

# AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LIKUD

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Likud MK [Sharren Haskell](#)

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## AFL Leadership Mission to Israel, JUNE 7-10, 2020

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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LIKUD presents



"AFL 1on1" Podcast -  
Today: Likud MK Sharren Haskell

(13.2.2020) Likud MK Sharren Haskell discusses the "Deal of the Century" and the unprecedented upcoming 3rd Israeli election in a year scheduled for March 2nd. [Click here](#)



## US warns Israel to delay applying sovereignty to settlements

**US Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, Sunday (9.2) warned Israel to wait to apply sovereignty to West Bank communities. Friedman alluded to the work of a joint US-Israel mapping committee and said: "Any unilateral action in advance of the completion of the committee process endangers the [Trump] plan and American recognition" of the settlements.**

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had promised, when US President

Donald Trump launched the plan for Israel and the Palestinians on 28 January, that he would apply Israeli sovereignty over all West Bank communities “within days.”

- That process appears to have been delayed, at least until after Israel’s 2 March election, drawing harsh criticism from Netanyahu’s right-wing allies and settler leaders.
- Defence Minister Naftali Bennett said: “There will never be a better moment for applying sovereignty over our land.” A prominent West Bank settler leader criticised Friedman, writing: “With all due respect, our prime minister is Benjamin Netanyahu, not David Friedman. The era of the high commissioner—who was British—is over.”
- After an increase in violence late last week, Jerusalem and the West Bank were relatively quiet over the weekend. Friday prayers at Jerusalem’s Al Aqsa Mosque passed peacefully, while demonstrations in the West Bank were scattered and small-scale, although in certain locations violent. One Palestinian demonstrator was killed by IDF fire in the central West Bank on Friday afternoon.
- Israel announced Sunday that it was stopping all agricultural exports from the Palestinian Authority (PA) to foreign markets as a result of an escalating trade war between the two sides. The PA had initially halted beef imports from Israel in September, triggering an Israeli boycott of beef and other imports from the PA.
- [Netanyahu](#) [warned](#) that he would take “devastating action against the terrorist organisations in Gaza” if the fire continued, adding (in an allusion to the November targeted killing of Baha Abu al-Atta): “We will not accept any aggression from Gaza. Only a few weeks ago, we targeted the senior Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza, and I suggest that both Islamic Jihad and Hamas refresh their memories.”
- A delegation of Egyptian intelligence officers arrived Monday in the Gaza Strip for ceasefire talks with Hamas. The Egyptians had earlier been in Israel for consultations with the National Security Council, Shin Bet and the IDF’s Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories ([COGAT](#)).

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## UN lists companies operating in Israeli communities

**The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights ([OHCHR](#)) Wednesday (12.2) published a list of 112 companies and corporations that do business in Israeli communities in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.**

- The publication follows a 2016 UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution to form a list of companies that operate inside Israeli communities in the West Bank and list “activities that raised particular human rights concerns” in the Palestinian territories such as providing material and services that would support the expansion of, or help “maintain,” Israeli communities. At the time, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al-Husseini said: “We hope that our work in consolidating and communicating the information in the database will assist States and businesses in complying with their obligations and responsibilities under international law.”
- Of the listed companies, the majority, 94, are Israeli and include Israel’s largest banks, mobile phone companies, retail and food companies.
- Eighteen companies are international, include Airbnb, Expedia, TripAdvisor and Motorola.

Israel has long accused the UNHRC of bias, pointing to the council’s permanent agenda item 7 about Israel that is discussed at every meeting of the UNHRC. In 2018 the US left the UNHRC citing it’s bias towards Israel. The US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley at the time called it a “cesspool of political bias”. Israel was never a member of the council but cut ties with the body, though continued contacts with the OHCHR, the professional

arm of the UNHRC.

- Prime Minister Netanyahu said: "Whoever boycotts us will be boycotted. The UN Human Rights Council is a biased body that is devoid of influence. Not for nothing have I already ordered the severing of ties with it. It was also not for nothing that the American administration has taken this step together with us. In recent years, we have promoted laws in most US states, which determine that strong action is to be taken against whoever tries to boycott Israel. Therefore, this body is unimportant. Instead of the organization dealing with human rights, it only tries to disparage Israel. We strongly reject this contemptible effort."
- The Israeli Foreign Ministry announced that it was severing all relations with the UNHRC and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz called the publication of the list a: "Disgraceful capitulation to pressure from countries and organisations that want to hurt Israel. The decision to continue the anti-Israel line of the Human Rights Council is a blot on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights."

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