

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update August 3, 2026 (Av 19, 5786)



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Israel; The Board of Peace, led by U.S. President Donald Trump, released on Friday a roadmap for implementing a "comprehensive peace plan in Gaza,"

- *Right-wing, settler leaders condemn Katz's dismissal of IDF's West Bank chief*
- *Poll shows Arab party unaffected by Jewish MK's possible move to join slate*
- *Iran says no plan to send or receive delegation for U.S. talks during 'these days'*
- *Iran reportedly not planning to reopen Hormuz as long as hostile U.S. actions continue*
 - *Ex-Fatah official: Kushner working with Israel to halt Gaza strikes*
- *14 Sde Teiman soldiers sentenced to 30 days in prison after unauthorized walkout*

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Standing with Israel!

Mossad Foils Iranian Assassination Cell as Israel Hardens Security Around Senior Officials;

The Mossad announced that it foiled an attempt by Iran's Ministry of Intelligence to smuggle an operational terrorist cell into Israel to assassinate senior Israeli officials. The Prime Minister's Office stated that the plot was thwarted through cooperation between the Mossad, the Shin Bet, and intelligence and security services from several foreign countries. In response to updated threat assessments, the Shin Bet has bolstered security measures around a number of senior Israeli figures. Senior officials, including several cabinet ministers, have been informed that Tehran is intensifying its efforts to physically target senior Israeli figures both current and former officeholders in a bid for a strategic and psychological victory. Israel's security establishment assesses that while Iran's motivation to strike senior officials is not new, both the scope of its efforts and the number of attempted attacks rose noticeably in the weeks leading up to Tuesday, July 28. For security reasons and on the recommendation of security officials, the departure time of the Wing of Zion government aircraft for the United States was kept secret, and its takeoff was moved to Nevatim Airbase. Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps have led a global terror campaign against Israeli and Jewish interests and have intensified efforts in recent months to carry out attacks inside Israel, the Mossad said. Dozens of Iranian-linked terror networks have been disrupted in recent years, and authorities have uncovered attempts over the past two years to recruit Israeli citizens for missions on behalf of the Iranian regime. The foiled operation relied on criminal proxy networks that recruited individuals capable of entering Israel to gather intelligence and later carry out attacks, and international cooperation exposed both the operational infrastructure and the Iranian intelligence officers directing it. (INN/VFI News)

Israel Tracks Active Enrichment at Iran's 'Pickaxe Mountain' and Vows to Act Against Any

Rebuild; A senior diplomatic source said on Wednesday, July 29, that Iran is currently harboring centrifuges at its underground Pickaxe Mountain complex, where enrichment is actively underway. Israel assesses that the Iranian nuclear program has not been completely destroyed, and the source made clear that the objective remains bringing the program to an end. Israel will not hesitate to act again against any attempt to rebuild Iran's nuclear project or its ballistic missile array, the source stressed. Israeli strikes targeted nuclear scientists, enrichment facilities, centrifuges, and other infrastructure, successfully setting the program back, the source said "but not forever." The source also shared details from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's meeting with US President Donald Trump on Tuesday, July 28, at which the prime minister presented maps designed to curb calls for an Israeli withdrawal from Syrian territory. Netanyahu argued that Israel's presence there is intended to counter threats from Iran, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and other terrorist organizations. The maps showed that Turkey controls roughly five percent of Syrian territory, while Israel controls only about one-tenth of one percent. The source explained that Netanyahu chose to present the information visually because a president's assumptions, once fixed, are difficult to change. Although Syria was discussed, it served primarily as an introduction to the meeting's

