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READER EDITION

April 13, 2026

ISRAEL BRIEF

Monday, April 13

No deal in Islamabad, a blockade at Hormuz on a published timetable, and a 60-day War Powers clock now running against eight days of ceasefire.

◇ URIEL ZEHAVI

THE BOTTOM LINE Berlin must treat the jihadist pipeline as a mosque-network problem and as a political-orientation problem — though only the first framing lets the state take action against DITIB. MOTRA's 45.1 percent is produced by a radicalization monitor run out of the federal police. What cannot be true is the pretense that a country with a thousand Erdoğan-controlled mosques and a young Muslim population in which nearly half hold Islamist views is facing a social-media radicalization problem the state can address through content moderation and integration courses. Muslim Brotherhood doctrine embedded inside supposedly moderate mosque networks, with takfir ideology providing the theological scaffolding, and the surrounding state pretending the problem is the angle rather than the ecosystem. Jewish Germans are already choosing between visibility and safety in Cologne, Berlin, and Frankfurt, and the federal policy debate in Berlin this month is whether “imported antisemitism” is a real category.

CLASSIFICATION

Reader Edition

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THE U.S. blockade of Iranian ports takes effect at 10 AM Eastern this morning, CENTCOM enforcement and the War Powers clock that governs how long Washington can actually use force against Iran started running at the same moment. Yesterday's edition tracked the shape of the Islamabad collapse and Zamir's readiness order as they broke... by this morning the picture has settled into something more specific — a pressure architecture calibrated to a domestic ceiling Speaker Johnson has already told the White House the House will not raise. The Iranian fiscal wall we flagged a few weeks back arrives just as the April 21 ceasefire expiration, and the Chief of Staff is rehearsing opening scenarios.

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Flash Brief

- **Hormuz blockade begins 10 AM ET:** CENTCOM enforces full maritime blockade of all Iranian ports today; IRGC declares strait closed. *See The War Today.*
- **Islamabad collapse:** Twenty-one hours of U.S.-Iran talks end without agreement; IRGC's Vahidi personally blocked Iranian delegation from compromising on enrichment or Hormuz. *See The War Today.*
- **Zamir orders IDF onto war footing:** Chief of Staff raises alert across all branches; AMAN accelerates Iran target bank; IAF finalizes strike packages for rapid execution. *See The War Today.*
- **Silver Plow — Bint Jbeil closing:** Katz names Hezbollah disarmament operation; Division 98 encircles village; IDF says no major fights remain in Lebanon. *See The War Today.*
- **Shakra killed on the Yellow Line:** IDF confirms strike killed Nukhba platoon commander who abducted Hersch Goldberg-Polin *z"l* on October 7. *See The War Today.*
- **'No rule of law' on Haredi draft:** Mintz rebukes police from the bench; IDF publicly corrects Cabinet Secretary who misrepresented Zamir to the justices. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Zini letter, political prosecution:** Case 4000 cross-examination postponed as Shin Bet warns of Iranian threat to PM; watchdog group treats 2026 threat picture as interchangeable with 2024. *See Inside Israel.*
- **Orban falls, Tisza takes supermajority:** Israel's EU firewall thins as Magyar prepares ICC reversal before the June 2 deadline. *See Israel and the World.*
- **BBC platforms Tucker Carlson:** Former Fox host tells British audiences nine million Jews "control" 350 million Americans; former RAF chief warns Starmer in the same week. *See Israel and the World.*

BELOW: why the Hormuz blockade is calibrated restraint rather than the escalation it looks like, the 60-day War Powers clock that explains what Trump is actually doing with his "locked and loaded" posture, why Case 4000 is still consuming calendar space during an active war against a regime that has identified the defendant by name as an assassination target, and the Bennett number-two pick that tells you everything about the 2026 opposition bloc.

On the Iran axis, a failed Islamabad round, a Hormuz blockade beginning enforcement, and a Chief of Staff running full war preparation are three instruments of one decision Washington has not committed to in public — and structurally cannot commit to, given a War Powers ceiling Speaker Johnson has already made explicit. Domestically, the Shin Bet chief's letter, the Cabinet Secretary's misrepresentation of Zamir to the High Court, and the justices' "no rule of law" language describe an institutional fight grinding on.

