

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update July 30, 2026 (Av 15, 5786)



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Israel; Hamas Agrees to Hand Over Weapons – but Not to Israel – Palestinian Sources Say. Current assessments indicate that the discussions on Hamas' disarmament are focused primarily on heavy weapons and strategic military capabilities, including long-range rockets, heavy mortars, anti-tank missiles, advanced weaponry and manufacturing capabilities

- *Four killed in Gaza – including two children – in overnight IDF strikes, medics say*
 - *Israeli ambulance driver charged with aiding Iranian intelligence*
 - *Two Israelis crossed into Syria near Mt. Hermon, returned by army*
- *Hezbollah drone strikes Israeli army vehicle in southern Lebanon, IDF says*
- *U.S., Saudi Arabia strike pro-Iran militias in Iraq; Iran attacks U.S. base*
- *Israel Police withheld East Jerusalem man's body over Facebook funeral posts*

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Standing with Israel!

Netanyahu Departs for Washington Talks on Iran, Vowing to Stand Firm on Israel's Positions;

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu departed for the United States on Monday, July 27, on a short official visit made at the invitation of President Donald Trump. During his stay in Washington, he is expected to hold working meetings with Trump and with other senior figures in the American administration. He will also attend the memorial service for Republican Senator Lindsey Graham. Officials in the Prime Minister's Office and in Jerusalem said the visit will center on developments concerning Iran, along with the various fronts across the Middle East. Netanyahu told members of the Security Cabinet that he anticipates the American administration may press Israel to pull back from areas it holds in Lebanon, Syria, and the Gaza Strip. He made clear to the ministers that he intends to stand firm against any such demands and to reject them outright. Speaking on Sunday, July 26, the Prime Minister set out his purpose for the trip. "I will fly to Washington to meet, at his invitation, with President Trump, and afterward attend the memorial service for a great friend of Israel, Senator Lindsey Graham," he said. "I must say that he was one of Israel's greatest friends since the state's establishment, and it is only fitting that we pay him this tribute," Netanyahu added. "I will also speak with President Trump about all the issues on the agenda, including the situation in Iran." The emphasis on meetings with senior administration officials comes amid differing views over the future of Israel's military operations across the region. As part of his preparations, Netanyahu also spoke on Sunday with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who is regarded within Israel's diplomatic establishment as holding positions closely aligned with Israel's own. (INN/VFI News)

Trump Holds a Broader Iran Offensive in Reserve as Strikes and Sanctions Press Tehran;

President Donald Trump has temporarily set aside plans to significantly expand military operations against Iran, weighing concerns that an intensified campaign would draw down American stocks of Patriot air defense interceptors and related munitions across the Middle East. The decision followed a meeting on Friday, July 24, involving top White House advisers and senior cabinet members, and became known on Saturday, July 25. Trump and his senior aides also weighed the risk of regional escalation, the exposure of Gulf partners to Iranian retaliation, energy market volatility, strain on the global economy, and worsening refugee conditions. Administration officials said the closed discussions focused heavily on diminishing inventories of Patriot interceptors, a vulnerability exposed when an Iranian ballistic missile penetrated defense systems in Jordan and killed three American service members. Gen. Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, privately cautioned that while the military retained the operational capacity for a major assault, carrying one out would jeopardize interceptor availability for US Central Command. White House Communications Director Steven Cheung said the President "has always been consistent in saying he prefers a diplomatic solution, but he continues to retain all options if Iran continues terrorist activities in the Strait of Hormuz or against allies." Cheung added that following severe economic sanctions and military strikes, "it would be wise for Iran to work towards a negotiated deal; otherwise, they know what will happen." Speaking to reporters on the afternoon of Friday, July 24, Trump said, "Look, we're locked and loaded. We're ready to go, but we're talking to them, so maybe there will be, maybe there won't be a tipping point." In an interview on Thursday, July 23, he had previewed a wider operation, saying he was

considering "a massive attack. Bigger than ever before." Military engagements showed their first signs of easing on Saturday, July 25, following thirteen consecutive nights of American strikes. (INN/VFI News)

