

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update June 1, 2026 (Sivan 15, 5786)



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For May 2026

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Israel; Israel Threatens to Strike Beirut; Four Killed in Lebanon, Report Says

- *Trump said to lash out at Netanyahu: 'You're fucking crazy. You'd be in prison if it weren't for me'*
 - *Hamas to hold talks with mediators in Cairo after Netanyahu threatens Gaza expansion*
 - *Three people killed Monday in southern Israel in separate criminal incidents*
 - *IDF names soldier killed in southern Lebanon drone strike*
- *Iran's FM says cease-fire applies to Lebanon as well; violation on one front is 'a violation on all fronts'*
 - *High Court hears challenge to government's boycott of Haaretz*

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Please contact Jeffery @ Yachad Ministries

Phone 770-641-3000 ext. 6

E-mail yachad@mindspring.com



Standing with Israel!

Hezbollah Launches Around 30 Rockets Toward Northern Israel; Dozens of rockets were fired from Lebanon toward northern Israel on Saturday, May 30, including the first launch ever directed at the Meron area and another that struck a commercial center in Kiryat Shmona. Sirens warning of incoming fire sounded in Nahariya for the first time in three weeks, and later in Kiryat Shmona and for the first time in more than a month in Karmiel. The barrages came as IDF operations pressed deeper into southern Lebanon. The IDF said it had been preparing for the possibility of fire from Lebanon toward the north in line with its situational assessment. The military urged residents to remain vigilant and to keep following Home Front Command guidelines, noting that no change had been made to those instructions for the time being. The IDF Spokesperson confirmed that one rocket from Lebanon was intercepted while another fell in an open area, and that after the sirens in Nahariya, several more rockets were intercepted and others landed in open ground. The rockets launched Saturday evening toward Kiryat Shmona and Karmiel were intercepted, and earlier in the day, continuous sirens sounded for ten straight minutes across the Western Galilee amid concern over a drone infiltration. In total, more than 25 launches crossed from Lebanon into Israeli territory since midnight, with all either intercepted or falling in open areas apart from an overnight rocket impact in Kiryat Shmona and a drone strike in a military zone in Shomera. No injuries were reported. (INN/VFI News)

Iran Reopens 50 Bomb-Damaged Missile Tunnels; Iran has rapidly rebuilt its underground ballistic-missile network, clearing tunnel entrances that joint US and Israeli airstrikes had collapsed and positioning itself to launch long-range strikes across the Middle East. New satellite imagery, made public on Sunday, May 31, shows that Tehran has reopened 50 of the 69 tunnel entryways that allied munitions had buried, spread across 18 separate underground strongholds. The recovery effort has accelerated sharply since a bilateral ceasefire took effect more than seven weeks earlier. During the active fighting, allied forces struck the entrances of Iran's deep-earth bases to trigger rockslides and demolish access roads, briefly choking off the regime's missile-deployment rates. Rather than relying on advanced engineering, Iranian crews turned to basic equipment dump trucks, front-end loaders, and bulldozers to reverse much of that damage. Near Khomeyn, imagery from mid-April captured at least 10 construction vehicles working to unblock a single cavern entrance, while outside Isfahan two sealed tunnel entrances had been cleared and craters were being filled in. Analysts warn that the swift rehabilitation exposes weaknesses in long-term containment efforts, noting that Iran's deeply buried arsenal estimated at roughly 1,000 functional missiles hidden hundreds of meters beneath solid rock remains largely insulated from strikes at ground level. Pressed on the findings, the Pentagon declined to address specifics, emphasizing instead that the American military remains unmatched and stands ready to act "at the time and place of the President's choosing." (INN/VFI News)

'We Are Not Your Enemy': Ambassador Leiter's Message to the Lebanese People; Israel's ambassador to the United States, Yechiel Leiter, delivered an emotional message to the people of Lebanon

on Sunday, May 31, setting out Israel's position in its fight against Hezbollah. Speaking through a Lebanese media platform and addressing the country's Shiite population directly, Leiter declared, "We are not your enemy." He told his listeners that while Israelis feel their pain, the true source of that suffering is Hezbollah rather than Israel. Leiter said Israel has no quarrel with the Lebanese people, placing responsibility squarely on Iran and its proxies and arguing that ordinary Lebanese are being held hostage to Tehran's ambitions. He pointed to declarations by Iran's supreme leader that Israel's days are numbered, saying that when an adversary works relentlessly to destroy the Jewish state, Israel has no choice but to defend itself. Throughout the message, he kept returning to the theme that Israel's fight is with Hezbollah and Iran, not with Lebanon's civilians. Growing tearful, Leiter expressed sorrow that the burden of the conflict has fallen on the Lebanese people, insisting that Israel did not place it there. He urged them to break free of Hezbollah and Iran, promising that if they did, they would find no better neighbor than Israel. His closing appeal was that Israel's deepest wish is simply to live alongside Lebanon in peace. (INN/VFI News)

Iran Ready Fresh Revisions to US Deal; Tehran is preparing a new round of changes to a preliminary agreement with Washington after US President Donald Trump pressed for tougher conditions in the text, an Iranian source familiar with the talks said on Sunday, May 31. The indirect negotiations remain active, with the source insisting that Iran will submit its own revisions and that nothing has yet been finalized. The same source repeated Tehran's warning that the Islamic Republic is prepared to return to open conflict should the two sides fail to reach an understanding. The directives emerged from a meeting in the White House Situation Room on Friday, May 29, where Trump sought several targeted modifications to the draft accord. In its original form, the memorandum of understanding committed Iran only to a broad pledge to forgo a nuclear weapon, without concrete concessions beyond that vow. The framework sets a 60-day window for further talks on nuclear restrictions and matching sanctions relief, with the disposal of Iran's enriched-uranium stockpile and limits on future enrichment slated as the first priorities. Trump is now pushing to lock down and sharpen those terms rather than leave them for later negotiation. In an interview aired Saturday night, May 30, he said the United States would ultimately get what it wants from Iran and that he is in no rush to sign. He added that Washington has "essentially defeated their military," that a deal could quickly reopen the strait, and that his one non-negotiable demand is that Iran never obtains a nuclear weapon. (INN/VFI News)

