

2024-07-13

SATURDAY HISTORY CALL

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, **organized** citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead
<https://leandroherrero.com/the-missing-word-in-the-famous-margaret-mead-quote/>

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

- I ACCESS to THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet
- II ACCESS to OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable
- III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; LINKS TO PODCASTS, WEBSITE
- IV SATURDAY HISTORY CALL – NOTES, REFERENCE MATERIALS

I B B S RADIO - ACCESS TO THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS <https://bbsradio.com/>

DAY	B B S Station	TIME	PROGRAM	CONFERENCE CALL	HOSTS
Thursday	#1	6 pm Pacific 9 pm Eastern	A Night at the Round Table	None	Panel Members Guests Callers welcome.
Friday	#1	6 pm Pacific 9 pm Eastern	Friday Night Hard News	720-716-7301 Pin Code: 353 863#	Rama, Tara Callers welcome.
Saturday	#2	1:30 pm PT/ 4:30 Eastern	History of our Galactic World & NESARA aka The True History	720-716-7301 Pin Code: 353 863#	Rama, Tara Callers welcome.

NOTE: 2nd CONFERENCE CALL # for both Friday, Saturday
605-313-5166
Pin Code: 353 863#

ADDITIONAL HELP FOR LISTENERS

B B S LISTENER TOOLS

	B B S RADIO STATION 1	B B S RADIO STATION 2
LISTEN ON LINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Night at the Roundtable • Friday Night Hard News CLICK ON AUDIO ICON	Saturday History Call CLICK ON AUDIO ICON-*
LISTEN BY PHONE	1-631-359-9353 [NO code needed]	1-804-220-6484 [No code needed]
CALL IN TO INTERACT	1-866-627-6008 Direct: 323-744- 4831	1-888-429-5471 Direct: 323-744- 4841
ACCESS CUSTOMER SERVICE	Toll Free: 1-888-710-8061	Direct Line: 1-323-744-4841
FREE PHONE APPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free BBS Radio Android phone app • Free BBS Radio iPhone and iPad app 	
B B S ARCHIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • go to www.bbsradio.com • In Search box, enter the name of the required program; • scroll down to the heading TALK SHOW PROGRAM ARCHIVES FOR PODCASTING. • Find the table listing the dates. Click on required date. 	

II ACCESS TO OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY Rainbow Roundtable

NAME OF CALL / HOST	WEEKDAY / TIME	ACCESS POINT	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call	Wednesday	Telephone Only	1- 605 - 472 - 5406 PIN 402-493#
Grand Goddess Lillie	6:00 – 7:30 MST		
Abundance Call	Every 2 nd Wednesday	Telephone	
Caroline Oceana Ryan	5:45 PM PT/ 8:45 PM ET	ZOOM	
To be notified: email https://www.ascensiontimes.com/the-abundance-group Scroll down to the sign-up sheet and enter the requested info.			
Ascension Call	Every Sunday, Monday	Telephone Only	1-425-436-6260 PIN 9467 441#
Cheryl Croci	9 – 10:30 EST		Call Cheryl for # in your area
Ashtar Legacy Calls	Every 2 nd , 4 th Tuesday 5 th Tuesday – no call	Telephone	1-717-908-1834 PIN 980 339#
Fran Pearre	9:00 – 10:00 pm EST	VOIP/ H D	Call is free; LD charges are not 1-717-908-1834 PIN #980 339#
	https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/ via Skype		Click on VOIP button and enter info as requested

To access past ALC calls, go to [Ashtar Legacy Teleconferences \(ashtarontheroad.com\)](http://ashtarontheroad.com)

III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; INFORMATION SOURCES

RE: M.T. KESHE AND KESHE FOUNDATION; ACCESS TO PODCAST

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| A. Opening Meditation: | Cheryl Croci |
| B. Housekeeping: | Rainbird |
| C. Link to Podcasts
Link to Website | from B B S
See below |

BBS: • Listener-supported radio programs – Cost is \$250 - \$300 per week
All BBS archives can be accessed for free, including the podcasts for the Thursday, Friday, Saturday calls, listed above.

- www.rainbowroundtable.net has archives, too.

- Go to BBSradio.com/Station2; find **The True History** call listing & **Paypal** button
- BBS appreciates getting checks via the mail: no Paypal fees!

- The mailing address for those who may not like paying electronically:

B B S RADIO
17419 Wilton Park CT
Spring, TX 77379

[Please put "**Attention Don**" on the envelope]
 [Note inside that it's for T & R calls
 [& the Thursday call, as well]

Tara, Rama: Their full-time, life-time commitment is to be tuned in to what is really going on behind the artificial world we see around us. They don't ask for anything but they do require food, a home, gas for the car, and access to BBS Radio in order to compile and distribute this information to the world.

OTHER FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the MENU PAGE ON
www.rainbowroundtable.net

Rama has a pride of Paschats + 2 inside kitties + 2 HUMANS = up to 13 in total

Financial Requirements

WEEKLY

B B S RADIO/week

\$ 300.00 There are 3 programs: Thurs, Fri, Sat
Thank you, thank you, thank yourself
 for your generosity!

PERSONAL

Gas, food, etc
 Bills
 Miscellaneous/Other

\$200.00 General living expenses (inc food, gas)

MONTHLY

\$1150 / mo

CONTACT INFO

- Please notify Rama when sending something koran999@comcast.net
- Mailing address for checks, money orders, etc
 Ram D Berkowitz
 PO Box 280
 Santa Cruz, NM 87567

PLEASE MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO DONATE THIS MONTH

- Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!

Please donate: VIA PAYPAL, either your own a/c or Rama's a/c [koran9999]

There is also a **donate link** on www.rainbowroundtable.net
**** www.rainbowroundtable.net /page/donate ****

EVERY \$ HELPS: no amount is too small! ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

C. Link to Podcasts, Website

THIS WEEK'S PODCAST:

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/true-history-july-13-2024>
<https://bbsradio.com/archive-description/audio/listen/277976>

WEBSITE AND ADDRESS: [https://www.rainbowroundtable.net/archives](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net/archives)

(1) Listings: AUDIOS, WEEKLY SETS OF NOTES - on the ARCHIVES page

(2) WHITE KNIGHT REPORTS <https://www.rainbowroundtable.net/general-5>

D: INFORMATION SOURCES RELATIVE TO M.T. KESHE AND KESHE FOUNDATION

Contact Rainbird with questions: lightenergync@gmail.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLaVutWXju0> (CHECK THIS OUT)

One Cup One Life – Production and Application; Prevention and Reversal of CoronaVirus

[https://en.kfwiki.org/wiki/One_Cup_One_Life -
Production and Application Prevention and Reversal of the Corona Virus](https://en.kfwiki.org/wiki/One_Cup_One_Life_-_Production_and_Application_Prevention_and_Reversal_of_the_Corona_Virus)

KF Wiki <https://www.kfwiki.org>

The free Plasma Cyclopdia of the Keshe Foundation

Keshe Foundation Store <https://store.keshefoundation.org/store/?alias=store>

Cheryl: Opening Meditation

RAINBIRD: does the housekeeping – see above!

Rama, Tara: Greetings to all! ! And thanks to Rainbird, Cheryl, all those who assist and to all the listeners who make the show possible

Rama did not talk to any people today, but saw 7 deer and 5 crows today, at the farm where the horse is; he actually rode it, while the deer and the crows watched. Then they all did the Adi Shakta

**323-744-4828 CUSTOMER SERVICE NUMBER
SHOULD anyone want to report funny noises on the lines!**

R: tremendous energies coming in: stay in your heart and leave the matrix alone
he and we all have to do our daily work as well as our spiritual work and blaze the Violet Fire! ! !

