### Hunger... (Continued From Page One)

time when owners had hoped for a rebound.

Tracy Hadden Loh, a fellow at Brookings Metro, a think tank, said that going without paychecks is causing significant cash flow issues for federal workers, potentially leading to defaults on mortgages and student loans. For local businesses, especially those reliant on federal workers' discretionary spending, it could exacerbate the impact during the high-sales October-December quarter.

"A lot of businesses rely on higher spending in Q4 in order to have a revenue positive year," Loh said.

Business is down about 50% compared with what it was before the shutdown.

"To the extent to which discretionary spending by D.C. area households is limited, that could push a lot of local businesses into the red," Loh said. The culmination of the shutdown, cut in SNAP benefits and layoffs are weighing heavy on households that have never sought help before, she added.

Thea Price was fired from her job at the U.S. Institute of Peace in March of this year, part of the wave of layoffs meant to shrink the size of the federal government. Her husband, a government contractor, also lost his job at a museum. Since then, they have lived on savings, Medicaid and SNAP.

Price, 37, recently went to a food pantry in Arlington, Virginia, for the first time recently. The shutdown halted funding for SNAP, after it took her months to get it, and the \$500 payments she receives each month were set to stop. Virginia sent a partial payment but it was not enough, Price said. With her options to sustain herself and her family running out, Price is moving back to her hometown in the Seattle area.

"We can't afford to stay in the area any longer and hope that something might pan out," she said. "We're just in a much different place than when these things started in March."

At the Capital Area Food Bank in Northeast Washington, forklifts sped around in a controlled chaos, unloading trucks, moving food and preparing for a distribution set up for federal employees and contractors, and preparations are intensifying with the holiday season in mind. The organization is expecting to provide 1 million more meals this month than it had anticipated before the shutdown.

"We're very focused obviously on the immediacy of all of these impacts today and getting food to those who need it," said Muthiah, the group's director. But she cautioned there were long-term implications to the unfolding crisis, with people tapping their savings and retirement funds to get by.

"People are borrowing against their futures to be able to pay for basic necessities today," she said.

#### Incentives...

(Continued From Page One)

exceeding arrivals and leaving a rare negative net migration. Historians describe this as unprecedented; in Jewish discourse, emigration, or "yerida," carries social stigma, yet the current crisis has made departure a practical necessity for those who can afford dual citizenship or foreign residency.

Observers warn that Israel's outward posture—aggressive militarism and territorial expansion—has failed to translate into domestic stability. Instead, policies in Gaza and the occupied territories, combined with internal political fractures, have fostered fear, insecurity, and distrust among settlers.

The growing exodus exposes the contradictions of a regime projecting strength abroad while experiencing a collapse of confidence and cohesion at home.

The political implications are profound. Analysts predict further emigration following Israel's next early elections, as uncertainty and internal division deepen.

The phenomenon signals more than dissatisfaction; it reflects a strategic crisis for an entity struggling to maintain social resilience, economic vitality, and legitimacy.

As one Knesset official warned, Israel now faces "the collapse of the Zionist dream from within," with the entity's internal fractures threat-

ening not only its settlers but the broader regional order.

Israel's mass exodus is a stark reminder that external power and military might cannot compensate for domestic fragility.

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The "Zionist and economic revolution" touted by officials may well

The "Zionist and economic revolution" touted by officials may well be overshadowed by a far more urgent demographic and societal upheaval.

## Embassy... (Continued From Page One)

distort reality by launching a widespread disinformation campaign against the Islamic Republic.

It cited Iran's distrust of the United States and three European countries – Britain, France, and Germany, together known as E3 or Troika – pointing to unfulfilled promises, hypocrisy, and a fake information campaign to portray the victim as the aggressor.

Referring to the 2015 nuclear deal, the Embassy said Iran had fully complied as confirmed in 15 reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency, while the UN Security Council had failed to react to Trump's "unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA and the re-imposition of crippling sanctions on Iran."

The statement also criticized the Security Council for inaction on the Europeans' failure to normalize trade with Iran and for unreasonable and excessive demands put forth by the Troika and the U.S.

# Mexico... (Continued From Page 2)

The foreign ministry reiterated "its willingness to maintain fluid communication with all accredited diplomatic representations in our country," while the security ministry said it "reaffirms its respectful and coordinated collaboration, always within the framework of national sovereignty, with all security agencies that request it."

# Yemen Dismantles Spy Network Linked to U.S., Israel, Saudi Intel

SANA'A (Dispatches) – Yemen's Interior Ministry said it has arrested and dismantled a spy network linked to a joint operation room of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Israeli Mossad, and Saudi intelligence services.

In a statement reported by Al-Masirah TV, the ministry described the operation as a "multiphase security achievement" following extensive tracking of the network's activities.

"The joint operations room was based in Saudi territory," the ministry said, adding that it had exposed the "plots and methods of treacherous elements."

The statement said the network operated through multiple small cells under a centralized command and was supplied with advanced surveillance equipment. According to the ministry, the cells conducted intelligence-gathering operations targeting Yemeni infrastructure, military sites, security installations, and weapons locations.

"The network participated in operations that shed Yemeni civilian blood in U.S. and Israeli attacks on homes, markets, and public places," the ministry said, claiming it had supplied the enemy with information and coordinates on strategic targets.



This photo released in May 2024 shows pictures of those arrested in Yemen for being part of the Israeli-U.S. "Force 400" spy network targeting military sites along the western coasts.

The ministry linked the formation of the joint intelligence room and recruitment of operatives to an escalation in attempts to limit support for Gaza

"The Interior Ministry affirms its continued support for the people of Palestine, despite the

enemy's moves," the statement added.