The War Today

Islamabad Collapses as Trump Blockades Hormuz and IDF Raises Readiness

Twenty-one hours of U.S.-Iran talks in Islamabad ended Sunday without an agreement, and Vice President JD Vance — whose delegation left Pakistan calling the offer on the table “our final and best” — flew back to Washington to brief the president. Hours later, Trump announced an immediate U.S. naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, writing on Truth Social that “effective immediately” the Navy would “begin the process of BLOCKADING any and all Ships trying to enter, or leave,” and adding that “other countries will be involved.” He told Fox News the Iranians “have no cards. Their navy is gone, their air force is gone, totally gone.” A U.S. official says the gaps between the sides “were really not close to an agreement,” extending beyond enrichment to proxy funding, the unfreezing of Iranian assets, and Tehran’s insistence on retaining Hormuz control as both security buffer and economic lever. IRGC commander Ahmad Vahidi personally blocked Iran’s civilian negotiating team — headed by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf — from compromising on the core issues. Tehran’s modest flexibility was limited to temporary enrichment suspension or partial dilution of the 400 kilograms of 60%-enriched uranium, and that the Iranians “will not be willing to concede” on both Hormuz and enrichment simultaneously. Within hours of Vance’s departure, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir ordered the military into structured war-preparation mode — the same framework used before Operations Rising Lion and Roaring Lion — with the Military Intelligence Directorate accelerating target bank construction against Iranian missile systems, launchers, and supporting infrastructure, and the IAF finalizing updated strike packages and “attack packages” integrating long-range capabilities for rapid execution. Netanyahu convened senior security officials and a small ministerial group last night: “There is still enriched material in Iran. It will either leave by agreement or by other means.” Israeli officials assess Washington will not resume fighting before the two-week ceasefire expires April 21 and read the Hormuz blockade as a Trump pressure move designed to force Tehran back to the table under worse terms — with the Gulf states watching nervously.

ASSESSMENT

Twenty-one hours, no deal, and the IRGC's parliamentary speaker refusing to give up enrichment because Ahmad Vahidi would not let him — that is the Islamabad round, stripped of ceremony. The civilian Iranian negotiating team arrived in Islamabad with a mandate that never included the compromises Washington and Jerusalem required. Trump holds two levers and one deadline. The blockade squeezes the revenue Pezeshkian already told the IRGC collapses the economy in three to four weeks — precisely the fiscal cliff the we've previously flagged. The Zamir readiness order tells Tehran the second round is not a bluff and that the target bank is being built against the missile production nodes that survived Roaring Lion. The blockade announcement, however, is not the escalation it looks like — it is the performance of escalation under domestic constraints both capitals already understand. The War Powers Act gives Trump 60 days before a sustained operation requires congressional authorization, and Speaker Mike Johnson has told the White House privately that a Republican-controlled House will not provide it even for a strictly limited operation. The blockade is calibrated to that ceiling: enough pressure to keep the military option in the headlines, carefully tuned not to spike global oil the way a full strait closure would have in February, when the navy deliberately let Iranian, Russian, and Chinese tankers sail through unimpeded for exactly this reason. Trump knows Iran will not fold voluntarily — he has said so on the record more than once — and he is running the clock on a deal the IRGC vetoed before Vahidi walked into the room. Trump's "I want everything. I don't want 90%, I don't want 95%. I want everything" line is useful not as a negotiating position but as an explicit admission that nothing short of full dismantlement ends the problem — which Jerusalem has been saying for, well, years and Washington seems to have just learned. The Hormuz chokepoint cannot remain the single point of failure for Gulf economies that want to trade with the Mediterranean, and Israel — with Leviathan, with the Eilat-Ashkelon corridor, and with an existing gas relationship with Egypt. The Gulf capitals are calling the architecture an "energy triangle:" Gulf producers, Israeli-Egyptian transit, Mediterranean markets, with pipelines the opening move and railways, data centers, and communications cables the follow-on infrastructure. That framework, if handled correctly, can morph into an Abraham Accords 2.0 — as binding commercial necessity for Gulf oil that can no longer bet its export volume on a waterway it cannot control.

Katz Names 'Operation Silver Plow' as IDF Finishes Bint Jbeil

IDF Division 98 has surrounded Hezbollah's remaining fighters inside Bint Jbeil and broken into the heart of the village, catching dozens of operatives before they could retreat past the Litani. Givati, Paratroopers, and multiple commando units including Maglan are engaged, and the IDF spokesperson's office said today that once Bint Jbeil is cleared in the coming days, there will be "no remaining major fights" in southern Lebanon — only longer-tail weapons-clearing operations and limited engagements with Hezbollah fragments that failed to withdraw north. Roughly 1,400 Hezbollah fighters have been killed across the theater, approximately 100 in the Bint Jbeil area alone. The Givati Brigade separately identified Hezbollah operatives firing on IDF soldiers from inside the Bint Jbeil government hospital, killed the shooters, eliminated roughly 20 additional terrorists inside the compound, and located a weapons cache — Hezbollah had been using the facility as a storage site, observation post, and shelter for operatives, and the IDF says it had warned Lebanese authorities repeatedly before the operation that Hezbollah military activity inside hospitals must stop. Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel

Katz visited forward positions Sunday alongside Zamir, Northern Command chief Maj. Gen. Rafi Milo, and Galilee Division commander Brig. Gen. Yuval Gez. Katz announced the disarmament operation's name — Operation Silver Plow — and told soldiers, “We are not leaving the north anymore... we are taking down the threat as we did in Gaza.” Katz also said of the late Hassan Nasrallah that “he was locked up in some room and suffocated there. He has a few minutes to think how wrong he was in understanding the Jews.” In parallel, Lebanon's Culture Minister Ghassan Salameh publicly downgraded the U.S.-hosted talks opening this week to “discussions of a logistical nature” at ambassadorial level only — not negotiations — with Lebanon's ambassador to Washington, Nada Mouwad, authorized to pursue one thing only: a ceasefire.