DEMOCRACY NOW: from Friday – while you listen: BLAZE THE VIOLET FIRE! ! !

2024-07-12 Headlines <https://www.democracynow.org/2024/7/12/headlines>

2024-07-12 In Rare News Conf., Biden Vows to Stay in Race, Defending Record on Ukraine, NATO & More: A Roundtable

<https://www.democracynow.org/2024/7/12/biden>

2024-07-12 "I'm Bored, So I Shoot": How Israeli Troops Are Authorized to Shoot Palestinians Virtually at Will

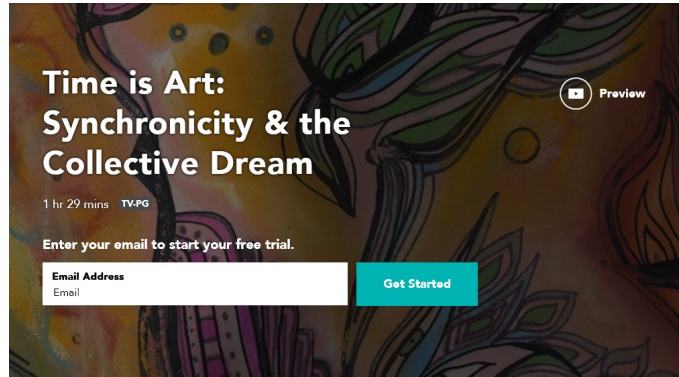
<https://www.democracynow.org/2024/7/12/israel>

2024-07-13

[Time is Art: Synchronicity & the Collective Dream](#)

1 hr 29 min <https://www.gaia.com/video/time-art-synchronicity-collective-dream>

This experimental documentary film follows an aspiring writer who is compelled to make sense of the mysterious and powerful energy she felt at her aunt's deathbed. A series of strange coincidences leads her on an exploration of synchronicity – the concept that everything is interconnected, and that time is not so much a chronology as it is an infinite cycle.



Considering herself something of a skeptic, she treads the fine line between nervous breakdown and ecstatic revelation as she seeks out guides in her search for answers. Together, they explore a reality where time is transformed from a unit that can be measured and commodified -"Time is money"- to an experience of oneness with the...

Featuring: Jennifer Palmer, Graham Hancock, Gary S. Bobroff, Daniel Pinchbeck, East Forest, Robin Gunkel, Jocelyn James, Amy Lansky, Justin Gray Morgan, Jim Sanders, Rupert Sheldrake, Chris Soria, Richard Tarnas, Jim Tucker, Toko-Pa Turner

Audio Languages: English

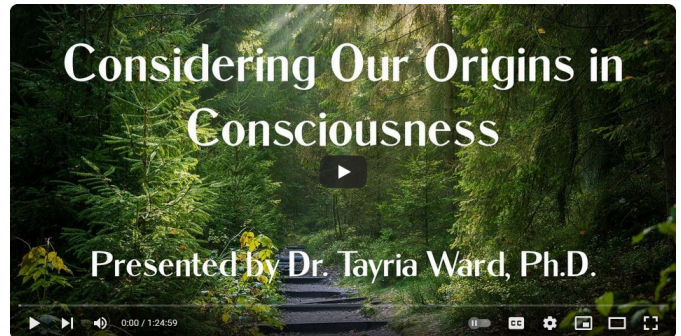
Subtitles: English

2024-07-10 Considering Our Origins in Consciousness w Dr Tayria Ward, PhD ~ Global School for Quantum Evolution

1:24:59 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKx4w1AkTvk>

[Sacred Planet](#)

Considering Our Origins in Consciousness will be an exploration of the nature of thought itself and its role in our lives - Archaic, older than time, each of us carries this ancient origin within us wherever we go.



Our mind still bears the original blueprints, patterns and codes out of which all of life emerged, and now it is becoming more possible for us to remember, to awaken, reclaim the origins in consciousness that in earlier times were available to us.

To learn about Tayria's upcoming course, which was announced during the video, please click here: <https://www.quantumevolutionschool.co...>

During this awakening webinar of remembrance, Tayria will guide you with:

- ★ Insights on how to reclaim the mind that is indigenous to each of us as creations within the fantastic community of life.
- ★ Perspectives from scientists and thinkers on these concepts, offering a deepened understanding of our consciousness.
- ★ Personal reflections and stories from Tayria, sharing her journey and the questions that awakened her to the pearls being presented.
- ★ A guided shamanic journey to the earliest time on Earth, before organic life emerged, allowing you to connect with the primordial origins of life.
- ★ Contemplation of our starry origins, considering the cosmic connection we share with the universe.

Dr. Tayria Ward, Ph.D. has worked intensively with shamans from Africa and a variety of other traditions, has studied the world's religions avidly for many years, the theories of Carl Jung for decades, and has her doctorate in Depth Psychology.

Tayria's upcoming course is called: We Keep Our Eyes on the Night: Reviving the Indigenous Mind July 24 to August 21, 2024 Click here to see the full course syllabus: <https://www.quantumevolutionschool.co...>

With love,
Jocelyn Star Feather and the Quantum School Team
<https://www.wearesacredplanet.com/>
<https://www.quantumevolutionschool.com/>

ASTROLOGY RICHARD [RI]

Astrology for the Soul July 10, 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuJ3c2ixM5w> 46:00

It's time for me to set myself free
In what I say and do.
Not fear my fire but express my desire
And make my dreams come true.

[Click here to listen to the Pele Report](#)

<https://open.spotify.com/show/6mN2OQpNT1z6BxDh7MqiQv?si=03fb6f1430fc457b&nd=1&dlsi=2f8e3c367b264cce>

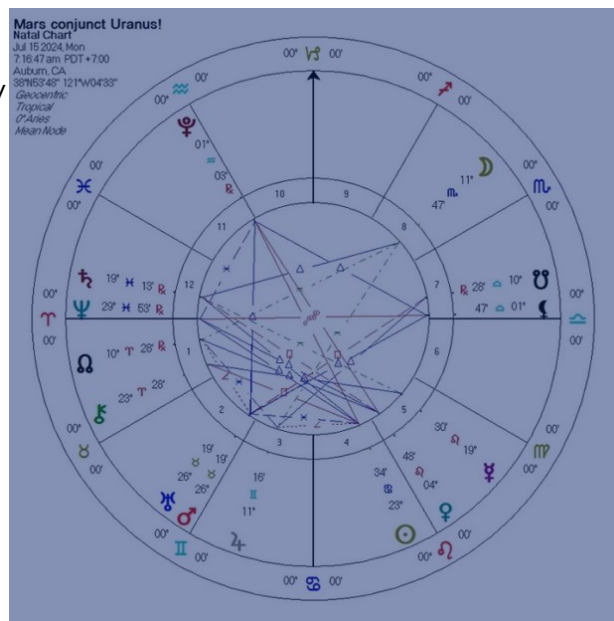


Hola New Paradigmers!

Carol King wrote: "I feel the earth move under my feet..." You may feel that way this week and next week if we want to get technical.

Where does 26 degrees of Taurus fall in your chart? The matters of that house (and any planets getting aspected) are in for an "upgrade!" So, hold onto your hats and ride that stallion! Venus coming into Leo will have fun with it, the north node in Aries is calling for it, and Chiron in Aries needs it. However, the Sun in Cancer could be a little scared of it.

Recent Mars/Uranus conjunctions in Taurus happened in January 2021 at 6+ degrees and early August 2022 at 18+ degrees. The next Mars/Uranus conjunction will be in Gemini at 1+ degrees, so this is the third of the only three that will happen in Taurus for the rest of most of our lifetimes. **It is a time of ending old ways of acting on our desires (at least since 2022, if not longer), gaining power, pleasure, and money/possessions, and evolving/embracing a higher/broader/more enlightened set of values.** These may come to us in momentary flashes, so let's vigilantly watch our third eye!