central topic Iran, and how to address the Islamic Republic following the significant blow dealt to its nuclear program. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Iran Set to Receive Hundreds of Chinese Shoulder-Fired Missile Systems Within Weeks; Iran is expected within weeks to take delivery of the first shipment of up to 400 Chinese-made shoulder-fired air-defense missile launchers, three sources familiar with the deal said, as Tehran races to rebuild defenses battered in its war with the United States and Israel. The purchase, valued at \$60–70 million, ranks among Tehran's largest known efforts to bolster its short-range air defenses since the outbreak of the war, after the fighting exposed gaps in Iran's ability to protect military sites and strategic infrastructure. The conflict has shown how difficult it is to defend fixed military and strategic sites against advanced aircraft and precision-guided weapons. The contract covers between 300 and 400 man-portable air defense systems, including Chinese-made QW-12 and FN-16 missiles. It was signed with Zhongqing Baoshang International Investment, a Hong Kong-based company serving as an intermediary between the Iranian side and the Chinese supplier. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity given the sensitivity of the matter, and Iran's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. China's Foreign Ministry rejected the account, insisting: "The relevant reports are completely groundless." Iran needs to rearm after months of fighting in which the US and Israel struck facilities tied to its missile, drone, and air-defense programs, and in which Tehran answered with barrages of ballistic missiles and drones. Washington abruptly suspended two weeks of bombardment on Saturday, July 25, though US President Donald Trump warned that strikes would resume if negotiations fail to end the five-month-old conflict, which has nominally been under ceasefire since April. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Iran Escalates Drone Attacks on Kurdish Opposition Groups in Northern Iraq; Iran escalated its drone attacks on the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in the early hours of Tuesday, July 28, the latest round in a months-long campaign against Kurdish Iranian opposition groups operating from northern Iraq. Iran and Iranian-backed militias have targeted the groups for the past six months, and the attacks have grown increasingly deadly, with around nine people killed in July. Iranian-backed militias also launched drone attacks from areas near Mosul, local officials said. Four drones struck bases belonging to Kurdish Iranian opposition groups east of Erbil while another was shot down over the province, officials from the groups said, and no casualties were reported. One strike hit the Alana Valley, targeting the Komala Kurdish Iranian political party, one of six Kurdish parties that joined a coalition of Kurdish Iranian groups in January 2026. Komala bases have absorbed "more than 95 missiles and drones" since the start of the war, said Amjad Hussein Panahi, communications head of the Komala of Toilers of Kurdistan. Additional drones crashed in areas near Erbil overnight without causing casualties, and more attacks were reported near Koya and other sites. The strikes came amid heightened regional tensions following renewed US-Iran military strikes, despite ongoing indirect communication between Washington and Tehran over implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed in mid-June. The Iranians and their proxies in Iraq began attacking the Kurdistan Region after the US and Israel struck Iran on February 28, with more than 1,000 attacks recorded since January. (*JPost/VFI News*)

Iran Rejects Gulf-Backed Proposal for Shared Control of the Strait of Hormuz; Iran has rejected a compromise proposal put forward by Oman that called for a 50-50 division of control over shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz. The rejection angered officials from the countries mediating between the United States and Iran, who said it dealt a serious blow to efforts to achieve a breakthrough and renew the memorandum of understanding between Washington and Tehran. A Gulf source said on Tuesday, July 28, that Oman had secured the backing of Gulf States for a plan to establish a joint regional mechanism with Iran to manage the waterway through voluntary user fees. The proposal was presented to Iranian officials in Tehran over the weekend of July 25–26, and under its terms Iran would share responsibility for managing the strategic waterway rather than exercising sole control. The mechanism is modeled on the

arrangement in the Strait of Malacca, which Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore jointly oversee. Instead of mandatory transit charges, ships are invited to make voluntary contributions to a fund supporting navigation services, environmental protection, and search-and-rescue operations. A US official said on Tuesday, July 28, that the Islamic Republic is making unreasonable demands that both Oman and the United States have rejected, and stressed that no tolls or fees for passage through the strait will be part of any deal. In a separate interview, US President Donald Trump said negotiations are now focused on a new agreement that would reopen the Strait of Hormuz and restart talks toward a broader nuclear deal, warning that failure would bring a return to very strong military action. Asked how much time he was prepared to allow for diplomacy, the president replied: "Not much time. Either it goes fast or not at all." (*INN/VFI News*)

