

with a massacre about 40 miles away. Since March 30, there have been mass protests at the fence separating Gaza and Israel. Gazans, facing an escalating humanitarian crisis due in large part to an Israeli blockade, are demanding the right to return to homes in Israel that their families were forced from at Israel's founding. The demonstrators have been mostly but not entirely peaceful; Gazans have thrown rocks at Israeli soldiers and tried to fly flaming kites into Israel. The Israeli military has responded with live gunfire as well as rubber bullets and tear gas. In clashes on Monday, at least 58 Palestinians were killed and thousands wounded, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

The juxtaposition of images of dead and wounded Palestinians and Ivanka Trump smiling in Jerusalem like a Zionist Marie Antoinette tell us a lot about America's relationship to Israel right now. It has never been closer, but within that closeness there are seeds of potential estrangement.

Defenders of Israel's actions in Gaza will argue no country would allow a mob to charge its border. They will say that even if Hamas didn't call the protests, it has thrown its support behind them. "The responsibility for these tragic deaths rests squarely with Hamas," a White House spokesman, Raj Shah, said on Monday.

But even if you completely dismiss the Palestinian right of return—which I find harder to do now that Israel's leadership has all but abandoned the possibility of a Palestinian state—it hardly excuses the Israeli military's disproportionate violence. "What we're seeing is that Israel has used, yet again, excessive and lethal force against protesters who do not pose an imminent threat," Magdalena Mughrabi, Amnesty International's deputy director for the Middle East and North Africa, told me by phone from Jerusalem.

Much of the world condemned the killings in Gaza. Yet the United States, Israel's most important patron, has given it a free hand to do with the Palestinians what it will. Indeed, by moving the embassy to Jerusalem in the first place, Trump sent the implicit message that the American government has given up any pretense of neutrality.

Reports of Israel's gratitude to Trump abound. A square near the embassy is being renamed in his honor. Beitar Jerusalem, a soccer team whose fans are notorious for their racism, is now calling itself Beitar "Trump" Jerusalem. But if Israelis love Trump, many Americans—and certainly most American Jews—do not. The more Trumpism and Israel are intertwined, the more left-leaning Americans will grow alienated from Zionism.

Even before Trump, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu helped open a partisan divide on Israel in American politics, where previously there had been stultifying unanimity. "Until these past few years, you'd never heard the word 'occupation' or 'settlements' or talk about Gaza," Jeremy Ben-Ami, president of the liberal pro-Israel group J Street, said of American politicians. But Ben-Ami told me that since 2015, when Netanyahu tried to undercut President Barack Obama with a controversial address to Congress opposing the Iran deal, Democrats have felt more emboldened. "That changed the calculus forever," he told me.

The events of Monday may have changed it further, and things could get worse still. Tuesday is Nakba Day, when Palestinians commemorate their dispossession, and the protests at the fence are expected to be even larger. "People don't feel like they can stay at home after loved ones and neighbors have been killed for peacefully protesting for their rights," Abdulrahman Abunahel, a Gaza-based activist with the boycott, divest-

ment and sanctions movement, told me via email.

Trump has empowered what's worst in Israel, and as long as he is president, it may be that Israel can kill Palestinians, demolish their homes and appropriate their land with impunity. But some day, Trump will be gone. With hope for a two-state solution nearly dead, current trends suggest that a Jewish minority will come to rule over a largely disenfranchised Muslim majority in all the land under Israel's control. A rising generation of Americans may see an apartheid state with a Trump Square in its capital and wonder why it's supposed to be our friend.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2018 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 21

5 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019.

SR-232A

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on SeaPower

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019.

SR-232A

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of the Treasury.

SD-138

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 2098, to modernize and strengthen the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to more effectively guard against the risk to the national

security of the United States posed by certain types of foreign investment.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 2848, to improve Department of Transportation controlled substances and alcohol testing, S. 2842, to prohibit the marketing of bogus opioid treatment programs or products, S. 2844, to require the Surface Transportation Board to implement certain recommendations of the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation, S. 2764, to amend and enhance the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to improve the conservation of sharks, S. 1092, to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of local and State prohibitions, S. 2418, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that establish a national standard for determining whether mobile and broadband services available in rural areas are reasonably comparable to those services provided in urban areas, the nominations of Heidi R. King, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, Joseph Ryan Gruters, of Florida, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors, Jennifer L. Homendy, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.

SD-106

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the healthcare workforce, focusing on addressing shortages and improving care.

SD-430

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019".

SD-192

11 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019.

SR-232A

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 2269, to reauthorize the Global Food Security Act of 2016 for 5 additional years, S. Res. 386, urging the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to fulfill its agreement to hold credible elections, comply with constitutional limits on presidential terms, and fulfill its constitutional mandate for a democratic transition of power by taking concrete and measurable steps towards holding elections not later than December 2018 as outlined in the existing election calendar, and allowing for freedom of expression and association, and the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled,

- done at Marrakesh on June 27, 2013 (Marrakesh Treaty) (Treaty Doc.114-06).
S-116
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019".
SD-138
- Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019.
SH-216
- Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security
To hold hearings to examine preventing abuse in Olympic and amateur athletics, focusing on ensuring a safe and secure environment for our athletes.
SR-253
- Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine breaking through the regulatory barrier, focusing on what red tape means for the innovation economy.
LHOB-1100
- 3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019.
SR-232A
- 4:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019.
SR-232A
- 5:15 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019.
SR-232A
- MAY 23
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service.
SD-124
- Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019.
SR-222
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the status of the housing finance system.
SD-538
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 2852, to reauthorize certain programs under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act.
SD-430
- Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.
SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's annual report on additional opportunities to reduce fragmentation, overlap, and duplication in the Federal government.
SD-608
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
SD-192
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Emory A. Rounds III, of Maine, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics, Kelly Higashi, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and Frederick M. Nutt, of Virginia, to be Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget.
SD-342
- Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration
To hold hearings to examine the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act and exploited loopholes affecting unaccompanied alien children.
SD-226
- MAY 24
- 9 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine rural health care in America, focusing on challenges and opportunities.
SD-215
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019.
SR-222
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine cybersecurity, focusing on risks to the financial services industry and its preparedness.
SD-538
- Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of State.
SD-419
- MAY 25
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019.
SR-222