

## 07132025 NEWS SPECIAL Don't miss Lev U'Neshama NOTE at end!

**IDF admits error in deadly strike on water delivery site as truce talks stay jammed**

**Netanyahu blames Hamas for obstructing negotiations, reportedly set to convene top ministers, defense brass to hash out new proposal for army retreat during ceasefire**

By [Emanuel Fabian](#),

[Nurit Yohanan](#),

[Agencies](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 8:10 pm



*Palestinians at the site of an Israeli airstrike at the Al-Shati refugee camp, in the central Gaza Strip, on July 13, 2025. (Ali Hassan/Flash90)*

Israel's military said Sunday that a strike near a Gaza water distribution point that reportedly killed several children was an accident, as Israeli aircraft pounded targets across the Strip.

The attack, which the Israel Defense Forces attributed to a "technical malfunction," came as negotiations on a ceasefire and hostage release deal continued to stall-out, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly set to convene top ministers and defense brass in a bid to find a way to break the logjam.

Gazan health officials at Al-Awda Hospital said [the strike](#) that hit a water distribution point in Nuseirat refugee camp killed 10 people, including six children.

The IDF admitted it had erred while targeting of an operative from the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group.

"Due to a technical malfunction in the munition, it struck dozens of meters away from the intended target," the IDF said, adding that it had opened an investigation and that it "makes every effort to minimize harm to uninvolved civilians."

Ramadan Nassar, a witness who lives in the area, told The Associated Press that around 20 children and 14 adults had been lined up to get water. He said Palestinians walk some 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) to fetch water from the area.

Water shortages in Gaza have worsened sharply in recent weeks, with fuel shortages causing desalination

and sanitation facilities to close, making people dependent on collection centers where they can fill up their plastic containers.

More than a dozen people were also reported killed near an aid distribution site on Sunday, with eyewitnesses describing shots to victims' heads and bodies. The Israeli military said its troops had fired warning shots, but that its review of the incident had found no evidence of anyone hurt by its soldiers' fire.

*Palestinians collect drinking water in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, on July 13, 2025. (Abed Rahim Khatib/Flash90)*



Negotiations toward a ceasefire in Gaza have stalled primarily over when the war will end and to what

extent the IDF will withdraw during the truce.

Palestine Al-Youm, an Islamic Jihad-affiliated news outlet, quoted a senior Hamas official Sunday saying negotiations had reached a critical stage and signaling the Palestinian group could walk away if the logjam was not

cleared in the coming hours.

Channel 12 news reported Sunday that Netanyahu would convene a meeting of senior defense officials and several government ministers that night in a bid to break the impasse, focusing on a new proposal for the troops' redeployment in Gaza and the direction of talks.

IDF brass has told the government that it is close to achieving the goals of its recent offensive, and US President Donald Trump has repeatedly urged an end to the 21-month-old war. Polls show most Israelis support a deal to free the hostages still held by Hamas and end the war.

During his recent visit to Washington, DC, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed optimism about a deal. But in a video posted to social media Sunday afternoon, he blamed Hamas for obstructing an agreement, saying Israel had accepted the outline proposed by Trump's chief envoy, Steve Witkoff.

"We accepted it, Hamas refused it," Netanyahu said, adding that he "won't accept" a deal that allows Hamas to stay in Gaza and rearm."



*Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks to reporters before a meeting with lawmakers at the US Capitol in Washington, July 9, 2025. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)*

**On Saturday, Netanyahu pushed back on a New York Times report suggesting that he has prolonged the Gaza war and rejected viable hostage release deals for his own political survival.**

He said in a statement that the article "defames Israel, its brave people, and soldiers, and its prime minister." The Times responded that Netanyahu's statement "does not refute the facts."

The deal currently being negotiated in the Qatari capital would see 10 living hostages released in an initial 60-day stage, along with the remains of 18 deceased captives. Relatives of some of those held in Gaza have campaigned for a deal that ends the war and releases all hostages.

Haggai Angrest, father of hostage Matan Angrest, who is thought to be alive, met with Netanyahu during his recent visit to Washington, DC. He told the Israeli news outlet Ynet that Netanyahu said that, for the first time, there were discussions about ending the war.

And Idit Ohel, mother of hostage Alon Ohel, sent a written appeal to Netanyahu's cabinet on Sunday saying she was "beleaguered, exhausted, and shaken," in light of a medical opinion saying Ohel, who was injured in his eye upon being captured, could soon lose his vision.



*Relatives of hostages held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip and their supporters call for an immediate hostage release deal during a protest in Tel Aviv, Israel, July 10, 2025. (AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)*

Netanyahu has insisted the war cannot end until Hamas is no longer able to rule Gaza or pose a threat to Israel, vowing to achieve both that goal and the return of all 50 hostages still being held in the Strip.

The IDF is waiting for the government to make a decision regarding the war as the military nears completion of its Gideon's Chariots offensive, launched in mid-May. In late June, Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir said the

military would soon "reach the lines" set by the offensive, in which the IDF aimed to take control of 75 percent of Gaza.

The army said Sunday that the Israeli Air Force had hit 150 targets across the enclave in the previous day, targeting Hamas operatives, booby-trapped buildings, weapon depots, anti-tank launch posts and other terror infrastructure.

At least 139 Palestinians were killed in Gaza between Saturday and Sunday afternoon, according to



statistics published by the Hamas-run health ministry, raising the death toll to over 58,000.

