

05052026 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

Iran ceasefire 'not over,' US 'not looking for a fight,' Hegseth says after Tehran fires on Gulf

US defense secretary's remarks follow report that Israel, US planning fresh round of strikes on Iran's energy sites, senior officials; Trump: Goals would be achieved in 2-3 weeks if war resumes

By [Lazar Berman](#), [Agencies](#) and [Nava Freiberg](#)

Today, 6:39 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-ceasefire-not-over-us-not-looking-for-a-fight-hegseth-says-after-tehran-fires-on-gulf/>

Iran restarts attacks on Emirates as US fights to restore traffic in Strait of Hormuz

UAE says 15 missiles, 4 drones fired, sparking fire at oil facility in first major attack since ceasefire; US says it sunk 6 small Iranian boats as ships come under missile fire

By [Agencies](#), [ToI Staff](#), [Emanuel Fabian](#), [Lazar Berman](#) and [Jacob Magid](#)

Today, 2:47 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-restarts-attacks-on-uae-as-us-fights-to-restore-traffic-in-strait-of-hormuz/>

Draft UN resolution threatens sanctions on Iran unless it opens Strait of Hormuz

Security Council resolution co-sponsored by US, Gulf nations comes amid American effort to escort ships through waterway blocked by Iran; if passed, it could be enforced militarily

By [AP](#) and [ToI Staff](#) Today, 10:01 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/draft-un-resolution-threatens-sanctions-on-iran-unless-it-opens-strait-of-hormuz/>

Germany reaffirms support for Israel, draws line on nuclear Iran during Sa'ar visit

FM Gideon Sa'ar meets Chancellor Friedrich Merz in Berlin for talks on Iran, Gaza, Lebanon and regional security; German counterpart Wadephul: 'Every Israeli can rely on us to consistently stand for Israel's security'

[Itamar Eichner](#) |14:17

https://www-ynetnews-com.translate.google.com/article/hkzjqhwr11e?_x_tr_sl=auto&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en

'Defending from the goal line isn't enough': IDF entrenches grip in southern Lebanon

Israeli flags line Lebanon's southern coastal road, as military razes structures deep inside the territory; Hezbollah launches drone during journalists' visit

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 11:06 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/defending-from-the-goal-line-isnt-enough-idf-entrenches-grip-in-southern-lebanon/>

Syria says it foiled Hezbollah plot to assassinate top officials

Damascus says suspects trained in Lebanon and planned attacks on senior officials, while Hezbollah denies any presence in Syria and accuses Damascus of fueling tensions

AFP|14:58

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

Hamas disarmament 'almost impossible to bridge' as gaps with BoP grow, source tells 'Post'

An Israeli source told the Post that Israel is coordinating with the Board of Peace and the US administration to plan the next steps following Hamas's refusal.

By [AMICHAEL STEIN](#) MAY 5, 2026 21:32

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-895228>

At handover ceremony, outgoing Air Force chief calls for 'external' Oct. 7 inquiry

Maj. Gen. Tomer Bar says 'objective' inquiry essential 'for trust' between citizens and country; new chief Maj. Gen. Omer Tischler signals readiness for new round of Iran fighting

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 10:05 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/at-handover-ceremony-outgoing-air-force-chief-calls-for-external-oct-7-inquiry/>

Labour Party releases video ft. antisemitic quotes said by Green Party candidates

Examples from the video include, "Ramming a synagogue isn't antisemitism, it's revenge," and "It takes a serious effort not to be a tiny bit antisemitic."

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) MAY 5, 2026 18:57 Updated: MAY 5, 2026 20:03

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-895219>

NYC anti-Israel activists set to protest outside Park East Synagogue

The protest's organizer said that the synagogue was hosting an exposition of the Great Israeli Real Estate Event, which it believed was selling "stolen Palestinian land."

By [MICHAEL STARR](#) MAY 5, 2026 22:08

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-895231>

US organizations urge Congress to pass act targeting undisclosed foreign funding in universities

Qatar was revealed to be the largest foreign source of gifts and contracts to American universities in 2025, worth more than \$1.1 billion.

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) MAY 5, 2026 22:23

<https://www.jpost.com/american-politics/article-895227>

UK Jewish groups call for more action as Starmer convenes antisemitism summit

Starmer convened the summit following the terror stabbing attacks in Golders Green last week, and a spate of arson and IED attacks on Jewish institutions in London over the last few months.

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) MAY 5, 2026 17:58 Updated: MAY 5, 2026 18:23

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-895206>

Fire breaks out at former London synagogue in latest attack against UK Jews

Police are investigating the incident's connections with a spate of other attacks against the UK's Jewish and Israeli communities.

By [MICHAEL STARR](#) MAY 5, 2026 13:40 Updated: MAY 5, 2026 20:08

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-895189>

Iran war unresolved 'because of Trump's mistake': Expert warns US, Israel must return to fighting

“The Iranian hubris is overflowing,” INSS Iran researcher Beni Sabti said, warning that the only way to push the regime to accept negotiations is through renewed strikes.

