

04112026 NEWS SPECIAL Don't miss Lev U'Neshama NOTE at end!

Please Note:

I am now home from having triple bypass surgery. I will attempt to start looking at the news and sending something out in the near future but it will be very abbreviated with only titles and links You can also subscribe to one of the many Israel reviews that are mailed out daily.

Thank you for your patience. rdb

US-Iran talks move to third round as Trump claims 'no difference' to him if deal reached

Iranian media claims fresh round of negotiations could be 'last opportunity' to find common ground, as president insists Washington has won 'regardless' of outcome in Pakistan

By [Agencies](#) 12 April 2026, 1:19 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-iran-talks-move-to-third-round-as-trump-claims-no-difference-to-him-if-deal-reached/>

**Behind the inflammatory statements: Trump, Iran both have strong interest in preserving fragile ceasefire
Analysis: Three rounds of direct talks to end the war with Iran have taken place, with another round reportedly set for Sunday morning; If there is an agreement in principle on opening Hormuz, the negotiations are likely to continue - and Trump will demand a complete ceasefire in Lebanon**

[Ron Ben-Yishai](#) 18:04 <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/byxsyionze>

US says Navy destroyers working to de-mine Strait of Hormuz

CENTCOM says additional forces to join efforts in coming days; Iranian outlets dismiss 'fake news' after Trump says all of Iran's mining boats are 'lying at the bottom of the sea'

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [Agencies](#) Today, 10:41 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-says-navy-destroyers-working-to-de-mine-strait-of-hormuz/>

US intel said to assess Iran can recover underground launchers, fire thousands of missiles

Officials concerned Iran will rebuild ballistic capabilities during truce, WSJ says; CNN reports that US intelligence indicates China preparing to ship air defense systems to Iran

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 12:18 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-intel-said-to-assess-iran-can-recover-underground-launchers-fire-thousands-of-missiles/>

The 'final blow' doctrine: How Trump is rewriting the rules of American power - analysis

How Hegseth, Rubio, and Waltz used the Iran conflict to rewrite America's rules of war – and why Israel sits at the center of the new model

By [SAGIV STEINBERG](#) APRIL 9, 2026 15:18 Updated: APRIL 10, 2026 14:31

Netanyahu claims 'historic achievements' in Iran war: 'We made a huge change here'

Netanyahu says Israel struck nuclear sites, missile systems and senior scientists, weakening Iran's leadership and infrastructure, while warning campaign is ongoing and Tehran still retains missile capabilities despite setbacks

[Itamar Eichner](#) 13:16

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/sjw90bonwg>

IDF and Hezbollah trade strikes, rockets as Israel and Lebanon gear up for direct talks **Military says it struck over 200 targets in past day, with 2 soldiers wounded in south Lebanon combat; 10 Lebanese said killed in IDF strikes; Hezbollah blasts negotiations**

By [Emanuel Fabian](#),

[Agencies](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 7:28 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-and-hezbollah-trade-strikes-rockets-as-israel-and-lebanon-gear-up-for-direct-talks/>

Several Gazans said killed in IDF strikes; soldier seriously hurt in operational accident

Military says it struck operatives planning attacks against troops; soldier hospitalized following mishap

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [Agencies](#) Today, 11:58 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/several-gazans-said-killed-in-idf-strikes-soldier-seriously-hurt-in-operational-accident/>

IDF soldier severely injured in operational accident in Gaza

The soldier was evacuated to a hospital for medical treatment, and his family has been notified of the incident.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) APRIL 11, 2026 22:13 Updated: APRIL 11, 2026 23:24

Orthodox Christian pilgrims flock to Jerusalem for Holy Fire ceremony

Annual procession marked by heightened police presence, aggressive detention of several Palestinian Christians, and limited attendance amid fragile ceasefire with Iran

By [Tol Staff](#) and [AP](#) Today, 9:52 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/orthodox-christian-pilgrims-flock-to-jerusalem-for-holy-fire-ceremony/>

Dan Bilzerian, who says Judaism is ‘terrible’ and wants to ‘kill Israelis,’ runs for Congress

