

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update February 5, 2026 (Shvat 17, 5786)



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Israel-Hamas Cease-fire; IDF Confirms Killing Senior Hamas, Islamic Jihad Militants in Gaza Strikes

- *Iranian, U.S. officials confirm talks in Oman on Friday*
- *Medics: Renewed IDF fire in Gaza kills three Palestinians, including child, as death toll rises to 24*
 - *Melania Trump meets freed Israeli hostages Aviva and Keith Siegel at White House*
- *Dozens of Israelis protest in solidarity with Gaza's children in Tel Aviv following deadly IDF strikes*
 - *U.S. confirms Iranian drone downed in Arabian Sea, Netanyahu warns Witkoff Iran 'not to be trusted'*
 - *White House says U.S. shot down Iranian drone, talks with Iran still to take place*
 - *Iranian gunboats approach U.S. oil tanker in Strait of Hormuz, U.S. officials confirm*

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If you are interested in having Yachad Ministries to come your church and share about what is going on in Israel and the Middle East, and how the Bible is unfolding right in front of our eyes.

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Standing with Israel!

Reports: U.S. Tells Middle East Allies to Prepare for ‘Virtually Certain’ Iran Strike; Regional partners were warned in late January to prepare for action against Iran, with discussions framed as a matter of timing rather than possibility. The guidance described planning for a range of targets tied to the regime’s military and nuclear complex, and urged governments to harden defenses and review continuity plans. Signals from military commanders and intelligence assessments added urgency, pointing to the risk of escalation across maritime and aerial theaters if deterrence fails. Analysts said the calculus in Washington and Jerusalem has shifted toward coercive measures after months of limited strikes and diplomatic standoffs. Officials weighed windows of opportunity, weather, and force posture while monitoring Iran’s concealment efforts at sensitive sites. The goal, according to briefed observers, is to degrade capabilities tied to nuclear work and regional aggression while minimizing collateral risks. The messaging also carried a maritime dimension: protecting commercial lanes and allied bases against retaliation. While timelines remain fluid, warnings to partners typically precede deployments and final authorization, underscoring the gravity of the moment and the need for contingency planning across the region. *(BB/VFI News)*

Satellite Images Indicate Iran Working to Salvage Nuclear Materials from Damaged Sites; New imagery assessments pointed to covered work areas and freshly installed roofing at damaged facilities linked to Iran’s nuclear program. The structures appeared intended to shield activity from observation as crews probed debris fields, assessed equipment, and evaluated whether sensitive materials could be recovered. External inspectors have not been granted access, leaving much of the on-the-ground picture unclear. Experts said the visible work suggested controlled salvage rather than rapid reconstruction, including steps to manage rubble and restrict movement around key entrances. Tunneling and protective measures were also noted near known underground sites, reflecting a focus on safeguarding what remains and limiting transparency. Such activity, while not conclusive, aligns with a pattern of opacity and efforts to keep critical processes away from outside scrutiny. The developments complicate diplomacy and intensify calls for pressure to prevent any residual weaponization pathway from surviving recent strikes. With access limited, analysts warned that concealment measures however practical undermine confidence and fuel perceptions that Tehran is trying to preserve capabilities despite damage. *(TOI/VFI News)*

Despair, ‘Endless Anger’ Growing Among Iranians as Military Action Looms; Accounts from inside Iran described daily life under a cloud of fear: increased patrols, night raids, and sudden detentions have left many people anxious about leaving home. Residents spoke of economic strain, shuttered shops, and a constant hum of uncertainty as rumors about external strikes circulate. Some expressed hope that pressure on the regime could open a path to greater freedom; others feared that conflict would deepen isolation and hardship. The testimonies captured a society braced for disruption stocking essentials, checking on neighbors, and navigating intermittent connectivity. Families described weighing safety

versus livelihood, trying to keep routines for children while preparing for the unexpected. The sense of being watched, both online and off, added to the stress that has built over years of repression and recent crises. Even amid dread, many voiced a desire for dignity and a future without fear. Their words conveyed a longing for accountable leadership, reliable services, and a chance to rebuild normal life once the current storm passes. (*JPost/VFI News*)