It's time for me to set myself free
In what I say and do.
Not fear my fire but express my desire
And make my dreams come true.

Are you ready for Mars to charge into Uranus? Yikes! We can call this the train wreck week, LOL! The future is not upon us, it is in us. **As emissaries of the future, our mission is to envision, invent, and create the future.** Having it done for us or to us is the result of entropy, fear, and unconsciousness. Well, that is what Uranus is all about, and this week, along with Mars, he'll wake us up to our unconscious needs and desires, whether they are comfortable (Taurus) or not.

This week, through non-attached observation, we can learn much about ourselves. How much do I stretch the envelope? What exactly is holding me back? Why? Do I want my past to limit my future? How can I best express and create without shocking or traumatizing others? What environment and relationships best meet my needs for individuation and authentic, full self-expression?

The answers to these questions can open doors of perception that lead to choices and decisions that empower us rather than diminish our power, joy, and excitement for life. The future is wide open (despite what MSM says), and we are here to make it happen starting NOW. **Go forward with love, peace, and humor to throw out what is in the way of you being YOU.** Blessings!

This week's song is [Light My Fire](#).
[John Wolfstone's article](#).

♥♥ Carolina's [Healing Playlist](#).

**So Much Love,
Kaypacha**

CONFERENCE CALL

Discussion of **2020 ELECTION AND THE 2025 PROJECT**

2024-07-13 (2023-08-27) Trump's drumbeat of lies about the 2020 election keeps getting louder. Here are the facts

<https://apnews.com/article/trump-2020-election-lies-debunked-4fc26546b07962fdbf9d66e739fbb50d>

2024-07-11 Inside the Twisted Fantasy Project of a New America

Conservative heavyweights have published a report on their plans if Trump wins a second term. We should all pay attention.

https://thetyee.ca/Analysis/2024/07/11/Twisted-Fantasy-Project-New-America/?utm_source=weekly&utm_medium=email

2024-06-03 (2024-01-25) Trump's 2024 trials: Where they stand and what to expect

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/trumps-2024-trials-where-they-stand-and-what-to-expect>

AUDIO: THE CONTINUATION OF THE Dr Tayria Ward LECTURE

Global School of Quantum Evolution

**AUDIO: The Daily Show
Jon Stewart's Debate Analysis:
Trump's Blatant Lies and Biden's Senior Moments | The Daily Show**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SJr44m-w1Y>

2024-07-13 **BEYOND BELIEF**

[Elemental Galactic History](#)

S24:Ep10

<https://www.gaia.com/video/elemental-galactic-history>

43 min

From which galaxy do elementals originate, and how does their role in other star systems compare to their role on Earth?

Gaia fan favorite, Debbie Solaris, reveals the galactic history of Elementals, tracing the path from their original galaxies of Andromeda and Sirius B to their arrival in Lyra via the Antari Stargate.

Solaris emphasizes the critical role of nature spirits as a frequency management group and explores the Elemental Kingdom in connection to the four Royal Stars (Scorpio, Aquarius, Taurus, and Leo). She offers practical guidance on how to establish a simple method for collaborating with these beings, emphasizing the significance of their reemergence in the context of...



Host: George Noory
Audio Languages: English

Featuring: Debbie Solaris
Subtitles: English

CLOSING:

RAINBIRD

AUDIO:

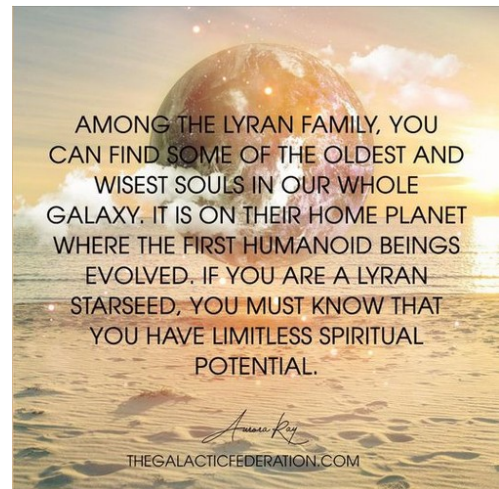
Aurora Ray the Lyrans

Two different articles – one of them was played at the end of the program . . .

(1) The Lyran Connection: Exploring the Spiritual and Mythological Significance of this Ancient Race 🌟 https://www.facebook.com/story.php/?story_fbid=794112275717013&id=100053547427949&sfnsn=scwspmo

(2) Leaders Of Ascension: The Lyran Family
<https://www.facebook.com/iamauroraray/posts/644046120723630/>

Sat Nam!



INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2024-07-12 **Headlines** <https://www.democracynow.org/2024/7/12/headlines>

Biden Remains Defiant, But Fails to Quell Mounting Doubts, as He Holds First Solo Presser This Year



Jul 12, 2024

President Biden took to the podium Thursday for his first solo press conference since November as debate over whether Biden should remain the Democratic nominee reaches a fever pitch. Biden remained defiant, saying he is determined to “finish the job” and reasserting he is best positioned to beat Donald Trump. Biden addressed concerns around his mental fitness.

President Joe Biden: “I’ve taken three significant and intense neurological exams by a neuro — by a neuro — a neurologist. In each case, as recently as February — and they say I’m in good shape, OK?”

But Biden’s performance was far from smooth, as he accidentally called Vice President Kamala Harris “Vice President Trump.”

President Joe Biden: “Look, I wouldn’t have picked Vice President Trump to be vice president, did I think she’s not qualified to be president. So, let’s start there, number one. The fact is that the consideration is that I think I’m the most qualified person to run for president. I beat him once, and I will beat him again.”

Just hours earlier, Biden mistakenly referred to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as “President Putin” as the three-day NATO summit came to a close.

President Joe Biden: “And now I want to hand it over to the president of Ukraine, who has as much courage as he has determination. Ladies and gentlemen, President Putin. President Putin? He’s going to beat President Putin. President Zelensky. I’m so focused on beating President Putin.”

Three more House Democrats called on President Biden to step aside following the news conference.

Spanish PM Urges NATO to End “Double Standards” in Treatment of Ukraine and Gaza

Jul 12, 2024



In more news from the NATO summit, the U.S. approved a new \$225 million military aid package for Ukraine, including a Patriot missile system. President Zelensky again urged NATO allies to lift all restrictions on Ukraine’s use of long-range weapons to strike targets inside Russia, saying the move would be a “game changer.”

Meanwhile, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez criticized the military alliance’s “double standard” when it comes to support for Ukraine versus Gaza.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez: “What Spain has done has been to demand for Ukraine, as well as for Gaza, the same manner and the same firmness in respecting international law. I believe that our strength lies in our unity and also in our coherence. We cannot and should not allow ourselves to be accused by anyone of having double standards in the defense of international law.”

In May, Spain formally recognized the state of Palestine.

In related news, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán traveled to meet with Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago resort Thursday after leaving the NATO summit in Washington. Orbán, who also visited President Putin in Moscow, as well as Beijing in recent weeks, says he is on a “Peace mission 5.0.”

Israel Continues Deadly Attack on Gaza City, Leaving Dozens Dead, Neighborhoods in Ruins

Jul 12, 2024



In Gaza, rescue workers are recovering “dozens” of dead bodies following two days of nonstop Israeli attacks in western Gaza City, much of which has now been left in ruins. Survivors say their buildings were attacked in the middle of the night. One man, Musa al-Dahdouh, says his family was forced from their shelter in the middle of the night by Israeli forces.

Musa al-Dahdouh: “My mother is in a wheelchair, my wife, as well, and she has metal support in her arms and legs. My grandson is paralyzed in the legs. His father had to carry him on his back.”