Influencer has declined to answer whether Adolf Hitler was antisemitic, asked his 30 million followers whether Jews responsible for world’s problems, minimizes the Holocaust

By [Joseph Strauss](#) Today, 4:19 pm <https://www.timesofisrael.com/dan-bilzerian-who-says-judaism-is-terrible-and-wants-to-kill-israelis-runs-for-congress/>

UK police arrest over 200 at London demonstration for Palestine Action support

Metropolitan Police return to mass arrest policy as government appeals court ruling against group’s ban; protesters defy order, say legal ‘flip-flop’ does not affect ‘morals’

By [Agencies](#) Today, 9:42 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/uk-police-arrest-over-200-at-london-demonstration-for-palestine-action-support/>

Israel reprimands Spain over burning in effigy of Prime Minister Netanyahu in Spanish town

The move comes after Spain was expelled from the US CMCC in Kiryat Gat due to “obsessive anti-Israel bias.”

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) APRIL 12, 2026 00:22

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-892645>

OP ED

Negotiating With Tehran: The Danger of Diplomacy

by [Majid Rafizadeh](#)

April 11, 2026 at 5:00 am

With the Islamic Republic of Iran, a ceasefire does not necessarily indicate a genuine shift in intent. It more likely functions as a tactical pause to relieve pressure, rebuild capabilities, and buy time under the cover of diplomacy. Iran's is a regime whose leadership is divided between those who speak and those who decide. The politicians may negotiate, but the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and intelligence apparatus ultimately determine the course of action. Pictured: A funeral procession, featuring banners memorializing senior officers from the IRGC who were killed in Israeli strikes, in Tehran's Enqelab Square on June 28, 2025. (Photo by Majid Saeedi/Getty Images)

Iran has ostensibly agreed to a two-week ceasefire -- which, intentionally or not, it broke within minutes -- and to negotiations. At first glance, an agreement may seem a meaningful step. With the Islamic Republic of Iran, however, a ceasefire does not necessarily indicate a genuine shift in intent. As US President Donald J. Trump and his negotiators undoubtedly know, it more likely functions as a tactical pause to relieve pressure, rebuild capabilities, and buy time under the cover of diplomacy.

Unlike conventional states where elected officials or formal institutions hold ultimate decision-making authority, Iran operates through a deeply layered, often opaque power structure. On the surface, diplomats and politicians engage with the international community, projecting reasonableness, flexibility, and a willingness to compromise. Beneath this diplomatic façade, nonetheless, lies the true center of power: the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Iran's intelligence apparatus. These institutions are not merely influential — they are decisive. They shape national security policy, control key economic sectors, and determine the regime's strategic direction. Any negotiation that fails to account for this structure misunderstands who actually makes final decisions.

Iran's regime now must find itself under significant strain. Militarily, it has faced sustained pressure and blows; economically, it continues to struggle under sanctions and internal inefficiencies; politically, it must manage both domestic dissatisfaction and external threats. The regime therefore has strong incentives to de-escalate temporarily without conceding strategically. At such a moment, it may be willing to promise sweeping concessions and even alignment with international demands. Such signals, regrettably, must be interpreted not as evidence of change but as indicators of tactical adaptation. The central question is not whether the regime is willing to say the right things — it is whether it is able and willing to *do* them.

During previous rounds of negotiations, for instance, particularly in 2015 with then President Barack Obama's disastrous JCPOA "nuclear deal," Iran made commitments that looked comprehensive and verifiable. Concerns soon emerged, however, regarding [undisclosed nuclear activities](#), continued [technological development](#), and the limitations of monitoring mechanisms.

The Iranian regime's core objective is survival. Offering poison-pill demands, it has been rejecting any terms that might alter its behavior. Instead, it seems to be aiming to absorb shocks, outlast pressure, and wait for more favorable conditions. Usually this tactic -- if Islam even appears threatened -- includes a religiously required directive, *taqiyya*: deceit in the service of furthering Islam. The tactic also includes extending negotiations, limiting concessions, and avoiding actions that would provoke overwhelming retaliation, all while preserving its ideology. When Trump pursues a firm approach, the Iranian regime is incentivized to delay negotiations and diffuse pressure until the political dynamics shift. Negotiations become a tool of strategic patience rather than a genuine revision of intent.

