

## 04222026 NEWS SPECIAL Don't miss Lev U'Neshama NOTE at end!

### **Please Note:**

**I am now home from having triple bypass surgery. I will be sending news out 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**

### **Trump says Iran 'collapsing' over Hormuz blockade as IRGC attacks ships in key waterway**

**Iranian minister denies American blockade effective, after US president extended ceasefire indefinitely; Tehran executes man accused of working with Mossad**

By [Agencies](#), [Tol Staff](#) and [Jacob Magid](#)

Today, 1:24 pm Updated at 2:37 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-says-iran-collapsing-over-hormuz-blockade-as-ships-attacked-in-key-waterway/>

### **'3–5 days': Trump ceasefire window and naval giant heading to the Middle East**

**As reports point to a brief pause, the USS George H.W. Bush — a nuclear-powered warship carrying 90 aircraft and over 6,000 personnel — is nearing the region after a long route around Africa, with its arrival expected within days**

By [Ron Crissy](#) | 11:44

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/ryfqt00lpwg>

### **Trump says he was 'surprised' by 'Chinese gift to Iran' found in seized tanker ship**

**"We caught a ship yesterday that had some things on it, which wasn't very nice. A gift from China perhaps, I don't know, but I was a little surprised," Trump said during an interview with CNBC.**

By [TOBIAS HOLCMAN](#) APRIL 22, 2026 13:56

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-893831>

### **Trump, Pakistani sources say US-Iran talks could begin Friday as ceasefire extended - report**

**The New York Post reported that US President Donald Trump, when asked via text message about the possibility of talks happening on Friday, said: "It's possible!"**

By [TOBIAS HOLCMAN](#) APRIL 22, 2026 18:32 Updated: APRIL 22, 2026 19:10

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-893853>

### **Iran hangs former nuclear employee for allegedly spying for Israel, aid groups say**

**Judiciary says Mehdi Farid, arrested in 2023, was executed for 'extensive cooperation' with Mossad; NGOs say he worked for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization**

By [AFP](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 8:12 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-hangs-former-nuclear-employee-for-allegedly-spying-for-israel-aid-groups-say/>

### **Iran dissidents bemoan European silence after latest execution**

**"The silence of European Union leaders and member states in the face of this wave of political executions in Iran is unjustifiable," Maryam Rajavi said in a speech at the European Parliament.**

By [REUTERS](#) APRIL 22, 2026 17:58

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-893852>

## **Palestinians in Gaza to vote in municipal elections, offering view into support for Hamas**

It will be Gaza's first vote of any kind since 2006, when Hamas won the PA's legislative elections and later seized control of Gaza following a brief civil war with PA President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah.

By REUTERS APRIL 22, 2026 15:35 Updated: APRIL 22, 2026 16:12

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-893839>

## **Lebanon said to seek one-month truce extension; Hezbollah again targets troops with drone**

Israel projects optimism ahead of planned talks on Thursday, as some exchanges of fire continue in south Lebanon; IDF says it killed 2 Hezbollah men who crossed ceasefire line

By [Tol Staff](#), [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [Agencies](#) Today, 6:40 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/lebanon-said-to-seek-one-month-truce-extension-hezbollah-again-targets-troops-with-drone/>

## **Second French soldier dies of wounds sustained in Hezbollah attack on UN peacekeepers**

Macron says Cpl. Anicet Girardin succumbed to injuries in France after being hit by gunfire in attack on base in south Lebanon last week

By [AFP](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 7:02 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/second-french-soldier-dies-of-wounds-sustained-in-hezbollah-attack-on-un-peacekeepers/>

## **Israel kicks off 78th Independence Day festivities with annual torch-lighting ceremony** Torch-lighters include Argentina's Milei, a disabled IDF veteran and an Iranian ex-judicial official; Netanyahu gives pre-recorded speech focused on Israel's military achievements

By [Tol Staff](#), [Nava Freiberg](#),  
[Sam Sokol](#)

and [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 12:38 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-kicks-off-78th-independence-day-festivities-with-annual-torch-lighting-ceremony/>

[Photo essay](#)

## **Blue skies, white smoke: Israelis celebrate 78 years of independence**

At beaches, city parks, nature areas and urban streets, the smell of grilled meat and the sound of party music fill the air as country marks another birthday

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 5:33 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/blue-skies-white-smoke-israelis-celebrate-78th-year-of-independence/>

## **Estonian Holocaust memorial 'extensively damaged' by vandalism**

The Ereda memorial in the Ida-Viru County was "extensively damaged," police told The Jerusalem Post, with the monument dented, several pieces broken off, and its fastenings bent.