Jewish Legal Groups Slam Mamdani's Exclusion of Jews From Judicial Appointments Panel; Jewish legal organizations have assailed New York City's anti-Zionist mayor, Zohran Mamdani, after he announced a panel on local judicial appointments that included not a single Jew among its 18 members, whom the mayor had said, would "reflect" the city's population. New York is home to the largest Jewish population in the United States, with Jews making up about one-tenth of city residents and long prominent in the legal professions from which the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary recruits its members. In a letter to Mamdani on Monday, July 27, the presidents of the Brandeis Association of Queens, the New York County Jewish Lawyers Guild, the Brooklyn Brandeis Society, and the Bronx County Jewish Bar Association said they were deeply disappointed by the committee's omission of Jews. The letter argued that leaving Jews off the committee is neither reflective nor inclusive and fits a troubling pattern that has left many Jewish New Yorkers feeling increasingly marginalized, pointing to Mamdani's omission of Jews from a map of New York's ethnic enclaves and his revocation of an antisemitism definition that stigmatizes the denial of Jewish self-determination. The four associations warned that leadership matters at a time when antisemitism in the city is reaching historic levels. They cited the stabbing of a visibly Jewish man on Manhattan's Upper West Side on Thursday, July 23, as "yet another painful reminder that anti-Semitic violence is real and growing." Critics of the mayor had blamed that attack, in which the assailant stabbed an Asian man and an Orthodox Jew, on Mamdani's anti-Israel rhetoric, including a video statement issued on Wednesday, July 22, in which he demanded the arrest of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The four associations together represent Jewish lawyers across Queens, Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. Their letter presses the mayor to ensure that Jewish representation is restored to the body that shapes the city's judicial appointments. (*TOI/VFI News*)

Task Force Urges Governments to Act After Deadliest Year in Decades for Diaspora Jews; A task force representing the world's largest Jewish communities is urging governments to move from reaction to prevention—through serious security funding, tougher legislation, and genuine enforcement of the rules by social media platforms—after the deadliest year for Diaspora Jewry in more than three decades. Some 23,000 anti-Semitic incidents were recorded in 2025 across the seven largest Diaspora communities, about 14 percent fewer than in 2024, yet the attacks included the murder of 20 people. The J7 Task Force declared that antisemitism in its member countries is "no longer a surge; it is our new normal." The countries covered Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States is home to over 90 percent of global Jewry outside Israel. J7, founded in July 2023 to combat rising antisemitism, reported that the total number of incidents in those countries has climbed 136 percent compared with 2022, the year before Hamas launched its devastating invasion of Israel, with violent incidents up 97 percent over the same period. The murder toll made 2025 the deadliest year for Diaspora Jews since 1994, when 85 people, including 67 Jews, were killed in the AMIA bombing in Argentina. Fifteen Jews were murdered at a Hanukkah celebration at Sydney's Bondi Beach, and two worshippers were killed at Manchester's Heaton Park Synagogue on Yom Kippur. Two more people were killed at the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, DC, and one in Boulder, Colorado. Anti-Defamation

League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt, whose organization helped found the task force, stressed that no country can fight antisemitism alone, noting that every J7 country remains dramatically above pre-October 7 levels and calling for a response that transcends borders. (TOI/VFI News)

Herzl's Grandparents to Be Reinterred Beside Him on Mount Herzl, Closing a 'Historic Circle';

The remains of the grandparents of Zionist visionary Theodor Herzl were exhumed on Wednesday, July 29, from their graves in Belgrade, Serbia, to be brought to Israel and reinterred on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. Shimon and Rivka Herzl will be buried beside their grandson's grave in a ceremony on Wednesday, August 5 exactly 77 years after Herzl himself was reburied there in 1949. Herzl, who died in 1904, founded the modern Zionist movement and is commemorated in a variety of ways throughout Israel. The exhumation, which followed several years of negotiations, was carried out under local legal and religious requirements in the presence of representatives from the World Zionist Organization, Israel's Foreign Ministry, and the emergency response organization ZAKA, and the remains were transferred to specially designated coffins for transport to Israel. World Zionist Organization Chairman Yaakov Hagoel said the return of the couple "closes a historic circle." Herzl's grandfather and grandmother are finally coming to rest in the heart of Jerusalem alongside their grandson, he added. WZO Vice Chairman Dr. Yizhar Hess noted that the act honors Herzl's request that he and his family be buried in Israel, adding that his grandparents played a significant role in his childhood and in the formation of his Zionist thought. Herzl's parents are also buried alongside him on the mount. Shimon Herzl was a Jewish community leader in Belgrade and was close to Rabbi Yehuda Alkalai, whose ideas prefigured Zionism, serving as the ceremonial shofar blower at Alkalai's synagogue. (TOI/VFI News)

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