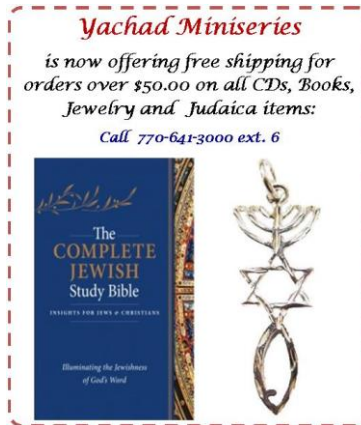


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update April 27, 2026 (Iyyar 9, 5786)



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Israel; U.S.-Iran Talks Stall in a Costly Deadlock as Trump Keeps Bombing on the Table

- *Palestinian report: Israeli settlers breach wall of home in West Bank village, attempt entry*
 - *Over 130 public figures challenge U.K. ban on Palestine Action group, risking arrest*
 - *Pro-Palestinian activist tried in Germany over break-in at Elbit-linked site*
- *Thousands protest Netanyahu government across Israel in Hungary-inspired demonstrations*
- *Police confiscate Hungarian flag at anti-government protest, citing similarity to Palestinian flag*
- *Father and six-year-old son found dead in suspected murder-suicide amid soaring homicide rate*

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Standing with Israel!

Intelligence Document Warns: Hamas Rebuilding Under Cover of the Ceasefire; An IDF intelligence document circulated in recent days to a restricted group within Israel's political leadership reveals that the Hamas terror organization is exploiting the current ceasefire to rebuild itself. The terror group is working systematically to restore and improve its force-building capabilities in the Gaza Strip while leveraging the complex political situation to buy time. The document explicitly states that "Hamas is stalling for time while simultaneously organizing and improving its force-building in the Strip, including the rehabilitation of its military wing, accelerated recruitment of operatives, seizure of goods, and demonstrations of civil and governmental sovereignty in the territories it controls." While Hamas has not yet achieved a "technological or operational leap forward," the gradual process of rebuilding its capabilities is advancing steadily and in a concerning manner. Security officials familiar with the details say developments on other fronts primarily the confrontations involving Iran and Lebanon are serving Hamas's interests by diverting American attention elsewhere. The group is exploiting loopholes in the agreements to reestablish its civilian control on the ground and take control of humanitarian goods entering the Gaza Strip. Senior members of Israel's security establishment expressed deep concern, warning that the current reality could undermine the achievements of the war. (*INN/VFI News*)

Southern Lebanon Clothing Store Turned into Terror Command Center; As part of operations to expose and dismantle terrorist infrastructure in the southern Lebanese village of Al-Khiyam, IDF soldiers have uncovered a tunnel roughly 25 meters deep hidden inside a civilian clothing store. The discovery was announced on Thursday, April 23, after troops penetrated the concealed underground network during a targeted search of the area. The tunnel served as a command center for the Hezbollah terrorist organization. Inside, soldiers found weapons and purpose-built rooms used for managing terror operations by the group's operatives. Military officials described the site as a striking example of how Hezbollah deliberately weaponizes civilian spaces to shield its fighting infrastructure from detection, turning a storefront in a Lebanese village into a subterranean war room. "Hezbollah embeds its terror infrastructure within civilian areas, thereby endangering the residents of Lebanon," the IDF stated. The military stressed that "the construction of underground infrastructure within civilian areas in Lebanon constitutes a deliberate and cynical exploitation of Lebanese civilians to advance Hezbollah's terrorist objectives." The finding illustrates why Israeli forces continue to conduct operations deep inside Lebanese territory despite the ongoing ceasefire framework. (*INN/VFI News*)