Any agreement, therefore, needs to be built only on strict, enforceable verification mechanisms that impose tangible, irreversible consequences that eliminate the regime's ability to revert to previous behaviors. The enriched uranium stockpiles cannot be subjected to indirect monitoring, which, as recently [revealed](#), can easily be circumvented. All uranium should instead be physically removed under the direct supervision of the US, and no hidden stocks may remain within the country.

All infrastructure for producing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles needs to be fully dismantled or destroyed. Partial restrictions, temporary suspensions, or limitations that can be reversed are insufficient. Anything less creates a latent threat that can resurface at a moment of the regime's choosing.

There can be no Iranian support whatsoever for the terrorist proxies such as Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis, or Palestinian Islamic Jihad, among others.

Iranian state media have [begun](#) signaling that the regime expects compensation as part of any post-conflict arrangement. The demand, which seems to have been on an initial, [discarded](#), "10-point plan," should, of course, be categorically rejected.

Above all, the Strait of Hormuz must remain a free and open international waterway, governed by established principles of maritime law rather than unilateral control. Any international monitoring force must include a permanent US presence to guarantee that the international forces remain effective. The UNIFIL peacekeeping forces in Lebanon apparently found it easier to be onlookers, complicit in ignoring all agreements. Ensuring open access is not simply a regional concern — it is a global imperative.

In addition, throughout the entire region, the aggressive dimension of Iran's regime must be seriously addressed. The persistent use of rhetoric such as "death to America" and "death to Israel" reflects a deeply embedded worldview that legitimizes hostility and frames confrontation as a moral imperative. As long as this ideological posture remains intact, any diplomatic agreement risks being undermined by the very narratives that sustain the regime's identity. A durable resolution in Iran -- as well as for other states such as Qatar -- requires not only behavioral change but also a shift away from the regime's rhetoric of aggression.

This is a regime whose leadership is divided between those who speak and those who decide. The politicians may negotiate, but the IRGC and intelligence apparatus ultimately determine the course of action.

In short, there can be no upfront relief granted to Iran, no phased easing based on promises, and no concessions granted in anticipation of compliance. Every aspect of the regime's commitments -- uranium removal, dismantlement of nuclear and missile infrastructure, and cessation of destabilizing activities -- must be fully verified. To relieve any pressure prematurely would be to give the regime exactly what it seeks: space to recover, regroup, and ultimately resume its previous trajectory.

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh, is a political scientist, Harvard-educated analyst, and board member of Harvard International Review. He has [authored](#) several books on the US foreign policy. He can be reached at

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<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/22425/danger-negotiating-with-tehran>



BS”D

STEP BY STEP

STEP BY STEP: Good news is that many friends and supporters of Lev U'Neshama (Heart and Soul) donated towards the Education Fund project to provide basic school supplies for actually 350 children within our Lev U'Neshama families.

We are grateful that the school supply part of our effort has been successful.

According to the Israel Population and Statistics office, Tzfat's population is about 40,000, and one third live at the poverty level. We do what we can so at least the children within our struggling LUN families can get the things they need.

Every week we are providing new sport shoes and eye exams/eyeglasses to the children on our request list. However, previous donations are rapidly dwindling. I am reaching out now before the fund has been emptied and we will have to say "no" to additional requests.

We work with two local shoe merchants who give Lev U'Neshama a discount but they advised us the cost of the shoes has increased. Also, we work with an accredited optician in town who also gives us a discount but his cost is stable.

Lev U'Neshama is an Israeli registered non-profit charity organization, volunteer run, no business expenses whatsoever and every \$ goes into our programs.

Shoes: \$45 per pair regular and \$60 for First Steps, baby shoes.

Eye Exam/Eyeglasses: \$60 per child.

Your support is urgently requested.

Or use the Zelle US to US bank transfer system (contact me at mortsmo@aol.com for bank information.

US Donors may also send checks made payable to

Simcha Smolensky, my son, who is also a volunteer. Send to:

Rabbi Simcha Smolensky, 6739 N Mozart St Chicago IL 60645

Your support will be appreciated.

Yaffa Smolensky