

05062026 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

3 soldiers hurt in Hezbollah drone attacks in south Lebanon; IDF hits terror sites

Home of south Lebanon mayor reportedly hit as IDF warned 12 villages to evacuate; military says 25 Hezbollah targets hit in the past day, including weapon depots

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) and [Nurit Yohanan](#)

Today, 5:41 pm Updated at 6:13 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/two-soldiers-hurt-in-hezbollah-drone-attack-in-south-lebanon-idf-hits-terror-sites/>

Claiming 'great progress' in Iran talks, Trump pauses US naval escorts in Hormuz

Tehran says it wants 'comprehensive agreement' as FM meets with Chinese counterpart; Netanyahu said to speak with UAE president on recent Iranian attacks

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

Today, 12:49 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/claiming-great-progress-in-iran-talks-trump-pauses-us-naval-escorts-in-hormuz/>

Trump puts Iran deal on the clock with one-week ultimatum, Fox host says

US president gives Iran one week to reach a deal to end the war and Hormuz crisis, Bret Baier says; US forces fire on an Iranian tanker trying to breach the blockade

Liran Friedmann, [Daniel Edelson](#), [New York](#), [Ron Crissy](#) | Updated: 13:41

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/sktyalf0zl>

Netanyahu 'not surprised' by US-Iran negotiations development, says there is 'full coordination'

"We are maintaining continuous contact with our friends in the US. I speak with President Trump on an almost daily basis," Prime Minister Netanyahu said.

By [AMICHAEL STEIN](#) MAY 6, 2026 19:47 Updated: MAY 6, 2026 20:37

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-895372>

Iran threatens Hormuz shipping, as Trump said to shelve strikes amid diplomacy

Trump: 'I'll let you know' when Iran breaks truce; Rubio says offensive operations against Iran over; UAE reports Iranian attacks for second day; Israel 'closely monitoring,' ready to 'respond with force,' says IDF chief

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

[Agencies](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 1:45 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-threatens-hormuz-shipping-as-trump-said-to-shelve-strikes-amid-diplomacy/>

Executed Iranian prisoners detail abuse, torture ahead of their killing to 'Post' - exclusive

Yaghoub Karimpour, 43, and Nasser Bakerzadeh, 26, were hanged on Saturday, and Mehrab Abdollahzadeh, 28, was executed on Sunday in Orumiyeh Central Prison.

By [DANIELLE GREYMAN-KENNARD](#) MAY 6, 2026 21:23 Updated: MAY 6, 2026 22:04

Gaza rebuild priced at \$71 billion, with most homes and nearly all businesses destroyed

First comprehensive report since ceasefire, compiled by World Bank, UN and EU, finds war caused over \$35 billion of direct damage and over \$22 billion more of economic losses

By [Nurit Yohanan](#)

Today, 4:53 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gaza-rebuild-priced-at-71-billion-with-most-homes-and-nearly-all-businesses-destroyed/>

Board of Peace won't hold Israel to truce terms if Hamas doesn't okay disarmament offer

In letter obtained by Tol, US-led body indicates Israel not adhering to key parts of ceasefire's 1st phase, but says it won't have to if Hamas doesn't accept decommissioning framework

By [Jacob Magid](#)

5 May 2026, 11:28 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/board-of-peace-wont-hold-israel-to-truce-terms-if-hamas-doesnt-okay-disarmament-offer/>

PM said to ask Haredim to again shelve draft exemption bill — this time until after election

Senior ultra-Orthodox MK denies report while another suggests it's true, claiming Netanyahu lied about ever having any intention to pass law exempting yeshiva students from IDF service

By [Sam Sokol](#) and [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 7:03 pm Updated at 7:16 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/pm-said-to-ask-haredim-to-again-shelve-draft-exemption-bill-this-time-until-after-election/>

Belgium indicts two mohels, citing sufficient evidence of 'bodily harm with premeditation'

The two men involved will appear before the pre-trial chamber on 18 June, behind closed doors. The pre-trial chamber will then decide whether to refer the case to the criminal court.