70 Media Organizations Call for Israel to Allow Int’l Journalists to Enter Gaza Strip

Jul 12, 2024



In more news from Gaza, at least 70 media organizations are urging Israel to give reporters unfettered access to the besieged territory. Media outlets, including the Associated Press, the BBC, CNN, The Guardian, The New York Times and The Washington Post, said in a letter, “The effective ban on foreign reporting has placed an impossible and unreasonable burden on local reporters to document a war through which they are living. More than 100 journalists have been killed since the start of the war and those who remain are working in conditions of extreme deprivation.”

Israeli Military Report Admits Failures on Oct. 7, Leaves Questions Unanswered

Jul 12, 2024



In Israel, the first results of the military's investigation into its response to the October 7 attack by Hamas were published Thursday. The report finds the military was unprepared for the incursion into Kibbutz Be'eri and was slow and disorganized in its response. Over 100 Israelis were killed, and another 30 were taken hostage from Be'eri. The report, however, denied that hostages killed during a standoff between Hamas and Israeli soldiers were killed in "friendly fire," as some have suggested, though it did not offer evidence that Hamas killed them. Members of Kibbutz Be'eri expressed dissatisfaction with the military assessment.

Miri Gad Mesika: "We know what are the conclusions, some conclusions, but not like the big picture conclusion and what could have done differently and what they are going to do on the next step. How can we feel secure again, safe again? How can we come back to live in Kibbutz Be'eri?"

1 Million Remain Without Power in Houston as Record-Breaking Heat Leads to 28 U.S. Deaths

Jul 12, 2024

In Texas, 1 million people in the Houston area remain without power and water after Hurricane Beryl slammed into the region Monday and amid a protracted heat wave. Hospitals report a surge in patients with heat-related conditions and are unable to swiftly discharge patients if they do not have electricity at home to stay cool.

Extreme heat has killed at least 28 people in the U.S. over the past week, most of those in California, where wildfires have burned five times the average area this year, according to state officials. Las Vegas recently reported a new record high of 120 degrees and is on a record-breaking streak of at least six straight days of temperatures topping 115 degrees.

Last week, the Biden administration proposed a new rule that would require employers to provide regular rest breaks and water to workers during high temperatures. The rule, which is facing opposition from industry and Republicans, could offer relief to some 500,000 agricultural workers and over 4 million construction workers nationwide, many of whom are immigrants.

60+ People Could Be Dead After Buses Swept into River by Landslide

Jul 12, 2024



In Nepal, over 60 people are missing after landslides swept two buses into a river earlier today. Over 90 people have been killed in monsoon-triggered landslides and floods in Nepal over the past month.

Topics:

Kenya's Ruto Dismisses Cabinet 2 Weeks After Scrapping Tax Bill That Set Off Mass Protests

Jul 12, 2024



Image Credit: Reuters

Kenya's President William Ruto has fired nearly all his Cabinet members amid continued unrest and two weeks after Ruto scrapped a highly contested tax bill following mass protests. At least 41 people were killed as police violently cracked down on demonstrations. On Thursday, the Kenya Human Rights Commission called on Ruto to prosecute security chiefs responsible for the killings.

Saudi Court Sentences Man to 2 Decades in Prison for Tweets Critical of MBS

Jul 12, 2024

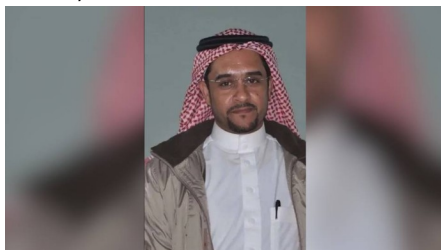


Image Credit: Human Rights Watch

In Saudi Arabia, a man has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for charges related to his social media activity. Asaad al-Ghamdi, a 47-year-old teacher, was arrested in November and convicted of publishing false information and "challenging the religion and justice of the King and the Crown Prince." He was held incommunicado and placed in solitary confinement in a Jeddah prison. He has also been denied medical attention for his epilepsy, suffering multiple seizures while in custody, according to Human Rights Watch. One of his brothers was sentenced to death last year over his tweets, some of which called for the release of political prisoners.

Topics:

- [Saudi Arabia](#)
- [Freedom of Expression](#)
- [Social Media](#)

UAE Sentences Dozens of Government Critics to Prison in Mass Trial

Jul 12, 2024



In the United Arab Emirates, over 40 lawyers, academics and political dissidents were sentenced to between 10 years to life in prison this week following a mass trial that human rights groups are denouncing as a sham. More than 80 people were tried, many of whom had already been

convicted years ago and were serving prison sentences for the same or similar offenses. Human Rights Watch said the proceedings were marred by serious due process and fair trial violations, including the use of torture.

U.S. Court Rules Activist DeRay Mckesson Cannot Be Held Responsible for Protest Injury

Jul 12, 2024



Back in the U.S., a federal court has ruled that Black Lives Matters activist DeRay Mckesson cannot be held responsible for injuries inflicted by someone else while attending a protest that Mckesson had organized following the 2016 police killing of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The ruling came after the U.S. Supreme Court in April declined to take the case. The ACLU hailed Thursday's decision in favor of Mckesson as "a crucial win for the First Amendment right to protest."

Arkansas Blocks Abortion Ballot Amendment on Technicality

Jul 12, 2024

Reproductive rights advocates vowed to challenge a move by Arkansas Secretary of State John Thurston, who on Wednesday disqualified a grassroots ballot initiative that seeks to enshrine abortion access in the Arkansas Constitution. Thurston argued that the group behind the proposed ballot amendment, Arkansans for Limited Government, failed to identify paid canvassers, tossing 14,000 of the more than 100,000 signatures collected. Voters in nearly a dozen states could see abortion-related amendments on the ballot in November.

2024-07-12 In Rare News Conf., Biden Vows to Stay in Race, Defending Record on Ukraine, NATO & More: A Roundtable

<https://www.democracynow.org/2024/7/12/biden>

Story July 12, 2024

Topics

- [Joe Biden](#)
- [2024 Election](#)
- [DNC 2024](#)
- [Democratic Party](#)
- [Donald Trump](#)



Guests

- [David Dayen](#) executive editor of *The American Prospect*.
- [Bill Fletcher Jr.](#) longtime labor, racial justice and international activist.
- [Medea Benjamin](#) co-founder of CodePink.

Links

- [The American Prospect](#)
- [CodePink](#)
- ["Gaza, Biden, and a Path Forward"](#)

As the world watched Thursday night, President Biden held his first solo press conference this year, after hosting a NATO conference in which he accidentally referred to Ukrainian President Zelensky as Russian President Putin before quickly correcting himself. While speaking with reporters, Biden defended his record and vowed to "finish the job," but at one point referred to Kamala Harris as "Vice President Trump." As more Democrats continue to call for him to step aside, we host a roundtable discussion on Biden and Trump and the 2024 race, and the impact on U.S. foreign policy, with *American Prospect* executive editor David Dayen; longtime labor, racial justice and international activist Bill Fletcher Jr., co-founder of the Ukrainian Solidarity Network; and CodePink co-founder Medea Benjamin, co-author of the books *NATO: What You Need to Know* and *War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict*.

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman.

As the world watched Thursday evening, President Biden held his first solo news conference this year, after hosting a NATO summit in Washington, D.C., in which he accidentally referred to the Ukrainian President Zelensky as Russian President Putin before quickly correcting himself.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: Russia will not prevail in this war. Ukraine will prevail in this war. And we will stand with them every single step of the way. That's what the compact says loudly and clearly.

