

05132026 NEWS SPECIAL Don't miss Lev U'Neshama NOTE at end!

Israeli strikes on highway south of Beirut kill 8, including 2 children, Lebanon says
State media also reports strikes in south Lebanon as IDF says it's targeting Hezbollah in the area following evacuation warnings for seven villages

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [Agencies](#) Today, 3:50 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-strikes-on-highway-south-of-beirut-kill-8-including-2-children-lebanon-says/>

Trump says US will 'finish the job' against Iran, 'peacefully or otherwise'

'I don't think we need any help with Iran,' US president insists as he heads to China; Islamic Republic remains defiant, claims US must accept its 'rightful and definitive demands'

By [Lazar Berman](#),

[Agencies](#) and [ToI Staff](#) Today, 3:27 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-says-us-will-finish-the-job-against-iran-peacefully-or-otherwise/>

US-Iran talks stalled after Tehran tried skirting up-front nuke concessions — officials

Washington wanted temporary ceasefire that included Iran compromises on its nuclear program, but Islamic Republic demanded permanent truce followed by separate talks on enrichment

By [Jacob Magid](#)

Today, 7:40 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-iran-talks-stalled-after-tehran-tried-skirting-up-front-nuke-concessions-officials/>

Iran retains access to majority of missile launch sites, US intelligence shows - report

According to The New York Times, Iran can also use the missile stockpiles in non-operational sites by transferring them via mobile launchers.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) MAY 13, 2026 01:55 Updated: MAY 13, 2026 10:45

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-895973>

Reports: Mossad, Shin Bet chiefs secretly visited UAE during Iran war

Meetings said to have been organized in March and April for the purpose of 'coordination' between Jerusalem and Abu Dhabi on defensive and offensive efforts against Tehran

By [ToI Staff](#) Today, 5:26 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/reports-mossad-shin-bet-chiefs-each-secretly-visited-uae-during-iran-war/>

Chinese supertanker breaks through US-Iran war blockade in Hormuz

The Chinese supertanker Yuan Hua Hu crosses the Strait of Hormuz after months of delay, carrying nearly 2 million barrels of Iraqi crude, as US-Iran tensions continue to shape the Gulf.

By [REUTERS](#) MAY 13, 2026 16:56

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-896072>

Israel concerned potential Trump-Iran deal may come with unwanted concessions - CNN

"The primary concern is that Trump will grow tired of talks and cut a deal – any deal – with last-minute concessions," one source told CNN.

By [TZVI JASPER](#) MAY 13, 2026 16:42

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-896066>

'The final word has not yet been said': IDF colonel warns Gaza fighting may resume as Hamas rebuilds

Col. Omri Mashiah tells Gaza border security coordinators that Hamas has not been disarmed, as communities protest cuts to local military protection

By [Roni Green Shaulov](#) | 09:29

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h17arzz1fx#autoplay>

IDF testing counter-drone technologies ahead of security meeting on rising drone threat

A security source reported that efforts are underway around the clock to develop solutions to be presented to Defense Minister Israel Katz.

By [AMIR BOHBOT](#), [IDAN KWELLER](#) MAY 13, 2026 16:50 Updated: MAY 13, 2026 17:19

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-896070>

Haredi factions push to dissolve Knesset, increasing likelihood of slightly earlier elections

Degel HaTorah spiritual chief says it has 'lost trust' in PM over failure to pass army exemption bill; move would need support of Shas to succeed; opposition hopes to begin process Wednesday

By [Sam Sokol](#) and [Ariela Karmel](#)

12 May 2026, 9:54 pm

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/haredi-factions-back-dissolving-knesset-increasing-chance-for-early-elections/>

At new party's first rally, Bennett vows to 'unite the nation' and enact constitution

Former premier says Likud founders 'rolling in their graves' at what party has become under Netanyahu; Lapid: Merger with Bennett is about 'restoring hope to the country'

By [Sam Sokol](#)

and [ToI Staff](#) Today, 1:52 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/at-new-partys-first-rally-bennett-vows-to-unite-the-nation-and-enact-constitution/>

'Only my best friend knows I'm Jewish': French Jewish teens tell US ambassador of hidden identity

Nine members of CTeen France met US Ambassador Charles Kushner in Paris on May 4, discussing life as Jewish teens in France during a two-hour conversation at the ambassador's residence.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) MAY 13, 2026 15:43 Updated: MAY 13, 2026 16:24

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-896059>

One in 10 successful candidates in UK local elections elected on Gaza-related or Muslim issues

For context, this means that over 1 in 10 candidates who were elected to English local councils are Muslim sectarians.