ASSESSMENT

Hezbollah ran rocket crews, ambushes, and wounded combatants through a government hospital in Bint Jbeil, and the Lebanese state — which owns the hospital — said nothing before or during the operation. Salameh's “logistical, not negotiations” framing tells you exactly what Lebanon is prepared to offer the State Department this week: a ceasefire request without content, without enforcement, without authority, and without any mandate to discuss Hezbollah disarmament. The IDF has chewed through its strategic target set in the south, 1,400 Hezbollah fighters are dead, and the General Staff is now publicly describing the remaining work as weapons-clearing. That is the edge of a campaign phase, not a ceasefire. [Naim Qassem, whom Katz publicly named as a target, is still somewhere north of the Litani. Operation Silver Plow is a name. The test is whether the plow reaches him before Washington decides “disarmament” means whatever Salameh's ambassador says it means at the table.] The 2024 operation failed to fully clear Bint Jbeil the first time. This one is, in the IDF's own words, a corrective measure for that failure — which tells you something about what the General Staff now considers an acceptable standard.

Hamis in Cairo as IDF Kills October 7 Hostage-Takers on the Yellow Line

Hamis representatives opened talks Sunday in Cairo with Egyptian mediators and U.S. representatives over implementation of the Trump plan for Gaza, with a U.S. official describing the outcome as binary — “voluntary disarmament or by force” — and expecting a decision “within days.” [Spoiler: they won't *actually* give up their arms.] The proposed framework envisions a five-stage, roughly eight-month sequence beginning with the dismantling of weapons manufacturing facilities and heavy weapons, progressing through tunnel destruction, and ending with small-arms collection and a gradual IDF withdrawal, overseen by a Palestinian technocratic committee and an international stabilization force that exists more in the minds of diplomats than as a reality on the ground. Hamis's Cairo agenda prioritizes not disarmament but “Israeli violations,” a full IDF withdrawal, reopened borders, and expanded humanitarian aid — and senior Hamis figures Khaled Mashaal and Musa Abu Marzouk have rejected disarmament publicly, with Mashaal telling an Istanbul anti-Israel summit in December that “a thousand statements are not worth a single projectile of iron” and that “the resistance and its weapons are the ummah's honor and pride.” About \$7 billion in international reconstruction pledges sits on hold, earmarked for long-term development and not scheduled to release until disarmament begins—or something

that looks close enough to the international community. Inside Gaza, the IDF confirmed that a Saturday strike on a Hamas cell approaching the Yellow Line killed Ali Sami Muhammad Shakra — a Nukhba Force platoon commander who invaded Israel on October 7, 2023, and personally took part in abducting Hersh Goldberg-Polin ז"ל, Alon Ohel, Eliya Cohen, and Or Levy from a roadside bomb shelter near Re'im — along with Muhammad Mabhouh, a Hamas Bureij Battalion company commander, and Muhammad Fuad Gasser Sayid, a Hamas platoon commander the IDF photographed holding Avinatan Or in a tunnel during his captivity. Four of the five abductees were released in 2025 hostage deals; Goldberg-Polin was murdered in captivity and his body was recovered by the IDF in August 2024. A separate operational accident in central Gaza on Saturday severely injured an Israeli soldier.

ASSESSMENT

The Cairo binary — “voluntary or by force” — is the only honest framing left in a process in which Mashaal has already said on the record that disarmament is surrender and that weapons are the honor of the ummah. The \$7 billion in parked reconstruction pledges is the leverage the entire Trump plan depends on, and that leverage depends on Hamas agreeing to liquidate the one thing that still makes it Hamas. [Which, to be clear, is not a plan.] Israel’s operational answer arrived on the Yellow Line in the form of the Shakra strike. The man who dragged Hersh Goldberg-Polin ז"ל out of a bomb shelter on October 7, 2023, was killed in April 2026 while trying to attack an IDF position. The IDF is demonstrating, mid-Cairo, that it will not wait for a diplomatic off-ramp to kill the men who abducted the hostages and are now reconstituting cells on Israeli positions.

Inside Israel

‘No Rule of Law’: Court Rebukes Government as IDF Corrects Cabinet Secretary

All five High Court justices hearing the Movement for Quality Government’s petition yesterday expressed frustration bordering on anger with the government’s refusal to enforce Haredi draft orders, and Justice David Mintz — the bench’s most restrained conservative — told police representative Meirav Wagner that “a situation has been created in which the police is giving power to the mob, and there is no rule of law. You are not enforcing order out of fear.” Deputy President Noam Sohlberg confronted Cabinet Secretary Yossi Fuchs directly on the government’s failure to comply with the November 19, 2025 ruling requiring enforcement measures: “Nothing has moved since the ruling... it feels like this ping-pong is just an attempt to buy time.” The numbers the justices cited were brutal: of 79,836 draft orders issued to Haredi yeshiva students since the June 2024 ruling struck down the blanket exemption framework, only 7,029 presented themselves to enlistment offices and just 2,178 — 2.7 percent — actually enlisted; of 298 draft dodgers detained at Ben Gurion Airport between January 2025 and January 2026, only 97 were Haredi despite the IDF’s personnel directorate confirming Haredim constitute 75–80 percent of all draft evaders; of 123 draft dodgers arrested on police initiative between August and mid-January, only 17 were Haredi. Justices

Wilner and Barak Erez attacked the Attorney General's Office for failing to issue binding instructions to government ministries to revoke welfare benefits from draft dodgers on its own authority. Hours later, the IDF Spokesperson's Unit issued an extraordinary public clarification after Fuchs read the court a quote from Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir — "Without these three laws... the IDF will collapse" — to prove Zamir supported the coalition's current draft legislation. The IDF statement flatly contradicted the implication: Zamir had warned the cabinet about collapsing force levels, not endorsed any specific bill, and had called for extending mandatory service to 36 months, updating the Reserve Service Law, and expanding recruitment — the opposite of the exemption framework Bismuth and the coalition are preparing.

