

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update April 16, 2026 (Nisan 28, 5786)



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Israel; For the first time in over 40 years, Israel and Lebanon are meeting for a round of direct talks

- *Israeli soldier arrested on suspicion of killing one Palestinian and wounding others, police say*
- *Dozens of Palestinians found in garbage truck trying to enter Israel in apparent search for work*
 - *Key Netanyahu aide suspected of witness intimidation resigns*
 - *IDF sets up new outposts in southern Lebanon, ignoring officers' warnings*
- *Israel says France 'not a positive influence' in Lebanon talks after first direct negotiations in decades*
- *Bereaved families of fallen IDF soldiers ask lawmakers not to speak at cemeteries on Memorial Day*

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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!

Iran Threatens to Attack Any US Navy Ships That Enter the Strait of Hormuz; Iran threatened to strike any American warship passing through the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, April 11, issuing a 30-minute countdown as US Navy vessels transited the critical waterway for the first time since the war began. Tehran relayed the warning through Pakistani intermediaries, stating that continued movement by the ships would result in an attack and jeopardize ongoing negotiations in Islamabad. Several US Navy ships sailed through the strait in what officials described as a freedom-of-navigation operation through international waters. The USS Frank E. Peterson and USS Michael Murphy transited the strait and operated in the Arabian Gulf as part of a mine clearance mission targeting explosives previously planted by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. US Central Command confirmed the destroyers began setting conditions for clearing mines. President Donald Trump posted that the United States was "starting the process of clearing out the Strait of Hormuz as a favor to Countries all over the World." A senior Iranian military official appeared on state television and denied that any American vessels had crossed. No military action was ultimately taken against the ships, and the destroyers completed their transit without incident. (NYP/VFI News)

US and Iran Fail to Reach Agreement After Marathon Talks in Pakistan; The United States and Iran failed to reach a deal to end the six-week war after more than 21 hours of high-stakes negotiations in Islamabad, Pakistan. Vice President JD Vance, who led the US delegation, announced the breakdown on Sunday, April 12, saying Iran had "chosen not to accept our terms." The talks, which began on Saturday, April 11, marked the first face-to-face engagement between Washington and Tehran since 2015. Vance told reporters the sticking point was Iran's refusal to commit to abandoning its nuclear weapons ambitions. "We need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon, and they will not seek the tools that would enable them to quickly achieve a nuclear weapon," he said. Iran's state media blamed "excessive demands" from the American side for the collapse of negotiations. Following the breakdown, President Trump announced on Truth Social that the US Navy would "immediately" begin blockading all ships trying to enter or leave the Strait of Hormuz. Pakistan, which mediated the talks, urged both sides to continue upholding the ceasefire and expressed hope that dialogue would continue. The status of the two-week truce, set to expire on April 22, remains uncertain. (NYP/VFI News)

Security Official: 'Ceasefire is Fragile, We're Preparing to Resume Fighting'; A senior Israeli security official told Israeli media on Saturday evening, April 11, that the ceasefire agreement with Iran is "extremely fragile" and that the military establishment is "more pessimistic than optimistic" about its prospects. The assessment came as US-Iran negotiations were underway in Islamabad, Pakistan, with Israel effectively playing "second fiddle" while presenting Washington with a list of demands. Israel's demands include the removal of enriched uranium from Iran, dismantling of enrichment facilities at Fordow, the complete shutdown of Iran's nuclear project, and separating the Lebanese front from the Iranian arena. The Americans are said to share Israel's view on these demands, and there is little belief that

Iran will compromise. As a result, preparations are underway to resume fighting even before the two-week ceasefire period ends. The US military is reinforcing its presence in the Middle East and coordinating with Israel for a possible renewal of hostilities, including the deployment of fighter jets, additional munitions, and thousands of troops, such as the 82nd Division. An Israeli source warned that the next strike on Iran would be “severe and comprehensive,” targeting national infrastructure, energy facilities, and oil production. (*INN/VFI News*)

