

05092026 NEWS SPECIAL Don't miss Lev U'Neshama NOTE at end!

Iran keeps US waiting for its response to latest proposal after flareups in fighting Tehran claims 'suspicions about the motivation and seriousness' of Washington as Pakistan insists diplomacy is ongoing; UK sends warship to Hormuz ahead of potential naval mission

By [Agencies](#) and [ToI Staff](#) Today, 8:26 pm Updated at 8:58 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-keeps-us-waiting-for-its-response-to-latest-proposal-after-flareups-in-fighting/>

Russia said to be sending Iran drone parts via Caspian Sea, bypassing Hormuz blockade

According to New York Times, shipments could help Tehran quickly restock its drone arsenal amid ceasefire, while evading both sanctions and tense routes through Persian Gulf

By [ToI Staff](#) Today, 10:02 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/russia-said-to-be-sending-iran-drone-parts-via-caspian-sea-bypassing-hormuz-blockade/>

Report: Israel built secret Iraq base, struck forces that nearly exposed it Special commandos in enemy territory: The Wall Street Journal report says Israel built a secret Iraq outpost before the war for emergency rescues; a shepherd spotted unusual activity, Iraqi troops investigated and were attacked

ynet|Updated:13:41

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/r1ku5xaabl>

12 said killed in Israeli strikes in south Lebanon, as Hezbollah drones wound 3 troops

IDF issues evacuation warning to nine villages; says it hit 85 Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon over the past day and an underground weapons site in the Beqaa Valley

By [Emanuel Fabian](#),

[AFP](#) and [ToI Staff](#) Today, 4:13 pm Updated at 8:40 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/five-reported-killed-including-girl-in-israeli-airstrikes-in-southern-lebanon/>

Pop-up stop for soldiers on Gaza border draws volunteers from across the globe

Begun by a handful of brothers eager to help fellow Israelis on October 7, 2023, Shuva Achim has become a second home for soldiers and a magnet for anyone visiting the south

By [Sue Surkes](#)

Today, 7:38 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/pop-up-stop-for-soldiers-on-gaza-border-draws-volunteers-from-across-the-globe/>

The quiet frontier? With minefields cleared, Golan Heights readies for construction boom

Despite local volatility, residents brace for speedy growth and bolstered infrastructure as part of recently approved 5-year plan allocating NIS 1 billion to develop area by 2030

By [Diana Bletter](#)

Today, 7:24 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/the-quiet-frontier-with-minefields-cleared-golan-heights-readies-for-construction-boom/>

Poll: 42% of Likud voters weighing or have decided to back different party in fall Plurality who voted for Netanyahu's party in 2022 but won't or may not this time say chief reason is failure to prevent Oct. 7, followed by efforts to exempt Haredim from army service

By [Tol Staff](#) Today, 2:33 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/poll-42-of-likud-voters-weighing-or-have-decided-to-back-different-party-in-fall/>

Gazan public opinion turning against Hamas as support for disarmament grows - report

According to KAN, the majority of the Gazan public supports the push for the terrorist organization to give up its weapons, seeing disarmament as a "way out" of long-term turmoil and violence.

By [GOLDIE KATZ](#) MAY 9, 2026 22:46

Artists strike to protest Israeli participation ahead of Venice Biennale

Some 12 pavilions closed or partially shuttered, while others fly Palestinian flags; police clash with march of 2,000 demonstrators trying to reach Israeli installation

By [Tol Staff](#) and [Agencies](#) Today, 1:19 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/artists-strike-to-protest-israeli-participation-ahead-of-venice-biennale/>

'People don't want wars anymore': Inside Lebanon's shifting calculus on Israel

As Hezbollah's grip weakens and war fatigue deepens, a growing number of Lebanese are beginning to see peace with Israel not as betrayal but as necessity

By [DANA BEN-SHIMON](#) MAY 7, 2026 13:06 Updated: MAY 9, 2026 02:55

<https://www.jpost.com/jerusalem-report/article-895250>

Australia's antisemitism inquiry should alarm every Jew - opinion

An Australian Royal Commission on antisemitism reveals a deeper crisis of antisemitism.