Iran Caught Slipping Covert Operatives Into Britain Along Migrant Routes; Iran has been moving covert operatives into Britain along the migrant routes into Europe, with some already positioned in London and awaiting orders from Tehran. British authorities have intercepted individuals suspected of ties to Iranian intelligence as they attempted to enter the United Kingdom aboard small boats crossing the English Channel. People smugglers operating in Europe have said that Iran helped migrants reach Britain in exchange for carrying out a "favor" for Iran once they had established themselves in the country. Elements of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps control portions of the smuggling routes running from the Middle East into Europe. "Revolutionary individuals" were moved into London through networks tied to Unit 700, the logistics arm of the IRGC's Quds Force. An Iranian source said that Tehran already has operatives in the British capital waiting to be activated, and threatened that Iran could make London unsafe if it chose to do so. The same source said Tehran regards the migrant routes as more useful than missiles, adding that Iran "does not need a missile to target London, it's easier than that." Sources assessed that the number of individuals associated with the IRGC who have entered Britain legally on flights from European countries is likely greater than the number who attempted the crossing by boat. They also noted that recruiting people already living in Britain, or using criminal networks as proxies, could create a significantly greater threat than inserting operatives through migrant boats. The UK Home Office said that national security is a top priority and that people arriving by small boat undergo security checks. Anyone identified as posing a national security threat is detained immediately, with the office working to remove that person from the country as soon as possible. (INN/VFI News)

Berlin Manhunt Underway for Islamist Suspect After Deadly Vehicle Ramming; German authorities launched an intensive search for a suspect linked to local extremist networks after a vehicle drove into a crowd in Berlin on the evening of Saturday, July 25, leaving one person dead and 17 others injured. The vehicle plowed into pedestrians inside Tiergarten park, close to the Brandenburg Gate, at around 10:00 p.m. local time. Emergency responders confirmed that among the 17 individuals receiving medical care, eight sustained severe injuries, with three remaining in critical condition. A police representative said the vehicle "drove ... into the Tiergarten around 10 p.m. (2000 GMT), injuring several people in the process, and then came to a standstill after hitting a tree here in the Tiergarten." The official added that the vehicle "was empty," and that officers were "working intensively to track down the perpetrator or perpetrators." Law enforcement later announced that a suspect connected to radical religious groups in the city had been identified. "We have now identified a suspected perpetrator," a police spokesperson said. "Measures against this suspected perpetrator, who has not yet been arrested, are underway. However, this suspected perpetrator is known to the police as a member of the Islamist scene here in Berlin." Authorities described the vehicle as a white car, van, or minibus, and an eyewitness recounted seeing a man exit a white van after the collision and flee the scene on foot. The attack adds to a recurring pattern of deadly vehicular assaults across Germany. In May 2026, two people were killed and three severely hurt in Leipzig when a driver with suspected psychiatric conditions drove into a pedestrian district. (INN/VFI News)

London's Mayor Follows New York's in Declaring Netanyahu 'Not Welcome'; London Mayor Sadiq Khan declared in a television interview that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is "not welcome" in the British capital, alleging that the Israeli leader has "broken the law." Khan stated his belief that a genocide has been committed in Gaza, and applied that charge directly to Netanyahu. "I think Netanyahu, who is responsible and is a perpetrator of genocide, I think he's broken the law, and I think justice needs to happen, and that means him brought to book," the mayor said. Khan went on to frame Netanyahu's absence from the city as a welcome development, and said he would take the matter to

Britain's national leadership should the Israeli Prime Minister schedule a visit. "The good news is, and this is very good news, is Netanyahu is not coming to London because if he did, he would feel the full weight of public opinion if he came," Khan said. "If there is any evidence of him coming to London, I'll be lobbying the Prime Minister to make sure the law's enforced, absolutely." He closed with the assertion that "people who commit genocide are not welcome in London." The London mayor's remarks track closely with those of New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, who said he was exploring options to take Netanyahu into custody over the International Criminal Court warrant connected to the war against Hamas in Gaza. Mamdani subsequently acknowledged that he holds no authority to carry out such an arrest. Khan's own statement placed enforcement in the hands of Britain's Prime Minister rather than with City Hall, and Mamdani likewise conceded that the power he sought does not rest with the office he holds. (INN/VFI News)

