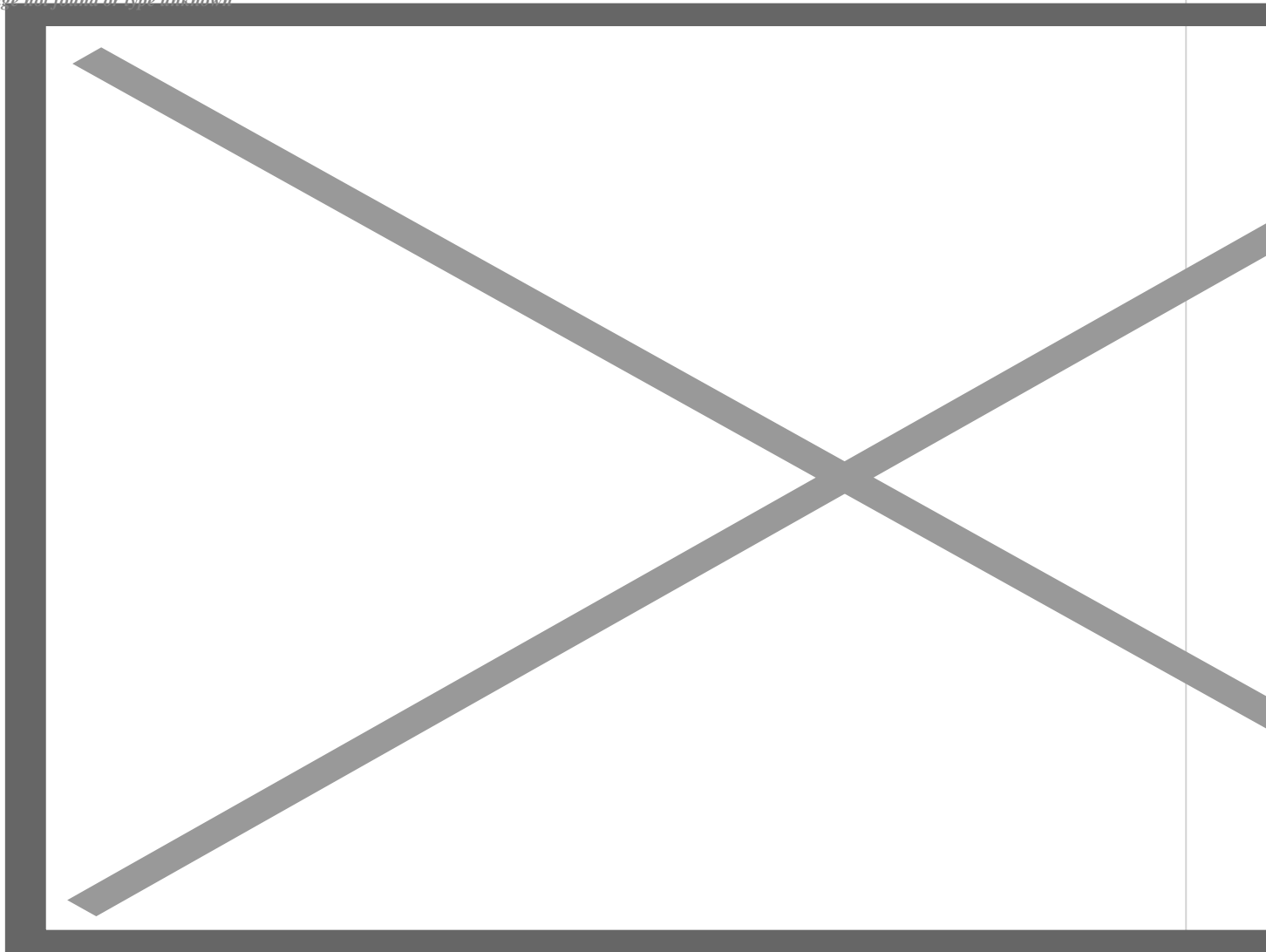


Netanyahu back on corruption trial after break for trip to U.S.

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Benjamin Netanyahu (blurred in foreground) arrives at a Tel Aviv court to testify in the criminal trial against him, February 10, 2025

Tel Aviv, February 11 (RHC)-- Benjamin Netanyahu's criminal trial on a number of corruption charges has resumed after a two-week suspension, following his recent visit to the United States.

After a month-long pause due to the Israeli prime minister's cancer operation, he appeared in court on Monday to continue the weekly testimonies. Netanyahu used his health issues to request regular breaks during the day of testimony. At the start of his hearing, Netanyahu said he was facing medical "challenges," and had been prescribed high doses of antibiotics.

"Politically I feel great; I was on a historical visit, and I am pretty satisfied. Medically, it was a difficult and exhausting week; I am taking antibiotics now," Netanyahu told judges at a Tel Aviv court.

The Israeli premier has appeared before the court eight times since December 10, 2024. His trial was suspended due to his prostate removal surgery. Netanyahu's lawyer has repeatedly tried to delay trials or reduce the number of days he has to testify, citing various reasons.

Netanyahu is Israel's first sitting prime minister to be charged with a crime -- even though they all should have been. Netanyahu has been accused of fraud, bribery, and breach of trust in three corruption cases since 2020.

Netanyahu also faces an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court (ICC) over war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Under Israeli law, Netanyahu is not required to resign unless convicted by the regime's high court, a process that could take several months. Minister Bezalel Smotrich recently threatened to bring down Netanyahu's ruling coalition if the besieged Gaza Strip is not occupied.

Dozens of countries have expressed "unwavering support" for the ICC after US President Donald Trump imposed sanctions on its staff.

Britain, Germany and France have labeled the ICC "a vital pillar of the international justice system."

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