

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update July 13, 2026 (Tamuz 27, 5786)



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Israel; Israel's 2026 Election Will Take Place on October 27, Netanyahu Coalition Says

- *U.S. launches fresh strikes on Iran as Tehran steps up Gulf retaliation*
- *Knesset moves forward with proposal to freeze arrests of Haredi draft dodgers*
- *Israel to fund settler group sanctioned by U.K., France and Canada in bid to 'reduce youth violence'*
- *Netanyahu, top Israeli leaders eulogize Lindsey Graham after sudden death at 71*
- *Settlers attack foreign reporters visiting Palestinian village in West Bank*
- *Israelis protest against Netanyahu government as election looms*

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Standing with Israel!

Iran Sprays Missiles Across the Gulf as US Strikes Hammer 170 Targets; Tehran pulled its Persian Gulf neighbors back into the war on Thursday, July 9, 2026, firing a volley of drones and missiles at American partners across the region. The barrage struck at the heart of a peace process that had been inching forward for weeks. Jordan confirmed that its forces intercepted at least eight ballistic missiles fired into its airspace. Bahrain's military reported bringing down several rounds of drones and missiles over its own territory. Kuwait faced three ballistic missiles, one cruise missile and ten drones. All were intercepted, though falling debris caused damage and left one person seriously injured. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed responsibility, saying it had targeted US military bases across the Gulf region in retaliation for President Donald Trump's latest round of strikes on Iranian targets. "The fighters of Islam will not leave the aggressions of the child-killing U.S. army unanswered," the IRGC declared in a statement carried by state-affiliated media. Iran lashed out after American forces struck 170 targets inside the country over two days. Those strikes answered Iran's targeting of commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian state media claimed on Thursday, July 9, that damage to the Tehran-Mashhad railway bridge in northeastern Iran, hit in one of the American strikes, had already been repaired and that the bridge would carry passenger trains again. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi spent the day telephoning counterparts in Oman, Turkey and Saudi Arabia to discuss the situation in the Middle East. (WT/VFI News)

US Strikes Iran and Revokes Oil Sanctions Waiver After Attacks on Tankers in Hormuz; The US military unleashed a new wave of strikes against Iran on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, and revoked the license permitting Tehran to sell oil, after three tankers were hit by projectiles in the Strait of Hormuz. The dual blow landed on a ceasefire already showing deep cracks. It came at the close of a day in which enormous crowds mourned Iran's slain supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in the holy city of Qom. US Central Command announced it had begun a series of "powerful" strikes intended to impose heavy costs for attacking commercial shipping. CENTCOM called Iran's aggression unwarranted, dangerous and a clear violation of the ceasefire. Iranian outlets described explosions early Wednesday, July 8, in the southern port city of Sirik, on Qeshm Island, and in Bandar Abbas, where several fishing boats were set ablaze. A US official said the strikes targeted Iranian air defense systems, coastal surveillance systems, surface-to-air missiles, anti-ship cruise missiles and drone launch sites. Washington had revoked the oil waiver shortly before the strikes began, raising the pressure on Tehran as it negotiates a final settlement. The US Treasury had issued a general license on June 22 permitting the sale of Iranian crude oil and petroleum products through August 21. In revoking that license on Tuesday, July 7, Washington gave Iran until July 17 to wind down any transactions. Iran's foreign ministry condemned the move as a breach of the framework agreement that ended the war and warned that it would take decisive measures to protect its interests and national security. Oil prices climbed more than three percent after the announcement. Qatar summoned Iran's deputy ambassador over the strike on its liquefied natural gas tanker, and Riyadh condemned the targeting of the Saudi supertanker Wedyan. (TOI/VFI News)

Iranian Regime Advisor: The US Will Sabotage the Talks; Mohsen Rezaee, a senior military advisor to Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, attacked the United States on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, accusing Washington of acting in ways that undermine the agreements now on the table. The US is seeking to pass its warships through the Strait of Hormuz, Rezaee charged, and in practice is working against the accords it signed. He then turned to address the hardliners inside Iran who oppose negotiating with Washington at all, urging them to hold their fire and wait. "Those within Iran who oppose negotiations must be patient the US will sabotage the talks themselves," Rezaee said, adding that it was clear Washington would cause the negotiations to fail. His remarks followed the American decision that same day to revoke the general license authorizing the sale of Iranian oil, a step taken after repeated Iranian attacks on ships in the Strait of Hormuz. The United States then launched strikes against Iran in answer to those attacks. A senior American official called Iran's conduct in the strait wholly unacceptable and promised it would be met with consequences. The official reiterated that the memorandum of understanding in effect with Iran is entirely performance-based, and that Tehran will reap benefits only if it exhibits good behavior. Early on Tuesday, July 7, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps fired at least two missiles at commercial ships transiting the strait; the vessels were hit and significantly damaged, though no casualties were reported. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi laid the blame for the attack on Washington. (INN/VFI News)