The tolls, which cannot be verified, do not differentiate between civilians and combatants.



***Smoke rises from an Israeli military operation in the northern Gaza Strip, as it seen from the Israeli side of the border, July 13, 2025. (Flash90)***

Israel says it has killed some 20,000 combatants in battle as of January and another 1,600 terrorists inside Israel during the October 7, 2023 onslaught.

Jordan announced Sunday morning that a local charity had sent 50 trucks of aid to Gaza. The shipment came after the European Union announced last week that a deal had been reached to reopen several aid corridors, including humanitarian routes through Egypt and Jordan.

A group of United Nations agencies warned, meanwhile, that a fuel shortage had reached “critical levels” in Gaza, threatening aid operations, hospital care and already chronic food insecurity.

The war between Israel and Hamas broke out on October 7, 2023, when Hamas-led terrorists invaded Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping 251. The 50 hostages who remain in Hamas captivity include the bodies of 28 confirmed dead by the IDF, one of whom has been held for over a decade.

Israel’s toll in the ground offensive against Hamas in Gaza and in military operations along the border with the Strip stands at 451. The toll includes two police officers and three Defense Ministry civilian contractors.

On Sunday, in a rare incident, an Israeli soldier driving on a road in Israeli territory near Gaza was lightly wounded by a stray Israeli bullet. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-admits-error-in-deadly-strike-on-water-delivery-site-as-truce-talks-stay-jammed/>

### **Several IDF troops hurt in Gaza fighting as Palestinians reported killed at aid site**

**Army reports the injured soldiers were moderately and lightly wounded in separate incidents; says unaware of any casualties near Gaza Humanitarian Foundation distribution hubs**

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

and [Tol Staff](#) 12 July 2025, 5:33 pmUpdated at 8:33 pm

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***Palestinians inspect the wreckage of a gas station destroyed in an Israeli airstrike in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, July 12, 2025. (AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana)***

The military announced that two soldiers were moderately hurt on Saturday in separate incidents during fighting in Gaza, as fresh deaths were reported among Palestinians at an aid distribution site.

One of the soldiers was hurt in the northern part of the coastal enclave, while the other was hurt in the southern part. In the latter incident, two other soldiers were lightly injured.

All four were taken to hospitals, and their families

were notified.

The injuries came as the Israel Defense Forces said Saturday that over 250 terror targets in Gaza were hit in airstrikes since Thursday. A fresh wave of airstrikes Saturday evening hit over 35 targets in northern Gaza’s Beit Hanoun, the military said.

The IDF said the targets included operatives, booby-trapped buildings, weapon depots, anti-tank launch posts, sniper posts, tunnels, and other terror infrastructure.

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At least 143 Palestinians were killed in Gaza since Wednesday, according to statistics published by the Hamas-run health ministry on Friday night.



*Heavily damaged ambulances lie outside the Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, on July 11, 2025. (AFP)*

The strikes came as five IDF divisions, made up of tens of thousands of troops, continued to operate across Gaza.

Footage from the Israeli border community of Netiv Haasara shows the intensive Israeli airstrikes in northern Gaza's Beit Hanoun a short while ago.

<https://t.co/myQ13i6xOT> [pic.twitter.com/VVP8LdQCEq](https://pic.twitter.com/VVP8LdQCEq)

— Emanuel (Mannie) Fabian (@manniefabian) [July 12, 2025](#)

In a statement on the Beit Hanoun strikes, which could be seen from across the border in Israel, the military said dozens of Israeli Air Force fighter jets hit some 35 Hamas targets in the area.

The targets included Hamas tunnels in the area, the IDF said.

כוחות צה"ל בפיקוד הדרום מגבירים את התקיפות נגד ארגון הטרור חמאס במרחב בית חאנון: עשרות מטוסי קרב ביצעו מטס תקיפות במרחב במהלך השעה האחרונה  
צה"ל תקף לפני זמן קצר באמצעות עשרות מטוסי קרב יותר מ-35 מטרות טרור של ארגון הטרור חמאס במרחב בית חאנון שבצפון רצועת עזה.

בין המטרות... [pic.twitter.com/QdkbbwMZUt](https://pic.twitter.com/QdkbbwMZUt)

— צבא ההגנה לישראל (@idfonline) [July 12, 2025](#)

Earlier, the military said troops of the 98th Division located Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad observation posts and caches of explosive devices in Gaza City's Shejaiya and Zeitoun neighborhoods.

Numerous operatives were killed elsewhere by the troops, including by calling in airstrikes, the IDF added.

#### **More deaths reported at aid sites**

Palestinian reports, meanwhile, said that aid seekers were shot dead and injured Saturday around the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation facility in northwest Rafah, with the Associated Press quoting hospital officials and witnesses as saying that at least 24 people were killed.

The IDF pushed back on the Palestinian reports, saying the military was unaware of any casualties from troops' gunfire near GHF distribution sites on Saturday.

A military official did say that several suspects were spotted approaching forces in Rafah on Saturday, hundreds of meters from the aid site, and that "troops acted to prevent the suspects from approaching and fired warning shots. No injuries from the gunfire are known."

The IDF, in its statement, said it "continues to operate in order to enable the distribution of humanitarian aid in the Strip, and to allow passage to the distribution areas via organized and secured routes."

The statement added that the IDF is continuing to investigate the claims of injuries on Saturday near the aid site.



