicidal tolerance for the intolerant."

Ayoub's advice to leaders struggling with this kind of radical takeover in their nations is to follow US President Donald Trump's lead: "seal the border, deport the hate-mongers, and stand unapologetically with Israel."

Of course, doing those things would demand the courage to admit that placating these extremists has led to the inability to guarantee the safety of their citizens. At the moment, it's happening to the Jews, but does anyone think that this won't spread to other vulnerable groups? Perhaps Christians will be the next in line to face such intolerance.

Will local authorities also suggest that each persecuted group stay home, so that their job can be made a little easier? If so, in the end, everyone will be under house arrest, while violent activists and agitators run the streets.

These thugs just have to use fear tactics to get everyone to comply with their demands. After all, it has successfully worked until now. But how long can they bully an entire population into appeasement before people feel the bondage under which they are forced to live each day?

It's not just the Jews and other potential groups who will be told to stay home, feeling as if they are under house arrest. It will be the authorities who will be forced to confront their own cowardice, acknowledging that they, too, are under a type of house arrest, no longer free to act as the leaders they were elected to be.

As the saying goes: what starts with the Jews doesn't end with the Jews. This type of ethnic and religious intolerance has a domino effect, keeping everyone who refuses to fight against it under a perpetual lockdown, of one kind or another. (Jerusalem Post Dec 27)