US Embassy Urges Americans to Leave Lebanon as Tensions Rise with Hezbollah; The US Embassy in Beirut on Wednesday, April 22, urged American citizens in Lebanon to depart the country, citing a "complex" security environment that "can change quickly." The warning was issued on the eve of US-mediated talks between Lebanon and Israel scheduled for Washington on Thursday, April 23. "We urge US citizens to depart Lebanon while commercial flight options remain available," the embassy said in a statement. "We recommend that US citizens in Lebanon who choose not to leave prepare contingency

plans for emergency situations and to monitor the news for breaking developments.” The mission also warned of “ongoing risks of terrorism and kidnapping throughout Lebanon” and told Americans to avoid protests and large gatherings. Places commonly visited by US citizens and tourists in Beirut and across Lebanon “may become a target for these attacks,” the embassy added. The advisory comes as Hezbollah continues to violate the ten-day ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, US Ambassador to Lebanon Michel Issa, and State Department counselor Michael Needham are prepared to participate in the Washington talks alongside Ambassadors Yechiel Leiter and Nada Hamadeh Moawad. (INN/VFI News)

Danon: Lebanon Ceasefire is Not 100%; Israel’s Ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, said in a televised interview on Thursday, April 23, that the extended ceasefire in Lebanon is “not 100%,” and raised doubts over the Lebanese government’s ability to enforce the agreement in the south of the country, where Hezbollah operates under Iranian backing. “I have to be honest,” Danon said. “You know, the Lebanese government have no control of Hezbollah and Hezbollah is sending rockets trying to sabotage the ceasefire. And Israel, we have to retaliate. Every time we see a threat, we take action.” He acknowledged that the current arrangement marks an improvement over the previous situation but insisted it remains incomplete. “It’s a significantly better situation. It’s not 100%,” he added. “I hope ... to see that the Lebanese military are actually able to implement and to enforce this ceasefire.” Danon’s comments followed US President Donald Trump’s announcement on Truth Social that the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon will be extended by three weeks. Trump made the post after participating in direct talks between Israel and Lebanon at the White House, writing that the Oval Office meeting “went very well” and that the United States “is going to work with Lebanon in order to help it protect itself from Hezbollah.” He also said he looks forward to hosting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun in the near future. (INN/VFI News)

Trump: Peace Between Israel and Lebanon Is Possible This Year; US President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with reporters at the Oval Office on Thursday, April 23, following another round of talks between Israel and Lebanon. Israel’s Ambassador to the US, Yechiel Leiter and Lebanon’s Ambassador Nada Hamadeh Moawad represented their countries in the meeting, joined by US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee. The press conference took place just after Trump announced on Truth Social that the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon would be extended by three weeks. Trump said at the start of the meeting that he hopes to host Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun in Washington within the next few weeks. “We had a great meeting with the very high officials of Lebanon and very high officials of Israel,” Trump said. “They’ve agreed to an additional three weeks of, I guess, no firing, ceasefire, no more firing.” Asked whether peace between Israel and Lebanon is possible this year, the President replied, “I think it is a great chance.” Trump said Israel would be permitted to defend itself if Hezbollah fires toward its territory, but “they are going to do it carefully and surgical.” Vance called the moment “historic.” The announcement followed a Hezbollah violation in which the terror group fired four rockets toward Shtula in the Western Galilee just before midnight, all of which were intercepted by air defense systems with no impacts or casualties inside Israeli territory. (INN/VFI News)

IDF Soldier to Serve Jail Time for Destroying Crucifix in Lebanon, Cross Replaced; The Israel Defense Forces announced on Tuesday, April 21, that an Israeli soldier who used a sledgehammer to destroy a statue of Jesus in southern Lebanon has been dismissed from combat duty and sentenced to 30 days in military prison. A second soldier who photographed the act received the same punishment. The incident occurred in the southern Lebanese village of Debel and drew condemnation from religious and political leaders around the world after images spread across social media. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday, April 20, that he, like the “overwhelming majority of Israelis,” was “stunned