And now I want to hand it over to the president of Ukraine, who has as much courage as he has determination. Ladies and gentlemen, President Putin. President Putin? He's going to beat President Putin. President Zelensky. I'm so focused on beating President Putin, we've got to worry about it. Anyway, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY: I'm better.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: You are a hell of a lot better.

AMY GOODMAN: Later Thursday, amidst mounting calls for President Biden to end his presidential campaign due to concerns about his physical and mental fitness for office, Biden vowed in his news conference to stay in the race and "finish the job" to defeat Donald Trump in November.

As Biden spoke, former President Trump was meeting with the far-right Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in Mar-a-Lago, who is now also head of the European Union and has vowed to, quote, "make Europe great again."

After Biden started his news conference nearly an hour late, the first question came from Jeff Mason of Reuters.

JEFF MASON: Mr. President, your political future has hung over the NATO summit a little bit this week. Speaker Pelosi made a point of suggesting that your decision on whether to stay in the race was still open. George Clooney and a handful of lawmakers have called on you to step aside. Reuters is reporting tonight the UAW leadership is concerned about your ability to win.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: UAW just endorsed me. But go ahead.

JEFF MASON: Thank you. My question for you is: How are you incorporating these developments into your decision to stay? And separately, what concerns do you have about Vice President Harris's ability to beat Donald Trump if she were at the top of the ticket?

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: Look, I wouldn't have picked Vice President Trump to be vice president, did I think she's not qualified to be president. So, let's start there, number one. The fact is that the consideration is that I think I'm the most qualified person to run for president. I beat him once, and I will beat him again.

Secondly, the idea — I served in the Senate a long time. The idea that senators and congressmen running for office worry about the ticket is not unusual. And I might add, there were at least five presidents running, or incumbent presidents, who had lower numbers than I have now later in the campaign. So, there's a long way to go in this campaign. And so, I'm just going to keep moving, keep moving.

AMY GOODMAN: As President Biden noted, the UAW did endorse him. But Reuters is also [reporting](#) that the UAW President Shawn Fain met with the union's executive board Thursday to discuss his deep concerns with Biden's ability to beat Donald Trump.

After Thursday night's key news conference, which a Bloomberg reporter had called his "big boy press conference" — a term later used by Biden's White House press secretary and national security spokesperson, John Kirby — three more House Democrats called on Biden to withdraw from the presidential race. Congressman Jim Himes, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, issued a statement that, quote, "The stakes are high, and we are on a losing course. ... My conscience requires me to speak up and put loyalty to the country and to democracy ahead of my great affection for, and loyalty to, the President and those around him," unquote.

This comes after *The New York Times* editorial board published a [piece](#) this week headlined "The Democratic Party Must Speak the Plain Truth to the President," in which it argued, "Donald Trump's candidacy for a

second term poses a grave threat to American democracy,” but that Biden, quote, “does not seem to understand that he is now the problem — and that the best hope for Democrats to retain the White House is for him to step aside,” the *Times* wrote.

In a minute, we’ll talk more about NATO, Ukraine and Gaza, but we’re going to begin with a roundtable of three guests to discuss the calls for Biden to drop out or stay in the race.

In Washington, D.C., Medea Benjamin is with us. She’s co-founder of CodePink, co-author of the books *NATO: What You Need to Know* and *War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict*.

Joining us from Maryland is Bill Fletcher, longtime labor, racial justice, international activist who’s on the editorial board of *The Nation*, co-founder of the Ukrainian Solidarity Network.

And in Los Angeles, we’re joined by David Dayen, executive editor of *The American Prospect*, who’s been following all of this closely, has a recent [piece](#) headlined “Why the Bid to Push Out Biden Is Losing.”

David, let’s begin with you in California. What was your assessment? I mean, we played some of the gaffes of President Biden. They were early on, actually, before he got into a lot of substance. Though his voice faltered and was hoarse and raspy, he spent an hour talking about foreign policy. But that beginning, where he was talking about Kamala Harris and why couldn’t she be president, or could she be president, and the whole issue of passing the torch to the next generation, as President Biden had said when he was running last time that he simply saw himself as a bridge to the next generation. Take it all on, David.

DAVID DAYEN: Well, I don’t go in for theater criticism a whole lot, so I don’t know that I’m super interested in addressing the theatrics of the whole thing. I think people were looking for a sign out of this that maybe was unreasonable. People were looking for him to either fall off the podium or recite the Gettysburg Address from memory. And neither of those things happened. There was no clear kind of signal of — the problem is that when you lose faith with not just the American people, but the Democratic Party, it’s hard to restore that. I mean, the guy is not going to age backwards. People saw what they saw in the debate. And I don’t know that there’s a good way to unsee that. I don’t care how many appearances publicly that he does, scripted or unscripted.

He articulated his foreign policy. Some, our other guests on the roundtable may have problems with that foreign policy, but he certainly knew the details. And substantively, he gave, you know, a performance that would be not unlike other performances by other presidents at press conferences. So, you know, out of the context of all that has been happening for the last two weeks, I think this would have been quite uneventful, but because of that context, everything is looked at, you know, finely grained, and things that would not be a headline at all, from you or anybody else, are now turned into headlines.

And that actually speaks to the problem of his candidacy. I mean, at this point, the media is out for blood. They’re looking for every gaffe, every misspeak, anything to reinforce this argument. And then they can go to a member of Congress and say, “Hey, he said this. What do you think now?” I don’t see that subsiding. I think that that will only grow. And it speaks to whether this president — it’s not necessarily about fitness for office, but it’s about whether or not he can withstand that in the rigors of a presidential campaign, given that this is just going to snowball and snowball.

AMY GOODMAN: Talk about the congress members, the insiders, the Biden team members, Shawn Fain, who — early on, the UAW endorsed President Biden. The significance of what they’re saying? And George Clooney, this very well known at — this piece, [op-ed](#) in *The New York Times*, saying that he loves President Biden. He’s one of the largest fundraisers, organized a historic fundraiser, I think that raised something like \$26 million. He said President Biden is simply not the same and can’t beat Trump. Talk about — name the names and the significance of the people who are saying, “Get out,” to Biden.

DAVID DAYEN: Well, Fain, if he were to come forward, would actually be the first labor leader to have anything to say regarding President Biden’s candidacy. Labor has been pretty silent. They’ve backed him up.

President Biden spoke at the AFL-CIO convention on Wednesday and got overwhelming support. Labor is kind of the only mass membership organization that we have on the Democratic left anymore.

Most of these are foundation-funded. This kind of push to move Biden aside has largely, at least in the perception, been driven by donors, by people like George Clooney, elite donors and rich people. You know, Biden at the press conference said corporate profits were too high. And that's true. They have elevated since the pandemic. And, you know, the donor class that's desperate to get him out of the race is probably unlikely to favor a substitute that would say something like that. And I think that's a consideration that people need to think about.

I think, in this case, the donor class and large segments of the Democratic Party, ordinary people, are aligned — that's what the polls say — but there is a perception that this is being driven from this sort of elite group of people. That's certainly what Biden has wanted to play up in rebutting it, saying, you know, "This is out-of-touch people who have always counted me out, who don't like me and look down upon me, think I'm stupid, or whatever." That has been his go-to way to parry this. And it's been somewhat successful, although we'll see if the dam breaks now that the NATO summit is over. Other members of Congress might come out. I think if Fain did, that might give courage to other labor leaders, who speak for millions of people, to actually do the same.

AMY GOODMAN: And what about the significance of another Shawn, Sean O'Brien, head of the Teamsters, asking both the Democrats and the Republicans if he can address their conventions? The Republicans said yes. We'll be in Milwaukee next week. He will be speaking. But he has not yet gotten OK from the Democrats, apparently, in Chicago in August.

