

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Go Hard or Surrender

By Yonatan  
Hambourger and  
Tzali Reicher

**Echos  
from Sinai**  
"Torah for  
Everyone"  
Rabbi  
Yonatan  
Hambourger



Two recent speeches by high-profile politicians about the ongoing Israel-Hamas War capture their opposite approaches and goals, and two high-profile assassinations in the last week show exactly how Israel intends to keep fighting it.

On July 24, Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the American people and their representatives in government from the hallowed plenum in Congress, laying out in stark terms Israel's aims for this war. He described in harrowing detail the events of October 7, 2023, when thousands of Hamas terrorists invaded Israel and kidnapped, raped, tortured, and murdered over 1,200 Israelis, breaching the ceasefire agreement with Israel already in effect and launching the current war. Netanyahu explained how all violence and terrorism in the Middle East is orchestrated by the terrorist state of Iran, which funds its proxies to keep Israel and her Western allies, particularly the United States, in a constant state of fear and enticement. As American terrorist sympathizers chanted anti-American slogans and burned Old Glory, Netanyahu thanked the American people, and asked the world for its continued support as Israel follows through and defeats this existential threat once and for all.

After her meeting with Netanyahu, presumptive Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris delivered a speech in front of the White House that laid out her position vis a vis Israel's war on Hamas. After a cursory nod to Israel's right to defend itself (apparently a controversial thing to say these days), Harris launched an extraordinary attack on our leading ally, in a desperate bid to gain the support of the left wing of the Democratic party.

She blamed Israel for the "human suffering in Gaza" while repeating misleading and debunked claims from the United Nations about the deaths of children and widespread "food insecurity." Conspicuously absent from Harris's critique was any mention of Hamas's role in perpetuating Palestinian suffering, choosing to solely focus on Israel alone as the exclusive cause of pain and suffering during this conflict. She omitted any reference to Hamas's notorious strategy of embedding operatives within civilian areas while using innocent people as human shields to provoke and exploit Israeli defensive actions. Furthermore, Harris suggested that Israel was responsible for the impasse in ceasefire and hostage negotiations, neglecting to acknowledge that their counterpart in these discussions is a terrorist organization with a well-documented history of prioritizing survival over peace, even when they are the instigators of the violence.

While Netanyahu explained why a threat from an Iranian terror proxy like Hamas needs to be comprehensively crushed and defeated, Harris's bothsidesism and calls for de-escalation from both the righteous and reprehensible side of the conflict only serves the interests of Hamas. The folly of Harris's approach became clear just two days later.

On Saturday, a missile fired by Hezbollah, the Iranian-funded terror organization that essentially runs Lebanon, hit the Israeli-Druze town of Majdal Shams and killed 12 children, and severely injured 15 more, while playing soccer.

Since October 7th, empowered by Hamas's actions and egged on by their Iranian masters, Hezbollah has peppered Israel with rocket attacks from across the border into Israel's north, causing approximately 60,000 Israeli citizens to flee their homes, going on a year. Israel has been reluctant to respond in a decisive way, until now.

Why? Because the United States is strongly discouraging Israel, instead calling for diplomacy between all parties to hash all the issues out.

But what they don't seem to understand is that diplomacy by itself is not a solution, but a tool to reach outcomes. If the outcome of "diplomacy" with terror organizations is their continued existence, leaving hostages still in captivity, and leaving Israelis unable to return home, that is not a win for any rational person.

With a misguided foreign policy that seeks an exclusively diplomatic approach with people who have no interest in peace, the current administration (who has indeed shown support for Israel) is coddling and emboldening Iran and its terror proxies in an ill-conceived strategy that hurts U.S. interests in the region, and globally.

With Iran confident that the United States would restrain Israel, their proxies continue attacking Israel and compromising its entire infrastructure and way of life. For an administration that desperately wants the war to end, even if only for political reasons, their slow-walking and overly cautious approach has harmed the war effort and only prolonged the international crisis.

Yet, in the past week Israel finally unshackled itself and began taking aim at the heads of the snakes that have tormented it for decades, sending a message that the gloves were off.

Last Tuesday, Israel launched a targeted airstrike into the heart of Beirut and eliminated Fuad Shukr, Hezbollah's most senior military commander. Shukr, a founding leader of the terror militia and a close associate of "Secretary-General" Hasan Nasrallah, was responsible for countless terror operations and civilian deaths. The United States had a \$5 million bounty on his head, holding him responsible for the 1983 Beirut barracks bombings, when 241 American servicemen were killed.