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) MAY 13, 2026 11:06 Updated: MAY 13, 2026 17:07

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-896009>

Global Sumud Flotilla to resume journey to Gaza after leaders detained, deported

The Global Sumud Flotilla announced it will resume its journey to Gaza from Turkey after Israeli forces intercepted the activist fleet near Crete and detained key organizers.

By [MICHAEL STARR](#) MAY 13, 2026 17:10 Updated: MAY 13, 2026 18:44

IDF uses robots to advance beyond Lebanon's Litani River, FPV drones continue challenging military

The IDF said that over three days of fighting, it had killed around 15 Hezbollah fighters in the operation, which, combined with earlier operations, added up to around 70 total.

By [YONAH JEREMY BOB](#) MAY 12, 2026 11:41 Updated: MAY 12, 2026 14:42

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-895888>

OP ED

The Absurdity of Public Health

Serving power, not the public

[Dr. Robert W. Malone](#) May 13



AUDIO:

[Listen now · 8:56](#)

The Absurdity of Public Health

The United States medical system, combined with the industrial food complex, kill and maim people on a colossal scale every single year.

Heart disease kills over 683,000 Americans annually. Cancer kills another 620,000. Stroke, diabetes, chronic lung disease, sepsis, obesity-related metabolic disease, opioid overdoses, and preventable medical errors collectively account for millions of deaths, disabilities, and shattered families.

And yet, if you browse the front page of the CDC website on any given week, there is a decent chance you will find public health officials issuing urgent alerts about backyard chickens, raw milk, pet turtles, or someone hugging a duck too enthusiastically.

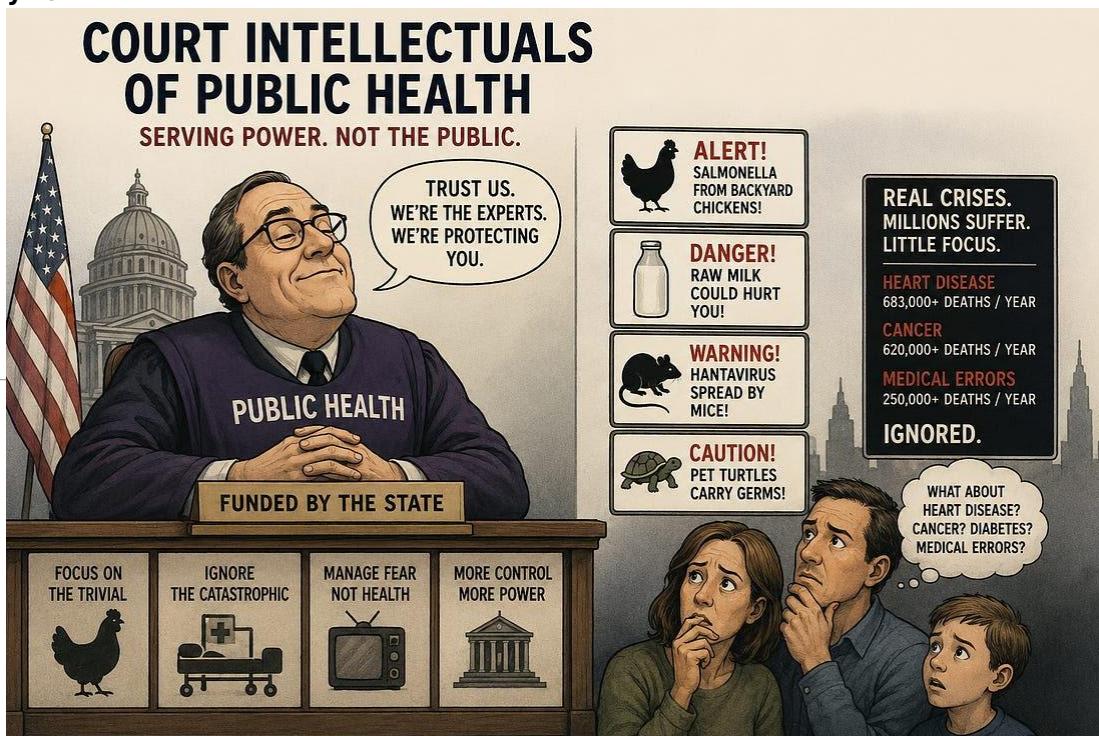
Seriously.