ASSESSMENT

A cabinet secretary walked into the High Court of Justice and misrepresented the Chief of Staff of the IDF to the panel's face, and the IDF Spokesperson's Unit corrected him in writing within hours of the hearing. Fuchs was attempting to build a legal defense for the coalition's draft-exemption bill using a forged endorsement from the man running the war. The IDF had to correct the record in real time. The exemption bill does the opposite of every one of those things simultaneously. On the enforcement side, the arithmetic the justices walked through what they think was a failure of policy. Nope. That is the policy working exactly as desired. When 2.7 percent of draft orders produce enlistments, and when the police arrest Haredi draft dodgers at roughly a quarter of their proportional rate, the state has decided the ruling will not be enforced, and the police have read the incentive structure correctly. [Mintz, of all people — the bench's most disciplined advocate of judicial restraint, the justice who rarely speaks during hearings — uttered the phrase "there is no rule of law." When the court's most cautious conservative reaches for the language the petitioners use, the government has lost the plot entirely.] The question remaining is whether the justices will issue contempt orders naming specific ministers and ministries with specific benefit-revocation instructions — which, judging by the questions Wilner and Barak Erez asked, is exactly the framework they are building toward. The From Deferment to Duty Dossier mapped this collision months ago. It is now happening on the hearing record.

Zini Submits Court Letter Blocking Netanyahu Testimony over Iranian Threat

Shin Bet Director David Zini submitted a letter Sunday to the Courts Administration's legal adviser warning that public advance notice of Netanyahu's court testimony would expose the prime minister to Iranian assassination. The State Prosecutor's Office accepted Netanyahu's request to cancel testimony this week. Next week's postponement will be examined separately, with defense attorney Amit Hadad required to file an update Thursday. The Movement for Quality Government watchdog immediately pointed out that former Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar had refused, under oath last year, to give a comparable security opinion — "this is exactly the scenario we warned against," the group wrote. The trial sits in the cross-examination phase of Case 4000, the Bezeq-Walla case, centered on whether Netanyahu personally directed or

knew of regulatory steps taken by former Communications Ministry director-general Shlomo Filber and former aide Nir Hefetz. Trump is separately pressuring President Isaac Herzog for a pardon. Herzog has publicly committed to deciding “without pressure and without noise from any direction.”

ASSESSMENT

Case 4000 is a political prosecution in search of a crime, and every additional week it occupies the Israeli news cycle is another week stolen from the actual governance of the country during an active multi-front war. The core theory is that Netanyahu traded regulatory favors to Bezeq's Shaul Elovitch in exchange for more favorable Walla coverage [as if Bibi can't survive bad press — its almost all bad internationally at least], and after five years of testimony the prosecution has produced nothing that would meet a reasonable-doubt standard. The bribery charge rests on the premise that a sitting prime minister speaking to his own communications minister about his own coverage is presumptively corrupt, a standard no American, British, or French head of government has ever been held to and no Israeli head of government would have been held to before the 1990s judicial revolution. The Movement for Quality Government's “there is no difference between the security situation now compared to two weeks, a month, or a year ago” line tells you exactly what kind of organization it is: one that cannot distinguish between the Iranian threat picture in early 2025 and the Iranian threat picture in April 2026, in which the regime has lost its Supreme Leader, the IRGC is running active HUMINT against the Kirya and Sa'ar's home, the Michigan synagogue attack has been FBI-linked to Iranian fatwas, and Tehran's declared targeting doctrine. An organization that papers over that difference to score a point about a Shin Bet appointment is a litigation shop whose entire product line depends on the case never closing. [The previous Shin Bet chief may well have refused the 2024 request for good reason, for political reason, or for some combination of the two; “Ronen Bar refused” is a biographical fact, not a threat assessment, and anyone presenting it as interchangeable with current intelligence has decided the court calendar matters more than the prime minister's life.] The actual question the Israeli system should be asking is not whether Zini's letter fits the procedural taste of a watchdog group, but why a prime minister running a war against a regime that has publicly identified him as a target is being asked to sit for cross-examination at all, over a case that should have been closed at prosecutorial discretion years ago and has survived exclusively because the AG's office has treated it as a political project rather than a legal one. Herzog's pardon calculus is not hard; it is being made hard by people who believe the rule of law is measured by whether Netanyahu specifically can be made to suffer. The honest Shin Bet letter is a sideshow — the main event is a political prosecution nobody has the courage to put down, running against the clock of a war that ought to be consuming 100 percent of Israeli institutional attention and is currently sharing the calendar with a cross-examination about a regulatory meeting that may never have happened.