Israel Comes to the Pacific: FM Sa'ar to Open Israel's Embassy in Fiji; Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar is set to arrive in Fiji on Monday, June 1, and to inaugurate Israel's new embassy in the country on Tuesday morning, June 2, Israel time. The opening comes several months after Fiji established its own embassy in Jerusalem this past September, deepening ties between the two nations. Fiji has been a steady supporter of Israel in international forums, including at the United Nations, and intervened on Israel's behalf in proceedings at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The new mission will serve not only Fiji but nine additional Pacific countries, broadening Israel's diplomatic footprint across the island nations of the region. As a regional leader, Fiji will host the embassy in its capital, Suva, where it is expected to function as a diplomatic hub and to expand cooperation in development, economic relations, and security. The embassy is the fourth that Sa'ar has opened in under a year and a half, following new missions in Moldova, Zambia, and Estonia. During the visit, Sa'ar is scheduled to meet with Fiji's senior leadership, including President Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, and Foreign Minister Sakiasi Ditoka, as well as Nauru's vice president, Lionel Rouwen Aingimea. The foreign minister framed the move as part of a wider push to extend Israel's presence around the world and especially in the Pacific. He said the opening sends a message of strengthening partnerships with nations that stand as friends of Israel. (INN/VFI News)

Report Reveals Norwegian Jews Forced to Hide Identity, Experience Alienation; A large share of Norway's Jews feel compelled to conceal their Jewish identity, a new study by Norway's Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies has found. The research drew on interviews with close to 100 Norwegian Jews conducted between November 1, 2025, and May 1, 2026, examining the isolation, lost friendships, and concealment that have deepened within the small community since the October 7 massacre. Many of those interviewed described the Hamas attack as a turning point in their lives in Norway, with one reflecting that it had "been good to be Jewish in Norway until now." Respondents recounted a striking absence of support from non-Jewish friends in the aftermath of October 7, with some saying acquaintances reacted with indifference even to the scale of the slaughter at the Nova music festival. A number said close friends never reached out to them at all, leaving them feeling abandoned by people they had long considered close. The experience, several said, was brutal, compounding the grief they already carried for Israel. The findings also document how hostility has reshaped daily life, with families describing children excluded at school and parents reluctant to draw attention to their background. To avoid confrontation, many Norwegian Jews said they have stopped wearing Star of David jewelry, refrain from speaking Hebrew in public, and avoid telling new acquaintances that they are Jewish. Nearly all those interviewed were descendants of Holocaust survivors, and some voiced the fear that history could be repeating itself. (JPost/VFI News)

Record Crowds Pack Fifth Avenue for New York's Israel Day Parade; The energy was palpable on Sunday, May 31, as thousands of marchers packed a dozen blocks of Fifth Avenue, waving Israeli flags for New York's annual Israel Day Parade. Organizers said the turnout was the largest in the event's six-decade history, a powerful show of solidarity from a community that has felt increasingly besieged. This year's procession carried the theme "Proud Americans, Proud Zionists." The march featured its familiar mix of Jewish nonprofits, schools, and synagogues moving to Israeli music alongside floats sponsored by groups such as Nefesh B'Nefesh, the UJA Federation of New York, and the Maccabiah Games. A long roster of officials joined in, among them New York Governor Kathy Hochul, Attorney General Letitia James, US Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, and Representative Jerry Nadler, as well as former New York City mayors Eric Adams and Mike Bloomberg. New York Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch took part as an honorary grand marshal. The parade unfolded amid sharp political division over Israel and without New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, who became the first city leader in decades to skip the event. Many participants said they were undeterred and had come precisely to stand with their community, with some traveling from out of state to be present. Organizers and security officials expressed gratitude that tens of thousands had gathered safely and proudly in the heart of the city. (JPost/VFI News)

Mutra Becomes First Kosher Restaurant to Earn a Michelin Star; As golden confetti rained down on Thursday, May 28, Israeli chef Raz Shabtai broke into tears and was embraced by his cheering staff. Moments earlier, a livestreamed Michelin ceremony had announced that his Miami restaurant, Mutra, had become the first kosher restaurant ever to receive a Michelin star, long regarded as the highest honor in the culinary world. The milestone marked a historic breakthrough for kosher fine dining, which operates under strict dietary rules. Shabtai, who has cooked in kitchens across New York and Israel, opened Mutra in February 2025 and named it after his Jerusalem-born grandmother, whose cooking inspires the menu. He describes his food as Jerusalem cuisine, built from the flavors and memories of wandering the city's markets with her. For Shabtai, who has kept kosher for more than a decade, the award proved that culinary excellence can flourish within those boundaries a way, he said, of bonding with God while still serving food that everyone can enjoy. Shabtai said the recognition belonged not just to his restaurant but to "the entire Jewish community," and that he felt a deep sense of responsibility in carrying it. The honor placed Mutra among the world's most celebrated restaurants and made it the only Miami establishment to earn a new star this year. Looking ahead, he said he hoped the achievement would inspire other kosher chefs to take pride in their roots, believe in themselves, and refuse to compromise on their craft. (JPost/VFI News)



Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi

Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, jeffery@yachad.com

Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075

E-mail: info@yachad.com, Web Page: <https://www.yachad.com>

Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)

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