At the very moment when roughly 1,870 Americans are dying every day from heart disease and another 1,700 from cancer, federal public health agencies are sounding alarms about salmonella from backyard poultry.

The contrast has become almost surreal.

One recent CDC warning involved 34 reported salmonella cases linked to backyard poultry across 13 states. Thirteen hospitalizations were reported. No deaths. Another CDC investigation from 2024 linked backyard poultry exposure to 470 salmonella cases and one death nationwide.

To be clear, salmonella infections are unpleasant. Severe cases can absolutely happen, particularly in



small children or immunocompromised individuals. Basic hygiene around animals and food handling matters. But the sheer disproportion between the magnitude of America's actual health catastrophes and the obsessive messaging priorities of modern public health is impossible to ignore.

Americans are drowning in chronic disease.

Over 40 percent of U.S. adults are now obese. Diabetes continues to explode. Cardiovascular disease remains the nation's leading killer. Cancer rates in younger adults continue to rise. Meanwhile, researchers from Johns Hopkins estimated that medical errors themselves may contribute to more than 250,000 deaths per year, potentially making preventable medical harm the third leading cause of death in America.

Yet somehow the institutional energy of public health repeatedly gravitates toward regulating raw milk farmers, warning people not to kiss chickens, and issuing carefully branded panic messaging campaigns over statistically tiny risks.

Why?

Because modern public health increasingly behaves less like a system designed to improve population health and more like a managerial communications apparatus. The goal is no longer primarily to build a healthier citizenry. The goal is to demonstrate vigilance, maintain bureaucratic relevance, manage narratives, and continuously remind the public that experts are monitoring every conceivable risk, no matter how trivial.

And triviality matters here.

A civilization that cannot seriously confront ultra-processed food, metabolic collapse, sedentary lifestyles, pharmaceutical overuse, hospital-acquired infections, or iatrogenic injury, but can mobilize nationwide media campaigns over backyard chickens, is not practicing rational public health prioritization.

It is practicing theater.

And now we are watching the same cycle unfold yet again with hantavirus.

Every few years, the media rediscovers hantavirus and suddenly the headlines become cinematic. "Deadly virus." "Mystery illness." "Experts warn." Cable news panels light up. Social media algorithms amplify fear. Reporters begin breathlessly discussing deer mice as if civilization itself is teetering on the edge of collapse.

Never mind that hantavirus remains extraordinarily rare in the United States.

Since surveillance began in 1993, the CDC has confirmed roughly 850 total cases of hantavirus pulmonary syndrome in the entire country over more than three decades. That averages to fewer than 30 confirmed cases annually in a nation of over 330 million people. Yes, severe cases can be deadly. Yes, rodent infestations should be taken seriously. But the actual statistical risk to the average American remains microscopic. Meanwhile, heart disease kills that many Americans in less than twenty minutes.

Yet the machinery of public health communication treats these events as prime opportunities for fear-based messaging campaigns. The public is encouraged to scan their bodies for symptoms, obsess over remote threats, and remain psychologically tethered to a permanent state of low-grade biological anxiety.

This is not accidental.

Fear is one of the few things modern institutions still know how to manufacture efficiently.

A calm, healthy, self-confident population is difficult to manage. But a population conditioned to perceive invisible threats everywhere becomes highly responsive to authority, guidance, expert interpretation, and centralized control. Every new scare reinforces the same behavioral conditioning. Stay alert. Stay afraid. Wait for instructions.

And importantly, these fear campaigns almost always focus on risks that are visually dramatic but statistically tiny. Rare viruses. Backyard animals. Isolated outbreaks. Consumer products. Individual behaviors. Why?

Because confronting the real drivers of chronic illness would require confronting the institutions themselves.

It would require asking difficult questions about the American food system, pharmaceutical incentives, environmental toxicity, regulatory capture, hospital-acquired injury, sedentary lifestyles, collapsing metabolic health, and the financial architecture of modern medicine.

That is dangerous territory for bureaucracies.

Warning people not to pet chickens is much safer.

<https://substack.com/@rwmalonemd>

Trump Can Stare Down a Weak Xi Jinping This Week

by [Gordon G. Chang](#)

May 13, 2026 at 5:00 am



Chinese President Xi Jinping's inward-facing actions betray a deep sense of insecurity. US President Donald Trump can take advantage of it.