By103FM MAY 5, 2026 17:06

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-895203>

Iran's nuclear weapon timeline barely set back despite US-Israeli strikes, sources say

The timeline for Iran to build a nuclear weapon has not changed since last summer, indicating that impeding Tehran's nuclear program may require destroying its stockpile of highly enriched uranium.

ByREUTERS MAY 5, 2026 02:13 Updated: MAY 5, 2026 10:26

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-895127>

Claude increasingly trips over Russian, Iranian propaganda, report says

AI alarm: NewsGuard review finds Anthropic's chatbot repeated false claims in up to 15% of tests, cited Kremlin-linked sources, raising fresh concerns over AI tools' ability to handle disinformation

[Daniela Ginzburg](#) | 15:11

Anthropic's popular AI-powered chatbot Claude was until recently considered one of the most reliable tools on the market. But a new investigation is shaking that image and raising serious questions about the ability of AI models to handle propaganda and disinformation.

<https://www.ynetnews.com/tech-and-digital/article/bkiztuwcb>

OP ED

'Israel, the Dreyfus of Nations': Interview with Joël Rubinfeld – Part 1

by [Grégoire Canlorbe](#)

May 5, 2026 at 5:00 am



"The 'prosecutors' in this permanent trial are UN agencies, 'rapporteurs,' Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Oxfam, the Human Rights League..." — Joël Rubinfeld.

Pictured: Rubinfeld (center) helps carry a banner at a march against anti-Semitism in Brussels on December 10, 2023. (Photo by Simon Wohlfahrt/AFP via Getty Images)

Joël Rubinfeld is a founding member and president of the Belgian League Against Antisemitism and president of the Jewish Coalition for Kurdistan. He was president of the Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations in Belgium, vice-president of the European Jewish Congress, and co-chairman of

the European Jewish Parliament.

Canlorbe: You have described Israel as the "Dreyfus of nations." What does that mean?

Rubinfeld: Since October 7, 2023, we have been living through a kind of endless "Dreyfus trial," but with one major difference: the state has replaced the person. In the past, Dreyfus stood on trial; today, the Jewish state has taken his place.

The "prosecutors" in this permanent trial are UN agencies, "rapporteurs," Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Oxfam, the Human Rights League — which, ironically, was founded in 1901 in the wake of the Dreyfus Affair. There is also a whole ecosystem of organizations claiming to speak in the name of human rights, along with their relays in the newsrooms, in academia, in activist and cultural circles, and on the street.

When I see these so-called "pro-Palestinian" demonstrators, it seems as if many of them could not care less about the Palestinians. If they were truly pro-Palestinian, they would first call for the eradication of Hamas, which is the poison and the nightmare first of all of the Palestinian people. The poison, unfortunately, was widely embraced by Hamas's absolute majority (56%) in the last Palestinian legislative elections in 2006.

These demonstrations in Europe — 300,000 people in London, 100,000 in Brussels, and hundreds of thousands in France—remind me, of the marches in the early 1930s in Germany. Of course, it is not an exact historical equivalence, but there seems a resemblance in the occupation of public space, crowd dynamics, and the pressure exerted on political life. There are also the hateful slogans, yesterday targeting Jews; today the Jewish state and its supporters: "Death to the Jews" becomes "Death to Israel," "Boycott the Jews" becomes "Boycott the Zionists," the new polite, "politically correct" word for hating Jews.

This fever in the streets weighs on political leaders. The great problem is that many of them think in purely arithmetical terms. They tend to hold a simplistic, and therefore racist, view of communities: "Jews" equals "Israel," and "Muslims" equals "Palestine." Once they do the math, conclusions follow.

In Belgium, there are about 30,000 Jews and 900,000 Muslims—a ratio of one to thirty. Cynics conclude: "I have everything to lose by defending Jews or Israel, and everything to gain by supporting 'Palestine'—by riding the wave of what Hamas has become in the activist imagination—because it wins me votes."

In Brussels, given its specific demographics, antisemitism has become an electoral asset. Not the "old" antisemitism of those nostalgic for Auschwitz, but a revised, contemporary form—one that equates Gaza with Auschwitz.

The votes are what make the situation almost irreversible. It has been called "[Islam's Rule of Numbers](#)": When one is in the minority, one keeps relatively inconspicuous, but the larger one's percentage of the population becomes, the more assertive one gets. The expert on Islam, Raymond Ibrahim, [notes](#) that in Europe, where Muslim minorities are larger than in the United States, open violence has become common – but always framed as a grievance because that word pacifies the West. He cites London, where Muslims currently make up about [15% of the population](#), the murderer of Fusilier Lee Rigby, with his hands still covered in blood [declared](#) , "We swear by the almighty Allah we will never stop fighting you until you leave us alone.... You will never be safe," and then blamed the murder on avenging the deaths of Muslims at the hands of British troops.