UJA-Federation of New York to Mamdani: 'Shame on You'; UJA-Federation of New York issued a blunt rebuke to New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani on Wednesday, July 22, following a video statement in which the mayor renewed his attacks on Israel and on its Prime Minister. "New Yorkers elected a mayor to lead this city - not to make Israel the centerpiece of your political grandstanding," the federation stated. The organization charged that the mayor's video was "rife with distortions and disinformation." "At a time of rising antisemitism, repeatedly singling out and vilifying the world's only Jewish state for perceived political benefit is repugnant, puts Jews at greater risk - and leaves many Jewish New Yorkers feeling targeted and unwelcome in the city we call home," the federation continued. Its statement closed with two words: "Shame on you." The video that prompted the response had been posted to social media on Tuesday, July 21, and in it Mamdani described Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a "war criminal" and urged the federal government to act against him. In the video, Mamdani called on Washington to join the International Criminal Court and execute the warrant the court issued against Netanyahu. "My administration has reviewed every avenue available, under applicable law, to determine whether New York City could execute the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant if Benjamin Netanyahu came here. It is clear that we do not have the independent legal authority to enforce this warrant," he admitted. He went on to declare that "Benjamin Netanyahu is not welcome in New York City, nor is any other war criminal." (INN/VFI News)

B'nai Brith Demands Federal Action After Attacks on Toronto's Jewish Bakeries; B'nai Brith Canada called on Sunday, July 26, for federal action after attacks on two branches of a Jewish-owned bakery in Toronto, warning that the incidents reflect a national emergency rather than isolated vandalism. "The reported attacks targeting Jewish-owned bakeries in Toronto appear to be part of a relentless and escalating campaign of anti-Semitic intimidation that has seen Jewish schools, synagogues, community institutions, businesses and families targeted across Canada," the organization stated. It added that such attacks are "evidence of a systemic national crisis" that governments can no longer address through statements of concern and security measures issued only after another Jewish institution has been targeted. The group pressed law enforcement and government officials to treat the incidents as direct threats to national security. "The Federal Government must establish a national task force to coordinate the response, investigate those responsible, examine any potential links to extremist or foreign-backed networks and, where the legal criteria are met, pursue the listing of those responsible as terrorist entities," the statement read. CEO Simon Wolle faulted the government's reliance on security grants over prevention. "Jewish communities have been left to fend for themselves, funding their own security and protection," Wolle said. The organization has counted 27 violent incidents against the Jewish community since January 1, 2026. The attacks took place on the morning of Sunday, July 26. Police responded to gunfire near Yonge Street and St. Clair Avenue West, where a bakery window was struck; at a second location near Bathurst and Steeles a window was broken, with no evidence that shots were fired. Toronto Duty Inspector Scott Bradbury said no injuries were reported in either case, with the police hate crime unit and gun and gang

task force leading the investigation. "The question is no longer whether Canada has an antisemitism crisis," B'nai Brith stated. "The question is why our governments do not seem to have the resolve to confront it." (INN/VFI News)

A Surprise from Cyprus: Rare 2,500-Year-Old Coin Discovered on an Ashdod Beach; A rare coin roughly 2,500 years old, minted in ancient Cyprus, has been discovered on a beach in Ashdod. Avi Chaprak, Deputy Director of the Ashdod Beaches Department, ordinarily helps residents and visitors recover jewelry, keys, and other belongings lost in the sand. During one such search, he noticed something else entirely: an ancient coin. Acting under Israel's antiquities law, Chaprak submitted the find to the Israel Antiquities Authority, where the Coin Department established it as an exceptionally rare piece, the first of its kind found in the country. The coin was minted in the ancient city of Salamis, on Cyprus's eastern coast, around the middle of the fifth century BCE, when the Persian Empire held sway over the island. Weighing about 11 grams, it is a standard denomination known as a "Siglos." "At first glance, it looked to be made of silver, but a closer examination showed it to actually be of metal that was only plated with silver," said Yanniv David Levy, Researcher and Curator in the Antiquities Authority Coin Department, a known practice in Cypriot coinage of the period given the shortage of silver on the island. One face depicts a left-facing recumbent ram; the other shows a ram's head set within a sunken square frame beside a vertical laurel branch. "Coins of this size and value from the Persian period are rare altogether in the archaeological record," Levy added, noting that silver coins of this size were usually cut into small pieces for use as local trade currency, chiefly at inland sites. A complete coin recovered from the coast is unusual on all accounts. Chaprak received a certificate of appreciation for reporting the find. "I am happy that I was privileged to be part of a discovery of historical value," he said. "For me, it was clear that the coin belonged to our collective heritage, so I immediately delivered it to the Israel Antiquities Authority." (INN/VFI News)



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