Bennett Unveils First Two Names on 2026 List — Directors-General, Not Celebrities

Naftali Bennett announced the first two members of his 2026 Knesset list Sunday as Liran Avisar Ben-Horin, former director-general of the Communications Ministry, and Keren Turner, former director-general of both the Finance and Transportation ministries, presenting them as the core of “Israel's repair team.” Bennett polled at 24 seats in the April 9 Lazar Research survey — one behind Likud's 25 — with the opposition bloc holding a 61-seat

majority. In Channel 12's head-to-head, Bennett tied Netanyahu at 40 percent each and led every other opposition figure by wide margins, including 42 to 19 over Gadi Eisenkot and roughly 20-point margins over Yair Lapid and Avigdor Liberman. Bennett's framing deliberately inverted Lapid's 2012 Yesh Atid playbook, which relied on celebrity reveals and collapsed in governance once Lapid's party entered government. Ben-Horin spent 18 months leading Bennett's "Repairing Israel" policy project before the announcement, had previously served as the Reform movement's aliyah emissary in the United States and ran Masa's long-term Israel programs for more than 120,000 Diaspora Jewish participants from over 60 countries, and argued in a 2018 interview that Jewish continuity was "one of the most strategic national security issues we face." Bennett's 2021 coalition collapsed after Idit Silman and Amichai Chikli defected to Likud, and the repair-team framing reflects that lesson: candidates chosen for domain expertise and unlikely to overshadow the leader or break ranks. "Israel is stuck and poorly managed, and we don't have time," Bennett said Sunday.

ASSESSMENT

The 2026 election is being fought over the question October 7 asked the country and the country has not yet answered — whether the Israeli state apparatus can be rebuilt, and by whom. At this point, the political responsibility hasn't been claimed. The upper ranks of the security apparatus have been mostly cleared out as former officials resigned in disgrace. Bennett's answer is a governance argument: the state failed because it was badly managed, and two directors-general who have already run the ministries that failed are the beginning of a list that knows where the failures live. Likud's answer is the opposite — the state is fine, the enemies are external, and the coalition's problem is a hostile judiciary and a disloyal establishment plotting against the elected government. One of those stories will win the election. Like most competing stories, the truth is somewhere between. Bennett polls at 24 because the first story is currently winning among voters who have spent eighteen months watching judicial confrontation, Haredi draft failure, reserve burnout, the Shin Bet appointment cycle, and a coalition that cannot pass a conscription law while telling the country the courts are the problem. The weakness of the repair-team argument is the weakness of every technocratic pitch in Israeli politics: Israelis vote for leaders they trust in a crisis, not for organizational charts. Which is reading more like a pitch deck from the beleaguered global consulting behemoth McKinsey. The Ben-Horin choice is the sharper tell. Placing a former Reform movement aliyah emissary at #2 on a religious-Zionist-adjacent list tells you Bennett has decided the 2026 coalition math requires a Diaspora-serious governance argument the current coalition has explicitly abandoned — and that the voters who left Likud for the opposition bloc after October 7 include enough people who care about the Israel-Diaspora relationship as a security question to make it a legible lane. [Whether the next names on the list are more doers or more reveals will tell you whether Bennett is building a government or a consulting firm running for office.] 24 seats is where the ceiling currently sits — or where McLaughlin's polling shop says it sits, which is a different sentence after this weekend. The same pollster called Orban to win Hungary by 5 to 7 points Sunday and watched him lose by 15. Whether the actual Bennett ceiling is higher, the Likud floor lower, or both, the next five names on the list will tell us more than any poll.

Israel and the World

Orban Falls as Magyar's Tisza Takes Supermajority and Israel's EU Firewall Thins

Hungary's ruling Fidesz party lost Sunday's election to Peter Magyar's center-right Tisza, with 97.35 percent of precincts showing Tisza at 138 seats — a two-thirds supermajority in the 199-seat parliament — as Viktor Orban publicly conceded late Sunday: "The election result is painful for us, but clear." Orban had been Israel's single most reliable ally inside the European Union. He was the only head of state to join Trump's international Board of Peace. The only EU leader to announce Hungary's withdrawal from the International Criminal Court after its November arrest warrant against Netanyahu. And the single vote blocking the EU's sanctions package targeting Jewish residents and supporting organizations in Judea and Samaria — a package 26 other member states approved. Netanyahu had effectively endorsed Orban last month, calling him "like a rock." Magyar's Tisza aligns with the European People's Party — the EU's largest political bloc — and is expected to reverse the ICC withdrawal before it becomes permanent on June 2 and distance Budapest from Netanyahu as part of a broader message to Brussels that, in the words of Mitvim's Maya Sion-Tzidkiyahu, "Hungary is returning to the rule of law — not necessarily liberal democracy, but one that respects international law." A European diplomat cautioned that bilateral relations would remain "very sympathetic," but analysts assess Magyar will be more flexible on EU-level measures, particularly as he pursues European Commission approval for a €16 billion defense loan that requires closer alignment with Brussels. Germany and the Czech Republic remain partial firewalls on substantive EU action. Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid publicly congratulated Magyar: "I hope that under your leadership, the relations between Israel and Hungary will continue to deepen and strengthen."