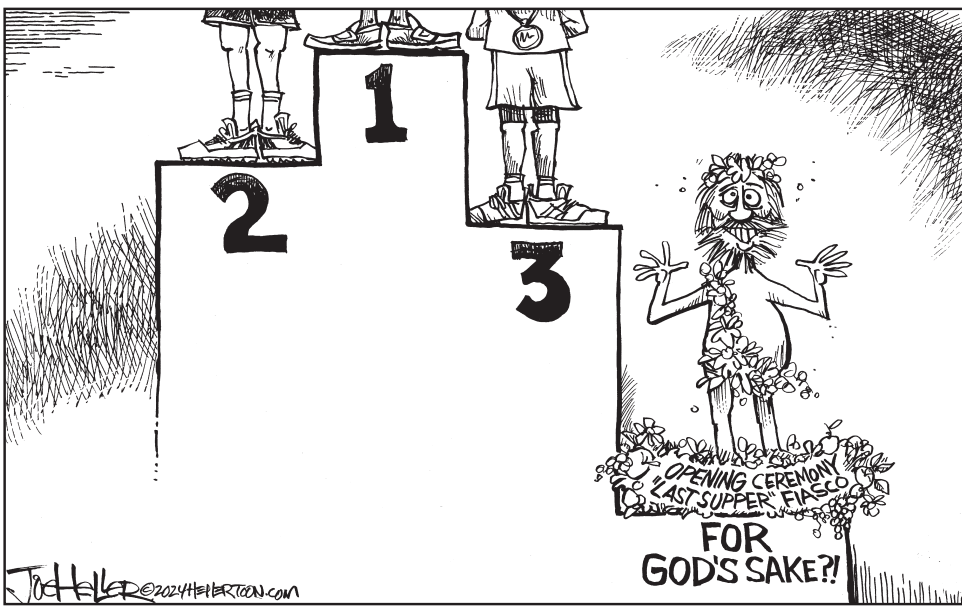
Arguably the more shocking news broke that Tuesday evening, when Iranian state media announced that Hamas boss Ismail Haniyeh had been assassinated in Tehran. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied responsibility. Despite the wishcasting of pro-terror apologists in the media who have labeled Haniyeh a statesman and peace negotiator, Haniyeh was a terror monster who presided over the destruction of Gaza from his luxurious digs in Qatar. Directly responsible for signing off on terror attacks that took thousands of lives, Haniyeh thought he would be spared if he fashioned himself as some sort of untouchable moderate statesman and framed as such by a complicit press, regardless of his less than savory activities.

For months, it looked like he was right. Until he went too far. Meanwhile in Gaza, thanks to a comprehensive strategy to stop the flow of weapons from Sinai, the probable assassination of Hamas Military Wing Leader, Mohammed Deif, as well as dismantling the Hamas terrorist infrastructure in Rafa and elsewhere, Hamas has responded with... zero rockets because Israel has removed Hamas's ability to harm it. This wasn't achieved by a shaky diplomatic "solution," where Hamas could bide their time to commit another October 7, but by Israel's comprehensive war effort to snuff out any chance they have of doing it again. Now, Israel is removing the obstacles to peace from the battlefield and hoping to close this chapter of history and begin writing a new one.

The pain and suffering of the last many months could have been avoided if Israel had been supported from the beginning to rid the world of genocidal terror organizations that seek to wipe it (aka Small Satan) and the United States (aka Big Satan) off the map. Israel is fighting and winning the battle against their enemies, and the enemies of America. All they ask for is our support from thousands of miles away. Thousands of Palestinians and Israelis could still be alive if all the pressure placed on Israel was correctly directed at Hamas and their leaders to surrender, return the hostages, demilitarize Gaza, and rebuild a peaceful society that would coexist and even flourish next to Israel. Twelve innocent Israeli-Druze children might still be alive if months ago Israel was empowered to rout Iran's proxy terror group, Hezbollah. The fact that Israel is being criticized for eliminating mass murderers, shows a deep moral rot in society.

When our leaders are wavering in their confidence in the morality of our positions, all elements of deterrence are lost. Empty calls for appeasement resonate with no one. Not with our enemies that sense weakness, and not with the allies that need our support. It's time the United States backed Israel to end Iran's war on the West, so we can turn the page on this awful chapter and rebuild together, in peace and security.

Yonatan Hambourger and Tzali Reicher are writers and rabbis serving communities throughout the regional South. Reach them at y@tasteoftorah.org.