*Palestinians transport victims to a Red Cross clinic in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip after they were reportedly shot as they waited to receive food parcels at a distribution point run by the US and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, on July 12, 2025. (AFP)*

GHF, an Israeli-backed US organization that seeks to circumvent Hamas in the distribution of aid, has faced harsh criticism from the UN and other aid organizations, which charge that it fails to meet the needs of Gaza's population. Gazans have reported near-daily incidents in which groups trying to reach GHF facilities are shot at by Israeli forces, leading to mass casualties.

Israel, which accuses Hamas of hoarding aid, has also accused the terror group of attacking Gazan aid seekers near GHF sites and falsifying death tolls. However,



Israel has also acknowledged that “several” Palestinian civilians have been killed near GHF aid distribution sites.

GHF commenced operations in May as Israel lifted a nearly three-month aid blockade on Gaza, amid a renewed offensive there that seeks to take over 75% of the Strip.

On Friday, the United Nations said nearly 800 people [have died](#) trying to access aid in Gaza since late May, with most killed near the GHF’s distribution sites.

GHF, which denies that deadly incidents have occurred at its sites, told Reuters the UN figures were “false and misleading.”

The IDF said Friday that it had issued instructions to troops in the field “following lessons learned” after reports of deadly incidents at GHF distribution facilities.

### **Swimming restrictions**

The IDF on Saturday also reiterated a restriction on Palestinians, in place since the beginning of the war, forbidding them from entering the sea along the entire coast of the Gaza Strip.

The IDF’s Arabic-language spokesperson, Col. Avichay Adraee, reminded residents in a post on X that “security restrictions have been imposed in the maritime area adjacent to the Strip, and entry into the sea is prohibited.”

He added, “The IDF will respond to any violation of these restrictions. We urge fishermen, swimmers, and divers to refrain from entering the sea. Entering the sea along the Strip exposes you to danger.”

Nevertheless, the IDF has not enforced the restriction against Palestinians seeking to cool off in the waters on the beach, but only those heading out deeper into the sea.



***Palestinians gather at the beach near a makeshift displacement camp in Gaza City to escape the heat and tents, as smoke billows in the distance amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas on June 8, 2025. (Omar Al-Qattaa/AFP)***

The vast majority of the Palestinian population in Gaza is concentrated in areas on the coast, with tent camps set up on the beaches.

The war between Israel and Hamas broke out on October 7, 2023, when Hamas-led terrorists invaded Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping 251. Fifty hostages remain in Gaza, including 28 whose deaths the IDF has confirmed.

The Hamas-run Gaza health ministry says more than 53,000 people in the Strip have been killed or are presumed dead in the fighting so far, though the toll cannot be verified and does not differentiate between civilians and fighters. Israel says it has killed some 20,000 combatants in battle as of January and another 1,600 terrorists inside Israel during the October 7 onslaught.

Israel has said it seeks to minimize civilian fatalities and stresses that Hamas uses Gaza’s civilians as human shields, fighting from civilian areas, including homes, hospitals, schools and mosques.

Israel’s toll in the ground offensive against Hamas in Gaza and in military operations along the border with the Strip stands at 451. The toll includes two police officers and three Defense Ministry civilian contractors.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/several-idf-troops-hurt-in-gaza-fighting-as-palestinians-reported-killed-at-aid-site/>

## **PM said expecting Ben Gvir to resign from government if hostage-truce deal finalized** ***Netanyahu reportedly meets with far-right allies in effort to stave off rebellion over possible ceasefire, while also trying to put out fires over stalled Haredi conscription bill***

By [Sam Sokol](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 1:50 am



***Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (left) and newly reinstated National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir (right) in the Knesset plenum in Jerusalem, March 19, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)***

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is attempting to head off new and recurring difficulties in his governing coalition, according to reports on Saturday, and is holding various meetings to dispel threats from his

ultranationalist allies over the Gaza ceasefire and hostage deal negotiations, and from his Haredi partners over ultra-Orthodox conscription legislation.

On one front, the premier reportedly expects National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir to once again pull his ultranationalist Otzma Yehudit party out of the government if another ceasefire and hostage release deal is signed with Hamas, the Kan public broadcaster reported on Saturday.

Ben Gvir has been a vocal opponent of Israel signing any deal with Hamas to recover the remaining hostages and end the fighting in Gaza, even temporarily, after more than 640 days of war. Earlier this month, he was said to have attempted to persuade his far-right ally, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, to form a united bloc within the government against any such agreement.

Both of the ministers have threatened to collapse the government if Israel agrees to any deal that would leave Hamas in power in Gaza, and claim to have foiled other deals that would have come to pass.

Ben Gvir has pulled Otzma Yehudit from the government [once already](#), after a ceasefire agreement was signed between Israel and Hamas in January of this year. The party [returned](#) to the coalition when fighting resumed some two months later.

But now, with furious negotiations for a 60-day truce underway in Doha, Kan reported on Saturday night that Netanyahu expects him to quit again, and is trying to ensure that this won't threaten the stability of his coalition government.



*Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich (right) of the Religious Zionism party talks to National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir of Otzma Yehudit at the Knesset plenum in Jerusalem, December 28, 2022. (Olivier Fitoussi/ Flash90)*

To that end, both Kan and Channel 12 reported on Saturday evening that the premier had summoned Ben Gvir and Smotrich to meet with him, likely in an attempt to persuade the former to remain in government, and to dissuade the latter from following his lead if he resigns anyway.