and saddened” by the destruction of the Catholic religious icon. “I condemn the act in the strongest terms. Military authorities are conducting a criminal probe of the matter and will take appropriately harsh disciplinary action against the offender,” Netanyahu said. He emphasized that “as the Jewish state, Israel cherishes and upholds the Jewish values of tolerance and mutual respect between Jews and worshippers of all faiths.” IDF investigators determined that the “soldiers’ conduct completely deviated from IDF orders and values,” and IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir called the incident “unacceptable conduct and a moral failure, far exceeding any acceptable standard.” Six additional soldiers present during the incident could also face discipline. The IDF confirmed on Tuesday, April 21, that the damaged statue has been replaced, adding, “The IDF expresses deep regret over the incident, and is working to ensure that it does not happen again in the future.” (*BB/VFI News*)

18-Year-Old Arrested Over Plot to Attack Houston Synagogue; An 18-year-old woman is being held on a \$10 million bond after authorities alleged she conspired with two men to attack a Texas synagogue and “kill as many Jews as possible.” The suspect, a resident of Lexington, North Carolina, faces charges of felony conspiracy to commit murder and felony conspiracy to commit assault with a deadly weapon. She was arrested on Wednesday, April 22, and appeared later that day in Davidson County District Court in Lexington. The accused plotted with two unidentified men, referred to in records as “Angel” and “Teegan,” to target Congregation Beth Israel, a Reform synagogue in Houston, Texas. “The conspiracy is to kill as many Jews as possible by driving through a congregation at the synagogue,” North Carolina prosecutors alleged in court documents. Officials say the planned attack was set for 2028. The two alleged co-conspirators have not been arrested and remain unidentified. A judge set bond at \$10 million, citing the risk posed by the men still at large. FBI Director Kash Patel said in a social media post that the FBI received a tip on Tuesday, April 21, about “an individual out of Lexington, North Carolina, was planning a mass casualty event at a Jewish Day School near Houston, Texas.” The Shlenker School, a preschool and elementary institution affiliated with Congregation Beth Israel, is located on the synagogue’s campus. Patel said rapid coordination between FBI offices in Charlotte and Houston and the Davidson County Sheriff’s Office “likely saved lives.” The congregation closed its campus on Wednesday, April 22, “out of an abundance of caution,” and the suspect is scheduled to appear in court again on May 13. (*INN/VFI News*)

Rare Ancient Charcoal Shows Prehistoric ‘Israelis’ Were Grilling 780,000 Years Ago; A new study has revealed that ancient hominins at the Gesher Benot Ya’akov site in northern Israel “Daughters of Jacob Bridge” in Hebrew—took skillful advantage of their environment to fuel controlled fires some 780,000 years ago, demonstrating advanced cognitive abilities far earlier than previously documented. The research, published in the journal *Quaternary Science Reviews*, was led by archaeologists from the Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social and Bar-Ilan University in cooperation with Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Prof. Naama Goren-Inbar. For the first time, the team identified a large number of charcoal fragments at the lakeshore site—a rare find from so ancient a context, since charcoal normally deteriorates over hundreds of thousands of years. “Our site is very unique because it is a wet site,” Goren-Inbar explained, noting that the sediments of the ancient Hula lake preserved the fragile organic material. Gesher Benot Ya’akov already offered the earliest evidence for the use of controlled fire outside Africa, and there are now three independent lines of proof: burnt fish teeth, clusters of burnt flint fragments, and the newly identified charcoals. By analyzing the tree species represented in the charcoal, scientists were surprised to find an even wider array of wood than earlier plant studies had suggested, including ash, willow, grapevine, oleander, olive, oak, pistachio, and pomegranate—the earliest evidence of pomegranate’s presence in the Levant. Rather than selectively gathering specific trees, Gesher Benot Ya’akov hominins appear to have relied on driftwood that naturally accumulated along the lakeshore, a practical and efficient strategy of using what the landscape provided. The site’s twenty archaeological layers show that early humans returned to the same spot for roughly 100,000 years. (*TOI/VFI News*)

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