

## 04132026 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**

### **With US military set to blockade Iranian ports, Tehran says move 'amounts to piracy'**

CENTCOM says it will begin blocking all ships entering and exiting Iran's ports, will not block Hormuz for ships using non-Iranian ports, in step down from Trump's earlier threat

By [Agencies](#) and [Tel Staff](#) Today, 12:57 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-us-military-set-to-blockade-iranian-ports-tehran-says-move-amounts-to-piracy/>

### **Trump warns Iran navy is 'obliterated,' vows ships near Hormuz blockade will be 'immediately eliminated'**

US-led naval blockade near Strait of Hormuz underway as Trump claims Iran's navy has been 'completely obliterated' and warns fast-attack boats approaching blockade will be destroyed; Israel says fully coordinated with Washington amid rising tensions

ynet|09:47

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h1du11y5311x>

### **Starmer, Macron say UK and France to discuss 'multinational mission' to safeguard Hormuz**

French president says effort will be 'strictly defensive' and separate from any American operation, as British PM says UK will not join Trump's naval blockade of key waterway

By [Agencies](#) Today, 4:26 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/starmer-macron-say-uk-and-france-to-discuss-multinational-mission-to-safeguard-hormuz/>

### **Netanyahu: Iran ceasefire could end at any moment, we back Trump's blockade**

PM says US walked away from talks over red lines on Hormuz, enriched uranium; ahead of US operation in strait, IDF says it remains on 'heightened alert' for any development

By [Lazar Berman](#), [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [Agencies](#) Today, 4:26 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-iran-ceasefire-could-end-at-any-moment-we-back-trumps-blockade/>

### **Iran executed over 1,600 people in 2025, most since 1989, rights groups say**

Tehran put 4 to 5 people to death daily throughout last year, data shows; if regime survives war, IHR says 'serious risk that executions will be used even more extensively'

By [AFP](#) Today, 9:51 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-executed-over-1600-people-in-2025-most-since-1989-rights-groups-say/>

### **Hezbollah explosive drone injures at least eight IDF soldiers in southern Lebanon**

The soldiers were evacuated to the hospital for further medical treatment.

By [JAMES GENN](#) APRIL 13, 2026 17:26 Updated: APRIL 13, 2026 17:48

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-892872>

## **IDF kills Hamas terrorist involved in building collapse which killed 21 soldiers**

Yousef Ibrahim Mahmoud Bashedi had been part of a group of terrorists who fired anti-tank missiles at buildings in Gaza in January, 2024, where IDF soldiers were operating.

By [TZVI JASPER](#) APRIL 13, 2026 19:01

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-892880>

## **IDF says close to capturing Hezbollah's historic Bint Jbeil stronghold**

Over 100 terror operatives killed during battles in south Lebanon town, military claims; woman injured by rocket impact in Nahariya as IDF intercepts at least 10 drone attacks

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 11:47 am Updated at 6:45 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-says-close-to-capturing-hezbollahs-historic-bint-jbeil-stronghold/>

## **Turkish FM: Israel trying to 'declare Turkey the new enemy' after Iran**

Hakan Fidan says Jerusalem 'cannot live without an enemy,' accusing both government and opposition lawmakers of taking part in 'state strategy' against Ankara

By [AFP](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 5:51 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/turkish-fm-israel-trying-to-declare-turkey-the-new-enemy-after-iran/>

## **2025 toll of Diaspora Jews killed in antisemitic attacks was highest in three decades**

TAU study finds shift in types of anti-Jewish events, with violence becoming the norm; Australia, Canada see highest yearly numbers of antisemitic incidents ever

By [Zev Stub](#)

Today, 12:11 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/2025-toll-of-diaspora-jews-killed-in-antisemitic-attacks-was-highest-in-three-decades/>

## **Israel reports 1,000 antisemitic incidents worldwide, 20 killed in past year**

During the reporting period, over 300 incidents were recorded in the United States, and over 130 incidents each in the United Kingdom and France.

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) APRIL 13, 2026 16:05 Updated: APRIL 13, 2026 17:50

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-892855>

## **Hungary's new PM signals shift on Israel ties, ICC return after Orbán's 16-year rule ends**

New Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar says Budapest will rejoin the ICC and review EU votes on Israel case by case, signaling a pragmatic but less automatic pro-Israel stance after ending Viktor Orbán's long rule

[Itamar Eichner, News Agencies](#) | 10:47

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hjef3yqnbx>

## **Israel marks Holocaust Remembrance Day with Yad Vashem ceremony**

Israel opens Holocaust Remembrance Day with an evening ceremony at Yad Vashem, a national siren at 10 a.m., and a global March of the Living at Auschwitz featuring survivors and victims of antisemitic attacks worldwide

ynet | 11:57

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hjyqr593bx>

**OP ED**

# **The Somalization of a Minnesota Town**

Sun, 12 Apr 2026 9:40 AM PST by Daniel Greenfield



“Faribault has become our city,” a Somali interviewed by the Minnesota Post bragged.