Ben Gvir's Otzma Yehudit and Smotrich's Religious Zionism together have 13 seats in the 120-seat Knesset,

where the ruling coalition fields a majority of 67 seats. Should the members of Otzma Yehudit resign, Netanyahu would retain a slim majority, but if Religious Zionism were to go with it, he would be left attempting to run the country with a minority government.

The reports of Netanyahu's efforts to keep his far-right allies on his side come amid reports that the intense negotiations in Doha for the 60-day truce and the return of 18 hostages to Israel — 10 living and 18 dead — are on the verge of collapse.

Sources familiar with the negotiations [told the Times of Israel](#) that this was due to Israeli demands regarding the redeployment and withdrawal of IDF troops during the ceasefire.

While Israel has agreed to ease some of its demands regarding troop redeployment, sources said the new series of maps depicting the partial withdrawal of IDF troops was not sufficient to satisfy Hamas, the two sources said.

### **Coalition woes continue**

The matter of his ultranationalist ministers and their ultimatums is far from the only coalition crisis that Netanyahu is facing, as Kan reported on Saturday evening that he is slated to meet with Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Yuli Edelstein this week to discuss the long-stalled ultra-Orthodox conscription legislation.

Members of the committee have yet to be presented with a draft of the revised legislation, whose sanctions on draft dodgers were reportedly watered down by Edelstein last month as part of a last-ditch effort to prevent the Haredim from voting in favor of dissolving the Knesset.

The new version of the bill had been scheduled to come to a vote in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this coming week but was removed from the agenda, further angering Netanyahu's Haredi coalition partners in Shas and United Torah Judaism, who have been boycotting votes on coalition legislation over the failure to exempt yeshiva students from military service.





**Likud MK Yuli Edelstein chairs a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, July 1, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)**

According to Kan, before it can come to a vote in the committee, the updated legislation is likely to be presented to the military in the coming days, during which time the Haredi United Torah Judaism and Shas parties' legislative boycott, intended to pressure Edelstein to advance the bill, will continue.

UTJ demanded on Thursday that Netanyahu "immediately" pass a bill broadly exempting Haredi men from IDF conscription, calling on him to honor his

coalition agreements and "complete the settlement of the status of Torah students in the Land of Israel."

The removal of the bill from the committee's agenda this week is a further delay to the bill's advancement, just weeks ahead of the end of the Knesset summer session.

A source familiar with the matter told the Times of Israel that it was removed from the agenda because "at the last minute, there were disagreements."

The vote would have allowed the bill to be referred to the plenum for the final two readings necessary before becoming law. [https://www.ynetnews.com/health\\_science/article/rj0rbswuee#autoplay](https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/rj0rbswuee#autoplay)

## **IDF seizes 3 tons of arms from ex-Assad regime sites; violence flares in southern Syria**

***Troops locate explosives, rockets at 'key' commando bases in operation aimed at keeping arms from being smuggled to Lebanon; deadly clashes break out in Druze area***

By [Emanuel Fabian](#), [Nurit Yohanan](#) and [Agencies](#) Today, 10:52 pm

***Weapons found by IDF troops in southern Syria, in an IDF handout photo released on July 13, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)***

Israeli troops found more than three tons of weapons while raiding military facilities inside Syria. The sites had been maintained by the deposed Bashar al-Assad regime, the Israel Defense Forces said Sunday.

In the raids, which took place over the past week, reservists of the 810th Mountain Regional Brigade located at the peak of Mount Hermon, inside Syria, searched several "key headquarters" formerly



belonging to the Assad regime's commando forces, the IDF said.

The weapons found by troops included anti-tank mines, explosive devices, and rockets.

The IDF said its operations in the area were intended to prevent weapon smuggling into Lebanon from Syria.

Israeli troops have carried out a number of raids inside Syria in recent weeks, mostly targeting alleged members of Iran-sponsored cells stationed near the Golan frontier.

The military has also carried out airstrikes aimed at keeping Syrian weapons from falling into the hands of the Islamists who ousted Assad late last year.



***Weapons found by IDF troops in southern Syria, in an IDF handout photo released on July 13, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)***

The raids were announced as deadly sectarian violence flared in Druze areas of the Syrian side of the Golan, which Israel has previously acted to protect from Islamists.

Clashes broke out between Bedouin tribes and local fighters in the predominantly Druze city of Sweida on Sunday, with the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reporting 18 killed in the fighting, including 14 Druze and four Bedouin.

Local outlet Sweida 24 gave a preliminary toll of 10 people killed and 50 wounded across both

sides.

The outlet also reported the closure of the Damascus-Sweida highway due to the violence.

The government sent forces to de-escalate the situation.

Sweida Governor Mustapha al-Bakur called on his constituents to “exercise self-restraint and respond to national calls for reform.”

Several Syrian Druze spiritual leaders have also called for calm and asked Damascus to intervene.

In April and May, clashes between the new government’s security forces and Druze fighters killed dozens of people, with local leaders and religious figures signing agreements to contain the escalation and better integrate Druze fighters into the new government.

During those clashes, Israel [carried out a drone strike](#) on an armed group preparing to attack a Druze community near Damascus, and Defense Minister Israel Katz told troops to be prepared to act in Syria in defense of the Druze. Katz and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a message to Syria at the time that Israel “expects it to act to prevent harm to the Druze.”

Following the December overthrow of Assad, Syria’s longtime ruler, Israel sent troops into the United Nations-patrolled buffer zone that separated opposing forces on the strategic Golan Heights, from which it had conducted forays into southern Syria.