The announcement comes amid heightened tensions in the region, with Yemen's authorities frequently condemning U.S., Israeli, and Saudi attacks targeting civilians and infrastructure in the ongoing war.

## **Turkey Issues Arrest Warrant for Netanyahu, 36 Others**

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Turkey has issued arrest warrants for Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and 36 senior officials in his cabinet over crimes in Gaza, the Istanbul chief public prosecutor's office said.

The warrants target key figures including war minister Israel Katz, so-called security minister Itamar Ben Gvir, and army chief Eyal Zamir. They are accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, and ordering attacks on the Global Sumud Flotilla, a humanitarian mission attempting

to deliver aid to Gaza.

The Turkish prosecutor cited Israeli military aggression in Gaza since October 2023, citing systematic attacks on civilians, hospitals, and critical infrastructure. Specific incidents noted included the bombing of Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital, the destruction of the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital, and the killing of six-year-old Hind Rajab, who was reportedly struck while trapped in a car with her family

Zionist foreign minister Gide-

on Saar called the warrants a "PR stunt" by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and said Israel "firmly rejects, with contempt," the charges. Former Israeli foreign minister Avigdor Lieberman also criticized Turkey's involvement, saying the warrants demonstrate why Ankara should not play a role in Gaza.

The prosecutor's office said the investigation also covers Israel's interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla in international waters. Activists aboard the flotilla have provided testimony and

forensic evidence contributing to the case. The proceedings, the office said, are continuing "with precision and in all aspects."

Turkey last year joined South Africa in bringing a case against Israel at the International Court of Justice, accusing it of genocide. Ankara is also seeking a role in the international stabilization force envisioned for post-war Gaza under a plan promoted by U.S. President Donald Trump, despite repeated Israeli opposition to Turkish participation.

### Exiled Saudi Official Seeks U.S. Aid in Legal Fight With MBS

TORONTO (Dispatches) — Saad Aljabri, a former top Saudi intelligence official and ally of the kingdom's previous crown prince, has asked a U.S. federal court to compel former American security officials to assist in his defense in Canada, highlighting the legal and diplomatic complexities surrounding his long-running dispute with Crown

Prince Muhammad bin Salman.
Aljabri, who once oversaw billions of dollars in Saudi security projects and coordinated counterterrorism operations with U.S. and global counterparts, has lived in self-imposed exile in Canada since 2017 after falling out with Prince Muhammad.

The crown prince's government

accuses him of embezzling more than \$5 billion through Sakab Saudi Holding Company, a stateowned entity that has filed a lawsuit against him in Canada, with trial proceedings set to begin next year.

In his petition to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Aljabri seeks the participation of former U.S. officials to demonstrate that funds in question were used for legitimate counterterrorism and security purposes.

Legal experts say the request faces slim chances of success, given the U.S. government's repeated invocation of the state secrets privilege, which has previously blocked Aljabri from accessing sensitive evidence in related litigation.

Aljabri has accused Prince Muhammad of orchestrating multiple attempts to coerce his return to Saudi Arabia, including an alleged hit squad sent to Canada in 2018 and the detention of two of his adult children in 2020.

Saudi authorities deny the allegations, claiming the children faced charges including money laundering. Both sides have filed lawsuits in multiple jurisdictions, though many have stalled due to claims of immunity and state secrecy.

The dispute intersects with U.S. foreign policy, as Washington maintains close ties with Saudi Arabia.

The Canadian government has intervened in Aljabri's case to review sensitive materials he hopes to introduce at trial, adding another layer of legal scrutiny. Observers say the case illustrates broader tensions around the use of state secrets in international litigation, with critics arguing the privilege is often wielded to block access to crucial evidence rather than protect genuine national security interests.

Aljabri's legal efforts continue as he seeks to challenge allegations against him and assert his defense abroad, highlighting the complex interplay of international law, U.S.-Saudi relations, and highlevel security secrets.

### Lebanon Rules Out Normalization With Israel

BEIRUT (Dispatches) — Lebanon's parliament speaker and Hezbollah officials have reiterated their opposition to normalizing relations with Israel, saying no threat or political pressure will force the country to negotiate with the occupying state.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri told Asharq al-Awsat that normalization with Israel is "not even subject to negotiations" and that his position remains aligned with a negotiation mechanism that includes Lebanon, Israel, the United States, France, and the United Nations.

Civilian experts could be consulted if needed, he added, citing the 2000 Blue Line demarcation process that separated Lebanon from Israeli-occupied territories and the Go-

lan Heights.

"No Israeli threats or airstrikes will manage to change our position," Berri said.

Hezbollah, Lebanon's resistance movement, also called for national unity to counter Israeli violations in the south and firmly rejected political negotiations with Tel Aviv.

In an open letter to President Joseph Aoun, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, Berri, and the Lebanese people, the group stressed that the current stage requires confronting aggression rather than engaging in dialogue with what it called "the enemy."

The statement reaffirmed Hezbollah's commitment to safeguarding Lebanon's sovereignty and maintaining security under

the terms of the ceasefire reached with Israel in late 2024. It said Israel is continuing violations on land, sea, and in the air, while exerting political pressure to advance its agenda.

Hezbollah also criticized government efforts to establish an arms monopoly, saying such initiatives should form part of a broader national strategy to defend sovereignty rather than respond to external pressures.

"The Israeli enemy does not target Hezbollah alone but Lebanon in all its components," the group said, emphasizing its "legitimate right to resist occupation and aggression alongside the army and the people."