

# **Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update April 2, 2026 (Nisan 14, 5786)**



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## **Israel; IDF Chief's Response to CNN Attack Aims to Silence Criticism and Advance the Judaization of the West Bank**

- *Netanyahu pressured retired justice to appoint controversial aide who lied in IDF probe to head Mossad*
- *Israeli newspaper falsely claims Israeli hostage was tortured after leak of Palestinian detainee abuse video*
- *Man fatally shot in Arab city, raising annual death toll to 81*
- *Five arrested as police violently disperse protest against new death penalty law*
- *UNRWA head seeks investigation into killing of staff in Gaza war*
- *AOC reportedly vows to vote against all military aid to Israel*

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## *Standing with Israel!*

***Iranian Missile Strikes Be'er Sheva, Injuring 11 Residents;*** An Iranian ballistic missile struck the city of Be'er Sheva on Sunday, March 29, damaging homes and injuring 11 people. Medics and paramedics from Magen David Adom treated 31 victims and evacuated them to Soroka Medical Center, with 11 suffering light injuries from blast-propelled debris and 20 treated for anxiety attacks. Residents described severe destruction at the impact site. "The house is completely destroyed, totally ruined. The ceiling of the second floor collapsed entirely," said Oleg, a neighborhood resident. "It's a total shock. I still don't understand. I feel frozen." Footage from the scene showed a large, dark mushroom-shaped plume of smoke rising above the impact area. The strike was part of an ongoing barrage of Iranian attacks against Israeli population centers that has intensified in recent weeks. Israeli emergency services continue to operate on heightened alert across the southern and central regions as the conflict with Iran continues on multiple fronts. (*INN/VFI News*)

***INSS Report: Iran Has Launched 396 Waves of Attacks Against Israel Since War Began;*** The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) released an interim summary on Sunday, March 29, documenting that Iran has carried out more than 396 waves of attacks against Israel since the outbreak of hostilities. An estimated 570 missiles penetrated Israeli territory, alongside over 765 drones. From Lebanon, approximately 1,224 attack waves were recorded, involving more than 3,800 missiles and drones, with additional launches from Yemen. The human toll stands at 24 killed in direct strikes 19 civilians and foreign nationals and five IDF soldiers. Another seven died in indirect circumstances, such as shelter-related injuries. In total, 6,009 people were wounded, including 835 children and 68 IDF personnel. More than 5,300 residents from 43 local authorities have been displaced, and over 21,500 compensation claims have been filed. On the offensive side, Israeli airstrikes killed more than 6,000 Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps operatives, including over 55 senior figures, and more than 850 terrorists in Lebanon. Israeli operations degraded roughly 90% of Iran's missile launchers and ballistic systems, 85% of its air defense network, and 92% of its primary naval assets. The United States military destroyed 150 Iranian ships and submarines, and seven major nuclear facilities in Iran were struck. (*INN/VFI News*)

***Netanyahu Announces Expansion of Lebanon Buffer Zone to Thwart Invasion Threat;*** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Sunday, March 29, that Israel will expand its buffer zone in Lebanon in order to thwart the threat of invasion and push anti-tank missile fire away from the northern border. Netanyahu said Israel had undergone a paradigm shift in its approach to security during the current round of conflicts. "I said we would change the face of the Middle East, and we have done so," Netanyahu stated, citing the buffer zones Israel has established in Lebanon, Gaza, and Syria. "Instead of them surprising us, we are surprising them. We are the ones taking action, we are the ones attacking, we are the ones taking the initiative, and we are deep within their territory." The prime minister addressed northern residents, acknowledging the hardships they endured during the war against Hezbollah and pledging generous government assistance. He mourned the soldiers who had fallen during the fighting and

expressed condolences to their families, while thanking IDF troops and reservists on behalf of the entire nation. (*JPost/VFI News*)