***Weapons found by IDF troops in southern Syria, in an IDF handout photo released on July 13, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)***

around 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) into Syria, aiming to capture weapons that Israel says could pose a threat to the country if they fall into the hands of “hostile forces.”

Immediately after Assad’s ouster, Israel also carried out hundreds of airstrikes in Syria to prevent key military assets from coming under the control of the administration headed by Sharaa.

***A soldier from the 810th Mountains Regional Brigade operating in southern Syria, in an IDF handout photo released on July 13, 2025. (Israel Defense Forces)***

Officials from Syria and Israel have held discussions over that military presence in recent weeks, and, in June, a senior Israeli official said the sides were in “advanced talks” to end hostilities, even as Jerusalem





has taken a cautious approach toward the country's new Islamist leadership.

The two countries have formally been in a state of war since Israel's establishment in 1948, and last fought a major conflict in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

A meeting this past weekend in Azerbaijan between Syrian and Israeli officials was [reportedly to focus](#) on the IDF presence in Syria. Sharaa, who was in Baku, the capital, to discuss energy cooperation with Azerbaijani leaders, did not attend the meeting with the Israelis.



*Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, right, and Syria's interim president, Ahmad al-Sharaa, second left, stand on the balcony during their meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, July 12, 2025. (Azerbaijani Presidential Press Office via AP)*

In addition, on Sunday, the Syrian Interior Ministry announced that it had arrested a Hezbollah operative who was planning terrorist attacks. Hezbollah, the Lebanese terror group that is sworn to Israel's destruction, was a chief ally of Assad's regime.

The ministry named the operative as Mahmoud Fadl, saying he was in possession of ready-to-use explosives that he intended to deploy for terrorist attacks in the area.

According to the statement, Fadl belonged to a Hezbollah cell that was active in Syria.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-seizes-3-tons-of-arms-from-ex-assad-regime-sites-violence-flares-in-southern-syria/>

## **At Least 18 killed in clashes between Druze, Bedouins in southern Syria**

***At least 18 people were killed and 40 wounded in clashes between Druze and Bedouins in Syria's southern As-Suwayda province, as local tensions reignited; shelling, kidnappings and mediation efforts followed a violent weekend escalation***

[Lior Ben Ari](#) | 15:11

Clashes between Druze and Bedouin communities in [southern Syria](#) killed at least 18 people and wounded 40 others, Syrian media and an opposition monitoring group said Sunday, marking a sharp escalation in tensions in the province of As-Suwayda.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based group with sources inside Syria, said the violence began after armed men stopped, robbed and severely beat [a young Druze man](#) on the highway linking As-Suwayda to Damascus. He was later released in a remote area. In response, Druze residents reportedly detained several members of Bedouin tribes, igniting a new round of confrontations.

On Sunday, local sources said Bedouin-linked gunmen set up a checkpoint and detained 14 Druze civilians, apparently in retaliation. Heavy shelling was reported in the area, causing casualties and damaging property. Among the dead were 14 Druze, including a child, and four Bedouins.

Witnesses told the Qatari news outlet Al-Araby Al-Jadeed that explosions were heard throughout neighborhoods in As-Suwayda and at least one home caught fire. Firefighters were unable to reach the scene due to ongoing gunfire.

Local leaders launched mediation efforts to de-escalate the situation and secure the release of hostages held by both sides, according to the Observatory.

Hamoud al-Hanawi, a senior Druze cleric in As-Suwayda, called for calm in a statement Sunday, urging all parties "to halt anything that might sow division." He also appealed to Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa to intervene.

Mustafa al-Bakour, the provincial governor—who remains in office despite reports he had resigned in May after armed men attacked his office—also called for restraint. "We extend a hand to all who seek reform, the building of a state and a better life for all Syrians," he said in a statement.

The unrest comes as Syria's new leadership under al-Sharaa, who deposed President Bashar Assad eight months ago, seeks to consolidate power. In May, following similar clashes, al-Sharaa met with Druze leaders and the governor to discuss ways to ease tensions and promote national unity.

The May violence, which left more than 70 dead, was triggered by a leaked audio recording attributed to a Druze cleric in which offensive remarks were allegedly made about the Prophet Muhammad. Sheikh Hikmat al-Hijri, spiritual leader of Syria's Druze, at the time accused the regime of carrying out a "massacre" and appealed for international intervention.

More than 500,000 Druze live in Syria, mostly concentrated in As-Suwayda. Exact figures are unknown, as no national census has been conducted since the civil war began in 2011. Al-Shara has previously declared his intention to "bring the Druze back to Islam." Since assuming power, his administration has limited Druze access to leadership positions and influence even within their home province, moves that community leaders have described as persecution. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hya0011511lx#autoplay>

**Exclusive interview: Houthi official says fighting will continue 'until Israel is erased'**

## **In an exclusive interview with Ynetnews, senior Houthi figure explains why Yemen-based group declared war on Israel, revealing a deep ideological drive, unwavering ties to Iran and a vow to continue attacks until 'the Zionist entity' no longer exists**

[Lior Ben Ari](#) | 13:39

Since [October 7](#), many Israelis have come to know the name of the [Houthis](#)—a terror [Yemeni](#) faction that, until now, seemed like someone else's problem.

Yet the Houthis have managed to overcome the vast distance between Yemen and Israel, launching advanced ballistic missiles and waging an unprecedented naval blockade in the Red Sea. Their attacks have paralyzed Israel's southern port in Eilat and severely disrupted global shipping through the Suez Canal.



