

04232026 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

Mojtaba Khamenei awake, aware, but IRGC commanders actually running Iran

The NYT said that Khamenei remains "mentally sharp and engaged," receiving handwritten notes with updates from the outside world.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) APRIL 23, 2026 16:42 Updated: APRIL 23, 2026 21:14

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-893967>

Trump says he ordered US Navy to 'shoot and kill' boats mining the Strait of Hormuz

US president claims Iran rudderless due to 'infighting,' as NYT report says IRGC in control and Khamenei 'gravely injured'; Katz: Israel awaiting 'green light' from US to attack nuclear sites, new supreme leader

By [Jacob Magid](#), [Stav Levaton](#) and [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 9:15 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-says-he-ordered-us-navy-to-shoot-and-kill-boats-mining-the-strait-of-hormuz/>

Iran says it won't reopen Strait of Hormuz as long as US is blockading ports

Parliament Speaker Ghalibaf, who has led Iran's delegation at talks, says opening key waterway 'not possible amid blatant violation of ceasefire'; report says 34 tankers have evaded US blockade

By [AFP](#) and [ToI Staff](#) Today, 1:48 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-it-wont-reopen-strait-of-hormuz-as-long-as-us-is-blockading-ports/>

Air defenses activated in Tehran against 'hostile targets'; Katz: Israel awaiting US green light to resume strikes

IDF uncovers Hezbollah tunnel beneath clothing store near Metula, as Lebanon reports drone strike beyond Yellow Line; Katz says Israel awaits US approval to resume strikes, warning a 'deadly' attack could topple Iran's regime

[Elisha Ben Kimon](#), [Lior Ben Ari](#), [Yossi Yehoshua](#) | Updated: 13:10

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/sy8vdpd6be#autoplay>

Israel prepared to renew Iran war, awaiting 'green light' from Trump, Katz says

Katz noted that the IDF was awaiting the green light from the US, adding that future attacks would be "different and deadly," targeting "the most painful places."

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) APRIL 23, 2026 21:53 <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-894002>

'Territory expands, army doesn't': IDF faces deepening troop shortage crisis

'Unthinkable,' a security official says of the deepening IDF crisis, with no end in sight; coalition delays key legislation as ultra-Orthodox leaders weigh the draft bill, amid warnings defenses 'will not be airtight' if conditions change

[Elisha Ben Kimon](#), [Shilo Freid](#), [Amir Ettinger](#) | 12:40

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h19qvavpwx>

2 IDF aircraft mechanics charged with spying for Iran, leaking fighter jet info

Pair, serving at Tel Nof Airbase, sent diagram of aircraft engine, photos of aviation instructor to Iranian handler in one of the most serious incidents in a spate of espionage attempts

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) and [Charlie Summers](#)

Today, 4:46 pm Updated at 8:15 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/two-idf-aircraft-mechanics-to-be-charged-with-spying-on-ben-gvir-ex-idf-chief-report/>

Iran executes man for alleged links to Israel and membership in banned opposition group

Judiciary claims Sultan-Ali Shirzadi-Fakhr was part of People's Mujahedeen of Iran, collaborated with Mossad; regime has stepped up executions, drawing accusations of repression

By [AFP](#) and [ToI Staff](#) Today, 2:12 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-executes-man-for-alleged-links-to-israel-and-membership-in-banned-opposition-group/>

Israel, Lebanon set for new round of US talks; Hezbollah fires at IDF troops again

Israeli ambassador to the US Yechiel Leiter to reportedly meet Lebanese counterpart Nada Hamadeh Moawad in DC at 4 p.m. local time; Beirut expected to seek month's extension of truce

By [Stav Levaton](#), [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [Agencies](#) Today, 2:26 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-lebanon-set-for-new-round-of-us-talks-hezbollah-fires-at-idf-troops-again/>

UN might keep presence in south Lebanon once UNIFIL mandate ends, says official

UN peacekeeping chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix says Beirut is 'very clear that they would want to keep a UN presence,' after Security Council voted last year to end peacekeeping force

By [Reuters](#) and [ToI Staff](#) Today, 5:55 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/un-might-keep-presence-in-south-lebanon-once-unifil-mandate-ends-says-official/>

Blood diamonds, crypto: Hezbollah's financial operations in Europe serve as major terror lifeline

DPI found that Hezbollah's financial operations span the European continent, with particular focus on wealthier, larger nations like France and Germany.