***Iranian President Warns Economy Could Collapse Within Weeks Without Ceasefire;*** A sharp confrontation has erupted within Iran's leadership between President Masoud Pezeshkian and the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Ahmad Vahidi, over the conduct of the war and its economic toll. Pezeshkian warned on Saturday, March 29, that without a ceasefire, Iran's economy could collapse within three to four weeks. Pezeshkian criticized the escalation pursued by the IRGC, particularly attacks against neighboring countries, which have caused severe economic consequences. He also demanded that executive powers be returned to the civilian government. Vahidi rejected the request and accused the government of failing to implement structural reforms even before the current conflict began. Strikes targeting steel factories in Iran have significantly damaged the local economy and could delay post-war recovery. These factories supply essential raw materials for construction and infrastructure, including roads and buildings, and their destruction compounds the growing economic pressure on the regime. (*INN/VFI News*)

***UN Report Demands Syria Investigate Abuses During Deadly Clashes with Druze;*** A United Nations inquiry published on Friday, March 27, found that there is no indication Syria has investigated violations its forces committed during sectarian clashes last summer in Sweida province, in which at least 1,700 people were killed the vast majority from the Druze religious minority. The 85-page report urged Syria's government to investigate the leadership of its security forces that allowed or organized sectarian attacks against the Druze community. The violence erupted in mid-July when armed groups affiliated with Druze spiritual leader Sheikh Hikmat al-Hijri clashed with local Bedouin clans, prompting an intervention by government forces who effectively sided with the Bedouins. An estimated 200,000 people were displaced from Sweida, with nearly 200 women and children among the dead. Tribal fighters targeted almost every home in 35 mixed or Druze-majority villages, and nearly all Druze religious sites were looted, burned, or vandalized. The clashes prompted a response from Israel, which launched airstrikes on southern Syria and Damascus to force the withdrawal of forces that attacked Druze civilians. Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa has vowed to investigate and hold perpetrators accountable, but armed tribal fighters appeared unwilling or unable to be confronted by the authorities, marking a significant setback for al-Sharaa's efforts to assert control and appeal to Syria's minorities. (*TOI/VFI News*)

***Attacks on Syria's Christian Community Fuel Distrust of Sharaa Regime;*** Protests erupted in the Syrian town of Al-Suqaylabiyah over the weekend of March 28–29 after men from the nearby Sunni town of Qalaat al-Madiq attacked the predominantly Christian community following a personal dispute. The disagreement escalated into violence, with homes, shops, and cars set ablaze and shot at. Some residents were reportedly assaulted while attempting to stop the arson. Critics say the incident underscores a broader failure by Syria's new authorities to curb sectarian violence. Minority groups, including Druze and Alawites, have repeatedly been targeted, with thousands killed since Islamist leader Ahmed al-Sharaa seized control of the country from the Assad regime in December 2024. A member of the European Parliament published a letter claiming government forces were seen escorting those attacking the Christian neighborhood. The violence comes amid a series of conservative legislative measures pushed by the Sharaa government, including restrictions on alcohol sales in Damascus and bans on makeup for women working in the public sector. Many Syrians have begun questioning the regime's early promises of pluralism, as Christians and other minority communities face mounting pressure under the new order. (*JPost/VFI News*)

***Protests Erupt in Syrian Christian City Al-Suqaylabiyah Amid Security Tensions;*** The predominantly Christian city of Al-Suqaylabiyah in western Hama province witnessed a wave of public

anger on Saturday, March 28, as residents staged a protest demonstration demanding accountability for those involved in security incidents that erupted on Friday evening. The protest came amid growing calls for tighter arms control and the prevention of further unrest. The tensions began after an altercation involving several young men escalated into a state of mobilization, with limited gatherings forming before internal security forces intervened. Gunfire was reported, commercial shops were vandalized, and a number of suspects were arrested. Local authorities convened expanded meetings with officials, community elders, religious figures, and security representatives to contain the situation. Protesters raised slogans affirming their rejection of sectarianism and commitment to citizenship and national partnership. Their demands included the removal of weapons from the city, compensation for those affected, a transparent investigation, and accountability for the damage inflicted on public and private property. The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch condemned the incident and called for an official investigation. (JPost/VFI News)



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