ASSESSMENT

Orban's loss is a structural loss for Israel in Europe. The bilateral relationship will hold. Magyar is a center-right politician who wants European money and needs Israel-friendly posture to prove to Brussels he is not Orban while also not picking an unnecessary fight with Jerusalem — fine, and predictable. The structural change is that the single EU member state that broke ranks on everything — ICC, Board of Peace, Judea and Samaria sanctions, joint condemnation statements — is not going to reliably break ranks anymore. The Judea and Samaria sanctions package that 26 EU member states have tried to advance for over a year, blocked only by Budapest, is the first concrete test. Magyar's incentive to unblock it is transparent: he gets to demonstrate rule-of-law bona fides to Brussels at zero cost to Hungarian voters and minimal cost to a bilateral relationship Israel cannot afford to escalate. The ICC reversal is the second and more consequential test. If Magyar walks Hungary back into the court before June 2, the arrest warrant against Netanyahu regains European reach, and the question of whether the Israeli prime minister can travel to an EU member state without risking detention moves from "Hungary is the exception" to "Germany is the firewall." Germany is a firewall for trade preferences. It is not a firewall for ICC enforcement, and Berlin has not volunteered to be. Lapid's congratulatory note within hours of the result shows a reading of this moment as leverage — a conversation Magyar is willing to have with Kaplan Street but not necessarily with Balfour.

BBC Platforms Carlson as Former RAF Chief Warns Starmer on Israel Ties

The BBC gave Tucker Carlson a Victoria Derbyshire interview during which the former Fox News host claimed that “the US went to war... at the behest and then the demand of Israel,” described Trump as a “slave” controlled by a “mechanism... that allows a country of nine million to control a country of 350 million,” alleged that “the Israeli government has a long and well-documented track record of using sex scandal or the appearance of scandal to force American political leaders into doing its bidding,” insisted that “it is a crime for which you can be arrested in Britain right now for criticising Israel,” and defended his earlier programme claim — that Israel’s aim in the Iran war was to destroy Al-Aqsa and rebuild the Third Temple with Chabad complicity. Carlson has previously platformed Holocaust-denier Nick Fuentes, alleged Isaac Herzog visited Jeffrey Epstein’s island, and was named StopAntisemitism’s 2024 “Antisemite of the Year.” David Toubé, General Counsel at the Jewish Leadership Council, told the JC that “the BBC used to operate a cordon sanitaire of sorts in relation to the far right. It is clear that this has now completely collapsed.” HonestReporting commented that “platforming antisemites, whether by design or by accident, has become something of a speciality for the BBC in recent times.” The BBC defended the booking by describing Carlson as “an influential figure in US media and politics” and claiming Derbyshire “robustly challenged him on his views.” Against that backdrop, former Royal Air Force chief Lester publicly urged Prime Minister Keir Starmer in a foreword to a new Labour Friends of Israel report to rebuild the UK-Israel defense relationship — which has reached a historic low since Starmer recognized Palestinian statehood, suspended some Israeli arms export licenses, and barred the IDF from the Royal College of Defence Studies — arguing that Iran’s missile strike on RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus last month exposed “notable gaps” in British integrated air and missile defense and that Israel, with “unparalleled experience in defending against a spectrum of aerial threats,” is uniquely positioned to help close them.

ASSESSMENT

On BBC One, the national broadcaster paid Tucker Carlson — the most visible American Jew-hater in public life outside the Fuentes orbit — to tell the British public that nine million Jews control 350 million Americans through a “mechanism” Carlson does not care to specify because the audience already knows exactly what he means. Viewers of the program would be forgiven if they thought they were experiencing a stroke while watching it. Near simultaneously, a former chief of the Royal Air Force told the Prime Minister in writing that the country’s air defenses cannot reliably stop an Iranian missile strike on a British base in Cyprus, and that Israel is the only partner with the experience, doctrine, and operational tempo to close the gap. The political class has spent eighteen months signaling that Israel is the problem — statehood recognition, arms license suspensions, the Royal College of Defence Studies ban, a prime minister who has not picked up the phone to Jerusalem since the recognition — while Britain’s actual defenders rightly pointing out the posture is suicidal and that the missile that already hit Akrotiri was a preview. The BBC’s Carlson booking is the logical product of a national broadcaster whose cordon sanitaire on the far right has, in Toubé’s words, “completely collapsed,” and whose internal editorial culture has decided that Jew-hate dressed as anti-Zionism is within the range of acceptable discourse so long as the interviewer performs skepticism on camera. [The BBC statement saying Derbyshire “robustly challenged him” is corporation-speak for “we gave him forty minutes of airtime and asked whether he’d like to soften the edge.”] Controlled Surrender mapped this exact institutional trajectory months ago.