By [JONATHAN LIEBERMAN](#) MAY 9, 2026 18:03

<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-895413>

OP ED

Never Trust the Iranian Regime – And NO to a 'Moratorium'

by [Majid Rafizadeh](#)

May 9, 2026 at 5:00 am



Any agreement that would allow Iran a multi-year "moratorium" towards enriching uranium again would erase everything that President Donald J. Trump has so brilliantly and historically accomplished. Any "moratorium" is essentially no different from the catastrophic "sunset clauses" in President Barack H. Obama's 2015 JCPOA "nuclear deal" – a short delay that will correctly be taken as a green light inviting Iran to resume enriching uranium for nuclear weapons.

Pictured: The Bushehr nuclear reactor in southern Iran, photographed on August 20, 2010. (Photo by Atta Kenare/AFP via Getty Images)

The Iranian regime's core is still rooted in anti-Americanism, anti-Semitism, and systematically controlling and destabilizing the region. None of its defining pillars have changed. Any deal with such a system will not transform it — just offer it enough relief to allow it to rearm before returning with renewed strength.

Although U.S. and Israeli strikes in June 2025 significantly degraded Iran's military capabilities, the [nature](#) of Iran's regime itself -- deeply hostile toward its neighbors, Western civilization, the United States, Israel, other

Muslims and even its own population — [continues](#) to guide its actions. As the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) [executes](#) more people and consolidates even greater power in the aftermath of its setbacks, it has [become](#) even more ruthless.

The regime – what is left of it -- is not seeking peace. It is seeking continued rule, breathing room and money. Economically strained and increasingly [concerned](#) about internal unrest, Iran's leadership views negotiations merely as a tactical pause.

Any agreement that would allow Iran a multi-year "moratorium" towards enriching uranium again would erase everything that President Donald J. Trump has so brilliantly and historically accomplished. Any "moratorium" is essentially no different from the catastrophic "sunset clauses" in President Barack H. Obama's 2015 JCPOA "nuclear deal" – a short delay that will correctly be taken as a green light inviting Iran to resume enriching uranium for nuclear weapons.

Politically, such a policy would be devastating for Trump. He would immediately be seen as the negotiating partner who desperately wanted a deal -- any deal -- just to declare victory and announce that he had "won." If there is a "moratorium" even for 100 years, it is Iran that will have won.

Equally, any agreement that would lift sanctions or allow oil revenues to flow again would provide the regime with precisely what it needs: time to recover, rebuild militarily, and resume brutalizing its citizens, its neighbors, the region and the United States

As long as Iran's foundational policies — rooted in anti-Americanism and hostility toward the West — remain intact, no deal has proven capable of transforming its conduct. On the [contrary](#), previous deals have enabled the regime to strengthen its position, channel more funding and weapons to its proxy networks, and deepen its regional influence rather than moderate it.

The regime, in addition, understands political cycles in the United States. It can agree to terms temporarily — two or three years, if necessary — while quietly waiting for a shift in leadership in Washington. Once that shift occurs, it has usually felt free to abandon commitments and resume its previous trajectory. Agreements are treated as tools of convenience, not binding obligations.

At the same time, the regime's support for militant proxies remains intact, and its [posture](#) toward neighboring countries is aggressive and interventionist.

Inside Iran, there are still [reports](#) of repression, restrictions on internet access, and crackdowns on dissent complete with torture, forced confessions and executions ([here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). Why would a government that brutalizes its own citizens treat anyone else any better?

The regime also has been successfully deploying "good cop-bad cop" tactics to buy time and keep the US at bay. The so-called moderates signal conciliation, while hardliners resist. In reality, these factions operate within the same system and share the same ultimate objective: the survival of the regime. The differences are tactical, not ideological. Falling for this dynamic risks misreading the entire structure of power in Tehran.

Meanwhile, the Iranian regime's core ideology — anti-Americanism, anti-Semitism, and hostility toward own people as well as most others — remains unchanged. Its military capabilities may have been weakened, but its identity and intentions are intact. The regime is therefore likely to pursue agreements not as steps toward peace, but as temporary, stopgap measures to regain strength, continue enriching uranium, and outlast political pressures from the current US leadership. In any deal, under these conditions, that risks repeating a familiar cycle, trust is misplaced, and the regime's most valuable weapon is time.

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh is a political scientist, Harvard-educated analyst, and board member of Harvard International Review. He has [authored](#) several books on the US foreign policy. He can be reached at

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<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/22510/iran-regime-moratorium>



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