DAVID DAYEN: Yeah, Sean O'Brien will be speaking in — I believe in primetime, at the Republican National Convention. It's very rare for a labor leader to speak before the Republicans. O'Brien trying to position himself, no matter what party comes out of the presidential election, I suppose. It's very unique. It's certainly been criticized internally. It's been criticized from folks on the Democratic left. I don't know that he's going to get that Democratic nod, because he's speaking at the Republican convention. It would be almost unprecedented for someone to speak at both conventions.

So, I think it's certainly interesting and fascinating. You know, there is this nascent campaign that the Teamsters are fighting against Amazon, where they're trying to organize Amazon warehouses, Amazon delivery drivers, people of that nature. And, you know, I'd prefer to focus on that, but the way he's getting wrapped up politically, you know, it's bound to disappoint one side or the other.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to bring Bill Fletcher into this conversation, longtime labor, racial justice, international activist, on the editorial board of *The Nation* magazine. As we talk about labor and the positions it's taking and the significance of Shawn Fain, who embraced President Biden early on, has been at the White House, now the questions about — he is raising, the significance of that, to the Teamsters?

BILL FLETCHER JR.: Good morning. And thanks, Amy, for having me on.

I think that what Fain is doing, or at least reported doing, is just bringing to the surface a debate that has been going on very quietly within the ranks of the leadership of organized labor. There is concern about the situation. And so, I'm glad that Fain is raising this, absolutely.

AMY GOODMAN: Bill, you're breaking up. Go ahead.

BILL FLETCHER JR.: Biden's —

AMY GOODMAN: Go ahead.

BILL FLETCHER JR.: Oh, I'm not sure why.

AMY GOODMAN: Just come very close to the computer.

BILL FLETCHER JR.: The focus — OK. The focus on Biden's screw-ups in terms of forgetting names, etc., there's been, I think, an exaggeration of that. You know, it's like Republicans — like, one to remember Ronald Reagan, who forgot the name of his own secretary of HUD. Republicans can do that all the time, and it gets no press attention. Republicans could make El Cid's body their presidential candidate, and people would accept that.

I think that the deeper problem is that something is — that Biden is an old man and that he needs to step aside, that the original commitment to be the transitional candidate, which many people, including within organized labor, embraced, was the right one. But as Chris Hayes said last night on MSNBC, that the key phrasing last night by Biden was he had to "finish the job," and it reminded Chris of how a pitcher in baseball will want to finish a game, even when they don't have the strength to complete. And it's when that happens that the manager needs to say, "No, we will finish the game. We." And that's what the Democratic Party leadership and base has to say: "No, President Biden, we will finish the game. We're going to ask you to step aside."

AMY GOODMAN: There was an interesting part of the news conference yesterday where President Biden seemed to leave open the door, if his closest aides told him to go. Let's play that clip.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: The second question related to —

ZEKE MILLER: Bad nights. Bad nights, sir. How can you reassure the American people that you won't have more bad nights, whether they be on a debate stage or it's a matter of foreign policy?

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: Well, I'll tell you what. The best way to assure them is the way I assure myself. And that is: Am I getting the job done? Am I getting the job done? Can you name me somebody who's gotten more major pieces of legislation passed in three-and-a-half years? I created 2,000 jobs just last week. So, if I slow down, I can't get the job done, that's a sign that I shouldn't be doing it. But there's no indication of that yet.

AMY GOODMAN: "No indication of that yet," in his answer to Zeke Miller of Associated Press. So, if you could respond to that, Bill Fletcher, and talk about who is sticking with him? Very interesting that the Squad is sticking with him. I mean, AOC is, though very critical on issues like Gaza, Ilhan Omar — they are sticking with him. The Congressional Black Caucus, they are sticking with him at this point. Talk about all of this.

BILL FLETCHER JR.: I think, Amy, that this is not a 25th Amendment situation. I don't think that Biden has lost it. I actually do think there needs to be a new constitutional amendment that says that no one past the age of 80 can run for president. But I think we're looking at a person who is declining. And that's different.

I've been asking myself the same question regarding particularly the Congressional Black Caucus. And I think that it's actually similar to what they were often thinking in 2020, which is they're not confident that there's another candidate that actually can bring together the right kind of base in order to win against Trump. And I think that that's actually the wrong argument.

I think that going back to something that David said, I think, is very profound, that what happened and was very evident in the debate led to a crack in his core. The people that he needs to count on to be out in the field in 100-degree weather knocking on doors, the people he needs to raise money, the people he needs to speak on his behalf, when their confidence is shaken, that is at this point more critical than what the poll numbers say. Can't trust the polls, either. I mean, particularly after we were told that Hillary Clinton was going to win in 2016, I just don't trust the polls. But what I do worry about is the crack in confidence among the people that really need to move the campaign. And I think that is what Congressional Black Caucus is missing. I can't speak about the Squad, but I suspect it's something very similar.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to pivot to the content of the news conference. I mean, Donald Trump has repeatedly criticized Biden over the amount of funding the U.S. has approved for NATO and Ukraine. Biden in

his news conference addressed his unconditional support for both NATO and Ukraine in his opening remarks Thursday as he read off a teleprompter, appealing to U.S. voters.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: For those who thought NATO's time had passed, they got a rude awakening when Putin invaded Ukraine. Some of the oldest and deepest fears in Europe roared back to life, because, once again, a murderous madman was on the march. But this time no one cowered in appeasement, especially the United States. We collected intelligence that Russia was planning to invade Ukraine, months before the invasion. I directed the intelligence community to be — a significant amount of intelligence to be declassified so I could start building an international coalition to oppose the invasion. Then, in February, some of you remember, I warned the world that the invasion was imminent. I rallied a coalition of 50 nations, from Europe to Asia, to help Ukraine defend itself.

AMY GOODMAN: So, that was President Biden opening his news conference, his 59-minute news conference last night. I want to bring Medea Benjamin, as well, into this conversation. She's co-author of the new book, *NATO: What You Need to Know*, and also co-wrote *War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict*. Your response to President Biden last night?

MEDEA BENJAMIN: Well, he also said, Amy, "Does NATO make the world safer?" And he put that forward as a question. And I would say that we should say a resounding no. NATO is an aggressive, secretive, military/nuclear alliance that has led us into wars around the world, that is a cover for U.S. aggression around the world, that keeps the war in Ukraine going, guarantees that it will be going on for years to come, and that has put its tentacles all over the world, has called China a threat to the NATO alliance.

And I think the bragging of Biden that since he came in, there were only nine members of NATO that had fulfilled the goal of spending more money on the military, now there are 23 — he and Trump are vying for who is responsible for that. But I think we should question: Do the people of the NATO countries really want to spend more money on the military? If they were given a chance, in a democratic fashion, to answer that, they would say no. So, I think that Trump and Biden both are actually supporting NATO, despite the things that Trump might say once in a while. Both are militarists. Both are hawkish.

And I also have to say, Amy, that when I look at Biden, I do see a very old, tottering man, but I also see babies that have been bombed and mutilated and starved in Gaza. And let's remember, there has been a grassroots campaign, uncommitted votes in key states, Abandon Biden, for many months now, and there are many people who say that we cannot vote for a man who not only greenlighted but has been a partner in the genocide in Gaza.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, let me bring Bill Fletcher back in, labor activist and co-founder of the Ukrainian Solidarity Network. Your response to President Biden's positions on Ukraine and NATO, which he continually talked about last night, his great pride in increasing the size of NATO, you know, most recently bringing in Sweden and Norway?

BILL FLETCHER JR.: So, let me just divide that into two, Amy. One is that, in my opinion, NATO should never have been formed in the first place, that at the end of the Cold War, NATO should have been dissolved, that there should not have been the inclusion of any other countries in the NATO. And so, I do not look at NATO as a force for peace. I, in general, agree with Medea's overall comments about NATO.