## Pollinator Census

2024 is the sixth annual Great Georgia Pollinator Census. Technically, because this event has grown so much it is actually the Great Southeast Pollinator Census, because South Carolina, North Carolina, and Florida are participating. Year after year the pollinator census is a huge success. It is the first of its kind and has really generated some great data on pollinators. It's also a great way for citizens to become involved, learn about, and protect pollinators. This year's census will be held on August 23rd and 24th. Let's talk about how you can be involved this year.

**UGA Extension**  
Watching  
and Working  
Jacob  
Williams



The pollinator census comes together because of the hard work of Becky Griffin. Becky works at GMREC just south of Blairsville. With concerns about pollinator decline, the census allows us to capture critical data that can be used year after year to track the health and wellbeing of pollinators.

If you want to join the pollinator census at home it's very simple. Go to the <https://gsepc.org/> website. There you will find the 2024 counting sheet that has all the data that you will collect. It includes the different categories of pollinators. Each census count will be done by observing a flowering plant for 15 minutes.

For the census, there are eight categories that you count insects. They are: carpenter bee, bumblebee, honeybee, small bees, wasps, flies, butterflies/moths, and other insects. You don't need to be an entomologist to participate since the categories are easy to differentiate. Let's go through how to identify each of the insects in these categories.

Carpenter bees are going to be the largest of the bees that we see. They look very similar to bumble bees. The major difference is that carpenter bees have no hair on their abdomen (also known as their hind end). Carpenter and bumble bees have yellow and black hair. Bumblebees will have all black hair on their abdomens.

Honeybees are smaller than bumblebees and will have brown or blackish stripes mixed with golden-brown. They have hair down their whole body. Small bees are any bee smaller than a honeybee. We have many different species of small bees out there that are native pollinators. These native pollinators are very important for pollinating native plants. Small bees can be down to the length of a staple.

Wasps include paper wasps and potter wasps. They are important pollinators for certain plants like rattlesnake master. Flies are pollinators too. They will only have two wings and large eyes. Some flies have coloring to make them look like a bee or wasps to avoid predators. In nature, this is called mimicry.

Butterflies are usually pretty easy to identify because of their wings and variation of colors. The other category includes all other insects that may land on the plant while you're watching it. This could be beetles, dragonflies, lacewings, or ants.

After you've done your count for 15 minutes go to <https://gsepc.org/> to enter your results. You can do the census as many times as you'd like on the 23rd and 24th. If you see an insect leave your plant and come back count that as a new visitor.

If you have questions about the pollinator census contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).

## Letters To The Editor

### A Lack of Representation

Dear Editor,

A vast majority of Americans don't even realize that most of rural America is grossly lacking in proper representation in Congress. Two years before the Bill of Rights was finalized and on the last day of the 1787 Constitutional Convention, debate was occurring over the number of people in a district that any one house representative could represent. For the sake of keeping this letter as short as possible, the final number ended up being no more than 50,000 per representative. Currently, there are many congressmen representing nearly 1 million people primarily in the larger cities. Therefore, a majority of rural America really doesn't have much of a voice in elections. How can one person represent that many people? They cannot!

The vote was unanimous at the convention and only needed to be ratified by 12 states to become what would have been the first Amendment to the new U.S. Constitution. Unfortunately, only 11 states ratified it with Connecticut being the hold out. They ratified it but failed to send it back to the Congress. The good thing is that those 11 states are still on record, and there needs to be only 27 more states to ratify it to become the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. How unique would that be, and it could actually happen if pursued. Finally, all of rural America would have an equal say when they vote. No more big city rule over elections.

Now things get interesting. Considering the total U.S. population, when this actually happens, there would be over 6,500 House Representatives as opposed to the 435 we have now. You say great, but where do we put them? Washington D.C. (the swamp) could not hold that many, so here is what will occur. After the 6,500-plus are elected to office, they will all convene in a stadium to be sworn in. Their first and only action will be to pass a "bring Congress home act" whereby each representative returns to a home office in their district where they will live and work. The same would hold true for senators. They would all be free of the stranglehold that D.C. has over them. Americans get better representation because their district is under 50,000, and best of all, the people of the district become "watchdogs" to keep them in check plus be able to see and contact them easier than before. It would be very difficult for them to be influenced, coerced or bribed to influence their vote. By the way, this method of conferencing from home was proven to work during the pandemic when Pelosi instituted the use of Zoom for such a purpose.