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) APRIL 23, 2026 20:11

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-894006>

Israel appoints first special envoy to Christian world after scandals strain ties

Diplomat George Deek, a member of the Arab Christian community, recently served as ambassador to Azerbaijan; Sa'ar says Israel attaches 'great importance' to its ties with Christian world

By [Stav Levaton](#)

and [ToI Staff](#) Today, 7:07 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-appoints-first-special-envoy-to-christian-world-after-scandals-strain-ties/>

Mamdani office has no definition of antisemitism after dropping IHRA, czar confirms

When asked how the Mamdani administration defines antisemitism, MOCA executive director Phylisa Wisdom said: "Across city government, there is not a definition codified for any form of hate at all."

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) APRIL 23, 2026 21:45

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-894020>

'Shame, disgrace': Israeli diplomat in US heckled at Silicon Valley Memorial Day ceremony

A group of attendees began singing the Israeli national anthem in protest as Ambassador Marco Sermoneta denounced critics of the IDF and the State of Israel.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) APRIL 23, 2026 19:09

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-893995>

‘Dirty f***ing Jew:’ Thames Police arrest Slough man after assault on Orthodox Jew

The 48-year-old Slough man was arrested on suspicion of racially or religiously aggravated assault and racially or religiously aggravated public order, and has been in custody since Thursday evening.

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-893993>

Dutch gov't ups Jewish security amid massive rise in antisemitic attacks

Since 2025, the Netherlands has had a security fund for Jewish schools, institutions, and events. For this, it structurally allocated €1.3 million per year.

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) APRIL 23, 2026 16:29 Updated: APRIL 23, 2026 18:27

OP ED

White House Dem Hopefuls Bow to Sharpton

Wed, 22 Apr 2026 2:40 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



When Al Sharpton celebrated the 35th anniversary of his hate group and shakedown operation, the National Action Network, which has been linked to the killings of at least 9 people in various hate crimes, presidential hopefuls celebrated with him.

Former Vice President Kamala Harris, still Sharpton’s favorite after her [previous pledge at](#) the National Action Network to implement racial reparations, was there, as were former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, hoping to compensate for his notoriously poor performance with black voters, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, humiliating himself one more time, Gov. Wes Moore of Maryland, just caught lying about his past, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, the man Sharpton would be if he were white and hadn’t stopped eating everything in sight, Sen. Mark Kelly, hoping to meet his first black person, and Rep. Ro Khanna, a sleazy Silicon Valley grifter backed by an Epstein associate, who claims to be against the ‘Epstein Class’, and a champion of banning congressional stock trading, while also being the champion stock trader.

Democrat House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, the nephew of racist professor Leonard Jeffries whom Sharpton had defended after his antisemitic remarks, made his third appearance addressing NAN. Around 30 years ago, New York Times editor A.M. Rosenthal, had referred to the “Sharpton Albatross” for Democrats. “Sharpton. He talked about ‘diamond merchants’” in Crown Heights and admires Louis Farrakhan and Leonard Jeffries, the local academic anti-Semite. He is the Sharpton who built his career as the race-trouble equivalent of the ambulance chaser. He remains what he always has been — racial dynamite, carrying his own matches.” These days, Sharpton and Jeffries aren’t the party’s albatross, they’re the party.

Despite Sharpton’s history of antisemitism and his role in the Crown Heights Pogrom, the only pogrom in American history, Gov. Josh Shapiro, the most prominent Jewish contender, showed up to kiss Rev Al’s ring. And despite Sharpton’s infamous remark that, “We taught philosophy and astrology and mathematics before Socrates and them Greek homos ever got around to it”, Buttigieg, a gay man whose origins go back to a Greek island colony, came to him. Perhaps Buttigieg can ask Sharpton for some of his thoughts on philosophy and mathematics.

People used to call Sharpton a clown, but the former clown has made clowns of the party.

Recent media profiles mentioning the 35th anniversary of the National Action Network fail to delve into why it is 35 years old.

And more specifically why it was founded in 1991.

1991 was the year of the Crown Heights Pogrom when violent mobs assaulted Jews in the streets of the Brooklyn neighborhood. The race riot was the culmination of racists associated with Sharpton’s hate group harassing and even violently assaulting Korean grocers and violent confrontations with Italian-Americans in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. (The only rainbow in Sharpton’s coalition was the sheer number of ethnicities and races that he and his racist cronies hated.)

Sharpton’s activism had been built around the National Youth Movement which he formed in protest of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization associated with MLK, suspending Jesse Jackson for

sleazy shenanigans like diverting money to his own organization.