*Houthi protest in Yemen (Photo: Mohammed Huwais/ AFP)*

A year and nine months into the regional war, the Houthis have emerged as Iran's most active front against Israel, vowing to keep attacking until the war in Gaza ends. The motivation behind their campaign is puzzling, given the heavy toll they've paid from Israeli airstrikes. Yet they appear undeterred, fighting a war they cannot win.

To better understand the ideology driving their relentless hostility, Ynet managed to contact a senior Houthi

figure, despite strict internal bans on communication with Israelis. Speaking anonymously, the source offered insight into the movement's worldview, revealing a depth of indoctrination and hatred that helps explain their continued aggression—and why no diplomatic formula has yet succeeded in stopping them.



**"What do you want from Israel?"** "We want only one thing from the Zionist entity: to leave the Arab land of Palestine," the Houthi official said. "We believe Israel's existence is illegitimate. Its end is a divine certainty. Israel is a criminal entity planted at the heart of the [Muslim] nation, built on murder, occupation, and the desecration of holy places.

*Protests in Yemen (Photo: Reuters/Khaled Abdullah)*

"At Ansar Allah [the Houthis' official name], we believe this is an existential struggle—faith against heresy, the oppressed against the oppressors. We



will prevail. We want Israel erased and Al-Aqsa Mosque purified. This is God's promise to His servants."

Asked whether the threats would continue even after the Gaza war ends, he responded, "The Gaza war has changed the equation. It proved that the resistance can inflict pain on you, the occupying Zionist entity. We are part of the Axis of Jerusalem and will continue supporting the Palestinian resistance—politically, militarily, and morally—until our greater goal is achieved: dismantling and destroying the Zionist entity from all fronts—Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, and Syria."

"Our mission is clear: confuse the entity, weaken it until it collapses from within. We will expand our operations in the Red Sea and Arabian Sea. We will strike anything linked to Israel, inside Yemen and beyond. Jews are a legitimate target for us. Soon you'll hear of our attacks."

**"We want sovereignty and a Quran-based state."** Asked about their domestic goals in Yemen, the official said, "We are fighting to liberate Yemen from the American-Saudi-Zionist aggression until we achieve sovereignty and independence. We reject foreign presence and seek to build a Quran-based, just system that advances Yemen politically, economically, and morally."



(Photo: Mohammed Huwais/ AFP)

"We will restore the status of Muslims that Saudi Arabia and Gulf regimes—who are merely agents—have sold out. We will support the nation's causes, especially Palestine, and build an ideologically driven army to defend Yemen and the Muslim world. We don't seek power for its own sake but to implement the vision of Hussein al-Houthi: building an Islamic state and defeating the Jews."

**"Iran is our strategic ally."** The Houthis do not hide their deep alignment with Iran. "We are

not ashamed of our alliance with Iran—we're proud of it," he said. Iran stands with the nation's causes. They are our model. Our relationship is one of religious and strategic brotherhood, based on supporting the oppressed. It is a relationship of faith and loyalty to Ayatollahs Khomeini and Khamenei. Iran is our strategic ally in confronting the American-Zionist hegemony. Iran will help us erase Israel from the map."

**"We're preparing for the march on Al-Aqsa."** Asked where the Houthis were before the Gaza war, he said, "We were where we needed to be. Today, we fight with American-made weapons inside Yemen. We are building strength and preparing for the day we march on Al-Aqsa. We instill Quran-based thinking into the souls of the Muslim nation. Our slogan, 'Death to America, death to Israel,' is not just a slogan—it's a way of life, from the beginning of the Quran until we liberate Jerusalem and return the rights of the people."

**"We are a people who survive by war."** When confronted with Yemen's internal suffering—widespread poverty, disease, and humanitarian collapse—the official defended the Houthi focus on war. "We fight to defend our people and preserve their dignity. If we surrender to the aggression, our people will have neither value nor land. This war was forced upon us, and we direct all resources to building the strength that protects our people, e—not for personal gain like mercenaries do."



(Photo: Mohammed Huwais/ AFP)

"It doesn't matter if we dedicate resources to the people or not. What matters is that we figure out how to carry out our leaders' directives. The Yemeni people will manage their affairs as needed. We are a nation that survives by war. We build and fight simultaneously and will continue until we defeat the aggression and build faith."

"We don't care about your airstrikes. We don't care if you use nuclear weapons. The people will become martyrs—and that is our faith."

**“You will be defeated—at sea, on land, and abroad”** To the Israeli government, the official declared: “You are a criminal, occupying entity—and you will be defeated like every tyrant in history. You will not enjoy security—not in Tel Aviv, not in Eilat, not in the depths of the Red Sea, and not abroad. We will strike and support anyone who strikes you. You cannot stop the progress of the [Muslim] nation. Your end is inevitable—whether you like it or not.” And to Israeli citizens?

“You are the fuel of a satanic Zionist project. You must leave the land of Canaan and return to your homes. Zionism will lead you to ruin. We say this to you clearly: examine yourselves and leave this land that is not yours, before the storm of wrath that will rise from Yemen, Lebanon, Gaza, and all the free peoples of the nation sweeps you away. If you choose to stay, your end will be like every invader in history.”