If the 12 states had ratified this one Amendment in 1787, we would not be in the huge mess that we are experiencing now. I've had to shorten this a lot as it would take too much space to cover the entire process that occurred then, but I think you get the point. To understand this and other facts of American history and a road forward, go on Amazon and order "The Great West-Set" book by David M. Zuniga, founder of TacticalCivics.com. In just 102 pages, you will learn more than you ever imagined about this country and what should and could happen at all levels of government.

George Richardson

## No Stone Unturned

It's been over three weeks since our nation came within centimeters of losing a formidable leader. Yet we still have far more questions than answers about the attempted assassination of President Trump.

Americans are rightfully upset. After all, this incident marks the first time in 43 years since a president or presidential candidate has been shot. Undoubtedly, if it weren't for God's hand of protection, President Trump wouldn't be with us today.

But how did it happen in the first place? The lack of transparency surrounding the security plan, personnel, would-be assassin, and more have frustrated many Americans. Thankfully, House Republicans are committed to getting to the bottom of the events leading up to, on, and after July 13th.

Two weeks ago, the House hauled in several officials to testify under oath. As you well know, Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle was first on the chopping block.

On July 22, Cheatle appeared before the House Oversight Committee, where lawmakers pressed her on the catastrophic security failures that led to the assassination attempt of President Trump. Unsurprisingly, she failed to answer a single question or deliver an ounce of transparency. Her abysmal performance enraged both Republicans and Democrats to the point where we witnessed a rare bipartisan push for Cheatle to resign her post. The next morning, Cheatle resigned. While her departure was ten days too late, it marks the first step toward delivering accountability.

However, Congress may not be finished with former Director Cheatle. While she is no longer leading the Secret Service, she still has key information about the agency's role in and response to the assassination attempt on President Trump. It's possible that Cheatle will be subpoenaed again as both chambers forge ahead with investigating July 13th.

Additionally, FBI Director Wray appeared before the House Judiciary Committee to give an update on the agency's investigation. While Wray certainly answered more questions than Cheatle and delivered new details, he also made alarming claims that undermine his already-damaged credibility. For example, Director Wray testified that "there's some question about whether or not it's a bullet or shrapnel that, you know, hit [Trump's] ear." The outrageous comment led the FBI to issue a statement clarifying that President Trump's ear was in fact struck by a bullet.

Moreover, when pressed on Joe Biden's health, Wray refused to admit that he has witnessed any mental decline in his interactions with the President. No American believes Director Wray – or any federal official, White House staffer, or Democrat lawmaker for that matter – didn't have concerns about President Biden's cognitive state prior to his trainwreck debate performance. If Wray will help conceal the truth about Biden's capabilities, what else is he hiding?

Considering the Secret Service is under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), we also need to hear from DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. If you recall, he touted that he has "100% confidence" in Director Cheatle prior to her resignation. Given Mayorkas' atrocious handling of the raging border crisis, it's imperative that we meticulously analyze the Secretary's communications and actions related to the assassination attempt.

Rest assured, Congress is taking action. In our effort to deliver transparency and accountability to the American people, the House unanimously voted to establish a task force to swiftly and thoroughly investigate the assassination attempt on President Trump. I'm hopeful that this panel will be able to provide our country with the truth and answer all questions so we can ensure this evil never happens again.

Bottom line, we must leave no stone unturned in our pursuit of truth and justice. Please know that I will keep you and your family updated on this matter in the weeks and months ahead.

United States  
Congressman  
Representative  
Andrew Clyde



## Towns County Community Calendar

<b>First Monday of each month:</b> School Board... HS/MS Media Center	6:45 pm
<b>Every Tuesday:</b> Storytime for Children... TC Library	10:30 am
<b>First Tuesday of each month:</b> Hiaw. City Council... City Hall	6 pm
YH City Council... YH City Hall	6:30 pm
<b>Second Wednesday of each month:</b> Board of Elections... Elections Office	4 pm
<b>Third Monday of each month:</b> Planning Commission... Temporary Courthouse	6 pm
<b>Third Tuesday of each month:</b> Commissioner's Mtg... Courthouse	5:30 pm
City of Young Harris Planning Commission...	
Meeting Room in City Hall	5 pm
TC Water Authority Board Meeting	6 pm

Publication No: 635540

Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.

Towns County (1 Year) \$30. Out of County (1 Year) \$40. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points. The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. Postmaster: Send change of address to: Towns County Herald, P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546.

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## Towns County Herald

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