Sharpton's National Youth Movement was funded by Bayard Rustin, a gay socialist leader and former Communist, and was meant to help inner city children, but helped only one morbidly obese inner city child. In 1989, Sharpton was indicted on tax evasion charges and was also accused of embezzling \$250,000 from the NYM and having ties to the Genovese crime family.

Prosecutors claimed that Sharpton's civil rights group was actually there to promote records in a tangled plot involving songs from a member of the Jackson family (the musical Jackson family, not the political one), boxing, the mafia's involvement in the music industry all while possibly serving as an FBI informant, while holding lavish fundraisers at the Waldorf.

But a jury let him off the hook and the riots that followed made him a 'civil rights leader'. Jesse Jackson could threaten corporations, but only Sharpton could threaten to set a city on fire.

The newly formed National Action Network went to war against various racial enemies including a Harlem store named 'Freddy's Fashion Mart'. The protests against the man whom Sharpton called a "white interloper" climaxed in mass murder when one of the racist protesters at rallies where members of the mob [had chanted](#) "kill the Jew bastards" and "burn down the Jew store and its employees and customers" went inside, told the black employees to leave, and set the place on fire, killing 7 people, [5 of them Latino women](#). Morris Powell, who had been on trial for breaking a Korean woman's head during a previous protest, had headed the National Action Network's Buy Black committee. Powell had chanted, "Don't give the Jew a dime", outside the store and praised the killer as, "A Black Man who struggled for his people to be free."

This is what nearly every White House contender are paying tribute to.

The recent death of Jesse Jackson, the dean of race baiting profiteers whom Sharpton deems his mentor, has set off a gold rush with members of the Jackson family and assorted Jackson imitators, the greatest of whom remains by far Sharpton, trying to claim a pound of his legacy.

That is only fitting since Jackson came to prominence by lying that he had cradled the dying MLK in his arms and heard his last words, before parading around for reporters and politicians with a suspiciously red dyed outfit that was supposed to be the murdered civil rights leader's blood. In that spirit, Sharpton is celebrating the 35th anniversary of the National Action Network by moving the organization into an abandoned firehouse turned theater and calling it the 'House of Justice Rev. Jesse Jackson's Workshop'. A step up from Sharpton's old National Youth Movement digs in a building reportedly owned by a lieutenant in the Genovese crime family.

The merger of the Jesse Jackson and Sharpton networks was overseen by Jesse Jackson Jr, a former Congressman and convicted criminal, now running for Congress again after serving time for making off with \$750,000 in campaign cash and spending over \$10,000 on Michael Jackson memorabilia, including \$8,500 on two fedoras, not to mention [\\$800 on a mink cashmere cape](#).

You can't have justice without a mink cashmere suit.

The Rev. Al, who started out in track suits to look like a man of the streets before pivoting to bespoke Italian suits, would understand. One of the functions of the National Action Network was reportedly paying money into a company known as Rev. Als Productions which [owned the suits](#).

A generation later this convoluted arrangement has White House contenders on their knees. And Jesse Jackson Jr, a man who, unlike Sharpton, went to jail for his financial shenanigans, can only hope to learn the business of social justice at the feet of a true master of the trade.

After \$1.8 million in debt, former Rep. Jackson Jr. got out of prison and despite only being [52-years-old](#) went back to living off taxpayers with [\\$138,400 in workers' comp](#) and Social Security Disability Insurance after having been diagnosed with depression. He told reporters he wasn't sure when he might get a job. If the House (or the Big House) don't work out, there's Al.

But much as Sharpton outdid Jesse Jackson, BLM outdid Sharpton, wrecking major cities and scoring countless millions of dollars from corporations, and making Al look like an amateur.

Sharpton used to taunt black Democrat politicians as "yellow n___s", but he long ago turned into just another adjunct of the party politics he claimed to despise. The next incarnation of the racebaiting sleaze that gave us Jackson, Sharpton and BLM will give us something even worse.

If yesterday's terrorist is tomorrow's politician, tomorrow's politician will be bumped off by tomorrow's terrorist. Sharpton wrecked enough lives to become a Democrat kingmaker, but he's also irrelevant outside the cigar bars and fundraisers that attract top Democrats, corporate lobbyists and no one else. Every Democrat kisses his ring, but there's no power left in it.

Every Democrat trooping to Sharpton's shindig is selling their soul for nothing. The devil's greatest trick may have been convincing the world that he didn't exist, but the Rev. Al's greatest trick was convincing corporations and political parties to bow to him because he still exists.

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 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