Look at Nigeria, which is roughly half Muslim and half Christian. Since at least 2000, there has been an extremist Muslim [genocide](#) underway, in which, according to [data](#) from a 2025 report from the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety), "since 2009, approximately 185,009 Nigerians have been killed, including 125,009 Christians and 60,000 'liberal Muslims'" -- and they continue to be killed.

For months, I have been warning that we may be living through the last time there is a "significant" Jewish community in Belgium. It is already tiny: 0.25% of the Belgian population. Possibly, by 2050 it will no longer be 30,000, but under 10,000. The exodus is already underway—and accelerating.

Canlorbe: How do you explain those Jews who join the prosecutors in this "Dreyfus trial" against Israel?

Rubinfeld: It is an intriguing question. My interpretation of "Jewish self-hatred"—a concept popularized a century ago by Theodor Lessing in *Der jüdische Selbsthaß (Jewish Self-Hatred)*—is that the history of the Jewish people is anything but quiet. To be a Jew has meant, for 4,000 years, being confronted with the most delirious accusations: causing famines, poisoning wells, desecrating the host, spreading epidemics, "ritual murder," controlling the world... However deranged they may be, any accusations, it seems, can find an audience, at times even a majority one. As someone put it: "The problem is not what Jews are, but what you are ready to believe they are."

To live as a Jew in an environment where one is blamed for everything requires resilience, self-denial, and a spirit of resistance. Not everyone is capable of that. Rather than holding firm, some might hope, out of terror and a wish to survive, that if they are just nice to their tormentor, he will soon come around and see how "good" they are. They can even convince themselves that if they agree with their tormentor, he will appreciate and admire them – then they will no longer be in danger. They might even adopt his point of view, like a child whose parent is angry with him. It is easier for him to think that the parent is right and the problem must be with himself. It is an attempt to cope with, or somehow get through, a terrifying situation -- and it usually does not work. Tormentors torment; it is what they like to do. As the psychiatrist Dr. Kenneth Levin noted in his important [book](#), *The Oslo Syndrome: The Delusions of a People Under Siege*, a child is dependent on his parent, and wants to feel safe. "If I just stop wetting my bed," the child might think, "then maybe he will like me." It is too terrifying to see that, say, the bed-wetting may not be the problem, just a pretext. We saw in World War II that people can rationalize anything.

Sometimes one finds individuals born Jewish who break with their heritage, decide to "no longer be Jewish," and become antisemites to prove their "good faith."

Deep down, I think they know that this break amounts to a surrender: they leave Judaism to escape the pressure, to gain social respectability, sometimes to protect their descendants. But from that point on, the Jews who remain—those who continue to embrace their identity despite the attacks—become an unbearable mirror for them.

Every Jew who stands firm reflects back to them an uncomfortable image: "I stay, I take the blows, but I remain what I am." The one who has broken away sees himself as a coward. That tension turns into aggression: he gives way to antisemitism, adopting a scorched-earth policy. He has left Judaism — so now turns against the Jews to show everyone else. "See? I am not like them. I am good! Now do you like me?"

This pattern appears in several historical examples: Nicholas Donin (13th century), a convert from Judaism and the instigator of the trial that led to the burning of the Talmud in Paris; Pablo Christiani (Paul Christian), a converted Jew who became a Dominican and took part in religious campaigns against the Jews in the 13th century, persuading Louis IX to restore the use of the *rouelle*—the precursor of the yellow star; Bernard Lazare, an interesting case: he authored an antisemitic work before the Dreyfus Affair, but later became one of the earliest and most steadfast defenders of the Jewish captain, stating that the affair had "saved his life"; Gilad Atzmon, a British pro-Palestinian jazz musician born in Israel and a virulent antisemite who later claimed to have converted to Christianity—without this preventing him from continuing his attacks; Karl Kraus, an Austrian anti-Dreyfusard writer who broke with Judaism and developed an obsessive critique of what he called the "Jewish press."

At bottom, all of this points to a simple idea: it is not easy to be Jewish. Some experience their identity as a burden. In the 19th century, even after emancipation and access to citizenship, strong social barriers remained. Many chose conversion not out of hostility, but out of a longing to get along, to be "like everyone else" – like the child, to be loved.

For me, to be clear, leaving Judaism is not reprehensible. I take a liberal view of the matter: one may enter, leave, choose—everyone does as they wish with their life. That being said, leaving Judaism is one thing; sliding into antisemitism is another. At that point, it becomes my problem: we are no longer dealing with a personal choice, but one has crossed over into active, sometimes fierce hostility directed at others—in this instance, against what one once was before.

Grégoire Canlorbe, a journalist, currently lives in Paris.

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/22483/joel-rubinfield>



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