

05042026 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

**US says two American-flagged vessels successfully transited the Strait of Hormuz
Iran says it hit US Navy destroyer with missiles, but CENTCOM denies claim; officials cited in US media say 'Project Freedom' won't necessarily involve US Navy escorting merchant ships**

By [Emanuel Fabian](#),

[Agencies](#) and [Tel Staff](#) Today, 12:31 pm Updated at 8:47 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-threatens-american-ships-if-they-enter-hormuz-as-us-kicks-off-project-freedom/>

Israel on alert amid Gulf escalation: 'If Iran does not back down, strikes possible'

Trump vows to free ships stuck in Hormuz, as Israel warns Iran may lash out and fighting could resume; Israel says Lebanon talks are stalling tactics, but Gaza fighting will not restart for now

[Itamar Eichner](#) | 11:41

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/r1h1kburze#autoplay>

Iranian attack on UAE: 3 missiles intercepted, fire at oil facility hit by drone

Escalation in the Gulf, moments after US announced it broke Iran's blockade: cruise missiles launched from Iran for 1st time since ceasefire, a drone hit an oil facility in Fujairah and a cargo ship near Dubai reported fire in engine room

ynet, [Lior Ben Ari](#) | 11:23

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rjc84birzg>

Senior IDF official: No change in home front rules despite Iran attack on UAE, Oman

"Our air defense systems and attack capabilities are prepared at a high level which is something which has not changed since the ceasefire decision," the IDF official said.

By [YONAH JEREMY BOB](#) MAY 4, 2026 20:21 Updated: MAY 4, 2026 20:53

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-895113>

Trump threatens to 'blow Iran off face of the Earth' if US vessels attacked

"We have more weapons and ammunition at a much higher grade than we had before," Trump said. "We have the best equipment."

By [SHIR PERETS](#), REUTERS MAY 4, 2026 20:04 Updated: MAY 4, 2026 20:37

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-895111>

South Korean ship attacked near Strait of Hormuz, South Korea's government confirms

Earlier on Monday, an official from the South Korean Foreign Affairs Ministry told a Korean media outlet that there had been no Korean casualties in the attack.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#), [AMICHAH STEIN](#), [MIRIAM SELA-EITAM](#), [TOBIAS SIEGAL](#) MAY 4, 2026 16:46 Updated: MAY 4, 2026 17:22

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-895085>

WATCH: IDF destroys 30-meter-long Hezbollah tunnel in southern Lebanon

Dozens of explosive devices and anti-tank missiles were located in the tunnel, with several weapons storage facilities additionally located in the area around the tunnel.

IDF destroys Hezbollah tunnel in southern Lebanon, May 4, 2026. (credit: IDF Spokesperson's Unit)

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) MAY 4, 2026 19:35

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-895103>

Hezbollah chief rejects direct talks with Israel, says move would 'serve Netanyahu and Trump'

In a lengthy statement, Qassem accused Israel of systematically violating the ceasefire, claiming it had breached the agreement "more than ten thousand times."

By [TOBIAS SIEGAL](#) MAY 4, 2026 12:36 Updated: MAY 4, 2026 14:42

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-895058>

Israeli-Turkish tensions continue to grow as Ankara prepares to launch new flotilla

Diplomatic officials are working behind the scenes to defuse tensions, and Israel is currently utilizing diplomatic channels with Turkey to try to prevent the flotilla from setting sail.

By [AVI ASHKENAZI](#) MAY 4, 2026 16:49

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-895082>

Almost a third of Germans back AfD as far right hits new highs

A year after Merz took power, his coalition is struggling, only 16% approve of the government and far-right AfD is nearing a record 28% in polls

AFP|11:03

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



What is EPIC City, the controversial planned Muslim residential community in Texas?

EPIC city is a planned large-scale development project that will not have its own government. It has been marketed as an exclusively Muslim community that will serve as the epicenter of US Islam.

People arrive at a mosque to attend Friday prayers, in Plano, Texas, on April 11, 2025. (photo credit: Ronaldo Schemidt/AFP via Getty Images)

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) MAY 3, 2026 19:38

OP ED

Billionaires Against Billionaires Funded by Billionaires

Sun, 3 May 2026 2:04 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield

During the California gubernatorial debate, Tom Steyer, who is a billionaire, claimed that the billionaires are out to get him.

"The billionaires and corporations are spending big in this race to oppose me and to support the other people on this stage," he claimed.

This same statement is made by every Democrat in any race above the level of dog catcher, but when it's being made by a candidate who is not only a billionaire, but whose only reason for running in any race is being a billionaire, that takes it to a whole other level of hypocritical grifting.

If Steyer were just a working class Bay Area millionaire like Gov. Gavin Newsom or Rep. Ro Khanna, but without their good hair and the connections to the Getty family, Willie Brown and Jeffrey Epstein, no one would have let the confused old leftist run for any kind of public office.