Pictured: Trump and Xi in Beijing on November 9, 2017. (Photo by Thomas Peter-Pool/Getty Images)

The *Washington Post* this week [reported](#) that Xi Jinping, on the eve of his summit with President Donald Trump, is "confident in China's power." The country, from the outside, looks strong.

Xi's inward-facing actions, however, betray a deep sense of insecurity. Trump can take advantage of it.

As Yanzhong Huang of the Council on Foreign Relations [wrote](#) in the *New York Times* on May 10, Xi has created and reinforced ridiculous narratives of American decline inside the "information cocoon" the Communist Party has created. For instance, the notion of an "American kill line" — millions of American families are "teetering on a precipice" where they are "one lost job, illness, or unexpected expense away from ruin" — has taken hold in China.

"Insular, nationalist voices are amplified more than ever," Huang writes. "Zhang Weiwei, a university professor who served as Deng Xiaoping's interpreter and has millions of online followers, absurdly claimed in a viral video in January that China is the only country in the world whose people eat well."

Why the hostility?

The Communist Party is in defensive mode. Its leaders have no other way to justify their failures than to denigrate others, primarily the United States.

China's people have largely lost hope, and it is not hard to see why. The regime's leaders, [says Dan Wang](#), author of *Breakneck: China's Quest to Engineer the Future*, "treat society as a big engineering project, where people are yet another building material that the leadership just want to tweak and destroy if necessary."

China's people — to the regime "building material" — are now extremely unhappy in the Communist Party "engineering state." Gloom, as a result, has descended over Chinese society.

"As a leader of a totalitarian—not simply authoritarian—regime, the Communist Party controls narratives domestically," Piero Tozzi, senior director for China Policy of the America First Policy Institute, told Gatestone on May 10. "It is increasingly difficult for it to dispel the nationwide awareness of malaise."

The pervasive pessimism has resulted in people "lying flat" — embracing a "low-desire life" — or "retiring" — leaving cities to work on farms. In one way or another, the Chinese are opting out of society.

The University of Pennsylvania's Victor Mair has collected [other words and phrases](#) for leaving society, including "Buddha whatever," "Kong Yijiism," and "involution." "China today has so many memes for opting out," he wrote in July 2023. Young educated Chinese constantly find new ways to show discontent. People with resources, not surprisingly, are leaving China.

The gloom is most fundamentally reflected in the country's collapsing demography. Beijing reports the country's population was 1.4 billion at the end of last year. [The UN's median estimate](#) for turn-of-the-century population is 633.4 million. Others, such as Yi Fuxian of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, have issued [far lower numbers](#). "Left unaddressed," [Yi wrote](#), "China's demographic trap could precipitate a civilizational collapse."

"China has embarked on a road of demographic no-return," [wrote Wang Feng](#) of the University of California, Irvine.

Xi Jinping has responded to the unhappiness in society by initiating a [censorship campaign](#) against "excessively pessimistic sentiment." Most significantly, he is not willing to implement structural changes to put more money in the pockets of the *laobaixing*, the common folk.

Xi's control and surveillance mechanisms, in their totality, are especially merciless. Those people with low social-credit scores have been completely cut off from society and must sleep in the streets.

No wonder China's intellectuals and social media users refer to this moment as their country's "[garbage time of history](#)."

"These days, there is a sense of bitter anger among the people at being the voiceless victims of the state's obsession with world power and beating the United States," [wrote](#) Helen Gao in the *New York Times* in November

2025.

What does Huang of the Council on Foreign Relations suggest? Deterrence and "restoring the human connections that once helped hold the relationship together."

Xi, however, has been determinedly cutting links with foreign parties, a tactic Chinese leaders have used through millennia when they felt pressure from the outside threatened their rule. There is little the U.S. can do in this situation. It cannot force Xi to reestablish these links.

Unfortunately, Xi considers the United States an existential threat not because of anything Americans say or do but because of who they are. An insecure ruling organization in Beijing is afraid of the inspirational impact of American values and form of governance on the Chinese people. This means, try as Americans might, their democracy will never have amicable relations with China as long as it is ruled by the Communist Party.

When Xi is worried about contact with the outside, it is hard to engage his regime or society. Trump is confronting a brittle China in Beijing this week.

Gordon G. Chang is the author of [Plan Red: China's Project to Destroy America](#), a Gatestone Institute distinguished senior fellow, and a member of its Advisory Board.

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/22528/trump-weak-xi-jinping>



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