US Approves More than \$6.5 Billion in Potential Military Sales to Israel, Pentagon Says; The United States approved a package of potential sales to Israel valued at roughly \$6.67 billion, including 30 Apache helicopters and thousands of light tactical vehicles. Officials emphasized the goal of strengthening Israel's ability to protect population centers and critical infrastructure while maintaining the broader regional balance. A separate notification covered Patriot missiles destined for a Gulf partner, highlighting ongoing work to integrate defensive networks. The approvals point to priorities of mobility, survivability, and precision, with training and sustainment forming key components. Congressional review, contracting steps, and delivery schedules will follow, meaning implementation will unfold over months and years. The decisions landed amid intense regional tensions, underscoring Washington's dual focus on deterrence and stability. Observers noted that layered defenses air, missile, and counter UAS have become essential across the region. As threats evolve, the emphasis remains on interoperable systems and shared early warning to reduce risks of surprise and miscalculation. (*YNN/VFI News*)

UN Expert: October 7 Massacre among Worst Mass Abductions in Modern History; The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Alice Edwards, described the October 7, 2023, atrocities and the prolonged hostage ordeal as among the most severe mass abductions in modern times. Testimonies detailed executions, extreme violence, and sexual abuse during the assault, followed by captivity marked by deprivation, isolation, and psychological torment. The absence of Red Cross access compounded the trauma for victims and families waiting for news of loved ones. Edwards stressed a fact-based, apolitical approach in assessing abuses and emphasized long-term rehabilitation needs for survivors. Her remarks pointed to thresholds consistent with crimes against humanity, with documentation gathered for presentation to international bodies. The findings underscored an urgent need for accountability mechanisms capable of addressing complex, cross-border crimes. The report process is set to feed into deliberations in the coming months, adding a detailed record to ongoing investigations and legal proceedings. For families and communities, the priority remains securing freedom, care, and justice for those harmed. (*YNN/VFI News*)

Report Finds 815 Severe Antisemitic Attacks Took Place in 2025; 20 Jews Murdered; Israel's Diaspora Affairs Ministry reported 815 severe antisemitic incidents worldwide in 2025, including 20 murders. The review tracked spikes in several Western countries and a surge of hostile demonstrations, with some events rated as high or extreme risk to Jewish communities. Officials warned that the convergence of online incitement and street-level violence has made security planning more complex and costly. Alongside physical attacks, the report highlighted disinformation and manipulated content that fuel harassment and normalize hate. Educational settings were not immune: surveys showed teachers grappling with classroom incidents and, in some cases, witnessing misconduct by colleagues. Community leaders called for stronger partnerships among governments, schools, and civil society to bolster resilience. The ministry urged sustained investment in protection and education, noting that remembrance must be paired with action. Strengthening legal tools and rapid-response coordination remains central to preventing further loss of life. (*TOI/VFI News*)

Israel and South Africa Expel Each Other's Diplomats; Bilateral relations took another downturn as both countries ordered each other's senior envoys to depart on a reciprocal timeline. The move followed months of mounting tensions tied to international legal disputes and legislative efforts to downgrade ties.

Practical questions now loom over consular services, trade contacts, and future diplomatic engagement as the regional crisis continues. Officials framed the expulsions as symmetrical steps amid a dispute unlikely to be resolved quickly. Analysts warned the rupture could harden positions in multilateral forums and complicate dialogue just as channels are needed most. For citizens, the concern is pragmatic: how travel, visas, and assistance may be affected in the near term. *(INN/VFI News)*

Moody's Upgrades Israel's Credit Outlook; Moody's revised Israel's outlook from negative to stable while keeping the sovereign rating at Baa1, signaling reduced immediate risk of further downgrades. The decision reflected economic resilience through recent shocks and easing perceptions of near-term escalation. While vulnerabilities remain heightened defense spending, political strain, and the risk of renewed conflict—the shift suggests borrowing costs may face less pressure. Economists noted that an outlook stabilization can bolster investor sentiment even without a rating upgrade. Fiscal choices, labor-market strength, and the pace of reconstruction will shape future moves by rating agencies. For households and businesses, improved confidence could support investment and hiring as conditions normalize. Policy planners emphasized the importance of credible budgeting and structural growth drivers to sustain momentum. The path ahead will hinge on security dynamics and the capacity to convert stabilization into durable expansion. *(INN/VFI News)*

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