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/sk6xq00wixe>

## **WATCH: Kosher restaurant vandalized in Athens by anti-Israel hooligans, owners tell ‘Post’**

***The restaurant opened shortly after Shabbat ended at 10 pm, and just 12 minutes later, a group of individuals entered and threw flyers and sprayed anti-Israel messages on the walls.***

*Kosher restaurant vandalized in Athens by anti-Israel hooligans (credit: King David Burger)*

By [MATHILDA HELLER](#) JULY 13, 2025 16:25 Updated: JULY 13, 2025 17:06

**King David Burger, a new kosher restaurant in Athens, was vandalized by a group of anti-Israel protesters on Saturday night, the owner, Zvika Levinson, told The Jerusalem Post on Sunday.**

“I was shocked,” Levinson told the Post. “It has taken us by surprise.”

[Antisemitism is at a record high. We're keeping our eyes on it >>](#)

The restaurant opened shortly after Shabbat ended at 10 p.m., **and just 12 minutes later a group of individuals entered, throwing flyers and spraying anti-Israel messages on the walls, including “no Zionist is safe here.”** The flyers featured the words “Free Palestine” in English, or “victory to the Palestinian resistance” in Greek, alongside the pattern of a [keffiyeh](#).

### **JPost Videos**

While the group was vandalizing the restaurant, they were shouting “go back to Israel,” “stop killing babies,” and the like, Levinson added.

“One of my employees who was inside said he wanted to get out, and he was told, ‘stay there if you don’t want to be injured.’”



***Kosher restaurant vandalized in Athens by anti-Israel hooligans. (credit: KING DAVID BURGER)***

The Post also spoke to the manager – Sivan – who said that the employees are not Israeli and were “pretty scared because they are not used to it.”

Both Sivan and Levinson said that the police were standing nearby, but it still took 15 minutes for them to arrive at the restaurant. The police presence also did not seem to have deterred the “hooligans.”

“They didn’t care,” said Levinson. “They didn’t even put on masks.”

**If anti-Israel protesters are identified, they will be arrested**

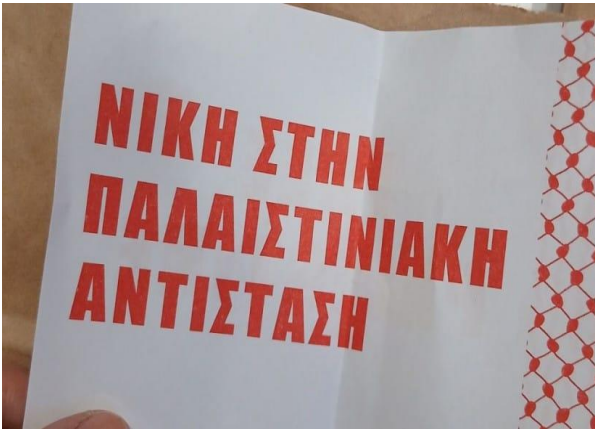
After the general police came, three officers from the hate crime department came and took reports from the

employees for about two hours. The officers told Sivan that if they are able to identify the group, they will arrest them; otherwise nothing will happen.

“That was very upsetting,” she told the *Post*.

Nevertheless, when Israeli customers who showed up after the incident were told what happened, they decided to sing and dance and chant “[Am Yisrael Chai](#).”





**Kosher restaurant vandalized in Athens by anti-Israel hooligans. (credit: KING DAVID BURGER)**

King David Burger was established a month and a half ago to provide Mehadrin kosher food to visiting Israelis.

Given that tens of thousands of Israelis visit the city every day, Levinson hopes that the mayor will take this incident seriously.

“This kind of thing will affect Israelis. On Ermou St. [the location of the restaurant], you hear [Hebrew](#) like you are in Israel.”

“The mayor will have a lot of things to lose if he doesn’t prevent things like this.”

The Post reached out to the mayor of Athens and the local police for comment.

[The Hate Monitor is here to track antisemitism worldwide. Learn more >>](#)

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-860884>

op ed

## California Protects Illegal Who Bought Girl for Beer

Sat, 12 Jul 2025 10:45 PM PST by Daniel Greenfield



**Things are not happy in Monterey County. The California county, which Kamala won by 63%, is considered a ‘sanctuary’ for illegal aliens by the Department of Homeland Security.**

But that sanctuary status was recently violated and local officials are outraged. So is the Solidarity Network: a pro-illegal alien group that ‘monitors’ immigration enforcement arrests.

Monterey County Board of Supervisors Chair Chris Lopez responded by announcing that a maternal health walk was cancelled. “Monterey County deeply values the contributions of our immigrant workers and families that strengthen our local

communities and economy,” Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo posted. The Monterey Solidarity Network promised to fight.

“A family man was taken from the street as he was taking his son to school,” the pro-illegal organization that had vowed to fight against President Trump’s immigration enforcement fumed. “How is ripping a man from his family, outside of his home, terrorizing his children, considered ‘compassionate’?”

Considering the arrested man’s past relationship with a child: it might be very compassionate.

Back in the first year of the Obama administration, Monterey County was being enriched with exciting customs and two Mexican immigrants in the local city of Greenfield decided to transact a beautiful custom when the father of a 14-year-old girl traded her for 160 cases of beer, 100 cases of soda, 50 cases of Gatorade and assorted other foods along with \$16,000.

Sadly the happy prospective nuptials between man and child were not to last because Marcelino de Jesus Martinez, the girl’s father, didn’t get his soda and beer, and called the cops on Maragrito de Jesus Galindo, his prospective son-in-law and failed provider of drinks.