By [MICHAEL STARR](#) APRIL 22, 2026 11:46 Updated: APRIL 22, 2026 19:27

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-893818>

## **Alan Dershowitz quits Democratic Party, calling it 'most anti-Israel party in US history'**

The announcement formalized a political evolution for Dershowitz, who defended Trump during his first impeachment and has increasingly broken with Democrats over Israel in recent years.

ByGRACE GILSON/JTAAPRIL 22, 2026 05:48

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-893794>

## Kosovar teen charged for trying to kill teacher wanted to kill 'as many Jewish people as possible'

Identified only as Erjon S, the juvenile suspect was charged with assault, aggravated assault, and resisting arrest, in addition to three attempted murder charges on March 31.

ByMICHAEL STARRAPRIL 22, 2026 03:37Updated: APRIL 22, 2026 19:29

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-893786>

## US CDC will not publish report showing COVID vaccine effectiveness

"Scientific reports are routinely reviewed at multiple levels to ensure they meet the highest standards before publication," said HHS spokesperson Andrew Nixon.

ByREUTERSAPRIL 22, 2026 18:05

**A report showing the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines has been blocked from being published in the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's flagship scientific journal, a spokesperson from the Department of Health and Human Services said on Wednesday.**

<https://www.jpost.com/health-and-wellness/coronavirus/article-893856>

OP ED

# Who Can Count the Dust of Jacob?

Tue, 21 Apr 2026 2:25 AM PST by Daniel Greenfield



"Who can count the dust of Jacob or number the seed of Israel."

Numbers 23:10

The sun sets above the hills. The siren cries out and on the busy highways that wend among the hills, [the traffic stops](#), [the people stop](#), and a moment of silence comes to a noisy country. Flags fly at half mast, the torch of remembrance is lit, memorial candles are held in shaking hands and the country's own version of the Flanders Field poppy, the Red Everlasting daisy, dubbed Blood of the Maccabees, adorns lapels. And so begins the Yom

Hazikaron, Heroes Remembrance Day, the day of remembrance for fallen soldiers and victims of terror-- Israel's Memorial Day.

What is a memorial day in a country that has always known war and where remembrance means adding the toll of one year's dead and wounded to the scales of history? A country where war never ends, where the sirens may pause but never stop, where each generation grows up knowing that they will have to fight or flee. To stand watch or run away. It is not so much the past that is remembered on this day, but the present and the future. The stillness, a breath in the warm air, before setting out to climb the slopes of tomorrow.

Who can count the dust of Jacob.

And yet each memorial day we count the dust. The dust that is a fraction of those who have fallen defending the land for thousands of years. Flesh wears out, blood falls to the earth where the red daisies grow, and bone turns to dust. The dust blows across the graves of soldiers and prophets, the tombs of priests hidden behind brush, the caverns where forefathers rest in sacred silence, laid to rest by their sons, who were laid to rest by their own sons, generations burying the past, standing guard over it, being driven away and returning each time.

On Memorial Day, the hands of memory are dipped in the dust raising it to the blue sky. A prayer, a whisper, a dream of peace. And the wind blows the candles out. War follows. And once again blood flows into the dust. A young lieutenant shading his eyes against the sun. An old man resting with his family on the beach. Children climbing into bed in a village on a hilltop. And more bodies are laid to rest in the dust. Until dust they become.

In this land, the Maker of Stars and Dust vowed to Abraham that his children would be as many as the dust of the earth and the stars of heaven. In their darkest days, they would be as the dust. But there is mercy in the

numberless count of the dust. Mercy in not being able to make a full count of the fallen and remaining ignorant of that full measure of woe. Modern technologies permit us terrible estimates. Databanks store the names of millions; digital cemeteries of ghosts. But there is no counting the dust. And when we walk the length and breadth of the land, as the Maker told Abraham to do, in the dust that supports our feet, we walk in the dust of our ancestors.

Some new countries are built to escape from the past, but there is no escaping it in these ancient hills. IDF soldiers patrol over ground once contested by empires, tread over spearheads and the wheels of chariots buried deep in the earth. The Assyrians and the Babylonians came through here in all their glory. Greek and Roman soldiers and mercenaries pitted themselves against the handful of Judeans who came out of the Babylonian exile. The Ottoman and the Arab raged here, and Crusader battering rams and British Enfield rifles still echo in the quiet hills.

Here in the silence of remembrance the present is always the past and the sky hangs like a thin veil fluttering against the future. The believers cast their prayers out of their mouths against the veil. The soldiers cast their lives and their hearts. And still the future flutters above, like the sky near enough to touch, but out of reach. Beneath it, the sky-blue flag, the stripe of the believer's shawls adorned with the interlocked star of the House of David.