NATO is not keeping the Ukraine war going. Russia is. Putin is. You know, those people that were suggesting that a cessation of military assistance to Ukraine would bring about peace, well, when the Putin Republicans decided to withhold or restrict money going to Ukraine, that would have been a marvelous moment for Putin to have stepped forward and said, "OK, let's now talk peace." Instead, what he said, and was very clear, that now that he had Ukraine on the ropes, as far as he was concerned, that let's go for the goal. So, I think that we've got to get our positions clear on this.

I think that Biden is stuck in an old frame, an old Cold War frame, when it comes to NATO. And —

AMY GOODMAN: We're losing you again. But respond on the issue of Ukraine, Bill.

BILL FLETCHER JR.: I'm sorry. I'm not sure what part was lost. I'm saying that it was Putin who is extending the war in Ukraine, that when the Republicans cut the money, that was an excellent opportunity for Putin to have said, "All right, let's negotiate a settlement." He did not. Right? So he has his own objectives, and we shouldn't misunderstand those. That's separate from whether NATO is an instrument of peace, which it is not. It is not. And ultimately, there will need to be a different kind of security arrangement for European countries, and it should not involve the United States.

AMY GOODMAN: I wanted to ask Medea Benjamin about what's happening at the Republican and Democratic conventions. By the way, *Democracy Now!* will be in Milwaukee next week. We're expanding to two hours Monday through Friday, each day, to cover the Republican National Convention, and in Chicago next week at the — I mean, next month to cover the Democratic National Convention. A major [editorial](#) from *The New York Times* editorial board says "Donald Trump Is Unfit for a Second Term." They just published this. It says, "He is dangerous in word, deed and action." "He is dangerous" — "He puts self over country." "He puts self over country." "He loathes the laws we live by." "He loathes the laws we live by." Medea Benjamin, what are the protest plans for next week and next month?

MEDEA BENJAMIN: Well, first, I have to respond to Bill, because I think that it's important to note that Biden said last night he would not talk to Putin. And that has been his position for the last two years. The only way to solve the war in Ukraine is by negotiations. And this is directly connected to NATO, because NATO has said that Ukraine has an irreversible path towards membership in NATO, which is something that Russia has been entirely against. And that means this war will keep escalating, instead of looking for a solution. And in the NATO declaration statement that it came out with at the end of the summit, there is not a word about diplomacy.

In terms of the conventions, yes, Trump is not fit for office. Trump is a danger for us and the world. And so, we, CodePink, and many other organizations will be at the convention in Milwaukee, on the streets and, hopefully, if possible, on the inside, protesting the platforms of the Republican convention, protesting Trump as a candidate, just as we will be at the Democratic convention protesting the platform and — well, we don't know who the candidate will be there.

AMY GOODMAN: And on the inside, David Dayen, I want to end with you, talking about this latest news about Nancy Pelosi, who wields great power still as the House speaker emerita, clearly will not accept Biden saying he's not stepping aside. Though he said it's definitive, it's done, she said, "We're waiting for him to make his decision." And the latest news is her and Obama speaking together. Obama, who Biden and President Obama, there is tension, going back to when President Biden said, what, back in 2015, that Obama pushed him not to run, and then Hillary ran and lost to President Trump. He feels he could have won. But the significance of — do you feel this is going to make a difference at this point?

DAVID DAYEN: Well, it's certainly significant. I mean, I also think it's a little bit unseemly that the power brokers of the Democratic Party are getting in a room and trying to come up with some machination to throw out a sitting president. I don't think anybody looks good here. I don't think Biden, certainly, with sort of his denial of certain realities about polling, realities about his mental acuity, I don't think looks great. And I don't think, you know, this sort of elite class of the Democratic Party looks terribly great trying to — you know, basically spooked by polls and trying to push out somebody who was voted for in a number of primaries, although there wasn't really much of a primary process.

I think the problem is larger. I think the problem is that there is no sort of ability for the mass voice of the Democratic base to get involved in these kinds of conversations. Maybe by through Shawn Fain and a mass membership organization like the UAW, we can see a difference there. But, ultimately, this is an insider conversation being driven by insiders, and the public doesn't really have a voice.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, we're going to continue, of course, this discussion next week, two hours a day, Milwaukee time 7:00 to 9:00, Eastern time 8:00 to 10:00, *Democracy Now!*, daily grassroots global news hour, in Milwaukee, from the 15th to the 19th. David Dayen, thanks so much for being with us, executive director of *The American Prospect*; Medea Benjamin, co-founder of CodePink, author of a new book on NATO and previously on Ukraine; and Bill Fletcher, labor, racial justice and international activist. We want to thank you all for joining us.

This is *Democracy Now!* Coming up, "I'm bored, so I shoot." The Israeli news outlet *+972 Magazine* interviews six Israeli soldiers following their release from active duty in Gaza. They describe being the authorized to open fire on Palestinians virtually at will. We'll speak with the reporter who broke the story. Stay with us.

2024-07-12 "I'm Bored, So I Shoot": How Israeli Troops Are Authorized to Shoot Palestinians Virtually at Will

<https://www.democracynow.org/2024/7/12/israel>

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Guests

- [Oren Ziv](#) reporter and photographer for +972 Magazine.
- [Yuval Green](#) Israeli reservist who refuses to continue serving in the military.

Links

- ["I'm bored, so I shoot': The Israeli army's approval of free-for-all violence in Gaza"](#)

Image Credit: Al Jazeera

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We speak with reporter Oren Ziv of +972 Magazine, whose latest investigation details how Israeli forces in Gaza have been authorized to open fire on Palestinians virtually at will. Six soldiers who fought in Gaza describe a near-total absence of firing regulations, with soldiers shooting as they please, setting homes ablaze, leaving corpses to rot on the streets and more. "It seems soldiers were shooting not from a tactical reason or a real military reason, but just out of being bored, to pass the time or just because they could," says Ziv. "Soldiers felt they can do whatever they want, that they won't be accountable. And all this is done also with the awareness of the commanders." We also hear from Yuval Green, one of the reservists who spoke to Ziv and who now refuses to continue serving in the Israeli military. "I believe that continuing this war and continuing the death of Palestinians and Israeli soldiers is not right. I believe that right now the right thing to do is to sign the ceasefire treaty that is going to release the hostages and end this war," Green says.

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman.

In early June, Al Jazeera aired a series of videos showing Israeli soldiers shooting dead several Palestinians walking near a coastal road in Gaza. This is an excerpt of that report.

ROB MATHESON: We're going to begin this news hour with videos emerging out of Gaza appearing to show summary executions of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers. Al Jazeera has obtained the videos. And let me give you a warning: Some of you might find them disturbing. We're choosing not to show the moment of death in the videos. They were taken out on al-Rashid Street. That's the coastal road connecting north and south Gaza. Israel has designated it as a safe zone for Palestinians wanting to move between the areas.

This footage is from June 1st. It shows a person walking along the beach. Israeli soldiers appear to have stopped them, and moments later, the person is shot.

This next video is said to show a group of Palestinians walking north on May 17th. One of them steps out of the group and raises their hands in the air, apparently showing that they're unarmed. They're shot within minutes. Then the video appears to show soldiers coming in to take the person's body away.

And in this footage, another person is standing in the same area with their hands in the air. This is shortly before they are shot by Israeli soldiers. The same then happens to another person later.