German Federal Police Find 45 Percent of Young Muslims Hold Islamist Views

MOTRA — the radicalization monitoring system run out of Germany’s Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) — found that 45.1 percent of Muslims in Germany under the age of 40 hold Islamist attitudes, defined as preferring Sharia over the German constitution, holding antisemitic prejudices, and feeling drawn to Islamism as a movement. Of that 45.1 percent, 11.5 percent hold what MOTRA categorizes as manifest Islamist views — radicalization already evident and pronounced — and 33.6 percent hold latent views where the orientation exists but is not yet openly visible. Parliamentary State Secretary Christoph de Vries (CDU) told *Die Zeit* that antisemitism is four times as widespread among young Muslims in Germany as in the population as a whole, attributed the trend to Islamist social-media influencers and the October 7 Hamas attack as “a driver for Islamism as a whole,” and flagged DITIB — the Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs, operationally subordinated to Turkey’s Diyanet religious authority and financially dependent on it, running roughly 1,000 mosques in Germany — as a vector for Muslim Brotherhood. De Vries noted that Jewish visibility has collapsed across major West German cities: “In many parts of the city, they can no longer go out with Jewish symbols such as the kippah.”

ASSESSMENT

Berlin must treat the jihadist pipeline as a mosque-network problem and as a political-orientation problem — though only the first framing lets the state take action against DITIB. MOTRA's 45.1 percent is produced by a radicalization monitor run out of the federal police. What cannot be true is the pretense that a country with a thousand Erdoğan-controlled mosques and a young Muslim population in which nearly half hold Islamist views is facing a social-media radicalization problem the state can address through content moderation and integration courses. Muslim Brotherhood doctrine embedded inside supposedly moderate mosque networks, with takfir ideology providing the theological scaffolding, and the surrounding state pretending the problem is the angle rather than the ecosystem. Jewish Germans are already choosing between visibility and safety in Cologne, Berlin, and Frankfurt, and the federal policy debate in Berlin this month is whether “imported antisemitism” is a real category.

Briefly Noted

Frontline & Security

- *Jerusalem Post*: Civilian first-response group Magen 48 ran scenario drills this week inside the burned-out homes of Kibbutz Be’eri, bringing together heads of local security teams from 67 Gaza-envelope communities to rehearse holding the line until army forces arrive.
- *Ynet*: IDF forces in Judea and Samaria ran more than 6,600 offensive operations during Operation Roaring Lion, arresting 550+ suspects, seizing 170 weapons, 280 drones, and more than NIS 1 million in terror financing, and dismantling a Tulkarem explosives lab holding 200 pipe bombs and 50 kilograms of homemade explosive material. Ynet’s framing — “nationalist crime” and “hilltop youth friction” as the Judea and Samaria Division’s primary concern — buries the operational ratio: the division is stretched because PA-abandoned Areas A and B have become open terror infrastructure, and Jewish shepherds on Israel’s strategic ridge are neither the reason the Tulkarem lab was built nor an obstacle to dismantling it.
- *Times of Israel*: The CIA used Israeli-made Pegasus software to send fake WhatsApp and Signal messages to Iranian leadership and IRGC operatives claiming the downed U.S. airman had already been recovered, while the “Ghost Murmur” heartbeat-detection system located the airman in a crevice 7,000 feet up an Iranian mountain. Every European government that spent the past three years demanding NSO be sanctioned out of existence just watched Pegasus deliver an American pilot home alive — a useful data point for the next EU parliamentary hearing at which “Israeli surveillance technology” is denounced as a human rights catastrophe.
- *Israel National News*: IDF soldiers arrested suspects in Al-Ram overnight Saturday following reports of gunfire in the area, seizing an M4-type rifle along with ammunition and additional weapon components. A working M4 in a Jerusalem-ring Arab town should have us asking about who is supplying Judea and Samaria, and how the weapon reached the shooter before the soldiers reached the weapon.

- *JNS*: The Advisory Committee on Senior Appointments cleared Maj. Gen. Roman Gofman — Netanyahu's military secretary, severely wounded fighting Hamas on the southern border on October 7 — to succeed David Barnea as Mossad director for a five-year term starting July 2. Gofman is a decorated multi-theater officer and the most senior Israeli official born in the USSR.

Diplomacy & Geopolitics

- *Israel National News*: Jordan's Foreign Ministry condemned National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's visit to the Temple Mount as "an incursion by the extremist Israeli minister" and a violation of "the historic and legal status quo at the Temple Mount." The Temple Mount is the holiest site in Judaism, sits in the sovereign capital of the Jewish state, and Jewish visits to it are not an incursion — they are the baseline the status quo was supposed to protect, and Amman's condemnation is a ritual performance for domestic Jordanian audiences that Jerusalem is under no obligation to accept as binding.
- *Jerusalem Post*: A pro-Hamas flotilla organized by the Global Sumud Flotilla sailed from Barcelona's Moll de la Fusta port Sunday with 39 vessels — expected to swell to 70 ships and more than 1,000 activists, with Greenpeace Spain contributing its Arctic Sunrise as operational support — but diverted to an alternate port before reaching international waters due to storm conditions. Steering committee members compared Gaza to the Holocaust the day before Israel's Holocaust Remembrance commemoration and argued the October ceasefire "does not exist in practice" because the Yellow Line does. The flotilla is not transporting aid but the narrative infrastructure needed to keep the word "blockade" operational for the next round of EU parliamentary motions.

Economy, Tech & Infrastructure

- *Times of Israel*: Bluebird Airways resumed Tel Aviv-Athens service Sunday, with TUS, Etihad, Ethiopian, Smartwings, Hainan (Beijing direct), Red Wings, Georgian, and FlyOne restarting across the week and flydubai reportedly in advanced talks.

