

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update June 15, 2026 (Sivan 29, 5786)



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***Israel;* Israel Attacks Beirut; One Reportedly Killed in Hit on Hezbollah Command Center**

- *U.S.-Iran deal reached, includes 'immediate termination' of fighting in Lebanon*
 - *U.S.-Iran deal excludes missiles, support for proxies, Iranian media reports*
 - *Lebanese Army warns residents not to return to country's south*
 - *Five arrested at anti-government protests across Israel*
 - *Netanyahu rejects curbing Ben-Gvir's power over police, Al-Aqsa compound*
 - *Draft U.S. deal lets Tehran keep diluted uranium, Iranian official says*

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Standing with Israel!

Trump Calls Off Strikes on Iran as Regime Agrees to Deal; US President Donald Trump announced on Thursday, June 11, that he had called off planned strikes on Iran after the regime agreed to a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and begin nuclear negotiations. Writing on social media, Trump said discussions had been brought to the highest level of Iranian leadership and approved, leading him to cancel the bombings that had been scheduled against Iran that very evening. Trump stated that the final points had been approved, in both concept and detail, by all the parties involved, including the United States, Israel, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Turkey, Pakistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, and Egypt. He stressed that the naval blockade would remain in full force until the transaction is finalized, and that the time and place of the signing would be announced shortly. The decision marked a sharp shift from earlier in the day, when he had vowed to strike regime targets hard, declaring that Iran's navy, air force, radar, and air defenses had already been wiped out. Tehran's regime media disputed the announcement, claiming the American president had repeatedly suggested over the preceding two months that a deal was near. Iranian officials separately indicated that the talks had produced an agreement in principle, while cautioning that Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei had yet to grant final approval. Trump insisted the regime was eager to come to terms, saying the Iranians “really are in submission, they just don't know it yet.” (INN/VFI News)

Ultra-Orthodox Draft Protests Shut Down Highways and Train Lines Across Israel; Ultra-Orthodox draft protesters shut down multiple highways and train routes across Israel on Thursday, June 11, bringing traffic to a standstill for more than two hours. Demonstrators first blocked Highway 4 south of Ramat Gan before fanning out to Highway 1 near the Ganot Interchange and Highway 6 near the Ben Shemen Interchange, west of Ben-Gurion Airport, with additional closures on Highways 34 and 25 near Netivot. Two people were injured during the unrest: a 21-year-old haredi protester struck by a car on Highway 1, and a 93-year-old man whose circumstances were not released. A woman later turned herself in to Israel Police and confessed to driving into protesters. Footage circulating on social media showed haredi youths clashing physically with drivers and officers, and the windshield of a spokesperson for Transportation Minister Miri Regev was smashed in one confrontation. Train service was suspended in central Israel, leaving Ben-Gurion Airport in chaos as stranded passengers waited for word that rail traffic would resume. Former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett condemned the day's events as harrowing, describing blockades, violence, and what he called a civil war on Israel's roads, while insisting that such conduct does not reflect the nation's character. He pledged that order would soon be restored and vowed to dismantle what he termed a “state within a state,” ending funding for draft evasion and bringing all citizens into the workforce and into IDF service. Police continued working to clear the routes and reopen the rail lines as the disruptions stretched into the evening. (JPost/VFI News)

Slovenia's New Government Reverses Predecessor's Anti-Israel Measures; The government of Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Janša revoked a series of measures against Israel on Thursday, June 11, undoing steps taken by the previous administration led by Robert Golob. Following a cabinet meeting,

Slovenia's Foreign and Defense Ministries announced the cancellation of decisions that had laid the groundwork for sanctions against the Jewish state. The government rescinded a ban on the export and transit of military weapons and equipment to Israel, as well as on imports from Israel into Slovenia. It also withdrew decisions that had declared Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu an undesirable person, along with similar designations against ministers Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir. In addition, the cabinet canceled a prohibition on the import of goods from Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria. Slovenia's Foreign Ministry stated that the earlier measures had never been implemented and that the latest decision restores the conditions for normal political dialogue between the two countries. Officials said renewed engagement would strengthen Slovenia's role in advancing lasting peace in the region and open opportunities for cooperation in fields such as innovation, digital technologies, artificial intelligence, cyber security, water management, sustainable agriculture, and healthcare. At the same time, the ministry stressed that Slovenia remains committed to international law and to a solution allowing peaceful and secure coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians. Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar welcomed the move, having announced earlier in the week that Israel would open a permanent diplomatic mission in Ljubljana. (INN/VFI News)

Huckabee to Christian Leaders: We Stand with Israel Because of God's Promise, Not Politics; US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee told a delegation of Christian leaders visiting the country that their support for the Jewish state flows from biblical conviction rather than politics. Speaking to members of the International Christian Embassy, who were in Israel for an emergency conference focused on combating antisemitism, he declared that the reason believers stand with Israel is rooted in God's promise to Abraham. Huckabee pointed to Israel's endurance in the face of repeated threats, marveling that a nation of some 10 million people prevails again and again when its existence is challenged by adversaries with many times its population and military budget. The secret, he said, traces back 3,800 years to God's covenant with Abraham, when the Lord promised to create a people, give them a place to belong, and grant them a purpose. He framed Israel's survival and flourishing as evidence of that ancient promise rather than the product of political calculation. Addressing reports of hostility toward Christians in Israel, the ambassador said his own experience across more than five decades of visits had been overwhelmingly positive. He recalled receiving a warm welcome not only from government officials but from people on the streets throughout the country. As an evangelical Christian who believes in the Bible, he added, he had found that his faith did not offend those he met but was instead received with remarkable openness. (INN/VFI News)