'To Me, It's Over': Trump Says the US Wasted Time Negotiating With Iran; US President Donald Trump declared the Memorandum of Understanding with Iran null and void on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, speaking at the NATO summit in Ankara, Turkey, after a night of exchanged strikes between the two countries. "To me, I think it's over," he said. "I don't want to deal with them anymore. They're scum. They're sick people." NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, seated beside him, answered that he stood with the president on Iran. Rutte had earlier called the American strikes "absolutely necessary," noting that Iran had violated the ceasefire signed three weeks before. When a ceasefire is being broken by Iran, he told reporters, a forceful American response becomes entirely crucial. On Tuesday night, July 7, US Central Command began a series of powerful strikes against Iran to impose heavy costs for targeting and attacking commercial shipping crewed by innocent civilians in an international waterway. Iran's Revolutionary Guards confirmed striking US military sites in Bahrain and Kuwait in response to the American strikes on southern Iran, which hit air defense systems, coastal surveillance, and missile and drone launch sites. Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten stressed the importance of showing Iran that breaches of the fragile ceasefire will not be accepted, while applying maximum diplomatic pressure to keep talks alive. Anwar Gargash, senior diplomatic advisor to the president of the UAE, said the Iranian attacks on Qatari and Saudi commercial tankers show that Tehran remains unable to commit to de-escalation. Kuwait's foreign ministry issued its strongest denunciation of the repeated Iranian aggressions and affirmed its right to take all necessary measures to preserve its sovereignty. (JPost/VFI News)

Trump's F-35 Offer to Turkey Alarms Greece as Israeli Air Defenses Anchor Athens' Rebuild; President Donald Trump's potential offer of F-35 fighter jets to Turkey is fueling concern in Greece, where officials fear the move could undermine the military balance in the Aegean and reward Ankara despite years of tension with its NATO ally. Greece is scheduled to receive its first twenty F-35 aircraft between 2028 and the early 2030s, making the stealth jet the centerpiece of the country's future air force. Athens has repeatedly communicated its concerns to successive American administrations, though Greek officials have not commented publicly on the potential deal. "The Hellenic Air Force wants to keep its air superiority over the Aegean," said Vassilis Nedos, a Greek diplomatic and defense correspondent. Greece cannot interfere directly in a discussion between two sovereign nations, he explained, but its position is thoroughly understood in Washington at the political, diplomatic and military staff levels. Before 2023, Turkish aircraft conducted daily overflights of Greek islands in the Aegean, with daily violations and dangerous dogfights. Nedos asked plainly why anyone would hand the Turkish Air Force a qualitative

edge. Greece is meanwhile pressing ahead with one of its largest defense modernization efforts in decades, resting on significant Israeli support. The Greek government is expected to move forward with approval of a newly integrated air defense network known as the Achilles Shield, built from systems supplied by a combination of Israeli defense companies. The €3.5 billion project will include anti-drone and anti-ballistic missile capabilities as well as broader air defenses. The security concern Turkey poses for both Israel and Greece solidifies the relationship between the two countries, Nedos said, though he believes ever-closer cooperation serves both nations regardless. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Haredi Protests Against the Jerusalem Light Rail Continue Amid NIS 400 Million in Damage;

Haredi demonstrators burned trees and attempted to block traffic at Jerusalem's Bar-Ilan Intersection on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, protesting construction of the city's light rail. The demonstrations follow the emergence of figures showing that haredi protests have cumulatively caused over NIS 400 million in damage to the light rail's unfinished Green Line since construction began about six years ago. Bar-Ilan Street, one of several thoroughfares traversed by the new line, has been the scene of many of these protests. Demonstrators damaged pipes that were set to be installed on the new line during an earlier protest. The vandalism has forced Kfir, the company that operates Jerusalem's light rail, to change opening dates and routing across several sections of the line. The stretch between Givat Shaul and Ammunition Hill was originally set to begin service by the end of 2025; severe vandalism has pushed that opening to 2027, with the potential for further delays. The first section to open will instead be the run between the existing HaTurim Station and the Malha Mall area, already in advanced testing and slated to begin operations by the end of 2026. The protests have continued despite dozens of indictments filed against demonstrators over the past six years by the Jerusalem District Attorney's Office. Charges include disorderly conduct, rioting, unlawful assembly and criminal trespassing. Jerusalem's municipality has also filed civil lawsuits against demonstrators for the damages caused by vandalism and schedule delays. (*JPost/VFI News*)

How a Jewish Superfan Designed Argentina's Iconic Soccer Crest 50 Years Ago;

Soccer fans around the world know the crest worn by Argentina and its star Lionel Messi: a vertical shield with laurel branches at the bottom symbolizing victory and glory, and three stars at the top representing the team's three World Cup titles. Far fewer know that the emblem has its roots in Argentina's close-knit world of Jewish sports clubs, where its designer first developed his affinity for the game. Norberto "Toto" Rud was in his late twenties and a member of Club Náutico Hacoaj, a Jewish club, when he proposed the crest in 1976. Rud drew on the branding acumen and graphic design skills he would use throughout his career as a businessman and soccer aficionado in Buenos Aires. Watching international soccer in the era of black-and-white television, he noticed that supporters could instantly recognize teams such as West Germany by its eagle or the Soviet Union by its lettering, while Argentina could easily be confused with any club wearing similar striped shirts. He concluded that the national team needed a visual identity equal to its footballing tradition. Rud prepared roughly twenty designs and submitted them to the Argentine Football Association in a proposal that reached its president and executive committee. The crest made its debut on November 28, 1976, just days after it was approved, in a scoreless friendly against the Soviet Union in Buenos Aires. Fifty years later, the design is basically unchanged and stands among the most widely worn team logos in the world, carried across the globe on Messi jerseys. (*TOI/VFI News*)

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