Can these bones live, the Lord asks Ezekiel. And generations, after each slaughter, they come again, the descendants of the dead to reclaim the hills of their ancestors. Rising like the red flowers out of the soil. Like the bones out of the earth. They come up as slaves out of Egypt and out of the captivity of empires, their tongues as numberless as the earth. Here they come again to set up kingdoms and nations. And there in shadows on the dust, a handful of men fight off a legion; swords, spears and rifles in hand they face down impossible odds. They fight and die, but they go on.

The calendar itself is a memorial. Israel's Memorial Day, Independence Day and Lag BaOmer; the commemoration of the original Yom Yerushalayim, the brief liberation of Jerusalem from the Romans, still covertly remembered in bonfires and bows shot into the air, all in a season that begins with Passover, the exodus that set over a million people off on a forty-year journey to return to the homeland of their forefathers.

The battles today are new, but they are also very old. The weapons are new, but the struggle is the same. Who will remain and who will be swept away. Some 3,000 years ago, Judge Jephthah and the King of Ammon were exchanging messages not too different from those being passed around as diplomatic communiques today. The King of Ammon demanding land for peace and the Judge laying out the Israeli case for the land in a message that the enemy would hardly trouble to read before going to war.

Take a stray path in these hills and you may find a grinning terrorist with a knife, or the young David pitting his slingshot against a lion or bear. This way the Maccabees rush ahead against the armies of a slave empire and this way a helicopter passes low overhead on the way to Gaza. Time is a fluid thing here. And what you remember; you shall find.

The soldier is not so sacred as he once was. The journalist and the judge have taken his place. The actors sneer from their theaters. The politicians gobble their free food and babble of peace. Musicians sing shrilly of flowers in gun barrels and doves everywhere. But the soldier still stands where he must. The borders have shrunk. The old victories have been exchanged for diplomatic defeats. From the old strongholds come missiles and rockets. And children hide in bomb shelters waiting for the worst to pass. This is the doing of the journalist and the judge, the politician and the actor, the lions of literature who send autographed copies of their books to imprisoned terrorists and the grandchildren of great men who hire themselves on in service to the enemy.

The man who serves is still sacred, but the temple of duty is desecrated more and more each year. Leftist academics dismiss the heroes of the past as myths or murderers. Their wives dress in black and harass soldiers at checkpoints, their children wrap their faces in Keffiyas and throw stones at them. Draft dodging, once a black mark of shame, has become a mark of pride among the left. Some boast about how easy it is, others enlist only to then refuse to serve. They call themselves Refusniks, accepting the Soviet view of Israel as an illegitimate warmongering state, but laying claim to the name of the Zionists who fought to escape the Soviet Union.

Some are only afraid, but some are filled with hate. They have looked into a twisted mirror and drunk of the poisoned wine. They have found their Inner Cain and go now to slay their brothers with words.

How shall I curse whom G-d has not cursed, asks Balaam. But the King of Moab is determined to have his curses anyway. And today it is to the UN that they come for curses. The Arab lands boil with blood, but resolution after resolution follows damning Israel. China squats on the mountains of Tibet, Russian government thugs throw dissidents out of windows and Iranian thugs assault girls for removing their hijabs. And still the resolutions come

like curses.

In a land built on memory, it is possible not to remember, but it is impossible to entirely forget. A war of memories comes. A war for the dust. Is this a day of remembrance or a day of shame. Were those men who fought and died for Judea and Samaria, for the Golan and Jerusalem, for every square inch of land when the armies of Arab dictators came to push them into the sea, heroes or villains. Were Nasser, Hussein, Saddam, Arafat, Assad and Qatar the real heroes all along. The tiny minority of 360 million pitted against the overwhelming majority of 6 billion.

Yet though men may forget, the dust remembers. And the men return to it. For some four thousand years they have done it. And they shall do it again. For He who has made men of the dust and made worlds of the dust of stars does not forget. As the stars turn in whirling galaxies and the dust flies across the land, so the people return to the land. And though they forget, they remember again. For the dust is the memory of ages and the children shall always return to the dust of their ancestors.

In the cities, towns and villages-- the dead are remembered. Those who died with weapons in their hands and those who just died. Men, women and children. Drops of blood cast to the dust, reborn as flowers on lapels. Reborn as memory.

All go to one place, said King Solomon, all that lives is of the dust, and all returns to the dust. There is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his works. And so memorial day precedes the day of independence. That we rejoice in that which those who sleep in the dust have died to protect. The skyscrapers and the orchards, the sheep ranches and the highways, the schools and the synagogues. For they who drained the swamps and built the roads, who held guard over the air and built the cities, may not have lived to see their works. But we rejoice in their works for them. And a new generation rises to watch over their dust and tend the works that they have built. Until the day when He that counts the dust of Jacob shall count them all, and the land shall stir, and in the words of Daniel, they that sleep in dust shall arise, and then rejoice with us.

***Daniel Greenfield is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's [Front Page Magazine](#)***



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