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) MAY 6, 2026 17:02

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-895339>

London cops announce new unit to protect Jews amid surging antisemitic violence

Metropolitan Police says 'community protection team' will start with 100 officers who'll combine neighborhood patrols with 'specialist protection and counterterror capabilities'

By [Agencies](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 3:11 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/london-cops-announce-new-unit-to-protect-jews-amid-surg-ing-antisemitic-violence/>

Protesters bearing Hezbollah flag scuffle with NYPD while marching on synagogue

Demonstration against Israel real estate event draws hundreds, who chant 'Death to the IDF' and 'End the settler Zionist state'; counter-demonstrators warn 'Antizionism is a hate movement'

By [Luke Tress](#)

Today, 7:30 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/protesters-bearing-hezbollah-flag-scuffle-with-nypd-while-marching-on-synagogue/>

30 Democratic lawmakers ask Rubio to reveal details of Israel's nuclear program

Letter, which is expected to be ignored, claims US ‘cannot develop a coherent nonproliferation policy’ for Mideast without disclosing details on alleged Israeli atomic arsenal

By [Lazar Berman](#)

Today, 3:53 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/30-democratic-lawmakers-ask-rubio-to-reveal-details-of-israels-nuclear-program/>

Over 2000 UMich students, staff, alumni back professor for praising anti-Israel activists

A Monday petition signed by 754 alumni echoed the first letter's demands, calling on Grasso to pledge to protect free speech, free expression, and institutional neutrality.

By [MICHAEL STARR](#) MAY 6, 2026 17:45 Updated: MAY 6, 2026 20:10

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-895354>

OP ED

It's time to stop pretending hospitals are "nonprofits"

These are massive businesses - frequently chains - that pay executives richly and depend on huge government spending and subsidies to survive. We need to start treating them that way.

[Alex Berenson](#)

May 6

How much do American hospitals cost? Over \$2 million per bed per year.

Not for a state-of-the-art neonatal unit, or a Level III trauma center. The United States now spends over \$2 million every year for *an average hospital bed* — \$1.6 trillion in all.

That’s one key reason the American medical system has fewer beds per capita than many other rich countries. We just cannot afford more beds.

Why do American hospitals cost so much? Heavy administrative spending, patient lawsuits, relentless marketing and advertising, high labor costs, regular investment in new imaging systems (sometimes necessary, sometimes not), construction of shiny new buildings to chase elective surgery patients, and, oh yeah, seven- and eight-figure executive salaries — which have recently exploded.

Pick your poison. One factor does *not* play much of a role, however.

Charity care.

Even before Obamacare extended insurance to many poorer patients (at an incredible cost, a cost the system is only now beginning to recognize), many hospitals provided little or no charitable care.

A [2022 study](#) found that 60 percent of hospitals devoted less than 2 percent of their operating expenses to free or discounted care to eligible patients. About 40 percent devoted *1 percent or less*. Even hospitals run by religious orders often skimp on charity care and pursue indigent patients for bills they have no way of paying, as a [2024 investigation](#) found.

Yet the vast majority of hospitals hold themselves out as “nonprofits,” quasi-charitable institutions that want nothing more than to serve their local communities.

In reality, they’re about as nonprofit as OpenAI turned out to be.