Martinez had traded his daughter for beverages that he didn’t receive, and now he wanted a refund and perhaps his daughter back to trade for something better, maybe sandwiches or a lifetime of meals at Red Lobster.

The police arrived and arrested everyone involved on the grounds that Monterey County is pretty open-minded, but it wasn’t quite that open-minded. At least back then.

Greenfield Police Chief Joe Grebmeier said that selling girls as young as 12 has “become a local problem.”

“When I’m in Mexico, I have to respect Mexican laws. When you’re in the United States, you have to respect United States laws. That’s the bottom line,” he told CNN.

Three years later Grebmeier was ousted and the exact borders of Mexico and California have become debatable. The majority of the Greenfield City Council is Mexican and a good deal of local officials are as likely to follow Mexican laws as American ones.

While the media forgets, ICE has a long memory. They came, they saw and [they arrested](#) Maragrito de Jesus Galindo to the outraged protests of the pro-illegal alien activists at Solidarity Now who told reporters that they're trying to find the soda groom a lawyer.

Even though he might well prefer a 14-year-old to a lawyer.

"Historically, immigrants have been scapegoated for many societal ills, and the current administration is trying that same old tactic. We urge the community to remember that immigrants have built this country, and that they are the backbone of the local agricultural and hospitality industries," Monterey's Solidarity Network complained.

And apparently the local beverage child trafficking industry.

ICE wasn't scapegoating immigrants for societal ills since trading children for beer is not an American custom, as the media spent the worst part of a month in 2009 explaining to us.

This particular "societal ill" is not American and is being shielded by California officials.

ICE decided that the local family man might be better off in his home country where, as the media claimed at the time, selling children for beer is a "normal and honorable" custom.

Meanwhile California could do without its custom of sanctuary areas and pro-illegal activists.

Monterey's Solidarity Network urges anyone to report ICE raids. This could be characterized as interference with federal law enforcement. And while some pro-illegal groups operate outside the law, the local Solidarity Network raises money through the Watsonville Law Center: a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit. That's something that the IRS could put a stop to any time.

For now, ICE must chase men who practice their "traditional custom" of buying underage girls in exchange for beverages despite the interference of sanctuary counties and a sanctuary state.

From Gov. Gavin Newsom on down, the state's rulers turn away from witnessing child abuse and instead use every possible leverage to prevent immigration authorities from doing their job.

"A family man was taken from the street," the Solidarity Network mourned. But perhaps the citizens of Greenfield, Monterey County and California are better off for it.

The larger question is whether the custom of selling girls as young as 12 years old in Monterey County, which its old police chief described as a "local problem" has gone away or is being covered up. And unless federal law enforcement looks into it, we may never really know.

Sanctuary cities don't just shield illegal aliens, they shield some of the worst crimes imaginable.

There should be no sanctuary and no safe spaces for men who trade girls for beer.

Once upon a time we understood that. Perhaps one day, Americans will be unable to believe that a political party and a state government did everything possible to protect such men.

[Daniel Greenfield](#) is a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. This article previously appeared at the Center's [Front Page Magazine](#). <https://bkdvk-zgpvh.campaign-view.com/ua/viewinbrowser>





**BS"D**

Short and to the point. **Your help is needed.**

You are receiving this email because we are friends and/or you are a friend/supporter of Lev U'Neshama (Heart and Soul). Lev U'Neshama is a registered non-profit charity organization in Israel. We are volunteers; no business expenses whatsoever. Every \$ or NIS goes into our programs to help our families. We have been helping struggling families in Tzfat for 25 years and presently assist 60 families on our list through our programs; Food, Holiday, Education, Emergency.

The Education Program is our stress point now. During the year it provides children within our Lev U'Neshama families with sport shoes, eye exams/eyeglasses, clothing, a Bar Mitzvah package and occasionally extra educational expenses. However, at the beginning of the school year, we provide a school supply coupon to be redeemed at a family-owned office supply store in Tzfat.

War-related circumstances have financially impacted families in Tzfat. The Education Fund is in **dire need of a financial boost** because school will resume, G-d willing, the end of August and our goal is to provide a school supply coupon to each of our 60 families at 200 NIS (\$60) each. Most of our families have many school-aged children. We made a tally: 350 children. Therefore, after the shopping trip, the parents divide the supplies among their children. It's the best we can do.

Amount Needed: (NIS) 200 NIS times 60 families = 12,000 NIS

Amount Needed: (\$) \$60 times 60 families = \$3,600

There are **four weeks** to have the necessary funds so we can prepare and mail the coupons and allow shopping time for the families. Funds remaining after the coupons are purchased will be used for sport shoes and eye exam/eyeglasses. On behalf of our families and their children, we will be grateful for donations in any amount.

Use the **Zelle** US to US bank transfer system (contact me at [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com) for bank information).

**US Donors:** Make checks payable to **Simcha Smolensky**, my son, a volunteer)

And send to: Rabbi Simcha Smolensky  
6739 N Mozart St  
Chicago IL 60645

**Israel Donors:** Leave cash or check donations at the Torah Gems Book Store with a note:

"For Education Fund" and your contact information so I can acknowledge receipt of the donation.

Make Israeli checks payable to:

טרבלסי – נייר של חן בעיים

Contact me to arrange for personal pickup of cash or checks. Eager to "hear" from you.

Yaffa Smolensky, Program Manager

Lev U’Neshama, Tzfat Israel

Email: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)