Faribault, Minnesota, is a small city about an hour’s drive from Minneapolis. On paper it should have the smaller crime rate of the alphabetically similar Farmington which is nearly the same size and only a half hour away. Instead, Faribault has more than twice as much violent crime, aggravated assaults, burglaries and car thefts, 30% more rapes, and 8 times as many robberies. Farmington has no arsons, but Faribault has the most arsons of any city outside major strongholds like Minneapolis, St. Paul or Duluth.

But Faribault has something Farmington doesn’t: diversity. Especially from its Somalis.

The city of over 20,000 used to be much less diverse. In 1990, it was even 98% white. Or as the Minnesota Post described it, with a shudder, “an almost entirely homogeneous white community, not much different from many towns across Minnesota.” But Faribault was an hour away from Minneapolis at a time when it was being overtaken by Somali mass migration, and it had a meat processing plant, now partly shut down, which is always a draw for illegal aliens and migrants.

Now Faribault is much more diverse and it has problems that it didn’t used to have.

Faribault was the epicenter of a \$2.6 million Somali Medicaid ride fraud scam in which 8 Somalis, two of them named Mohammed, stole hundreds of names to bill taxpayers for rides, interpreters and acupuncture services that never happened.

It was also part of the \$250 million Somali meal scam that [first broke open Somali fraud](#).

Faribault’s part in the massive fraud in which nonprofits claimed to be providing free meals to hundreds of thousands of Somali kids who didn’t exist came through the Somali American Faribault Education (SAFE) run by Mohamed Hussein and Lul Bashir Ali, who made off with \$5 million in meal funds after claiming that their restaurant in Faribault, which only had 9 tables, was serving [meals to 1,600 children a day](#) and had served a total of 700,000 meals.

The Somali American Faribault Education (SAFE) nonprofit also claimed to be providing meals to 2,500 children a day. Sizable amounts of kickbacks were paid to a man who then fled to Somalia. The Minnesota Post’s article praising the Somali takeover of Faribault had hailed SAFE, claiming that it “provides refugees with ESL programs and connects them to jobs”.

The other non-profit promoted by the Post article, the ‘Somali Community Resettlement Services’, which operates out of the massive 115-year-old historic Gale Mansion, often used as a wedding venue, [has been linked to one](#) Faribault meal site that claimed to be offering 2,000 meals a day.

The ‘Somali Community Resettlement Services’ solicited nearly \$3 million for the free meals and Somali elected officials had proposed bills that would [pour millions](#) into the organization.

The fraud also penetrated the Faribault public school system as investigators are also trying to [figure out where \\$1 million](#) in grant money to stop Somali drug abuse solicited by Lul Bashir Ali, initially identified only as a Somali mother, went.

“We need help.’ This sentiment, expressed by a Somali mother about the specific concern of youth drug use and the more general frustration of trying to parent in a new culture, captures the heart of this grant proposal.” The Minnesota Department of Human Services responded with nearly \$1 million for the Faribault schools that was supposedly used to provide Somali services.

Faribault is much more diverse now with an estimated 4,600 Somalis out of 25,000 people. The white population has dropped to 65% and the school system is even more diverse.

Minority enrollment in the city’s schools was up 243% in twenty years. By 2018, minority students made up a majority of the school system. Today, 60% of the school district is minority and only 36% white. A population of older white homeowners is subsidizing education and services for Somali and South American migrant meatpacking plant workers with their property taxes.

The Faribault School Board has recently been debating teaching science, health and social studies in Somali. As of 2022, there were over 900 Faribault students who didn’t speak English.

The Somali education program was proposed after complaints from Somalis and other migrants that their “home languages were being lost as students became more English-dominant” and “parents and children no

longer shared a common language, weakening communication and cultural connections within families.” Rather than expecting their parents to learn English, Faribault schools are expected to prevent their children from learning English, instead teaching them in Somali.

Faribault might as well teach the students in Somali because state test proficiency scores showed that math proficiency was at 13.7%, science was at 16.1% and reading was at 29.8%. Test scores, graduation rates, attendance and every possible metric are below state standards.

What would Faribault be like if it were less diverse and Somali? Faribault school statistics show that students for whom English is their native language perform [over three times better](#) on math, science and more than twice as well on reading. Students who aren't on welfare perform four times as well on math and science. Call it the 'Somali Effect'.

Faribault is more diverse, it's also more dangerous and has linked up with the epicenter of Somali fraud in the Twin Cities. Its schools are failing and it has no future.

*(Image above from Hormel meatpacking plant video showcasing its Somali workers.)*



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](mailto: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