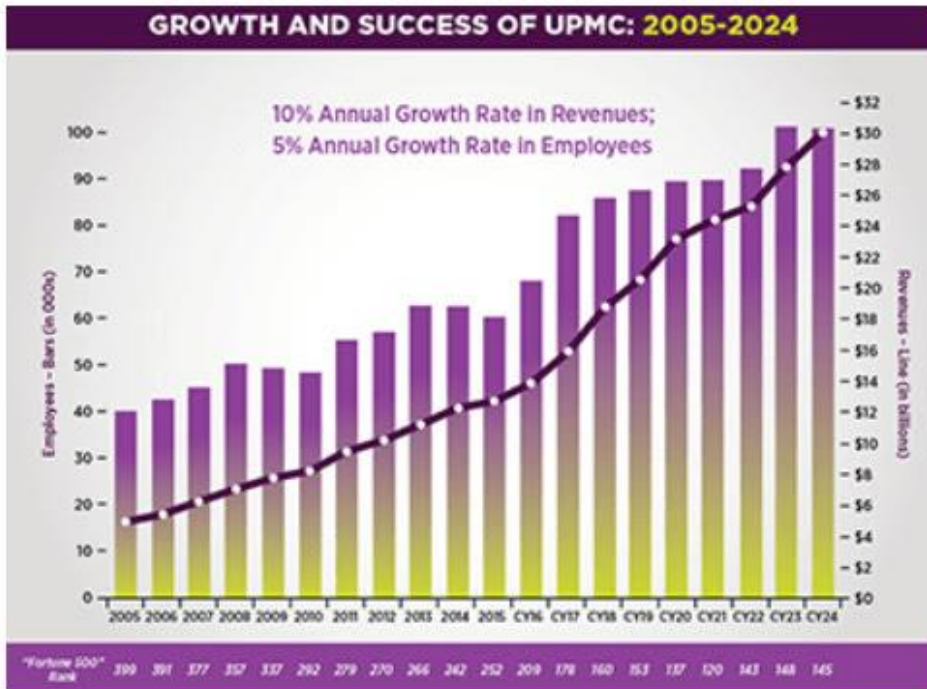
As a Washington Post [opinion piece](#) argued Monday, nonprofit hospitals may actually do *less* for their local communities than their for-profit competitors:

[Economists] found that because nonprofit hospitals cannot distribute profits to shareholders, they accumulate excess tax-free cash — and spend it on themselves. Their facility-wide general and administrative wage expenses run 26 percent higher than comparable for-profit hospitals. Their managers use the surplus to pursue what the researchers bluntly call “empire-building through capital expansion.”

This dynamic has played out all over the United States, as academic medical centers like the Mayo Clinic, the Cleveland Clinic, or UPMC (which has grown out of the University of Pittsburgh) use their surplus capital (and branding advantage as “nonprofits”) to become regional empires.

Mayo now has nearly 60,000 employees. The Cleveland Clinic has 83,000. UPMC dwarfs both; it is the largest non-governmental employer in Pennsylvania, with more than 100,000 workers.

(UPMC’s employee and revenue growth since 2005. Too bad life expectancy hasn’t followed.)



These regional monopolies drive up costs for insurers and patients.

No health insurance company in western Pennsylvania can avoid contracting with UPMC, just as none in northeast Ohio can avoid the Cleveland Clinic. (Having essentially exhausted western Pennsylvania, UPMC is now [expanding into Ohio](#), setting up a potential clash of the titans with the Cleveland Clinic.)

It should go without saying that monopoly providers aren't just expensive, they are rarely overly responsive to their customers — aka patients, in this case. And patients are already at a massive disadvantage inside hospitals, for all the obvious reasons. Don't like the local Walmart? Adios, Target's a couple miles over. No one is walking out of a hospital the day before (or after) an open-heart surgery.

So what to do?

At a minimum, antitrust regulators need to look at these local monopolies the same way they would judge other monopolies, and consider forcing divestitures.

A hospital business dominated by 10 to 20 big national companies and real competition in local and regional markets would be far better than the current set up of regional monopolies — *whether those companies were for- or nonprofit*.

Another possibility: federal and state windfall profits taxes on executive pay at nonprofit hospitals. The taxes could be graduated, starting at \$1 million and rising. High executive pay is fine, when it is set by the market and paid by shareholder-owned companies that must also pay taxes. Nonprofit hospitals benefit from huge direct and indirect government and public subsidies. If they want to pay their executives like business tycoons, they should drop the fiction they're nonprofit.

Forcing nonprofits to give more charity care is another alternative, though in the age of Obamacare it's not entirely clear how that process would work.

An even more radical suggestion: state and federal governments could tax these "nonprofits" on their retained surpluses.

Of course, the nonprofit hospital industry will fight any and all of these changes. And it is a formidable force. It has enormous political power in Washington and even more at the state and local level. In declining second- and third-tier cities across the Northeast and Midwest that have grown to depend on healthcare as a steady employer, hospitals are a critical source of prestige and financial power.

But something has to change.

The current fiction works wonderfully for these "nonprofit" hospitals, especially those that have leveraged into regional chains, and the executives who run them. Everyone else pays the price.



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