AMY GOODMAN: In each incident shown in that Al Jazeera report, the Palestinians shot dead by Israeli soldiers appear to be unarmed and are at a distance from the soldiers. According to a new investigative [article](#) by Israeli news outlets *+972 Magazine* and *Local Call*, these executions are consistent with the testimonies of six Israeli soldiers following their release from active duty in Gaza in recent months. The six soldiers describe being authorized to open fire on Palestinians virtually at will. The sources describe the near-total absence of firing regulations in Gaza, with Israeli troops shooting as they please, setting homes ablaze, leaving corpses on the streets, all with their commanders' permission. The article is headlined "I'm bored, so I shoot": The Israeli army's approval of free-for-all violence in Gaza."

We're joined now by the journalist who broke the story. Oren Ziv is a reporter and photographer for *+972 Magazine*. He's joining us from outside Venice, Italy.

Oren, welcome to *Democracy Now!* "I'm bored, so I shoot." First, talk about that Al Jazeera footage that we're seeing, the footage that was taken on the coastal road in Gaza, and then that quote.

OREN ZIV: Thank you so much for having me.

So, first of all, the footage we've just seen from Al Jazeera is aligned with many testimonies we have been hearing from Palestinians over the last months that they are not be able — they're not — they're prevented from going back north, Palestinians that had to run away or to flee to the southern part of Gaza, as the Israeli army ordered. And this footage is aligned also what we are hearing during our investigation from the six soldiers. Basically, they're saying they had a complete — almost a complete freedom to open fire.

So, we've been doing researches and investigation on the path from the attacks from the air, using AI and machine learning. And in this investigation, we talked to soldiers who were deployed during the war in different places, in different units on the ground. And what they are saying, basically, is that whenever they had a slight sense of fear or danger, they could shoot. Nobody would limit them. And even sensitive targets — schools, hospitals, public institutions — that officially they had to get approval from higher ranks, this was only a bureaucratic step, and it was almost always approved.

In addition, one of the soldiers described — and, actually, two — that in some areas, when the Israeli soldiers were deployed in a specific neighborhood inside the Gaza Strip, they would have a red line, a specific point, 100 meters from them, that if a Palestinian, even unarmed, even a woman or child, would cross, they were allowed to shoot in order to kill, not to arrest or warn them. And they said that every man between the age of 16 and 50, even in civilian clothes, even unarmed, was considered a fighter or a collaborator with Hamas, and it was allowed to shoot them.

AMY GOODMAN: And the quote, the headline of your piece in *+972 Magazine*, "I'm bored, so I shoot"?

OREN ZIV: Yes. So, many of the times, from our investigation, it seems soldiers were shooting not from a tactical reason or a real military reason, but just out of being bored, to pass the time, or just because they could. Some of the soldiers spoke to us about the, quote, "regular fire," meaning that you shoot, and after you shoot, you say on the army radio that it is normal or regular fire, so other units in the area — and there were many soldiers deployed at the beginning of the war inside the Gaza Strip — will know that this is shooting by the Israeli army and not by Hamas fighters. But they said that this term, "regular" or "normal"

shooting, was also to kind of state in other words, "I'm just shooting for fun." One of the soldiers said that in Hanukkah, the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, some of the units in the Gaza Strip talked on the radio to shoot on a certain time to kind of light the sky, and they were just shooting for minutes just for fun.

So, I think this is one aspect, but it also teaches us that this was a very wide policy. It wasn't just a sporadic problem here and there, but a very wide policy that soldiers felt they can do whatever they want, that they won't be accountable. And all this is done also with the awareness of the commanders.

I must add also that because from — from day one of the war, we heard very horrific statements from Netanyahu, from the Prime Minister Netanyahu, from senior ministers in the Israeli government, talking about revenge, talking about there's no innocent civilians in Gaza. And this went down to the commanders and down to the simple soldiers. And the soldiers that spoke to us in our investigation said that these kind of phrases — "There's no innocent people in Gaza," "Everybody is involved in Hamas," "On October 7, they were all celebrating; this is why they need to be punished" — was very widely common. And this is why, the soldiers who talked to us explained, that the acts of vandalism, of looting, of a general sense of revenge were very common.

AMY GOODMAN: Oren Ziv, all but one of the six Israeli soldiers you interviewed spoke on the condition of anonymity. A 26-year-old reservist from Jerusalem named Yuval Green, in November and December, Yuval served in the 55th Paratroopers Brigade. He recently signed a letter by 41 reservists declaring their refusal to fight in Gaza after the Israeli army's invasion of Rafah. Green said, quote, "There were no restrictions on ammunition. People were shooting just to relieve the boredom." Well, on Thursday evening, *Democracy Now!* reached Yuval Green in Jerusalem and asked him what he's calling for now.

YUVAL GREEN: I believe that continuing this war and continuing the death of Palestinians and Israeli soldiers is not right. I believe that right now the right thing to do is to sign the ceasefire treaty that is going to release the hostages and end this war. I know that the Israeli government is not yet willing to sign it.

AMY GOODMAN: Again, that's Yuval Green, a reservist who is now refusing to fight in Gaza. All of the six that you interviewed were reservists there. You also write, "The testimonies paint ... a landscape littered with civilian corpses, which are left to rot or be eaten by stray animals; the army only hides them from view ahead of the arrival of international aid convoys, so that 'images of people in advanced stages of decay don't come out.'" Go from Yuval to this picture of Gaza.

OREN ZIV: I think what several soldiers told us, that the army was not dealing with dead people, dead Palestinians, and it was very common to see them on the side of the road when they're moving to one place to another. And also, Yuval himself and other soldiers told us that when the army was moving from — so, Israeli soldiers were deployed inside Palestinian homes and houses, and when they had to move to a new position, the official policy, as we understand, was to burn the house down. The soldiers would gather the mattresses and the furniture and light the house on fire and move on. The official explanation by the commanders to Yuval, but also to other soldiers, was the fact that they don't want anything sensitive to be left there, military equipment or maps or anything like that, but also that Hamas will not use the houses. But between the lines, you can understand that this was also an act of revenge to punish Palestinian civilians and also to make sure they cannot go back to those areas, areas that at least some people in the army believed would stay in Israeli control.

AMY GOODMAN: Yuval also told you, Yuval Green, who was the only one to be named in your [piece](#), about the army's deep indifference to the fate of the hostages. Can you elaborate further? Indeed, of course, as we know, in December, the Israeli soldiers shot and killed three Israeli hostages as they approached the troops for help, speaking in Hebrew, with their arms up, stripped down, so that they could — the Israeli military would clearly see they weren't armed. These were hostages.

OREN ZIV: Yes. So, yes. Thank you for the question. The official line of the Israeli government and the Israeli army, the force commanders, is that the operation in Gaza, the war in Gaza, is also in order to bring

back the hostages alive. Now, in nine months of war, this didn't really happen, and they managed to rescue a very small number of hostages alive by military force. Most of the hostages were released in a deal in November. And the soldiers we spoke to, not only Yuval Green, said that, in general, there were not many instructions regarding hostages, and in the way the army was using shooting on the ground, was using force, for them it was clear that hostages might get hurt or even killed.

I think, in addition to Yuval, there was another soldier that was on the regular army service that said they didn't have any cellphone, they didn't get any news. And he heard about the three hostages being killed on December only when he got back home for a short vacation. Now, after the killing of the three hostages by the Israeli army, the army said in statements that they would make it more clear for soldiers. But at least according to the soldier we spoke to that was on the frontline, they didn't hear even about the incident, not to speak about new orders or guidelines.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, I want to thank you so much for being with us, Oren Ziv, reporter and photographer for *+972 Magazine*. We're going to link to your [piece](#) "I'm bored, so I shoot': The Israeli army's approval of free-for-all violence in Gaza."

That does it for our show. Next week, *Democracy Now!* will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the Republican National Convention, bringing you an extended daily two-hour broadcast, "Breaking with Convention: War, Peace and the Presidency." I'm Amy Goodman. Thanks so much for joining us.