With billions in his pocket, Steyer is able to put \$133 million on the table and buy himself a place as the front runner in the race after the previous front runner turned out to be a sex predator.

Democrats depend heavily on billionaire money and on claiming to hate billionaires while promising to tax billionaires, which they somehow never get around to actually doing.

So Steyer explained that he's a billionaire who hates billionaires. "I'm the billionaire who wants to tax other billionaires."

The billionaire who hates billionaires is backed by the Bernie Sanders anti-billionaire political operation, Our Revolution, which is confusingly also funded by billionaires.

"We've never endorsed a billionaire — but Tom Steyer is using his position to upset the system," Our Revolution argued. "Yes, Tom Steyer is a billionaire. But it matters what he is doing with that power: pushing for taxes on the wealthy, expanding universal programs, and dismantling corporate influence in our politics."

Our Revolution executive director Joseph Geevarghese told The Intercept that Steyer "been a partner in the movement. Most billionaires have used their wealth and privilege to lock in the status quo. And Tom is doing the opposite."

The Intercept [is funded by Pierre Omidyar](#), the founder of eBay, a billionaire, and the 245th richest man in the world, whose publication has aggressively backed Sanders and the far left.

After Revolution's endorsement of Steyer, The Intercept rushed out a story defending the move.

The Intercept had significant overlaps with the Sanders campaign with Briahna Joy Gray, Bernie's National Press Secretary, originally serving as the senior politics editor for The Intercept, after churning out pieces promoting the Sanders presidential campaign.

After his failed presidential bid in 2016, there were mass resignations at Our Revolution when Bernie's campaign manager took over the group and was accused of planning to [solicit donations](#) from none other than Tom Steyer. Now Our Revolution is backing Steyer.

Our Revolution's people wearing "Defund Oligarchs" t-shirts then posed arm in arm with Steyer.

"Our Revolution organizers got to hang with Tom Steyer at the Make Polluters Pay event," Our Revolution claimed about its event with a guy who made his money in oil and gas, and claimed that "the energy was real." Steyer and his campaign have the energy level of a solar panel.

The only reason that Our Revolution is backing is because he's a billionaire. Steyer has no energy, no principles and made his money doing all the things that Our Revolution opposes.

But then again, the same people complaining about billionaires used to complain about millionaires.

Until they themselves became millionaires.

"Nobody should earn more than a million dollars," Bernie Sanders [had declared](#) in 1974.

He ran for office complaining about all the millionaires in Congress.

When Bernie Sanders first ran for that body, he whined that the Senate was full of millionaires serving "the interests of corporations and big business — their fellow millionaires."

"Either they are millionaires to begin with or they get it from the corporations," he grouched.

Then Sen. Bernie Sanders became a millionaire with 'Our Revolution', an apparently ghostwritten book, published by Holtzbrinck, an ex-Nazi German publisher operating under the name Macmillan, run by Stefan von Holtzbrinck, whose net worth is estimated at \$6.2 billion.

Bernie got the money "from the corporations" and didn't turn it over to 'the people'.

"I wrote a best-selling book," he snapped when he was asked about it. "If you write a best-selling book, you can be a millionaire, too."

The opposition to billionaires is every bit as sincere as the opposition to millionaires was.

Sen. Sanders teamed up with Rep. Ro Khanna, estimated by Business Insider to be the 14th wealthiest member of Congress and listed as the 3rd most active stock trader in Congress, who co-chaired Bernie's campaign, to introduce a wealth tax on billionaires.

Not poor millionaires like them.

Rep. Ro Khanna, one of the contenders to replace Bernie in the 'populist' billionaires and millionaires against billionaires movement, also endorsed Steyer. And cut an ad for him.

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, the 21st wealthiest man in the Senate, who was estimated to have made \$1.7 million in the stock market, also endorsed Steyer, and then went back to ranting about the "billionaire-backed scheme to capture and control the Supreme Court."

As opposed to the "billionaire-backed scheme to capture and control the Supreme Court" by 'Demand

Justice', a left-wing group backed by groups within the Soros network and funded by the Sandlers who were listed by Time Magazine as one of "25 People to Blame for the Mortgage Crisis" due to their shady mortgage dealings. The Sandlers also funded ProPublica which had conducted a smear campaign against Justice Clarence Thomas to push him off the bench.

But that kind of "billionaire-backed scheme to capture and control the Supreme Court" is good.

Now the billionaires against billionaires, who are also funded by billionaires, are going to put forward a billionaire to stop the billionaires, because the only ones who can save us from the billionaires are the billionaires. If only the billionaires don't stop the working class billionaires.

The Left is no more against billionaires or wealth than it is for free speech. Its class warfare grifting is cheap, obvious and transparent. Leftist millionaires and billionaires project their own envy and greed onto the 'working class' and try to bait them with rants about billionaires.

And then the leftists who claim to hate billionaires choose a billionaire to lead them.

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

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<https://bkdvk-zgpvh.campaign->

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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