Culture, Religion & Society

- *Times of Israel*: Twelve Israeli Holocaust survivors aged 90–100 will join this year's Auschwitz-to-Birkenau March of the Living after Iranian missile fire forced the cancellation of the 1,500-strong Israeli delegation, with 26 Israeli high-tech companies and VC funds covering the costs. 7,000 marchers from around the world are expected. The closing torch will be lit by survivor Irene Shashar alongside former Hamas hostages Omri Miran and Agam Berger — a chain that compresses the continuity question into a single image Europe is welcome to look at or not.
- *Israel National News*: Tel Aviv University's annual Jew-hate report recorded 20 Jews murdered in four attacks in 2025 — the highest toll in more than three decades — with Canada at 6,800 total incidents, Britain at 3,700, Australia at 1,750 (including the 15 murdered in the Hanukkah attack near

Sydney), and violent cases rising even in countries where total incidents declined. Prof. Uriya Shavit warned that severe violence against Jews is “becoming a normalized reality,” and the attacker profile clusters around two ideological poles — far-right and anti-Zionist Islamist.

- *Israel National News*: Thomas Friedman told CNN Saturday that he is “torn” because the war he wants — the military defeat of the Iranian regime — is being led by “two terrible people,” Netanyahu and Trump, whom he would rather see politically weakened than see the war won. Ambassador Huckabee called it “sick hate.” FDD’s Mark Dubowitz noted Friedman was at least being honest that he prefers the Iranian regime survive if the alternative strengthens the political enemies of the Times editorial board.

Developments to Watch

Judea & Samaria

- **Dayr Jarir riot fatality under review as division runs at the edge of rotation** — IDF forces responding to a developing Dayr Jarir riot used warning fire during escalation procedures; the suspect died of his wounds and the incident is now under review.

Northern Front (Lebanon / Syria)

- **Hezbollah 48-hour escalation assessment** — The Israeli defense establishment assesses Hezbollah will intensify attacks within the next 48 hours, and Home Front Command has raised alert levels in Lebanese border communities even as ambassadorial-level Lebanon talks open at the State Department this week. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Syrian cell arrested planning to assassinate Damascus rabbi** — Syrian authorities report arresting a five-person Hezbollah-linked cell — including a woman caught attempting to plant explosives near the Bab Touma church — that was planning to kill Rabbi Michael Houry in Damascus with an explosive device. Iranian-directed HUMINT is reactivating against the tiny remaining Jewish leadership in Arab capitals.

Regional Axis (Iran, Houthis, Militias)

- **IRGC declares Strait closed as U.S. blockade begins at 10 AM ET today** — CENTCOM announced the maritime blockade of all Iranian ports takes effect today at 10 AM Eastern, applying to vessels of all nations transiting to and from Iranian ports on the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman; the IRGC has declared the Strait of Hormuz closed and demanded U.S. concessions before it reopens. **LIKELY TO ESCALATE**
- **Iran fortifies Isfahan to block external seizure of 60% uranium** — New activity at the Isfahan site shows Iran barricading underground entrances, assessed as a defensive measure against external seizure of the 400+ kilograms of 60%-enriched uranium buried there since June 2025.

- **U.S. force buildup — carrier group inbound, Pakistani jets land at King Abdulaziz** — The USS George H.W. Bush carrier group is reportedly en route alongside additional Marine and airborne units, and Pakistani fighter and support aircraft have arrived at King Abdulaziz Air Base under a Saudi bilateral defense framework.

Diplomatic & Legal

- **UK declines to join U.S. Hormuz blockade** — London has indicated it will not participate in the U.S.-led blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, the refusal announced the same weekend a former RAF chief told the prime minister in writing (see today's *Israel and the World*) that British air defense depends on Israeli cooperation.

Home Front & Politics

- **Hiddush High Court deadline — April 15** — The Finance Committee must report to the High Court this week on the frozen NIS 98 million Haredi education allocation, with Hiddush arguing the broader NIS 800 million budget maneuver may exceed lawful entitlements and require partial claw-back. The April 15 filing lands on a bench already furious about Haredi draft enforcement (see today's *Inside Israel*) — the court is actively looking for a reason to issue ministry-specific orders.
- **Netanyahu trial — Thursday Hadad filing sets next week** — Defense attorney Amit Hadad must update the court Thursday on whether Netanyahu can return to the stand next week after this week's cancellation, with Zini's security letter already on file. Hadad's filing is the test of whether the delay mechanism holds through the full two-week postponement or whether Case 4000 cross-examination resumes on Monday.

The next eight days are either the window in which Tehran blinks or the window before a round two constrained by a War Powers clock and a Speaker who has already told the White House the House will not authorize one. Perhaps he can find another path. That said, the serious question is no longer whether Washington has the military option — it is whether Washington has the 60 days to use it before Congress forces it to stop.

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Mitzpe Institute is an intelligence and strategy organization focused on Israeli security, diaspora threat assessment, and the strategic challenges confronting the Jewish people and the West. We produce daily intelligence, forensic analyses, strategic assessments, and tactical briefings read by policymakers, military leaders, and institutional decision-makers across more than 90 countries and all 50 US states — from the Knesset and the US Congress to allied governments, major policy institutions, and Jewish organizational leadership worldwide.

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