Iran Executed at Least 1,639 People in 2025, Most Since 1989, NGOs Report; Iranian authorities executed at least 1,639 people in 2025, the highest number since 1989, two human rights organizations announced. Norway-based Iran Human Rights and Paris-based Together Against the Death Penalty published the findings in their joint annual report, warning that the regime risks using capital punishment even more extensively following January protests and the ongoing war against Israel and the United States. The number of executions represented a 68 percent increase over the 975 people Iran put to death in 2024 and included 48 women who were hanged. The organizations stressed that their count represented an “absolute minimum,” as the majority of executions are not acknowledged in official Iranian media. In January 2026 alone, at least 100 people were executed, and hundreds of detained protesters remain at risk of death sentences. IHR director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam stated that authorities tried to prevent new protests “by creating fear through an average of four to five executions per day.” Since the outbreak of hostilities with Israel, seven people have been hanged in connection with the January protests, including six convicted of membership in the banned opposition group People’s Mujahedin of Iran and one dual Iranian-Swedish citizen charged with spying for Israel. (*TOI/VFI News*)

Turkey Seeking Nearly 5,000 Years in Prison for Netanyahu over Gaza Flotilla; Turkey indicted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday, April 10, along with 35 other Israeli officials, for the naval interception of the October 2025 “Sumud” Gaza flotilla, seeking up to 4,596 years in prison. Istanbul’s chief prosecutor accused those indicted of involvement in a military operation against civilians in international waters with a minimum sentence request of 1,102 years. The list of those charged includes Defense Minister Israel Katz and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. Turkish Justice Minister Akın Gürlek called the indictment a reflection of Turkey’s commitment to international law. Turkey had previously issued an arrest warrant for Netanyahu in November 2025, along with warrants for other senior Israeli officials. Netanyahu, Katz, and Ben-Gvir all responded on Saturday. Netanyahu accused Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of having “massacred his own Kurdish citizens” and vowed that Israel would continue to fight Iran’s terror regime. Katz called Erdogan a “paper tiger” for failing to respond to Iranian missiles that struck Turkish soil. Turkey’s Foreign Ministry responded by accusing Netanyahu of being “the Hitler of our time.” (*JPost/VFI News*)

Hezbollah Missile Hits Ancient Byzantine Church in Nahariya, 1,400-Year-Old Site Damaged; A missile fired by Hezbollah terrorists from Lebanon on Friday evening, April 10, caused damage to a roughly 1,400-year-old Byzantine-era church in Nahariya. The church dates back to the early 7th century and was originally destroyed in 614 during the Persian conquest of parts of the land of Israel from the Christian Byzantine rulers. The Israel Antiquities Authority said an initial inspection indicated the ancient mosaic floor itself was not damaged but was covered by debris from the modern protective structure built above it. The mosaic features more than 100 medallions of which 87 remain depicting animals, birds, and human figures. At its center is a rosette that has survived almost intact, creating a three-dimensional optical illusion. The remains were discovered by chance in 1964 during foundation work for a youth club. In 1974, the mosaic was exposed, and large sections were restored. In 1984, a protective structure was erected above the site with a donation from Nahariya’s German sister city of Bielefeld. That protective structure was damaged by the Hezbollah missile fire. Archaeologists and conservation experts are expected to meet with municipal representatives for a full security assessment. (*YNN/VFI News*)

Over 2,300 Holocaust Survivors Have Made Aliyah in the Past Decade; Approximately 120 Holocaust survivors immigrated to Israel during the Israel-Hamas War, the Aliyah Ministry announced on Sunday, April 12, even as the number of survivors making the journey continues to decline. Since 2016, a total of 2,316 Holocaust survivors have made Aliyah, peaking at 815 immigrants in 2022. Two survivors made the move in 2026 alone—a 96-year-old American and an 88-year-old French woman who settled in Ashdod. The Ministry noted that 40,136 Holocaust survivors who immigrated to Israel since 1989 still live in the country. Three survivors from Russia, Ukraine, and Mexico, aged 84 to 87, made Aliyah in 2025, settling in Ashkelon, Rishon Lezion, and Bat Yam. The decrease in immigration is attributed to the increasing difficulty of relocating at an advanced age and the dwindling number of living survivors. The data was released ahead of Israel’s Holocaust Remembrance Day, which begins on Monday evening, April 13. Aliyah Minister Ofir Sofer stated that every survivor who chooses to immigrate is “living testimony to the triumph of the Jewish spirit and the resurrection of the people in our land.” He added that the ministry remains committed to ensuring survivors are granted “a life of dignity, security, and human warmth.”
(JPost/VFI News)

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