Israeli Hospital Performs World's First Gene Therapy for Rare Genetic Epilepsy; An eight-month-old infant with a rare and devastating genetic epilepsy has become the first patient in the world to receive an experimental gene replacement therapy designed to restore the function of the WWOX gene directly in the brain. The landmark treatment was administered at Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel in Petah Tikva, marking a major milestone in the development of precision genetic therapies for rare neurological disorders. The condition, known as WOREE syndrome, is an ultra-rare disorder with only 60 to 90 genetically confirmed cases identified worldwide, and it is marked by drug-resistant seizures, profound developmental delay, and a sharply shortened lifespan. The breakthrough followed years of research led by Hebrew University of Jerusalem scientist Prof. Rami Aqeilan, who brought together scientists, clinicians, and biotechnology leaders from Israel and the United States. The infant's family chose not to release their names or any images. Aqeilan described the achievement as the culmination of many years of research, explaining that an effort to understand the biological function of a single gene had grown into a potential therapeutic strategy for children facing one of the most severe forms of genetic epilepsy. He said the milestone demonstrated how fundamental research can advance from the laboratory toward new treatment options for patients with rare genetic diseases. The procedure represents the first

clinical use of a gene replacement therapy aimed at restoring WWOX function in the brain of a child with the syndrome. (JPost/VFI News)

After Years of Drought, Dams Across Syria and Iraq Are Now Full; After more than a decade of punishing drought that left wells dry and pushed millions across the region toward crisis, the dams of Syria and Iraq are full once again. From Turkey down through Syria and Iraq, reservoirs and lakes have refilled, and the pressing concern has shifted from scarcity to flooding, with rising waters pushing some bridges over the Euphrates out of service in Syria. Groundwater levels in eastern Syria had fallen by as much as 60 percent during the long dry years, while the Mosul dam in Iraq declined and the vast Lake Tharthar shrank; in Iran, Lake Urmia had already dried out entirely. The reversal has been dramatic enough that Syrian authorities, working together with Turkey, moved to reduce the volume of water flowing into Syrian territory along the Euphrates in order to address high levels in the Raqqa and Deir Ezzor provinces. Engineers cut the flow through the Euphrates Dam by 100 cubic meters per second by partially closing one of the spillway gates. Syria's Ministry of Energy said its technical teams had begun operational measures to gradually lower water levels along the course of the river, and reported that conditions were returning toward normal. Officials indicated the gradual reduction would continue in step with the declining inflows arriving from the Turkish side. The flooding and the shifting water flows reveal that the region is no longer locked on a one-way path toward drought, and that such trends can in fact be reversed for Syria, Iraq, and Iran alike. (JPost/VFI News)

Moroccan Locust Swarms Sweep Across Eastern Iran; A swarm of Moroccan locusts is wreaking havoc across eastern Iran's agricultural heartland, descending on farmland in large numbers and threatening the livelihoods of thousands of households. Footage from affected areas has shown the insects descending in dense clouds over fields and orchards. While medical officials assured the public that the insects pose no direct health risk, the infestation has raised alarm over food supplies in a country already strained by drought. The Moroccan locust is capable of rapid reproduction, with females laying between two and four egg pods over their lifetime, each containing roughly 30 eggs. The species feeds primarily on grain crops, date palms, citrus, fruit trees, olives, and figs, and has been described as one of the most serious pests of cultivated plants. Beyond damaging food crops, the insects can strip large quantities of rangeland vegetation, raising the prospect of feed shortages for livestock. Authorities have sprayed large areas with pesticides and urged farmers to hold off on harvesting in order to reduce the risk of chemical contamination. The sudden surge in locusts has been linked to shifting weather patterns and worsening drought, as Iran enters its sixth consecutive year of water shortages following years of poor water management. With dams built to boost agricultural output having contributed to rivers drying up, the infestation adds another heavy burden to a farming sector already under mounting strain. (JPost/VFI News)

Eight-Year-Old Boy Discovers 1,700-Year-Old Statuette in the Ramon Crater; A family outing through the Ramon Crater in southern Israel turned into an extraordinary discovery when an eight-year-old boy spotted a more than 1,700-year-old statuette fragment lying among the desert rocks. Dor Wolynitz, of Rehovot, was taking part in a trip organized for a paratrooper reservist team when he picked up what looked at first like an unusual striped stone. "I was looking for special things on the ground that I could show in class," the boy recounted, explaining that the object seemed unusual enough that he showed it to an archaeologist friend of his father who was along on the trip. The fragment, measuring about six by six centimeters, depicts part of a human figure wrapped in carefully sculpted folds of fabric resembling a cloak. A geological examination determined that it was carved from a light phosphorite mineral common to the Negev, indicating that it was made locally rather than imported. Experts dated the piece to the Roman period and suggested it may portray Jupiter, the Roman god of the sky, or Zeus-Dushara, a Nabatean deity, reflecting how local traditions blended with classical influences along the ancient Spice Route that once passed through the area. Young Dor handed the fragment over to the National Treasures

Department and received a certificate from the Israel Antiquities Authority recognizing his good citizenship. Officials praised his responsible conduct, calling him a role model and noting how much history still lays waiting just beneath the surface of the land. (JPost/VFI News)



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